



Latest update: April 15, 2026

High level meeting: CESEE at a turning point – competing in an age of disruption and digital acceleration

Jointly organized by the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB)

May 4, 2026, 14:00-17:00, hybrid event (in person and online)

All times are CEST

Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB), Veranstaltungssaal, ground floor, Otto-Wagner-Platz 3, 1090 Vienna, Austria

Conference outline

EU firms in general – and those in CESEE in particular – navigate mounting trade disruptions, from rising geopolitical tensions to shifts in global tariff regimes. These issues are compounded by persistent Single Market fragmentation, where more than 60% of firms still face obstacles when exporting within the Union, according to the EIB Investment Survey, which surveys nearly 12,000 firms across the EU and also gives a uniquely rich picture of investment conditions and sentiment.

At the same time, digitalisation and AI adoption have become major drivers of EU productivity. Yet EU firms – especially in CESEE – can only harness these gains if they invest in software, data, talent, and modern digital infrastructure. These complementary investments, however, remain uneven across the region.

Against this backdrop, high-level representatives and economic experts from the EIB, the OeNB, and CESEE business leaders will discuss current and future challenges – along with a central question: Is the CESEE economic model still fit for purpose in an era of geopolitical volatility, investment gaps, and rapid technological change? The workshop will examine how global shifts are reshaping CESEE's trade position, how to unlock private investment for digital transformation, and what it takes to build an AI-ready regional economy.

Join us at the Oesterreichische Nationalbank to explore how CESEE can turn today's challenges into strategic opportunities for competitiveness and long-term resilience.



- 14:00 [Opening remarks](#)
- Martin Kocher**
Governor
Oesterreichische Nationalbank
- Marek Mora**
Vice President
European Investment Bank
- 14:30 [Trade, digitalization, AI: CESEE at a strategic crossroad](#)
- Matteo Ferrazzi**
Principal Advisor
European Investment Bank
- 14:50 [Austria's FDI in CESEE in times of trade disruptions](#)
- Julia Wörz**
Head of Division
Oesterreichische Nationalbank
- 15:00 [Panel discussion: Where to invest in times of digitalization, AI and trade disruptions](#)
- Marek Mora**
Vice President
European Investment Bank
- Maurizio Poletto**
Chief Operating Officer and Chief Platform Officer
Erste Group
- NN**
XXX
XXX
- [Moderator](#)
Debora Revoltella
Chief Economist
European Investment Bank
- 16:15 [Snacks & Networking](#)

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