

## SMART, SOCIAL, SUSTAINABLE – Innovation for the Danube Region

# 4TH ANNUAL FORUM OF THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

29 and 30 October 2015 | Ulm | [www.danube-forum-ulm.eu](http://www.danube-forum-ulm.eu)

29<sup>th</sup> October | 13.00 – 14.00  
OPENING SESSION  
SMART, SOCIAL, SUSTAINABLE – Innovation for the  
Danube Region

Introduction by the conference moderator,  
Eckhart Stratenschulte

#### Welcome speech

- **Ivo Gönner**, Lord Mayor, City of Ulm (Germany)

#### Keynote speeches and discussion

- **Corina Crețu**, European Commissioner for Regional and Urban Policy
- **Peter Friedrich**, Minister for the Bundesrat, Europe and International Affairs, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)

#### Outlook

- **Andrea Nahles** MdB, Federal Minister for Labour and Social Affairs (Germany)

29<sup>th</sup> October | 14.00 – 15.30  
THEMATIC SESSION 1  
Reaching Out – Intertwining the strategy with civil  
society, parliaments and local communities

Report from the “Participation Day”

#### Panel discussion

- **Igor Bečić**, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Serbia)
- **Michael Theurer**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Kamal Izidor Shaker**, Chair of the Committee on EU affairs at the National Assembly (Slovenia) tbc
- **Karla Peijs**, European Coordinator for the Rhine-Danube Corridor
- **Gisela Erler**, State Counsellor, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
- **Ivo Gönner**, President of the Council of Danube Cities and Regions

#### Session chair

- **Lena Andersson Pench**, Director, Directorate - General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission



30<sup>th</sup> October | 09.00 – 09.30

KEYNOTE SPEECH

- **Winfried Kretschmann**, Minister President, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
- **Bogdan Aurescu**, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Romania)

30<sup>th</sup> October | 09.30 – 11.00

THEMATIC SESSION 2

Innovation connects - How to profit from macro regional cooperation for implementing smart solutions

Keynote speech

- **Günther H. Oettinger**, European Commissioner responsible for Digital Economy & Society

Panel discussion

- **Nikolina Angelkova**, Minister of Tourism (Bulgaria)
- **Pavel Šolc**, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade/Energy (Czech Republic)
- **Franz Untersteller**, Minister of the Environment, Climate Protection and the Energy Sector, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
- **Thomas Hampel**, Head of the Police Operations Unit Bavarian State Ministry of the Interior, for Building and Transport (Germany)
- **Markku Markkula**, President, Committee of the Regions

Session chair

- **Eric Unterwurzacher**, Director, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission tbc

30<sup>th</sup> October | 11.30 – 13.00

THEMATIC SESSION 3

From the idea to implementation – Strategic development of professional training as a key for inclusive growth

Impulse

- **Bogdan Aurescu**, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Romania)

Panel discussion

- **Romana Kanovská**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Education (Slovakia)
- **Dijana Bezjak**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts (Croatia)
- **Aleksandar Andrija Pejović**, Secretary of State for European Integration and NIPAC (Montenegro)
- **Eckhard Kreßel**, Daimler AG

Session chair

- **Andriana Sukova-Tosheva**, Director, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

30<sup>th</sup> October | 14.00 – 15.30

THEMATIC SESSION 4

Labour mobility and migration in the Danube Region – grasping economic and social opportunities in an era of demographic change

Introduction

- **Balázs Orbán**, Director of Migration Research Institute, Századvég Foundation (Hungary)

Panel discussion

- **Renate Held**, Regional Director for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- **Alan Paic**, Head of Southeast Europe Investment Compact, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- **Gazmend Turdiu**, Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Programme Department, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
- **Dorin Toma**, Bureau for Diaspora Relations (Republic of Moldova)

Session chair

- **Katarina Mathernova**, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission, tbc

30<sup>th</sup> October | 16.00 – 17.00

CLOSING SESSION

Closing speeches

- **Walter Deffaa**, Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
- **Lubomír Vážny**, Vice Prime Minister (Slovakia, future EUSDR chair)
- **Peter Friedrich**, Minister for the Bundesrat, Europe and International Affairs, Baden-Württemberg (Germany)

