



*Latest update: June 18, 2026*

*Preliminary program*

## 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

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 themes that are shaping the future of CESEE countries:

- 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 CESEE and for the EU as a whole. 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?

## Program

Monday, November 23, 2026

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11:30 Registration & 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: geopolitics and geoeconomics](#)

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

**Simona Malovaná**  
Executive Director  
Czech National Bank

**Cathrin Mohr**  
Professor  
Kiel Institute

**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 demographical change**
- How can CESEE address labor shortages in key sectors?
  - How can Europe balance the need for skilled labor with the risks of brain drain from CESEE, particularly from the Western Balkans?
  - How can CESEE maintain price competitiveness in view of tight labor markets?
- Jacek Kotłowski**  
Director  
Narodowy Bank Polski
- Irena Radović (tbc)**  
Governor  
Centralna Banka Crne Gore
- Alida Vračić**  
Director  
Think Tank Populari
- Moderator**  
**Sandra M. Leitner (tbc)**  
Economist  
The Vienna Institut for International Economic Studies
- 17:00 End of day 1
- 18:30 Aperitif
- 19:00 Dinner (by invitation only)  
sponsored by Narodowy Bank Polski (NBP)
- The dinner will be accompanied by a short concert performed on instruments from the [OeNB's collection of historical string instruments](#).

Tuesday, November 24, 2026

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08:30 Registration

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

**Nauro Ferreira Campos (tbc)**

Professor in Economics  
University College London

[Moderator](#)

**Edeltraud Stiftinger**

Vice-Governor  
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

09:15

[Session 3](#)

[Will AI and technological innovations accelerate productivity growth in CESEE?](#)

- What is the potential of technological innovations to boost productivity in CESEE?
- How will labor markets react: will innovations such as AI lead to job displacement, help offset labor 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 (tbc)**

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](#)

**Edeltraud Stiftinger**

Vice-Governor  
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

10:30

Coffee break

11:00

[Economic take on public spending effectiveness and efficiency in CESEE](#)

**Markus Eller**

Senior Expert  
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

[Moderator](#)

**Wolf Heinrich Reuter**

Director  
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 and Head of the Economic Policy and Jobs & Skills Units  
Centre for European Policy Studies

**Johannes Hahn**

President  
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

**Mateusz Szczurek (tbc)**

Designate Director European Department (in office from July 27, 2026)  
International Monetary Fund

Moderator

**Wolf Heinrich Reuter**

Director  
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

12:30

Special address

**Boris Vujčić**

Vice-President  
European Central Bank

12:45

Central bankers' talk

**Adam Glapiński**

Governor  
Narodowy Bank Polski

**Martin Kocher**

Governor  
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

**Boris Vujčić**

Vice-President  
European Central Bank

13:30

End of conference and light lunch

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