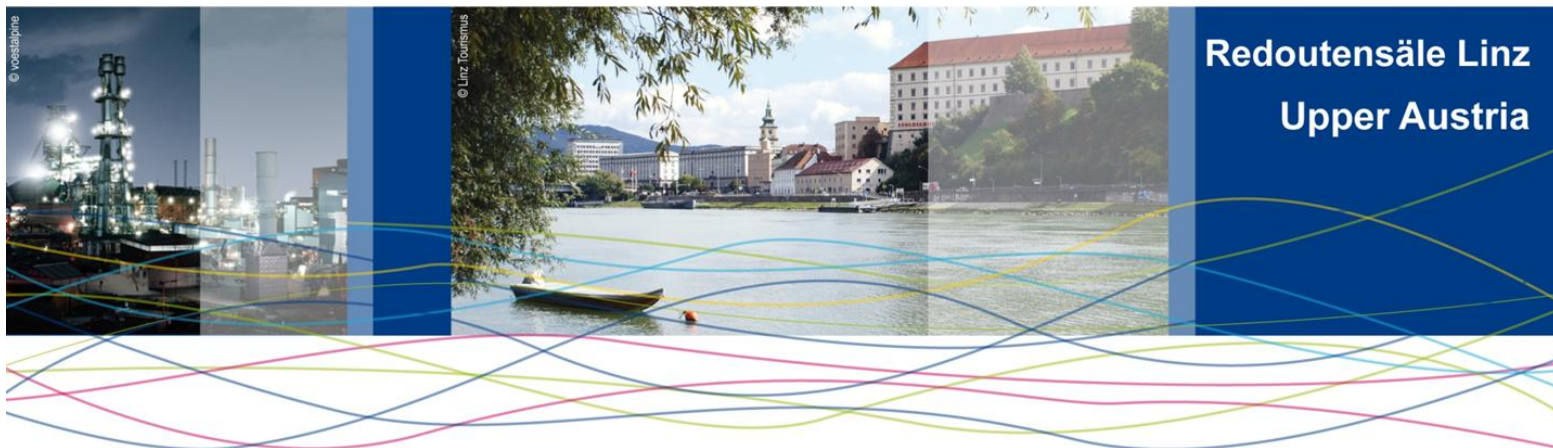


27 - 28 June 2013



Redoutensäle Linz
Upper Austria

Boosting Innovation Policies with Clusters along the Danube



EN >>

International two days conference jointly organised under the umbrella of the European Strategy for the Danube Region and the European Region Danube-Vltava (ERDV)

CZ >>

Dvoudenní mezinárodní konference pod záštitou Evropské strategie dunajského prostoru a Evropského regionu Dunaj-Vltava (ERDV)

DE >>

Zweitägige internationale Konferenz unter dem Dach der Europäischen Strategie für den Donaauraum und der Europaregion Donau-Moldau (EDM)

Agenda EN >> Thursday, 27 June 2013

12:00 – 13:00 Networking Lunch

13:00 - 13:45 **Opening of the Conference:**

Welcome:

Governor of the Federal Province of Upper Austria *Josef Pühringer*
State Minister of Economic Affairs of Upper Austria *Michael Strugl*

Opening Address: *Minister Peter Friedrich* (Minister for the Federal Assembly, Europe and International Affairs in Baden-Württemberg/DE)

13:45 - 14:30 **DanuClus: Kick-off of a New Cluster Initiative for the Danube Strategy**

Karlheinz Bechtle (Ministry of Finance and Economics Baden-Württemberg/DE, Priority Area 8 “Competitiveness”, EUSDR), *Sigrid Winkler* (TMG Upper Austria/AT, Working Group “Clusters of Excellence”, PA 8, EUSDR)

14:30 – 15:45 Plenary Session 1: **EU Funding 2014-2020 and the Regional Dimension**

- Structural Funds/ESIF: *Johannes Rossbacher* (Federal Chancellery Austria/AT, Member of the EU Council Working Group on Structural Funds)
- INTERREG 5C: The Priorities for Smart Specialisation as a New Challenge for the Interregional Territorial Cooperation Programme: *Nikos Pantalos* (European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry)
- Horizon 2020 and the Possible Role of Clusters: *Siegfried Loicht* (FFG/AT)
- Panel Discussion: Innovation Practice and EU Funding: *Johannes Rossbacher*, *Nikos Pantalos*, *Siegfried Loicht*, *Bruno Lindorfer* (TMG Upper Austria/AT), *Petra Püchner* (Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum/DE)

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 - 16:30 Plenary Session 2: **EUSDR and ERDV – Added Value and Synergies for Regions**

- The EUSDR in the Context of Smart Specialisation and Competitiveness: *Eva Nussmüller* (European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy, Head of Operational Sector – EU Strategy for the Danube Region)
- ERDV: Benefits of regional governance for EU competitiveness: *Günther Knötig* (Office of the State Government of Upper Austria/AT)
- EUSDR and ERDV: Added Value for Regions from Cooperation with Neighbors – the Example of Upper Austria: *Bruno Lindorfer* (TMG Upper Austria/AT)

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16:30 – 17:45 Plenary Session 3: **Benefits of Cluster Strategies for Innovation**

- Cluster Policies in Baden-Württemberg – a Special Instrument to Strengthen the Power of Innovation of SMEs: *Hermann Koch* (Ministry of Finance and Economics Baden-Württemberg/DE)
- The Future of Cluster Strategies and Cluster Internationalization for the Strengthening of EU Competitiveness: *Nikos Pantalos* (European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry)
- Successful Cluster Development in Eastern Europe: The Croatian Example: *Zdenka Mesić* (Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts/HR)
- Successful Cluster Management as a Key to Internationalization: *Werner Pamminer* (Clusterland/AT)
- A Collaborative Funding Model for the Baltic Sea Region: BSR Innovation Express: *Karin Nygård Skelman* (VINNOVA/SE)

17:45 – 18:00 Closing of First Conference Day, Instructions for Dinner and Second Day

19:00 – 22:00 Official Conference Dinner (Redoutensäle)

Agenda EN >> Friday, 28 June 2013

09:00 – 09:30 **Programming Initiatives** – Instructions for Workshops

09:45 – 12:00 **Programming Initiatives** – Three Parallel Workshops

In a first step, experts present the state of play of the programming processes under discussion in the three workshops. Then the participants of the workshops are invited to share their needs and expectations in a moderated forum. The conclusions of the workshops are summarized in short concept notes, to be submitted to the programming level of each of the concerned funding programmes.

• **Workshop A: "R&D&I and Future CBC-Programmes"**

Dialogue Between Programme Managements (DE(BY)/AT, DE(BY)/CZ, AT/CZ, AT/SK), Members of Knowledge Platforms and Key Stakeholders in the ERDV and Centroe Region.

Expert Panel: *Markus Gneiß* – DE(BY)/AT (Office of the State Government of Upper Austria/AT), *Jiří Horáček* (Ministry for Regional Development/CZ), *Bernhard Köhle* – AT/CZ (Office of the Lower Austrian Government/AT); Rapporteur: *Markus Gneiß*

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- **Workshop B: "A New Cluster Programme of DG Enterprise?"**
 DG Enterprise Support for Regional Cluster Policy: Status Quo, Reflections and Expectations of the Workshop Participants.

Expert Panel: *Zdenka Mesić* (Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts/HR), *Csaba Novák* (MAG Hungarian Economic Development Centre/HU), *Werner Pamming* (Clusterland/AT), *Nikos Pantalos* (European Commission, DG Enterprise); Rapporteur: *Werner Pamming*

- **Workshop C: "Transnational Programmes in the Context of the Danube Region"**

Presentation of the planned content, state of programming and structures, followed by a discussion about the needs, interests and expectations of the region and its stakeholders.

Expert Panel: *Roland Arbter* (Federal Chancellery Austria/AT, Member of Danube Programming Group), *Christiane Breznik* (City of Vienna/AT, Managing authority of the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme), *Eva Nussmüller* (European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy), *Petra Püchner* (Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum/DE); Rapporteur: *Roland Arbter*

12:00 – 13:00 **Closing Session of the Conference**

- Results of Workshops (Rapporteurs of the Workshops)
- Results of Conference and Next Steps (Moderator: Günter Scheer, ÖAR/AT)

Afternoon **Social Outing:** UFERN Donau-Strand-Fest (voluntary participation, vouchers for snacks and beverages)

Agenda CZ >> Čtvrtek, 27. června 2013

13:00 - 13:45 **Zahájení konference:**

Uvítání:

Zemský hejtman spolkové země Horní Rakousy *Josef Pühringer*

Státní ministr hospodářství Horních Rakous *Michael Strugl*

Uvítací projev: *Ministr Peter Friedrich* (Ministr pro spolkový sněm, Evropu a zahraniční vztahy v Badensku-Württembersku/SRN)

13:45 - 14:30 **DanuClus: Rozjezd nové clusterové iniciativy pro Dunajskou strategii**

Karlheinz Bechtle (Ministerstvo financí a hospodářství Badensko-Württembersko/SRN, Prioritní oblast 8 „Konkurenceschopnost“, EUSDR), *Sigrid Winkler* (TMG Horní Rakousy/Rak., Pracovní skupina „Clustery excellence“, PA 8, EUSDR)

14:30 – 15:45 Plenární zasedání 1: **Fondy EU 2014-2020 a regionální rozměr**

- Strukturální fondy/ESIF: *Johannes Rossbacher* (Federální kancléřství Rakouska/Rak., člen pracovní komise pro strukturální fondy Rady EU)
- INTERREG 5C: Priority pro „chytrou“ specializaci jako nová výzva pro meziregionální územní programy spolupráce: *Nikos Pantalos* (Evropská komise, DG Podnikání a průmysl)
- Horizont 2020 a možné role clusterů: *Siegfried Loicht* (FFG/AT)
- Panelová diskuse: Inovační praxe a financování EU: *Johannes Rossbacher*, *Nikos Pantalos*, *Siegfried Loicht*, *Bruno Lindorfer* (TMG Horní Rakousy/Rak.), *Petra Püchner* (Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum/SRN)

15:45 – 16:00 Přestávka

16:00 - 16:30 Plenární zasedání 2: **EUSDR a ERDV – Přidaná hodnota a synergie pro regiony**

- EUSDR v kontextu „chytré“ specializace a konkurenceschopnosti: *Eva Nussmüller* (Evropská komise, DG regionální a městská politika, vedoucí oddělení – Strategie EU pro region Dunaje)
- ERDV: Přínos regionální správy pro konkurenceschopnost EU: *Günther Knötig* (Úřad hornorakouské zemské vlády, oddělení územního řízení, koordinační místo pro regionální politiku EU)
- EUSDR a ERDV: Přidaná hodnota pro regiony ze spolupráce se sousedy – příklad Horních Rakous: *Bruno Lindorfer* (TMG Horní Rakousy/Rak.)

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16:30 – 17:45 Plenární zasedání 3: **Přínos strategií clusterů pro inovaci**

- Politika clusterů v Badensku-Württembersku – zvláštní nástroj pro posílení síly inovace v SME: *Hermann Koch* (Ministerstvo financí a hospodářství Badensko-Württembersko/SRN)
- Budoucnost strategií clusterů a internacionalizace clusterů pro posílení konkurenceschopnosti EU: *Nikos Pantalos* (Evropská komise, DG Podnikání a průmysl)
- Úspěšný rozvoj clusterů ve Východní Evropě: Příklad Chorvatska: *Zdenka Mesić* (Ministerstvo podnikání a řemesel /Chor.)
- Úspěšný management clusterů jako klíč k internacionalizaci: *Werner Pamming* (Clusterland/Rak.)
- Model financování využívající spolupráci pro region Pobaltí: „Inovační express“ BSR: *Karin Nygård Skelman* (VINNOVA/Švéd.)

17:45 – 18:00 Zakončení prvního dne konference, instrukce ohledně večere a druhého dne

19:00 – 22:00 Oficiální večere (Redoutensäle)

Agenda CZ >> Pátek, 28. června 2013

09:00 – 09:30 **Programovací iniciativy** – pokyny k workshopům

09:45 – 12:00 **Programovací iniciativy** – tři paralelní workshopy

V prvním kroku odborníci představí v rámci diskuse ve třech workshopech současnou situaci programovacích procesů. Účastníci workshopů pak budou moci hovořit o svých potřebách a očekávání v moderovaném fóru. Závěry workshopů pak budou shrnuty do stručných koncepčních poznámek a budou předloženy na programovací úrovni každého z dotčených programů financování.

• **Workshop A: „R&D&I a budoucí programy CBC“**

Dialog mezi programovými managementy (SRN(BY)/Rak., SRN(BY)/ČR, Rak./ČR, Rak./Slov.), členové znalostních platforem a klíčové zainteresované osoby v ERDV a regionu střední Evropy.

Expertní panel: *Markus Gneiß* – SRN(BY)/Rak. (Kancelář státní správy Horních Rakous), *Jiří Horáček* (Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj/ČR), *Bernhard Köhle* – Rak./ČR (Kancelář vlády Dolních Rakous); zpravodaj: *Markus Gneiß*

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- **Workshop B: „Nový program clusterů v rámci DG podnikání?“**

Podpora DG podnikání pro regionální politiku clusterů: Současný stav, zamyšlení a očekávání účastníků workshopu.

Expertní panel: *Zdenka Mesić* (Ministerstvo podnikání a řemesel /Chor.), *Csaba Novák* (MAG Maďarské centrum hospodářského rozvoje /Maď.), *Werner Pamminger* (Clusterland/Rak.), *Nikos Pantalos* (Evropská komise, DG Podnikání); zpravodaj: *Werner Pamminger*

- **Workshop C: „Mezinárodní programy v kontextu dunajského regionu“**

Prezentace plánovaného obsahu, stav programování a struktur, po níž bude následovat diskuse o potřebách, zájmech a očekáváních regionu a zainteresovaných osob.

Expertní panel: *Roland Arbter* (Federální kancléřství Rakouska /Rak., člen dunajské programovací skupiny), *Christiane Breznik* (město Vídeň /Rak., správní úřad programu STŘEDNÍ EVROPA), *Eva Nussmüller* (Evropská komise, DG Regionální a městská politika), *Petra Püchner* (Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum/SRN); zpravodaj: *Roland Arbter*

12:00 – 13:00 **Závěrečné zasedání konference**

- Výsledky workshopů (zpravodajové workshopů)
- Výsledky konference a další kroky (moderátor: Günter Scheer, ÖAR/AT)

Odpoledne: **Společenská akce:** festival UFERN Donau-Strand-Fest (dobrovolná účast, poukazy na občerstvení a nápoje)

Agenda DE >> Donnerstag, 27. Juni 2013

13:00 - 13:45 **Konferenzöffnung:**

Willkommensreden:

Landeshauptmann von Oberösterreich, *Josef Pühringer*

Wirtschaftslandesrat von Oberösterreich, *Michael Strugl*

Eröffnungsrede: *Minister Peter Friedrich* (Minister für Bundesrat, Europa und internationale Angelegenheiten, Baden-Württemberg/DE)

13:45 - 14:30 **DanuClus: Kick-off of a New Cluster Initiative for the Danube Strategy**

Karlheinz Bechtle (Ministerium für Finanzen und Wirtschaft, Baden-Württemberg/DE, Themenfeld 8 "Wettbewerbsfähigkeit", EUSDR), *Sigrid Winkler* (TMG Oberösterreich/AT, Arbeitsgruppe "Clusters of Excellence", Themenfeld 8, EUSDR)

14:30 – 15:45 **Plenarsitzung 1: EU Funding 2014-2020 and the Regional Dimension**

- Strukturfonds/ESIF: *Johannes Rossbacher* (Bundeskanzleramt/AT, Mitglied der EU-Ratsarbeitsgruppe für Strukturfonds)
- INTERREG 5C: Die Priorität der intelligenten Spezialisierung als neue Herausforderung im interregionalen Kooperationsprogramm: *Nikos Pantalos* (Europäische Kommission, DG Enterprise and Industry)
- Horizont 2020 und die mögliche Rolle von Clustern: *Siegfried Loicht* (FFG/AT)
- Podiumsdiskussion: Innovationspraxis und EU-Förderungen: *Johannes Rossbacher*, *Nikos Pantalos*, *Siegfried Loicht*, *Bruno Lindorfer* (TMG Oberösterreich/AT), *Petra Püchner* (Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum/DE)

15:45 – 16:00 **Kaffeepause**

16:00 - 16:30 **Plenarsitzung 2: EUSDR and ERDV – Added Value and Synergies for Regions**

- Die EUSDR im Kontext von Intelligenter Spezialisierung und Wettbewerbsfähigkeit: *Eva Nussmüller* (Europäische Kommission, DG Regional and Urban Policy, Leiterin des operationellen Sektors „EU-Strategie für den Donauraum“)
- EDM: Vorteile der regionalen Governance für EU-Wettbewerbsfähigkeit: *Günther Knötig* (Amt der Oö. Landesregierung /AT)
- EUSDR und EDM: Mehrwert für Regionen durch Zusammenarbeit mit Nachbarn – das Beispiel Oberösterreichs: *Bruno Lindorfer* (TMG Oberösterreich/AT)

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16:30 – 17:45 Plenarsitzung 3: **Benefits of Cluster Strategies for Innovation**

- Die Clusterpolitik in Baden-Württemberg – insbesondere ein Instrument zur Stärkung der Innovationskraft der KMU: *Hermann Koch* (Ministerium für Finanzen und Wirtschaft, Baden-Württemberg/DE)
- Die Zukunft von Clusterstrategien und Clusterinternationalisierung zur Stärkung der Wettbewerbsfähigkeit Europas: *Nikos Pantalos* (Europäische Kommission, DG Enterprise and Industry)
- Erfolgreiche Clusterpolitik in Osteuropa am Beispiel Kroatiens: *Zdenka Mesić* (Ministerium für Unternehmertum und Handwerk/HR)
- Erfolgreiches Clustermanagement als Schlüssel für Internationalisierung: *Werner Pamminer* (Clusterland/AT)
- Ein kollaboratives Finanzierungsmodell für die Makroregion Ostsee: BSR Innovation Express: *Karin Nygård Skelman* (VINNOVA/SE)

17:45 – 18:00 Ende des ersten Konferenztages, Anleitungen für Abendessen und zweiten Tag

19:00 – 22:00 Offizielles Konferenzdinner (Redoutensäle)

Agenda DE >> Freitag, 28. Juni 2013

09:00 – 09:30 **Programming Initiatives** – Anleitungen für die Workshops

09:45 – 12:00 **Programming Initiatives** – Drei parallele Workshops

Zuerst wird in kurzen Expertenreferaten der jeweilige Stand der Dinge in den drei Themengebieten besprochen. Im nächsten Schritt haben die WorkshopteilnehmerInnen die Möglichkeit, ihre eigenen Erwartungen und Bedürfnisse mit den Experten in einem moderierten Forum zu diskutieren. Schließlich wird in jedem Workshop ein kurzes Konzeptpapier verfasst, das die Schlussfolgerungen der Parallelworkshops festhält. Diese Konzeptpapiere werden der Programmierungsebene im Anschluss an die Workshops übergeben.

- **Workshop A: "R&D&I and Future CBC-Programmes"**

Dialog zwischen dem Programmmanagement (DE(BY)/AT, DE(BY)/CZ, AT/CZ, AT/SK), Mitgliedern der Wissensplattformen und Stakeholdern in der EDM und der Region Centrope.

Expertengruppe: *Markus Gneiß* – DE(BY)/AT (Amt der Oö. Landesregierung /AT), *Jiří Horáček* (Ministerium für regionale Entwicklung/CZ), *Bernhard Köhle* – AT/CZ (Amt der Nö. Landesregierung /AT); Rapporteur: *Markus Gneiß*

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- **Workshop B: "A New Cluster Programme of DG Enterprise?"**

Unterstützung von DG Enterprise für regionale Clusterpolitik: Stand der Dinge, Reflexion und Erwartungen der WorkshopteilnehmerInnen.

Expertengruppe: *Zdenka Mesić* (Ministerium für Unternehmertum und Handwerk/HR), *Csaba Novák* (MAG Hungarian Economic Development Centre/HU), *Werner Pamminer* (Clusterland/AT), *Nikos Pantalos* (Europäische Kommission, DG Enterprise); Rapporteur: *Werner Pamminer*

- **Workshop C: "Transnational Programmes in the Context of the Danube Region"**

Präsentation des geplanten Inhalts, Stand der Programmierung und Strukturen, gefolgt von einer Diskussion zu den Bedürfnissen, Interessen und Erwartungen der Region und ihrer Stakeholder

Expertengruppe: *Roland Arbter* (Bundeskanzleramt/AT, Mitglied der Programmierungsgruppe Donaauraum 2014+), *Christiane Breznik* (Stadt Wien/AT, Verwaltungsbehörde Zentraleuropa-Programm), *Eva Nussmüller* (Europäische Kommission, DG Regional and Urban Policy), *Petra Püchner* (Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum/DE); Rapporteur: *Roland Arbter*

12:00 – 13:00 **Closing Session of the Conference**

- Ergebnisse der Workshops (Rapporteure der Workshops)
- Ergebnisse der Konferenz und weitere Schritte (Moderator: Günter Scheer, ÖAR/AT)

Nachmittag **Gemeinsame Aktivität:** UFERN Donau-Strand-Fest (freiwillige Teilnahme, Gutscheine für Jause und Getränk)

Introduction to our speakers

Roland Arbter

Federal Chancellery Austria/AT

Roland Arbter, born on 18 May 1962 in Vienna, has been working in the Federal Chancellery of Austria, Division IV/4 (Coordination – Spatial Planning and Regional Policy) since 1 July 1992. In this position, he has been responsible for various tasks in the coordination and implementation of EU-Structural Funds-Programmes in Austria in the periods 1995-1999, 2000-2006 and 2007-2013, in particular in cross-border and transnational programmes. He currently serves as national delegate in the South-East Europe and Alpine Space 2007-2013 programmes and is a member of the programming Task Force for Alpine Space and Danube Region 2014+.



Roland Arbter, since 2009, has also been Austrian national coordinator for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. He is equally responsible for the coordination of spatial policy on European and federal levels (ESDP process, ESPON, Austrian Spatial Planning Concepts etc.). Mr. Arbter's tasks also involve work on regional governance, such as local/regional initiatives and regional management structures. He is national delegate in various EU Committees and other international bodies, for instance the OECD.

Mr. Arbter holds a master's degree in Geography and Ecology from the Universities of Vienna and Innsbruck, as well as a diploma for Spatial Planning from the Swiss Technical University.

Karlheinz Bechtle

Ministry of Finance and Economics Baden-Württemberg/DE



Karlheinz Bechtle is a consultant at the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Finance and Economics. In the department for SMEs and Markets, he is responsible for the EU-Danube Region Strategy. The state of Baden-Württemberg in cooperation with Croatia coordinates the Priority Area 8, Competitiveness of enterprises including Cluster Development, of this macro-regional strategy. After starting his career in the municipal administration he joined the state administration. His range of responsibilities included: development, supervision and implementation of initiatives and measures for international cooperation,

foreign trade and location marketing as well as clusters. In addition he has long experience in the field of cooperation with EE Countries. He holds a B.A. degree in public management from the University of Applied Sciences for Finance and Administration.

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Christiane Breznik

City of Vienna/AT

Christiane Breznik joined the City of Vienna, Department for European Affairs, in 2002 to work as Managing Authority for the Community Initiative Programme INTERREG IIIC East. In 2007 she was appointed as Head of Unit International Cooperation being responsible for the Managing Authority function of the transnational programme CENTRAL EUROPE and the cross-border programme Slovakia-Austria 2007-2013 as well as the participation of the Vienna Region in three cross-border ETC programmes. Currently she is supervising preparation works for continuation of the programmes in the new funding period 2014-2020. Before joining the City of Vienna, Christiane Breznik worked for 7 years as consultant in regional and landscape planning in various European countries implementing EU-funded projects. She was research fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (Harvard Kennedy School of Government), focusing on climate change, energy and natural resource management policy in Central Europe. Being a native Austrian, Christiane Breznik holds a Master in Engineering and a Master in Public Administration.



Peter Friedrich

Minister for the Federal Assembly, Europe and International Affairs in Baden-Württemberg/DE



Peter Friedrich is Minister for Bundesrat, Europe and International Affairs since 12 May 2011. He represents the interests of Baden-Württemberg in the Federal and European political arena. As Commissioner of Land Baden-Württemberg to the Federation, Peter Friedrich is a voting member of the Bundesrat (Federal Council) on behalf of the State. He pays special attention to national and international decision makers from politics, economy and media in Berlin and Brussels as good and friendly relations abroad are especially important for Baden-Württemberg as a State with a strong export oriented economy.

Markus Gneiß

Office of the State Government of Upper Austria/AT



Markus Gneiß was born on 19/04/81 in Vöcklabruck, Austria. He studied law and geography at Innsbruck University. In 2007 he worked for the Austrian Ministry of Life, in 2008 for the court in Wels and Vöcklabruck. Since the beginning of 2009 he is assistant of the managing authority of the INTERREG programme Austria Bavaria 2007-2013. In this role he is responsible for the overall programme (coordination between programme partners, contracting the project partners, consultation with EC etc). In the new programming period 2014-2020 he will be the head of the managing authority.

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Jiří Horáček

Ministry for Regional Development/CZ

Günther Knötig

Office of the State Government of Upper Austria/AT

Günther Knötig studied Spatial Planning at the Technical University of Vienna, where he subsequently worked as university assistant at the Centre of Regional Science and submitted his dissertation on urban renewal. Since 1992, Dr. Knötig has been working at the department for spatial planning of the Office of the Upper Austrian Government. He is currently heading the unit "Spatial planning above local level / coordination of EU regional policy". Günther Knötig is the Upper Austrian representative in the permanent subcommittee of the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning as well as a board member of the Austrian Society for Spatial Planning. He also represents Upper Austria in the trilateral steering committee of the European Region Danube-Vltava.



Hermann Koch

Ministry of Finance and Economics Baden-Württemberg/DE



Since 2006, Hermann Koch has been serving as deputy head of the unit for cluster policy in Baden-Württemberg's Ministry of Finance and Economics. He is also a member of the subcommittee of the federal-regional joint task force "Improvement of regional economic structure". From the beginning of the 1990s until 2006 he was deputy head of the unit for regional structural policy in Baden-Württemberg's Ministry of Economy, where he was responsible for regional development concepts, communal and regional economic promotion as well as intercommunal commerce and industry zones. In the second half of the 1980s, Mr. Koch worked on the issue of business promotion in the same ministry, and supported the Minister by drafting his speeches. He had started his career in the Department for Economy and Traffic at the District Office Mosbach in Northern Baden-Württemberg.

Hermann Koch holds a diploma in macro-economy and passed the second state examination for assessors in higher public service.

Bernhard Köhle

Office of the Lower Austrian Government/AT

Bruno Lindorfer

TMG Upper Austria/AT

Since 2008, Bruno Lindorfer serves as managing director of TMG Upper Austria, the Upper Austrian Technology and Marketing Agency. Bruno Lindorfer also became managing director of the Upper Austrian Innovation Holding at its foundation in 2011.

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Mr. Lindorfer studied mechanical engineering at the Technical University of Vienna.

In 1981 he joined VOEST-ALPINE AG in Linz, department scientific computing Thermotechnics, which he headed from 1985 onward. In 1990 Mr. Lindorfer was appointed head of R&D continuous casting machines within VAI. Within this responsibility he was also project leader of a large R&D joint venture regarding strip casting, in which he worked in the US for VAI for approximately two years. In 1996, he was appointed head of the department for technology programs within VAI's central R&D department in parallel.

In 1998, Mr. Lindorfer was appointed head of the central R&D department of VAI, where he was responsible for R&D within I&S MT.

In addition Mr. Lindorfer holds several functions within Austria's innovation community: Among others he has been Vice President of the Christian-Doppler Science Promotion Society for more than ten years, in 2011-2012 he was Austria's representative in the High-level Expert Group for Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) of DG Enterprise and Industry, and he is visiting lecturer for innovation- and technology management at the University of Linz and Leoben.



Siegfried Loicht FFG/AT



Siegfried Loicht has been employed by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) respectively its predecessor institution Bureau for International Technology Cooperation (BIT) for more than 12 years. At the beginning he was working as project manager in two FP5 projects and was responsible for SME stimulation actions. Since FP6 he is expert and National Contact Point (NCP) for Energy. He supported the Innovation Relay Centre Austria (IRCA) staff in FFG between 2005 and 2006. Since FP7 he is also NCP for SME and member of the Austrian delegation of the Energy Programme Committee. Furthermore he is active in the running FP7 Project C-Energy+, a coordination action of the National Contact Point network.

From April 2000-March 2001 Mr. Loicht was project manager at Energiepark Bruck/Leitha and involved in the planning of a biogas plant and the preparation of a concept for the EU-Programme Leader+.

Siegfried Loicht holds a Master degree in Landscaping from the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna and a Diploma on Waste treatment. He also studied on Technical University and University of economics in Vienna.

Zdenka Mesić Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts/HR

Zdenka Mesić is employed in the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts of the Republic of Croatia. Her present position is Head of Department for Cluster and Cooperatives, Directorate for SMEs and Crafts. She is one of the authors of the Cluster Development Strategy in the Republic of Croatia 2011-2020 and has been actively involved in strategic clusters development in Croatia.

She graduated in the Faculty of Organization and Informatics, University of



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Zagreb. Prior to the engagement with the Ministry, she has been working as Senior Counsellor in the Republic Committee for Science, Technology and Informatics in charge of scientific research financing, implementation of bid procedures for financing of science and research projects, junior research assistants and upgrading programmes. From 1992 to 1993 she was Chief of Staff in the Ministry of Trade, while from 1993 to 1995 she was Chief of Staff of the Mayor's Cabinet of the City of Zagreb, in charge of professional, organizational and registration activities of the City of Zagreb Government and the Mayor of the City.

Csaba Novák

MAG Hungarian Economic Development Centre/HU



Mr. Csaba Novák started his career with 9 years of economic research, of which 6 years were spent in the UK. Starting from 2001, he was involved in planning the first National Development Plan, initially at the Ministry of Economy and Transport, and later at the National Development Office. Following the planning period, he worked first as operational chief at the ECOP's Managing Authority, then became the head of the managing authority for enterprise development and R+D+I. In 2007, he joined MAG – Hungarian Economic Development Centre, a government agency, where he was in charge of project evaluation, contracting, finance and monitoring. From September 2010 as the Director for Strategy and International Relations he is responsible for external audits, irregularity management and international projects.

Eva Nussmüller

European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

Since November 2009, Eva Nussmüller is head of the operational sector of the Macro-regional Strategy for the Danube Region in the European Commission, DG REGIO. She is also a guest lecturer for a master programme in European Studies at the University for Applied Sciences Burgenland. Previously, she has worked at Vienna University of Economics as a research assistant, as well as in the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning, where she worked on the Structural Funds programme in Central and South-East Europe, and she was employed by the Ministry for the Interior of Luxembourg during Luxembourg's EU Presidency in 2005. She holds a master degree in economics from Vienna University of Economics.



Karin Nygård Skalman

VINNOVA/SE

Karin is present program director at VINNOVA, the Swedish Agency for innovation, where she is priority area coordinator for Innovation in the EU Baltic Sea region Strategy. She has been leading one of the flagship projects, called BSR Stars mentioned in the EU BSR strategy action plan since 2009. The project will increase linkage between actors in research and innovation milieus, clusters and small and medium enterprises in the macro region and there by hopefully contribute to



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increase prosperity in the region. Karin has many years' experience of International Business. Her main experience is from Ericsson where she was a general manager for Fiber access networks between 1998- 2002. She founded the national cluster called Fiber Optic Valley and was the CEO for this initiative between 2003 -2007 when she joined VINNOVA. The main area of expertise is fiber optics, fixed access networks, telecommunication, and innovation management.

Werner Pamminger Clusterland/AT

Werner Pamminger is an experienced executive and senior consultant for a many years. After a couple of years in industry as an engineer, Werner became in 2006 the CEO of Clusterland Upper Austria Ltd. the Upper Austrian regional development agency for cluster and network management, responsible for 50 employees and an annual budget of about 6.5 mil €. Werner is an international renowned expert in cluster management and in the plastics industry, he has established the Upper Austrian Plastics Cluster since 1999 (a plastic industrial network of about 400 contributing companies). Clusterland Upper Austria Ltd. is considered as a role model of excellent and successful cluster management within Europe. His main competences are situated in the fields of general management, project management, institutional development, workshop trainings and moderation. He serves in various expert groups and boards (e.g. on the TCI board). Werner has both a science (M.Sc. in automation engineering, University of Applied Science, Wels) and a business administration (M.B.A. University of Toronto) university degree, various training and education in organisational development and lived/worked in the United States for 1 year. Werner lives with his wife and son in Upper Austria.



Nikos Pantalos European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

After his post-graduate studies in engineering, Dr Nikos PANTALOS worked for 5 years in the private sector as responsible for R&D activities in a large telecom company. He worked as scientific advisor in the European Commission for three years before officially joining the Enterprise and Industry Directorate General of the European Commission as policy officer responsible for innovation policy. His current responsibilities include cluster policy for supporting new industries.



Petra Püchner Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum/DE

Dr. Petra Püchner is Managing Director of Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum of the Steinbeis Innovation GmbH. She holds a degree in Biology and a PhD in Environmental Engineering. After over 5 years work as researcher in contract research for industry and on national and European Research Projects (topic: biodegradable plastics), she started a career as for innovation and technology transfer at

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Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum (SEZ), where she climbed the position of managing director in the year 2000.

Petra has been engaged in innovation and related policy issues for more than 15 years. The topics range from exploitation of research results to industry applications to innovation systems and their role to trigger competitiveness. She is working as advisor to industry and policy – latest in regard how to best use the challenges of the society like demographic change or the energy challenge as opportunities. Together with her team of 30 staff members, she develops concepts and strategies in regard to enhance the use of key enabling technologies with a view to emerging industries and smart specialisation.

Petra is member of the FP7 SME Research Advisory Group in Brussels and Vice-Director of the European Centre for Women and Technology (ECWT).

Josef Pühringer

Governor of the Federal Province of Upper Austria/AT



Landeshauptmann Dr. Josef Pühringer, the Governor of the State of Upper Austria, was born on October 30th, 1949, as son of the tailor Josef and his wife Maria Pühringer.

He attended grammar school in Linz, where he got his A-levels in 1970. Then he studied law at the Johannes Kepler University in Linz. Besides his studies he taught religion at a school in Traun from 1970 to 1976. In 1976, he received his doctorate in law and became a civil servant at the Cultural Department of the Office of the State Government.

In 1973, he committed himself to communal politics in his hometown, Traun. First, he became member of the City Council, and in 1981, he became chairman of the city's People's Party. From November 1985 to April 1988, he was vice-mayor in Traun. From 1984 to 1995, he held the position of People's Party's chairman in the district of Linz-Land.

From 1974 to 1983, Pühringer was Chairman of the Young People's Party in Upper Austria, and was elected to the State Parliament in 1979.

From June 1986 to 1987, Pühringer held the position of secretary of the Upper Austrian People's Party. On December 9th, 1987, he became Minister of the Upper Austrian government. In 1990, he was elected vice-chairman of the Upper Austrian People's Party. On February 11th, 1995, he became chairman of the Upper Austrian People's Party. Since March 2nd, 1995, Pühringer holds the position of Governor of Upper Austria and has been re-elected three times in the elections of the years 1997, 2003 and 2009.

He lives with his wife Christa, his daughter Katharina Maria (born in January 1991) and his sons Josef (born in June 1992) and Peter (born in September 1997) in Traun.

Johannes Rossbacher

Federal Chancellery Austria/AT

Johannes Rossbacher has been working in the Austrian Federal Chancellery, Division IV/4 (Co-ordination Spatial Planning & Regional Policy) since 1994. In 2001, he was also appointed director of

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the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK). In his function at the Federal Chancellery, Mr. Rossbacher was seconded to the Permanent Representation of Austria in Brussels in 2005-2006 and in 1997-1999 in order to support the Austrian Presidencies of the EU in 2006 and 1998, to the Slovak Ministry for Regional Development as expert for the twinning project "Special Preparatory Program for Structural Funds" in 2000/2001, as well as to the European Commission (DG AGRI) as national expert in 1995. In 1991-1994, Johannes Rossbacher served as director of the Regional Development Agency "Niederösterreichische Eisenstraße" in Lower Austria. In 1988-1990, he worked at the "Steirisches Volksbildungswerk" in Graz. Mr. Rossbacher holds a master's degree in European Ethnology from Karl-Franzens-University in Graz, and a teaching degree for secondary modern schools ("Hauptschule") from the Federal Teacher Training College in Graz.



Michael Strugl

State Minister of Economic Affairs of Upper Austria/AT



Dr. Michael Strugl, born on 28 August 1963, was appointed State Minister of Economic Affairs of Upper Austria on 18 April 2013. In this position, he is responsible - among other matters - for economy, labour, tourism, European affairs, spatial planning, citizenship and sports.

Minister Strugl is a member of the ÖVP, the Austrian People's Party. From 2001-2013 he was a member of the Upper Austrian Landtag (State Diet), since 2001 he has been serving as the party's secretary for Upper Austria. Minister Strugl has managed a number of Austrian election campaigns, among them the campaign of former Austrian chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel in 1999. In 2010, Michael Strugl became president of Academia Superior, an Upper Austrian policy think-tank. Michael Strugl holds a master's degree in Law and a doctorate

in Economy from Johannes Kepler University in Linz as well as a management diploma from LIMAK Austrian Business School, which he completed in Linz and Atlanta (US), and a MBA in International Finance from the University of Toronto.

Sigrid Winkler

TMG Upper Austria/AT

Since 2012, Sigrid Winkler has been working for TMG Upper Austria, where she supports the government of the Federal Province of Upper Austria in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. Sigrid Winkler also leads the Working Group "Cluster of Excellence" in Priority Area 8 "Competitiveness of Enterprises, including Cluster Development" of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. In this position, she is establishing a strategy to boost cluster development and innovation through cluster structures in the Danube Region.

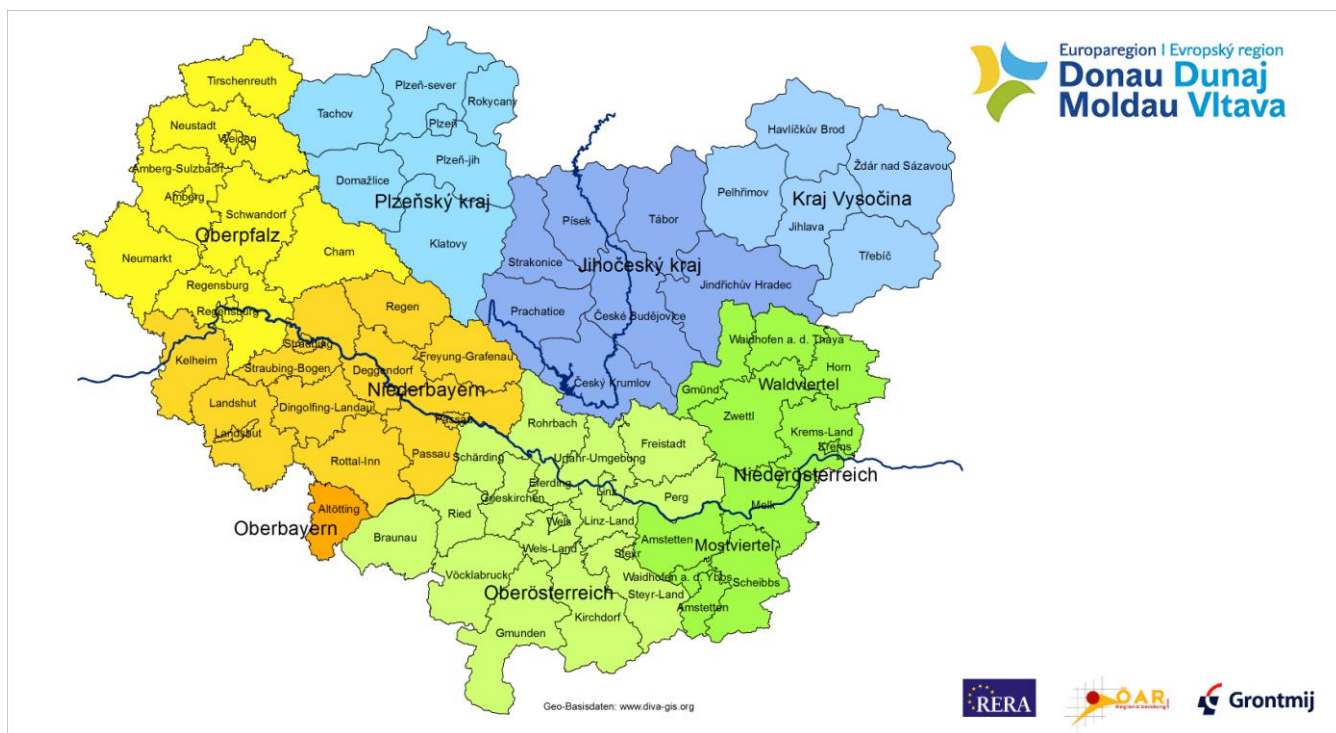
Previously, Sigrid Winkler worked as an academic researcher at the Institute for European Studies at Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium and at the Centre for Chinese Studies in Taipei, Taiwan.



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Sigrid Winkler holds a bachelor's degree in Chinese Studies and a master's degree in Political Science from Vienna University, as well as a doctorate in Political Science from Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium.



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