

Latest update: September 23, 2026

Preliminary programme

Conference on European Economic Integration (CEEI) 2026

CESEE in a changing world: geoeconomics, technology and demographic shifts

Jointly organised by the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB) and Narodowy Bank Polski (NBP)

23 and 24 November 2026, in-person only

Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB), Kassensaal, Otto-Wagner-Platz 3, 1090 Vienna, Austria

All times are CET

Conference outline

The world is undergoing transformation at an unprecedented pace, driven by escalating geopolitical conflicts, rapid advancements in artificial intelligence and profound demographic shifts. These forces are reshaping global dynamics and creating an era of heightened uncertainty. Like other regions, the economies of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe (CESEE) are exposed to these sweeping changes, which pose significant risks to economic growth in the coming years.

Despite these challenges, it is important to recognize that CESEE economies have achieved remarkable success over recent decades, demonstrating a strong ability to adapt quickly to new realities. The CEEI 2026 will explore four key topics that are shaping the future of CESEE:

- geopolitics and geoeconomics,
- demographic shifts,
- the transformative impact of technological innovation and AI, and
- the role of the state in a changing world.

All of these topics carry both immediate and long-term consequences for both CESEE and the European Union. The CEEI 2026 thus aims to address the critical question: How can CESEE countries prepare for and take advantage of these fundamental changes to ensure continued successful convergence and support a stronger and more resilient EU in the future?

Programme

Monday, 23 November 2026

11:30 Registration and light lunch

12:30 [Opening remarks](#)

Martin Kocher
Governor
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

Adam Glapiński
Governor
Narodowy Bank Polski

13:00 [Keynote lecture 1](#)

Beata Javorcik
Chief Economist
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

[Moderator](#)
Piotr Żuk
Deputy Director
Narodowy Bank Polski

13:45 [Session 1](#)
[The world is changing: the role of geopolitics and geoeconomics](#)

- How are geopolitics and geoeconomics reshaping CESEE?
- What is the role of central banks in addressing geopolitical risks?
- How can CESEE become more resilient in the current global environment?

Simona Malovaná
Executive Director
Czech National Bank

Cathrin Mohr
Professor
Kiel Institute for the World Economy

Huw Pill
Chief Economist and Executive Director
Bank of England

Gediminas Šimkus
Chair of the Board
Lietuvos bankas

[Moderator](#)
Marta Kightley
Advisor to the Governor
Narodowy Bank Polski

14:45 Coffee break

15:15 **Keynote lecture 2**

Simon Johnson

Professor

MIT Sloan School of Management

Winner of the 2024 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel

Moderator

Martin Kocher

Governor

Oesterreichische Nationalbank

15:50 **Session 2**
Europe's answers to demographic change

- How can CESEE address labour shortages in key sectors?
- How can Europe balance the need for skilled labour with the risks of brain drain from CESEE, particularly from the Western Balkans?
- How can CESEE maintain price competitiveness in view of tight labour markets?

Jacek Kotłowski

Director

Narodowy Bank Polski

Aparnaa Somanathan

Regional Practice Director for People, Europe and Central Asia

World Bank Group

Alida Vračić

Director

Think Tank Populari

Moderator

Sandra M. Leitner

Economist

The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies

17:00 End of day 1

18:30 Aperitif

19:00 Dinner (by invitation only)
sponsored by Narodowy Bank Polski

Dinner will be accompanied by a short concert performed on instruments from the [OeNB's collection of historical string instruments](#).

Tuesday, 24 November 2026

08:30 Registration

09:00 [An economic take on AI, technological innovation and productivity growth](#)

Nauro Ferreira Campos
Professor of Economics
University College London

[Moderator](#)

Julia Wörz

Head of the Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe Section
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

09:15 [Session 3](#)
[Will AI and technological innovation accelerate productivity growth in CESEE?](#)

- What potential do technological innovations have for boosting productivity in CESEE?
- How will labour markets react? Will innovations like AI lead to job displacement, help offset labour shortages or create new jobs?
- How widespread is AI adoption in CESEE compared to Western Europe or other regions? What are the main barriers to AI adoption?

Paweł Gmyrek
Senior Researcher
International Labour Organization

Jakub Growiec
Economic Advisor
Narodowy Bank Polski

Branka Hadji Misheva
Professor
Bern University of Applied Sciences

Ana Mitreska
Deputy Governor
National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia

[Moderator](#)

Julia Wörz

Head of the Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe Section
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 [An economic take on the effectiveness and efficiency of public spending in CESEE](#)

Markus Eller
Senior Expert
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

[Moderator](#)

Wolf Heinrich Reuter

Director of the Economics and Research Department
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

11:15

Session 4

The role of the state in a changing world and the future of public spending

- How should governments reprioritise public spending amid rising geopolitical tensions and economic volatility?
- How can governments simultaneously address the legacy of multiple recent crises and support monetary policy objectives?
- Could EU-level financing solutions make a difference?

Cinzia Alcidi

Senior Research Fellow, Head of the Economic Policy and Jobs & Skills Units
Centre for European Policy Studies

José Cerveira

Economist
JP Morgan

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Moderator

Wolf Heinrich Reuter

Director-General of the Economics and Research Department
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

12:30

Special address

Boris Vujčić

Vice-President
European Central Bank

12:45

Central bankers' chat

Marta Kightley

Advisor to the Governor
Narodowy Bank Polski

Martin Kocher

Governor
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

Boris Vujčić

Vice-President
European Central Bank

13:30

Closing remarks

Johannes Hahn

President
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

End of conference and light lunch

This program is subject to change. Speakers are listed in alphabetical order.