

THE DANUBE REGION AT THE TURN OF TIMES –

Shaping the Digital Future along the Danube. Unlocking Opportunities for SMEs and Industry through Cooperation.

S P E A K E R S

Balázs Barta, Managing Director Pannon Business Network (PBN), Hungary (Panelist) Digitalisation and AI for companies



Balázs Barta is the Managing Director of Pannon Business Network (PBN), Hungary's frontrunner innovation agency focused on applied research, digitalization, and ecosystem development. He has an MBA from Budapest, executive educations at Wharton and Insead, while PhD at engineering doctoral school. He is Supervisory Board Member at EIT Manufacturing Paris, senior lead expert at Institute of Advanced Studies, author and co-author of multiple articles and publications. He is a key advocate for the practical implementation of AI and frequently speaks on topics such as digital transformation in manufacturing, AI ecosystem development, and cross-sectoral innovation partnerships.

Pannon Business Network (PBN) is one of Hungary's leading center for applied research and business-oriented innovation, driving digital transformation across regional and international ecosystems. With over 50 digitalization applications and more than 1,000 SMEs and citizens trained annually, PBN is a regional leader in digital upskilling. The organization manages a 500m² laboratory, known as am-LAB, with advanced technologies as part of its core innovation activities. PBN also pioneers AI-driven smart care solutions, supporting digital health and elderly care, and is at the forefront globally on social humanoid research, with a large multidisciplinary team. PBN also has daughter companies in Baden-Württemberg, to facilitate integration into the European leading innovation ecosystem.

Prof. Dr. Michel Börner, THU, Endowed Professorship for AI in Production, BW (Key note speaker) AI in production



Prof. Dr. Michel Börner is an endowed professor of computer science with a focus on artificial intelligence in production at the Technische Hochschule Ulm (THU). Prior to this role, he worked for eight years as a data scientist and team leader in the automotive, electrical, pharmaceutical, and metal industries. Through his studies in business physics and mathematics, as well as his PhD in computational mathematics, he has developed a broad interdisciplinary background and a particular interest in processes and methods in manufacturing. His main areas of expertise include the optimization of production processes, data-driven decision-making, root cause analysis, networks in small and medium-sized enterprises, and



Baden-Württemberg
Ministry of Economic Affairs,
Labour and Tourism



Interreg
Danube Region



enterprise
européen
network



Co-funded by
the European Union

knowledge transfer. In addition, he serves as a juror for *Jugend forscht* and is active in the continuing education academy of Ulm's universities (SAPS).

THU is a university of applied sciences known for its strong emphasis on engineering, digital technologies, and close collaboration with industry.

Anja Lange, Moderator



Anja Lange is a certified moderator from the SWR Institute for Moderation with over ten years of experience hosting international business events across Europe. She moderates conferences, trade fairs and digital formats such as webinars and live streams. Her professional focus is on economics, digitalization and IT topics, including cybersecurity and AI.

Anja holds degrees in Media Management and Corporate Communications, has several years of marketing experience, and is also a trained media coach, supporting speakers and executives in delivering clear, confident and impactful messages.

Svitlana Skrypka, Head of International Cooperation, Lviv IT Cluster (Panelist) Digitalisation and AI for companies



Svitlana Skrypka is the Head of International Cooperation at the Lviv IT Cluster, where she leads international cooperation and develops strategic partnerships. Svitlana has over 20 years of experience in finance, business development, and digitalization, including senior roles as CFO for SMEs and co-founding the cybersecurity startup Xsight. Since 2023, she has worked at Lviv IT Cluster, leading fundraising, consortium building, and the design and implementation of donor-funded programs and projects. In 2025, she additionally took on responsibility for international partnerships and the implementation of the EU-funded LEAP EDIH programme, supporting the digital transformation of SME's and the public sector.

The Lviv IT Cluster is Ukraine's largest and most influential technology association, bringing together over 320 companies and more than 100,000 professionals, and delivering over 50 education, research, business, and humanitarian projects. It organizes the flagship IT Arena conference, modernises vocational and higher education with new degree programmes and training centres, supporting startups through the IT Arena Startup Competition, and runs humanitarian initiatives for internally displaced people, veterans, the army, and war-affected communities.

Silviu Sofronie, Cybersecurity Technology Research Manager, BitDefender (Panelist) Corporate Cybersecurity



Silviu Sofronie is a cybersecurity expert at Bitdefender, a European cybersecurity leader founded and headquartered in Bucharest, Romania, protecting millions of users and organizations around the world. He works at the intersection of offensive security and large-scale defense with hands-on experience in incident response and threat hunting. His focus is on understanding real-world attackers and applying that insight to strengthen defenses for enterprises and critical infrastructure.

BitDefender is a global cybersecurity leader, safeguarding millions of consumers, businesses, and government environments in more than 170 countries with threat prevention, detection, and response solution. Founded in 2001, it combines deep security research, AI-driven innovation, and over 580 patents to block threats and prevent massive ransomware losses. The company delivers a comprehensive portfolio spanning consumer security suites, identity, and privacy protection. The GravityZone platform for endpoint, XDR, and managed detection and response services empowers organizations of all sizes to build resilient digital infrastructure.

Rolf Strehle, CEO, ditis Systeme, Baden-Württemberg (Key note speaker and panelist) Corporate Cybersecurity



Rolf Strehle has been working in the field of information security for over 30 years and is one of Germany's leading cybersecurity experts. After studying computer science in Ulm, he founded and managed several IT security startups. Today, he is the managing director of the cybersecurity company ditis Systeme, a subsidiary of the technology group Voith in Heidenheim. As an ISO 27001 auditor and co-founder of the VDMA IT Security Working Group, he has firsthand knowledge of current technologies and security issues. He is also the initiator of the Cyber Competence Center Ulm and advises prominent companies in Germany on all aspects of cybersecurity.

ditis Systeme is a cybersecurity service provider headquartered in Ulm and Heidenheim and serves as the competence center for IT and OT security for the industrial, mechanical engineering, and energy sectors. With over 130 experts, ditis has been a strategic partner for global SMEs in the field of cybersecurity for 25 years. With a specialized team of security experts, lawyers and IT professionals, practical solutions are developed to increase the cyber resilience of IT and OT environments.



Baden-Württemberg
Ministry of Economic Affairs,
Labour and Tourism



Co-funded by
the European Union

Prof. Dr. Christian Stummeyer, Entrepreneur and Keynote Speaker on AI and Digital Commerce, Munich (Keynote speaker) Future trends on Digitalisation and AI



Professor Christian Stummeyer is one of Germany's leading AI and digital experts. He holds a chair in Business Informatics and Digital Commerce at the Technical University of Ingolstadt. Besides his role as a professor, he supports large enterprises and medium sized companies in developing digital strategies and AI activities. In his keynotes, he inspires and thrills his audience with his strategic vision and digital and forward-looking ideas. He started his career at the The Boston Consulting Group, was member of the international leadership circle of Siemens AG in Munich and has been supporting global corporations and SMEs with their digital transformation for more than 20 years. As an e-commerce entrepreneur, he was instrumental in shaping the growth strategy of a leading online retailer of premium designer furniture. For several years, the experienced management consultant was responsible for the management consulting business of the UDG United Digital Group, Germany's

largest digital agency.

Prof. Stummeyer is also the scientific director of the Bavarian Research Center for Artificial Intelligence AININ in Ingolstadt. His work focuses also on trend-setting approaches to use artificial intelligence and machine learning with a strategic perspective in companies.

His work is also highly recognized internationally, with Christian Stummeyer being a visiting professor at the South China University of Technology (SCUT) in Guangzhou and the Universitas Bunda Mulia in Jakarta, Indonesia, among others.

Tomislav Vazdar, AI & Cybersecurity Strategist and CEO, Riskoria (Panelist) Digitalisation and AI for companies



Tomislav Vazdar is an AI and cybersecurity strategist and the founder and CEO of Riskoria Advising & Professional Services. With more than 25 years of experience, he helps organisations navigate the intersection of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and regulation, with a focus on AI governance, cyber risk and compliance with frameworks such as NIS2, GDPR and the EU AI Act. Alongside his advisory work, he leads the MSc programme in Enterprise Cybersecurity at the Open Institute of Technology (OPIT) and regularly advises governments, NGOs and industry on the societal and economic impact of emerging technologies.

Riskoria is a boutique advisory and professional services firm helping organisations navigate today's most complex intersection: artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and regulatory compliance. Riskoria works with leaders who need clarity and control in fast-changing environments, turning high-stakes uncertainty into structured decisions, practical roadmaps and measurable outcomes. The firm combines strategic thinking with hands-on delivery across AI governance, security and resilience, and

risk and compliance – supporting clients from early planning through implementation, audits, training and long-term capability building.

