

EMN Austria National Conference 2025:

Building Orderly Migration Systems through International Cooperation and Innovation

13 November 2025, 09:00 – 17:00

Hotel Steigenberger Herrenhof, Herrengasse 10, 1010 Vienna, Austria

09:00	<i>Doors open & welcome coffee</i>
09:30	<i>Welcome</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marian Benbow Pfisterer, Chief of Mission, IOM Country Office for Austria
09:45	<i>Opening remarks</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Webinger, Director-General for Migration and International Affairs, Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior
<i>Panel I: Navigating Uncertainty – The Role of International Organizations in Building Resilient Migration Systems</i>	
10:00	<p><u>Content:</u> The panel will examine the role of international organizations in managing migration within shifting geopolitical and financial contexts. Panellists will address strategies for enhancing cooperation with Member States, implementing new approaches to collaboration, and responding to emerging migration trends to promote sustainable and orderly migration.</p> <p><u>Panel discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arthur Erken, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, IOM Paul Stromberg, Deputy Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe, UNHCR Martin Taschner, Head of Unit Migration Management Preparedness, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission Representative of a third country <p><u>Q&A with the audience</u></p>
11:30-12:00 NETWORKING BREAK	
12:00-13:00 LUNCH BREAK	
<i>Panel II: Innovating the External Dimension – Towards a Holistic Approach</i>	
13:00	<p><u>Content:</u> This panel will examine holistic, partnership-based approaches to migration management. Panellists will discuss how to link regular migration pathways with early information provision along migration routes, development cooperation, and innovative instruments.</p> <p><u>Panel discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dean Jorgensen, Migration Program Manager, Embassy of Canada Sedef Dearing, Director Migration Dialogues & Cooperation, ICMPD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernd Brünner, Managing Director of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) • Franziska Kandolf, Deputy Director General for Migration and International Affairs, Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior <p><u>Q&A with the audience</u></p>
14:30-15:00 – COFFEE BREAK	
<i>Panel III: Shaping Pathways – Skills, Mobility and Migration Partnerships in Action</i>	
15:00	<p><u>Content:</u></p> <p>The panel will explore how the expansion of regular migration pathways can foster effective cooperation with third countries. Panellists will discuss programmes and partnerships that facilitate close coordination between countries of origin and destination, like Skills Mobility and Talent Partnerships, highlighting practical examples and examining key success factors for fair, demand-driven, and sustainable migration cooperation.</p> <p><u>Panel discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aleks Semerciyan, Head of Coordination International Affairs, Directorate-General for Integration, Office of Religious Affairs and Ethnic Groups, Austrian Federal Chancellery • Ingrid Normand, Director of the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII) delegation in Tunisia • Rabeb Ben Khalifa, Senior Employment Adviser at the International Cooperation Unit, National Agency for Employment and Self-Employment, Tunisia • Representative of academia <p><u>Q&A with the audience</u></p>
16:45	<p><i>Final remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bettina Baumgartner, Deputy Director for EU and International Migration, Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior • Saskia Heilemann, Head of the Policy Research and Migration Law Unit, IOM Country Office for Austria (EMN Austria National Coordinator)
17:00	<i>End of the conference</i>

	<p><i>Moderation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason Theede, Senior Regional Labour Mobility & Human Development Specialist, IOM Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
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