

Latest update: September 4, 2024
Preliminary program

92nd East Jour Fixe of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

Boosting CESEE's competitive edge to escape the middle-income trap

Leveraging sectoral potentials, innovation and green transition to spur growth in a dynamic global environment

September 11, 2024, 12:00 – 17:00 CEST (UTC+2)
Oesterreichische Nationalbank, Vienna

organized by the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB)
in cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw)

Conference outline

The European Union's economic growth has lagged behind its peers, particularly the United States and China, over the past 15 years and its competitiveness seems at risk. However, the Central Eastern and South-Eastern (CESEE) EU member countries have fared better. They have rapidly modernized their economies, converged towards higher income levels, attracted significant volumes of Foreign Direct Investment, and established themselves as integral parts of international supply chains. Despite this progress, convergence has been losing momentum as economic growth has become rather lackluster. As a result, CESEE's competitive position needs to be upgraded, possibly requiring an update to the entire growth model.

The conference will feature a series of papers authored by the OeNB in cooperation with the wiiw and the European Investment Bank. These papers investigate growth potentials and competitive positions of CESEE relative to other European countries and beyond, focusing on identification of promising sectors and products, on productivity, trade as well as potentials lying in research/innovation and green transition. Identifying future drivers of growth for the region will be crucial in strengthening the CESEE region's and the EU's competitive position globally.

Program

- 12:00 Registration and buffet lunch
- 13:00 [Welcome address](#)
Birgit Niessner
Director, Oesterreichische Nationalbank

- 13:10 **Keynote address**
European competitiveness at stake
Jeromin Zettelmeyer
Director, Bruegel
- 14:00 **Session 1**
Growth, potentials and innovation in CESEE: how to stay in the fast lane?
- Moderation**
Julia Wörz
Head of Section, Oesterreichische Nationalbank
- Tomáš Slačák**
Senior Economist, Oesterreichische Nationalbank
- Francesca Guadagno**
Economist, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw)
- Jochen Schanz**
Senior Economist, European Investment Bank
- 15:15 Coffee break
- 15:45 **Panel discussion**
Identifying a new and sustainable growth model for the region
- Moderation**
Matteo Ferrazzi
Senior Economist, European Investment Bank
- Milena Jabůrková**
Vice-President, Confederation of Czech Republic Industry for
Digital Economy and Education
- Rima Rubčinskaitė**
Research Fellow, Vilnius University
- Arnold Schuh**
Director, Competence Center for Emerging Markets & Central and Eastern Europe (CEE),
Assistant Professor, Vienna University of Economics and Business
- Zuzana Zavorská**
Economist, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw)
- 17:00 End of event

This program is subject to change.

Speakers and panelists are listed in alphabetical order.