

# DANUBE TECH SUMMIT

## AGENDA & TOPICAL FRAMEWORK

Haus der Industrie, located in Vienna, Schwarzenbergplatz 4, 1031 Wien

### PART A: INTERACTIVE WORKING SESSIONS & DISCUSSIONS

- 9:00 – 9:10** **OFFICIAL OPENING OF PART A:**  
*Opening remarks by:*  
**VAZIL HUĐÁK**, Vice Chairman of GLOBSEC Board of Directors  
VENUE: GROSSER FESTSAAL ( MAIN HALL, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR)
- 9:10 – 9:25** **DANUBE TECH VALLEY HUB PRESENTATION**  
**KATARÍNA CSÉFALVAYOVÁ**, Executive Lead of the Danube Tech Valley Initiative, GLOBSEC  
**RADOSLAV MIZERA**, Co-Founder, Solved  
VENUE: GROSSER FESTSAAL ( MAIN HALL, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR)
- 9:25 – 9:45** **KEYNOTE**  
**SECURITY OF SUPPLY OF GREEN HYDROGEN FOR THE EUROPEAN INDUSTRY**  
**HAMEAD AHRARY**, Head of Hydrogen, VERBUND  
VENUE: GROSSER FESTSAAL ( MAIN HALL, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR)
- 09:45 – 11:15** **WORKSHOP 1 Part 1**  
**DIGITAL ENERGY: VOLATILITY & FLEXIBILITY AS DRIVERS OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGY MARKETS IN THE ERA OF TWIN TRANSITION**  
POWERED BY: TTTech & PIONEERS - UPON SEPARATE INVITATION ONLY  
VENUE: URBANSAAL ( 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR)
- Key resources, businesses, and consumers are facing massive shifts in energy generation as renewable production grows along with the need for increased digital intelligence. However, digitalization in the energy ecosystem is lagging. For industries to secure a competitive upper hand, applying digitalization to the energy transition will be a key advantage. This session will explore ways in which companies can capitalise on this trend, by exploring questions such as: What digitalization processes and technologies should be deployed in the energy sector? What is the potential of Decentralised Energy Systems? What new business models are most fit for the digitalisation of energy? What should digital energy technology companies invest in?*
- Speakers:*  
**SVEN KAISER**, Deputy Head of Electricity Department  
**FLORIAN PINK**, Head of Corporate Development at APG
- Led by:* **GEORG KOPETZ**, Co-founder, Chief Executive Officer and member of the executive board, TTTech  
**THOMAS GABRIEL**, Managing Partner, Pioneers
- 09:45 – 11:15** **WORKSHOP 2**  
**UNLOCKING THE POWER OF ECOSYSTEMS: CATALYZING SPIN-OFFS IN THE DANUBE REGION FOR A GREENER FUTURE**  
POWERED BY VERBUND - UPON SEPARATE INVITATION ONLY  
VENUE: NEUER SAAL ( 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR)
- Research institutions play a significant role in advancing new technologies, materials, and methods that can accelerate the green transition. Nevertheless, there exists a challenge in effectively translating this research for the benefit of society. A vital component in this translation process is the emergence of academic spin-offs, which serve as a pivotal force for transformation and a fundamental element in the global pursuit of innovation. This session is dedicated to accelerating the establishment of spin-off ventures from research institutions and aims to bridge the gap between academic research and business, ultimately facilitating the transition to a greener future.*
- Speakers:*  
**WERNER WUTSCHER**, Founder and CEO, New Venture Scouting  
**IRINA OBUSHTAROVA**, CEO and Co-Founder, The Recursive  
**IRENE FIALKA**, CEO, INiTS  
**KALOYAN RATCHEV**, Co-Founder, Spin-Off Bulgaria
- Led by:* **FRANZ ZÖCHBAUER**, Head of Corporate Innovation & New Business, VERBUND

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**09:45 – 11:15 DIALOGUE SESSION****ENHANCING ACCESS TO FINANCE AND NURTURING INNOVATION ACROSS THE DANUBE REGION**

POWERED BY: RBI

VENUE: KLEINER FESTSAAL (1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR)

*The European entrepreneurial sector holds immense potential, but its growth is hindered by the absence of a robust capital market for scaling up projects, including the emergence of unicorns. To address this challenge, it's crucial to acknowledge the funding gap caused by underdeveloped capital markets within the EU. Mere increases in public funding are insufficient; a comprehensive approach is needed to rejuvenate the capital market. Additionally, public funds, particularly those from the EU, are directed toward enhancing the entrepreneurial competitiveness of the Union through an ambitious innovation agenda. However, despite a thorough evaluation of the region's strengths and weaknesses, efforts and resources dedicated to improving Central and Eastern Europe's (CEE) competitiveness have yet to meet expectations. Why do these resources remain out of reach for CEE countries, and what potential solutions can various stakeholders offer to overcome these limitations? What is the nature of the existing gap in funding distribution between Western and Eastern Europe, and who is actively working to bridge this divide? How can public and private funding work together to complement each other in the effort to close this gap?*

Speakers:

**HUBERT COTTOGNI**, Head of EIB Group Office in Austria, European Investment Bank**MARIÁN GAZDIK**, Founding Partner, G-Force**OLIVER HOLLE**, Founder, CEO & Managing Partner, Speedinvest**TAMARA PERKO**, President, Croatian Banking Association**THOMAS WIESER**, Former President of Eurogroup Working GroupLed by: **VAZIL HUDÁK**, Vice Chairman of GLOBSEC Board of Directors**11:15 – 11:40 COFFEE & NETWORKING****11:40 – 13:00 WORKSHOP 1 Part 2****DIGITAL ENERGY: VOLATILITY & FLEXIBILITY AS DRIVERS OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGY MARKETS IN THE ERA OF TWIN TRANSITION**

POWERED BY: TTTECH &amp; PIONEERS - UPON SEPARATE INVITATION ONLY

VENUE: URBANSAAL (1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR)**11:40 – 13:00 DIALOGUE SESSION****UNITE TO INNOVATE – BUILDING THE DANUBE TECH VALLEY**VENUE: KLEINER FESTSAAL (1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR)

*The Danube Valley countries represent a unique combination of traditional industries and new tech start-ups. The latest European innovation scoreboard reveals a persistent innovation gap in the EU, primarily favouring Northern and Western Europe. Between 2015 and 2023, the EU improved its global standing, narrowing the gap with Australia, Canada, South Korea, and the United States, but still lagging behind China. Exploring the untapped innovation potential in Central and Eastern Europe and the Danube region could elevate the EU's global competitiveness and attract more capital. How can this potential be effectively harnessed? How to increase cooperation and interconnectedness of startup ecosystems in the region? What should be the role of local governments in developing business and innovation opportunities? How can cities become interconnected innovation hubs and pave the way for a new, sustainable way of life?*

REPORT PRESENTATION: THE STATE OF INNOVATION IN THE DANUBE VALLEY

**YORAM WIJNGAARDE**, Chief Executive Officer & Founder, Dealroom

Speakers:

**MARTIN SELMAYR**, Head of European Commission Representation in Austria**HARALD STRANZL**, Ambassador, National Coordinator of EU-Danube and EU-Alpine Strategy**EVA CZERNOHORSZKY**, Head of Department Technology Services, Vienna Business Agency**PAVOL ŠAJGALÍK**, President, Slovak Academy of science**ENDRE ASCSILLÁN**, Vice President, GE Central and Eastern EuropeLed by: **KATARÍNA CSÉFALVAYOVÁ**, Executive Lead of the Danube Tech Valley Initiative, GLOBSEC**13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH**

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## PART B: IDEAS IN FOCUS

VENUE: GROSSER FESTSAAL ( MAIN HALL, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR)

### 14:00 – 14:15 **OFFICIAL OPENING OF PART B**

Opening remarks by:

**RÓBERT VASS**, Founder and President of GLOBSEC

### 14:15 – 14:20 **VIDEO MESSAGE**

**VALERIYA IONAN**, Deputy Minister for Eurointegration, Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine

### 14:20 – 14:30 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**MARTIN KOCHER**, Federal Minister of Labour and Economy of the Republic of Austria

### 14:30 – 15:50 **PANEL DISCUSSION 1:**

#### **TRANSFORMING THE DANUBE REGION INTO THE NEW EUROPEAN INNOVATION HOT SPOT: A TURNING POINT FOR THE CEE**

*In the past decade, the Danube Region has undergone remarkable development, with certain countries emerging as noteworthy innovation hubs on European and global stages. However, several challenges persist, particularly in the realms of business, environmental sustainability, attractiveness, and education policies. The region can effectively address these obstacles by implementing a comprehensive strategy and fostering collaboration among stakeholders. Ultimately, the overarching objective should be the creation of an environment conducive to innovation, digital transformation, and economic prosperity, not only for the technology industry but for the entire region.*

*As we aspire to bridge the divide between the East and the West, the key lies in identifying government strategies and shaping policies at both national and regional levels to stimulate entrepreneurial endeavours in CEE and the broader Danube region. How can we foster mutual inspiration and collaboration, shifting away from a competitive mindset, to authentically establish the Danube Innovation Valley?*

Speakers:

**MARTIN KOCHER**, Minister of Labour and Economy, Federal Republic of Austria  
**VLADIMÍR ŠIMOŇÁK**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic  
**GEORG KOPETZ**, Chief Executive Officer, TTTech  
**ANDREAS TREICHL**, President of the European Alpbach Forum

Led by: **ALENA KUDZKO**, GLOBSEC Vice President for Policy and Programming

### 15:50 – 16:15 **COFFEE & NETWORKING**

### 16:15 – 17:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION 2:**

#### **DANUBE DYNAMICS: NAVIGATING THE INNOVATION CURRENTS FOR A THRIVING ECOSYSTEM**

*In pursuit of fostering a thriving innovation ecosystem in the Danube Valley, we envision a landscape brimming with creativity and untapped potential. The strategy hinges on forming strong collaborative partnerships with both emerging startups and unicorns that have successfully exited and are now committed to giving back to the community. These entrepreneurs can serve as mentors, sharing their invaluable experience and resources to nurture the next generation of innovators. However, we acknowledge that there is a missing piece to this puzzle – the investment angel. To truly harness the innovation potential of the region, we must address the capital gap by attracting more investors willing to support early-stage ventures. By closing this investment gap and fostering a culture of cooperation, the aim to keep the Danube Valley at the forefront of innovation and economic growth can be reached. What are the characteristics of the current ecosystem, and what are the prevailing trends in the Danube Valley region? Who are the key stakeholders in shaping the regional innovation ecosystem, and what roles do they play in its development and sustainability? What are the crucial missing elements that need to be addressed to create a thriving ecosystem in the Danube Valley? What barriers hinder the effective transfer of technology, which is a fundamental building block in the progression of innovation within the region?*

SPEAKERS:

**SELMA PRODANOVIC**, Vice-President European Business Angel Network  
**MICHAEL STRUGL**, Chairman of the Board of VERBUND AG  
**YORAM WIJNGARDE**, Chief Executive Officer & Founder, Dealroom.co  
**MARTIN GIKOV**, Deputy Minister of Innovation and Growth of Bulgaria  
**ENKELEJD ZOTAJ**, Chief Information Officer, Raiffeisen Bank Ukraine

Led by: **THÉOPHANE HARTMANN**, Tech Reporter, Euractiv

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**17:30 – 17:35** **CLOSING REMARKS**

## **PART C: CULTURAL GALA EVENING**

**17:35 – 19:00** **COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

DTS SUMMIT PREMISES: HAUS DER INDUSTRIE, LOCATED IN VIENNA, SCHWARZENBERGPLATZ 4, 1031 WIEN.

**18:45 – 19:15** **TRANSFER TO THE MUSIKVEREIN FOR THE CONCERT**

**19:30 – 22:00** **CULTURAL EVENT**

VENUE: MUSIKVEREIN WIEN, BRAHMS SAAL, LOCATED IN MUSIKVEREINSPLATZ 1, 1010 WIEN

### ***Energizing Ukraine***

*Orchestra Wiener Akademie with Ukrainian musicians Orchestra (director Martin Haselböck)*

*As a result of the war in Ukraine, along with many other people, numerous outstanding musicians have lost their homes and with them their work and performance opportunities. With the project "Energizing Ukraine", the Orchestra Wiener Akademie and its artistic director Martin Haselböck would like to provide opportunities for these persecuted artists to pursue their careers. Ticket proceeds from the Baroque-Gala will be used to fund scholarships and master classes for Ukrainian musicians.*

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