

Conference on European Economic Integration

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Speakers' CVs



Elisabeth Beckmann is a Senior Expert at the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB), working as an economist with a focus on Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe (CESEE). Her main responsibility is the OeNB Euro Survey, a regular international survey among individuals about euroization, trust in institutions, monetary expectations and financial decisions across CESEE. She also serves as a country-desk economist for Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia. Elisabeth has held visiting research positions at the World Bank's Chief Economist Office for Europe and Central Asia and at the Research Centre of the Deutsche Bundesbank. Prior to joining the OeNB, she worked with various non-governmental organizations in Germany and Russia. She studied in London, Munich and Glasgow and holds a PhD in economics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business and a BA in Russian from University College London



Gunhild Berg is a Lead Financial Sector Specialist in the World Bank Group's Finance, Competitiveness, & Investment Global Practice. She is currently responsible for developing policies and programs to support financial sector development and stability in the Europe and Central Asia region. Prior to that she covered the World Bank's financial sector work in several countries in Africa. Before joining the World Bank, she worked for KfW Development Bank. She holds a PhD in Economics from Goethe University Frankfurt and a Masters in Economics from Mannheim University.



Maximilian Bierbaum is head of research at New Financial, a European capital markets think tank. His recent research focused on widening retail investor participation in equity markets, the reform of pensions in the UK and the EU, and the simplification of financial regulation in the EU. Before joining New Financial, Maximilian worked at the City of London Corporation where his research evaluated the UK's business environment for financial and professional services, and at pan-European economic consulting firm Oxera.



Marek Blaha has been the CEO of “Dostupné bydlení České spořitelny” (Affordable Housing of Česká spořitelna) since 2022. The company develops affordable rental housing, especially for essential professions such as teachers, medical staff, and police officers. Prior to that, he spent five years as Director responsible for distribution, client services and the retail segment at Česká spořitelna, leading the entire retail network including private banking for small business clients, as well as client service centres and segmentation. Previously he was also the Distribution Director of Allianz – Slovenská poisťovňa and gained experience in financial services in Ukraine and Romania. He has further

expanded his economic education at Stanford Graduate School of Business in San Francisco and at IESE Business School in Barcelona.



Larisa Dragomir initiated her career as a commercial lawyer in Romania and has been dedicated to European affairs since 2003. She has worked at the European Central Bank, as well as in the Brussels interest representation sector. In November 2010 she integrated the European Commission’s Directorate for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, where she covered asset management, banking, insurance and pension matters. Since December 2024, she is member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Maria Luis Albuquerque in charge of the Savings and Investments Union.

Larisa is a graduate of the Law School of the West University of Timisoara (Romania). She holds a master’s degree in European Studies

from the College of Europe Natolin (Poland) and a PhD from the European University Institute in Florence (Italy).



Anca Dragu has been the Governor of the National Bank of Moldova since December 2023, appointed by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. She is the first woman to hold this position, bringing 28 years of impressive experience in economics, finance, banking, and public service.

Previously, Mrs. Dragu served as the first female Speaker of the Romanian Senate (2020-2021) and the second woman in Romanian history to serve as Minister of Public Finance (2015-2017). During her tenure, she launched initiatives such as the "Warm lunch in schools"

program, developed a public platform for budget transparency, and reduced income tax for researchers. From 2021-2023, she held a senator position and chaired the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission while also serving on several other committees. Mrs. Dragu began her career as an economist at the National Bank of Romania in 1996, after earning her degree in Finance and Banking from the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest. She specialized in international economics at George Washington University and received her Ph.D. in economics from ASE Bucharest. For over a decade, Anca Dragu worked with the International Monetary Fund and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs. In addition to her roles in economics, she is also an associate professor at the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, where she teaches macroeconomics and finance. Anca Dragu is a published author with several scientific papers in both national and international journals.



Ahmet Ismaili is the Governor of the Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo (CBK) and chairs its Executive Board. With over 20 years of experience in banking and finance, he has held senior management positions, delivering significant results in both the financial industry and the public sector. Dr. Ismaili's professional background spans various roles within the banking and insurance sectors, culminating in top management positions, including CEO and Board Member in both local and international financial institutions.

In addition to his leadership roles, Dr. Ismaili has been a lecturer at the Public University of Prishtina, teaching various subjects in banking and finance. He also served as a senior trainer for the Banking Association for nearly 15 years. He served a full five-year mandate as General Director of the State Treasury of the Republic of Kosovo under the Ministry of Finance. Additionally, Dr. Ismaili has held key public roles, such as Managing Director, Board Member and Audit Committee Member in other public institutions in Kosovo. As Governor, Dr. Ismaili chairs the Management Board of the Deposit Insurance Fund and represents Kosovo on the Board of Governors of the IMF. He also serves as Alternate Governor for the World Bank Group.



Marta Kightley

First Deputy Governor Narodowy Bank Polski
 Professor at the Department of Political Economy, Law and Economic Policy of the Warsaw School of Economics. In 2007–2010, she was a member of the diplomatic service. She headed the political and economic department of the Polish Embassy in the Republic of Korea. A long-time member of the NBP Education Council and of the Jury of the NBP Władysław Grabski Competition for Best Economic Journalist. On 28 February 2020, President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda, at the request of the Governor of Narodowy Bank Polski, appointed Marta Kightley member of the NBP Management Board as of 8 March 2020.



Martin Kocher is Governor of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank and member of the ECB's Governing Council since September 2025. He held the positions of Austrian Federal Minister of Labour from 2021 to 2022 and Federal Minister of Labour and the Economy from 2022 to March 2025. Prior to this, he was Scientific Director of the Vienna-based Institute for Advanced Studies, President of the Fiscal Advisory Council and Chairman of the Statistics Council. He is Full Professor of Economics at the University of Vienna and has held academic positions at universities in Munich, East Anglia, Amsterdam, Gothenburg, Brisbane and Innsbruck, where he obtained his doctorate.



Julia Korosteleva is Professor of Economics and Business at the University College London, School of Slavonic and East European Studies. She has established a reputation as an internationally renowned scholar in her research field of Entrepreneurship, Finance and Regional Studies. In her research, she addresses cutting-edge research topics pertaining to entrepreneurship, innovation, finance, institutions, digital transformation & greening with practical significance for sustainable and inclusive economic development. Prof. Korosteleva is a Research Associate at the UK Enterprise Research Centre and a member of the editorial review board of *Small Business Economics*, *Entrepreneurship Theory & Practice*, and the editorial board of *Journal of Digital Management*. Prof. Korosteleva's top publications include but not limited to *Research Policy*; *Journal of Business Venturing*, *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, *Entrepreneurship and Regional Development*, *Small Business Economics*, *Technovation*, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, and *Regional Studies*. She was engaged in a number of European research projects, including OPUS project on 'Banking Innovation and SME lending' with Kozminski University, Poland (2020-2023), EU Horizon2020 'GROWINPRO' project (2019-2022) under the leadership of Sant'Anna University (Italy); EU Horizon2020 SmartEIZ project of the European Commission (2016-19).



Alejandra Medina leads the Financial Economics Unit at the OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs. She brings over 15 years of international experience in corporate governance, corporate finance and capital markets, providing policy advice through roles in international organisations and national governments. At the OECD, Dr. Medina is responsible for capital markets work and for shaping and implementing the strategic direction of the division's corporate governance programmes in Asia. Her research focuses on capital markets and corporate governance, including corporate access to finance, the role of institutional investors, ownership structures and market dynamics. She has published extensively on the ownership structure of listed companies, capital market functioning and the enabling conditions for market-based financing. Her work is featured in various [OECD Capital Markets](#) publications. Before joining the OECD, Dr. Medina taught Corporate Finance at the University of British Columbia (Canada). She previously served on the capital markets advisory team at the Chilean Ministry of Finance and worked as a financial analyst and corporate bond trader at Provida, a leading Chilean pension fund manager. She holds a Ph.D. in Finance from the University of British Columbia (Canada), an MSc in Financial Economics and a BA in Business Economics from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.



Madis Müller is the Governor for Eesti Pank and a member of the European Central Bank's Governing Council. Prior to his appointment in June 2019, Mr. Müller held the position of a Deputy Governor of Eesti Pank, with his primary responsibilities including issues related to financial stability, payment systems, reserve management and cash operations. Before joining Eesti Pank in 2011, Mr Müller worked in the area of investment management at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Washington, DC. He has also held the roles of an advisor and senior advisor to the executive director of the Nordic-Baltic constituency at the World Bank, an economic advisor to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance of Estonia and that of a corporate finance consultant for PricewaterhouseCoopers. Mr Müller holds a Masters in Finance degree from George Washington University and a degree in banking and finance from the Estonian Business School. He is also an FRM (Financial Risk Manager) and CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) charterholder



Dániel Palotai was born in Budapest in 1978, he graduated in 2004 from Corvinus University of Budapest, Faculty of Economics, with a Masters degree in Finance and a Minor in Actuarial Science.

He began his professional career at the Magyar Nemzeti Bank in 2004 as an analyst in the Monetary Strategy Department of the Economics Directorate. Between 2007 and 2010 he served at the European Central Bank as an economist responsible for non-euro area EU member states. From November 2010, he headed the Macroeconomic Policy Department of the Ministry for National Economy and represented Hungary in the European Union's Economic Policy Committee (EPC).

From 2013 to 2020, he was Executive Director and Chief Economist of the Magyar Nemzeti Bank. During this period, he was also a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the European Central Bank and a Member of the Economic and Financial Committee (EFC) of the European Union. In 2015, he was awarded the Sándor Popovics Prize, granted to economists under the age of 45 for outstanding professional achievements. Between 2020 and 2025, he served in Washington, DC on the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), representing the Central and Eastern European Constituency as Executive Director, and from November 2024 as Alternate Executive Director. As from September 2025, he is Deputy Governor of the Magyar Nemzeti Bank, in which capacity he is responsible for international relations.

He is an Honorary Associate Professor at Corvinus University of Budapest and Member of the Board of Trustees of Maecenas Universitatis Corvini Foundation. Since 2017, he is Vice President of the Hungarian Economic Association (MKT). Between 2016 and 2020, he served as Chairman of the Editorial Board of *Financial and Economic Review*, since 2020 he is Editor-in-Chief. Since 2019, he has also been a member of the Editorial Board of *Economic Review*.



Dóra Piroška is Associate Professor at the International Relations Department of Central European University, Vienna, Austria. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the CEU. Her research focuses on the international political economy (IPE) of banking and finance and development finance with a particular interest in the Eastern Central European region. She has published extensively on European financial regulations including the Banking Union, CMU, macroprudential regulation, and the Regulatory Sandbox for fintech. Recently, she published on development banking in Hungary and Poland, the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the EBRD in Ukraine. She is also interested in theories of financial nationalism, financial power, and the relation between finance and democracy. She co-edited a book on János Kornai's scholarship with Miklós Rosta (CEU Press). Her research appeared in *Journal of European Public Policy*, *Review of International Political Economy*, *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, *New Political Economy*, *Competition and Change*, *Journal of Economic Policy Reform*, *Policy and Society*, *Third World Thematics: A TWQ Journal*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, *Journal of European Integration*, in thematic volumes with Routledge, Oxford University Press, Edward Elgar, and in several Hungarian outlets.



Manju Puri is the J. B. Fuqua Professor at the Fuqua School of Business, Duke University. Prior to joining Fuqua, Professor Puri was an Associate Professor of Finance at Stanford Business School, which she joined after earning her Ph.D in finance at New York University and MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. Professor Puri has expertise in the field of empirical corporate finance and, in particular, financial intermediation. Her work spans the areas of commercial banks, investment banks, venture capital, entrepreneurship, behavioral finance, and FinTech. Her work on banking examines both traditional forms of banking, relationship banking as well as new developments such as the rise of payment firms, Buy Now Pay Later, the use of digital footprints in credit by fintechs, and implications for financial inclusion. Her research has appeared in publications such as *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Financial Economics*, and *Review of Financial Studies*. She has been the recipient of the Sloan Research Fellowship as well as multiple awards from the National Science Foundation. Her publication record includes over 30 refereed papers in the top finance and economic journals. Her research has won many awards including four best paper awards at the FMA Annual Meetings, two Western Finance Association best paper awards, an All-Star award from *Journal of Financial Economics*, the Brennan best paper award at the *Review of Financial Studies*, and three Fama-DFA /Jenson best paper awards in the *Journal of Financial Economics*. Professor Puri serves as Editor of *Review of Financial Studies*. In addition to her academic achievements, Professor Puri has served in many leadership roles. These include serving as President of the Western Finance Association (WFA), Chair of the Academic Female Finance Committee (AFFECT), AFA, Director of the American Finance Association (AFA), and was named Fellow of the Financial Management Association. She has served as the President of the Financial Intermediation Research Society and as Director of the Financial Management Association. She is a senior academic fellow at the Asia Bureau of Finance and Economic Research (ABFER) and a Research Associate with the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Professor Puri's expertise extends beyond academia, she has consulted for governments, companies, and organizations in several countries. Professor Puri has given testimony before Congress, and worked with multiple regulatory authorities serving on the Financial Advisory Roundtable, Federal Reserve Bank of New York and on the Model Validation Council, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. She has also served on the Bose Committee on the commission structure of financial product

distributors for the Government of India, and on the Advisory Board of CAFRAL, Reserve Bank of India. She currently serves on the International Association of Deposit Insurers (IADI) Advisory Panel, Basel, and as Senior Advisor, Center for Financial Research, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and on the Advisory Panel of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) Basel. Professor Puri teaches an elective she created on “Raising Capital and Financial Technologies” for the MBA students at Fuqua. She has also taught a Ph.D class on Empirical Corporate Finance and has taught Advanced Corporate Finance, and Venture Capital Financing at Fuqua and Stanford Business School. She has mentored a number of Ph.D students who have been placed at the leading schools and institutions including Board of Governors, Columbia, Cornell, McKinsey, MIT, Purdue, and Yale University.



Monika Rosen has spent her entire professional life in banking, more specifically in the securities business. For over 20 years, she worked as Head of Research in the private banking division of a major Austrian bank. Even now, after her retirement, the international financial markets remain her great passion. She brings the topic closer to her audience through specialist lectures, moderations, and tours with fund companies. As the author of numerous columns, she is also a sought-after interview partner in the media. Monika Rosen is vice president of the Austrian-American Society and holds degrees from the University of Vienna and Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.



Trajko Slaveskii, Ph.D. was born in Ohrid in 1960. He is a full professor at the Faculty of Economics, Sts. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, where he also graduated. He continued his postgraduate studies in the United States, first at California State University (1986/87), and then at Harvard University (1989/90). In 1997 he was a visiting professor at Arizona State University, Tempe, USA. In the period 1999 – 2006, he taught at the postgraduate study program for Southeast European Studies at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece, in English.

Dr. Slaveski has played a major role in the development of economic policy in the country. He is a co-author of the first Anti-Inflation Program of the Republic of Macedonia, a document crucial for the economic stabilization after the declaration of independence in 1992, which laid the foundations for the introduction of the national currency – the denar. In his remarkable professional career, Dr. Slaveski has held important public positions. He was Minister of Development (1999-2000) and Minister of Finance (2006-2009) in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, and in 2021, he was elected President of the Skopje City Council. In the capacity of Minister of Finance, he served as Governor of the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for our country. As a member of the Government, he initiated and led multiple significant reforms, including the introduction of flat tax, payment system modernization, integrated collection of personal income tax and social security contributions in the Public Revenue Office (gross salary concept). He was closely managing the fiscal policy implementation amidst high inflation in 2007 (a result of the increase in global food and energy prices) and the Great Recession in 2007–2009 period.

He has long been known for his active participation in public economics and finance debates. He has authored eight books (several in co-authorship), as well as numerous scientific and expert articles published in domestic and international journals, as well as in public media.

He is married, father of two, and grandfather of two.



Edeltraud Stiftinger studied sociology at the University of Vienna and subsequently built a diverse career in the private sector and public service. Her focus areas included economic promotion and innovation management. In December 2024, Edeltraud Stiftinger assumed the position of Vice Governor of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB), Austria's central bank. She is responsible for Statistics, Treasury and Accounting. She is also Alternate Governor at the International Monetary Fund and at the Governing Council of the European Central Bank. Before joining the OeNB, she was Managing Director of Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH (aws) where her duties included financing innovative and high-growth companies and managing funding programs.



Nicolas Véron cofounded Bruegel in Brussels in 2002-05, joined PIIE in Washington DC in 2009, and is currently employed on similar terms by both organizations. He is also an independent board member of the global derivatives trade repository arm of DTCC, a financial infrastructure company that operates on a non-profit basis. A graduate of France's Ecole Polytechnique and Ecole des Mines in Paris, his earlier experience was in the French government and private sector. Véron's research focuses on financial development and stability policies. He has long advocated supervisory integration in Europe, including in banking union (for which Bloomberg Markets included him in its yearly global "50 Most Influential" list in 2012), anti-money laundering, and capital markets supervision.



Julia Wörz is Head of the Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe Section at the Economics Analysis and Research Department of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB). Her main responsibilities are coordinating the OeNB's economic analysis, monitoring and macrofinancial risk assessment activities concerning Central, Eastern and Southeastern European countries and providing in-depth analysis of CESEE related topics. In addition to her duties at OeNB she is teaching European monetary policy at the University of Innsbruck. Prior to joining the OeNB in May 2008, she had been staff economist at The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) since 2001. At the wiiw, she was involved in various research projects and (co)organized a range of workshops as well as the biweekly wiiw seminar series on "International Economics."

Julia Wörz holds a doctoral degree in economics from the University of Vienna and received the *venia docendi* from the University of Innsbruck in 2012. Her main research interests are European economic integration, economic convergence, competitiveness, international trade, globalization and global value chains, long-run determinants of economic growth and macro-economic forecasting. She has (co)authored numerous scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals, i.a. in *Economics of Transition*, *Empirica*, *Journal of International Economics*, *Weltwirtschaftliches Archiv / Review of World Economics*. Julia Wörz is associate editor of *Empirica*, the Journal of the Austrian Economic Association.