



Eastern Partnership Annual Conference
A stronger economy for stronger societies -
Investing in people for sustainable growth
7 December 2018 - Austria Center Vienna

- 10:00** *Registration & welcome coffee*
- 10:30-10:35** *Opening remarks*
Katarína Matheriová, Deputy Director-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission
- 10:35-10:50** *Keynote Speech*
Karin Kneissl, Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
- 10:50-11:05** *Keynote Speech*
Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations
- 11:05-12:30** **Panel I:** Improving the business environment in an inclusive manner: which actors and which measures can best contribute to stronger societies?
- Panellists:*
Mykhailo Titarchuk, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Ukraine
Ekaterine Mikabadze, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia
Marius Skuodis, Vice Minister of Economy, Lithuania
Katarína Matheriová, Deputy Director-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission
Maurice Beckand Verwee, Founder of Crosspring B.V.
Camilio Azzouz, Director Amber Capital
- Moderation:*
Peter Havlik, Senior Economist, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw)
- 12:30-14:00** *Buffet Lunch*

14:00-15:15 **Panel II:** Matching market needs and skills: how do we ensure that people are equipped with the right qualifications?

Panellists:

Iurie Leancă, Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, Republic of Moldova

Jeyhun Aziz oglu Bayramov, Minister of Education, Republic of Azerbaijan

Sajjad Karim, Member of the European Parliament

Cesare Onestini, Director, European Training Foundation

António Leite, Regional Director of the Institute for Employment and Vocational Training of the North Region, Portugal

Ana Chirița, Executive Director Moldovan Association of ICT Companies

Moderation:

Michael Emerson, Associate Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies

15:15-15:45 *Coffee Break*

15:45-17:15 **Panel III:** Investing in our future: how to foster youth employment and employability?

Panellists:

Arevik Anapiosyan, Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Armenia

Viviane Hoffmann, Deputy Director-General for Youth, Education, Sport and Culture, European Commission

Aleh Takun, Head of the Employment Policy Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Belarus

Janne Savolainen, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Finland

Gabriela Gandel, Executive Director, Impact Hub Network

Mikalai Kvantaliani, Civil Society Forum Steering Committee member and Association “New Group”, Belarus

Harutyun Tsatryan, Young European Ambassador

Moderation:

Kai Leichsenring, Executive Director, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

17:15-17:30 *Concluding remarks*

Luc Devigne, Deputy Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia, European External Action Service

Thomas M. Buchsbaum, Special Envoy on Eastern Partnership, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Austria