
Conference “Building bridges for financing a sustainable transition”

May 15 to 16, 2025, in Vienna, Austria



umweltbundesamt
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA

Federal Ministry
Agriculture and Forestry, Climate
and Environmental Protection,
Regions and Water Management
Republic of Austria

Umwelt
Bundesamt

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra
Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU

Administration
de l'environnement
Grand-Duché de Luxembourg

OFFICE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
PRINCIPALITY OF MONTENEGRO

OENB
OESTERREICHISCHE NATIONALBANK
EUROSYSTEM

Venue: Oesterreichische Nationalbank, Kassensaal
Otto-Wagner-Platz 3, 1090 Vienna, Austria
Hybrid conference
Languages: German and English (simultaneous interpretation)
All times in CEST

Draft program
Latest update on May 8, 2025

CONFERENCE OUTLINE

These are challenging times for green finance. While the need to finance a low-carbon and sustainable transition is growing, many policymakers seem to have other priorities. All the more reason to rethink and, where necessary, adapt strategies. At our conference, we will discuss options for successful implementation and further development of regulatory frameworks, in particular on climate and biodiversity. In addition, a session will be dedicated to international perspectives on green finance, with a special focus on countries in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. The aim is to build bridges between science and practice in the financial sector, policy and administration. This will involve identifying knowledge and data gaps and discussing the need for practical tools.

The conference is organized as part of the series “Science & Practice for Green Finance” by the Austrian Environment Agency, the Austrian National Bank (OeNB) and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management in cooperation with the German-speaking environmental agencies as part of the DACH-LIE-LUX Green Finance Working Group.

Pre-event as part of the series “high-level expert dialogue on the energy transition at the Oesterreichische Nationalbank”

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

16:00 **High-level expert dialogue**
Can green finance save the world?
(Language: German only)

Chair

Robert Holzmann

Governor

Oesterreichische Nationalbank

Torsten Ehlers

Senior Economist

Bank for International Settlements

Natalie Glas

Head of Green Finance Team

Environment Agency Austria

Michael Halling

Professor, Chair in Sustainable Finance

University of Luxembourg

Markus Stix

Managing Director

Austrian Treasury

Moderation

Andreas Breitenfellner

Senior Principal

Oesterreichische Nationalbank

18:00 End of the pre-conference event

Conference “Building bridges for financing a sustainable transition”

Languages: German and English (simultaneous interpretation)

Thursday, May 15, 2025

8:30 Registration and coffee

9:00 Opening and introduction

Official opening

Robert Holzmann

Governor

Oesterreichische Nationalbank

Video message

Norbert Totschnig

Federal Minister

Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental
Protection, Regions and Water Management

Welcome

Jürgen Schneider

Director General of the Directorate Climate Action

Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental
Protection, Regions and Water Management

Welcome and introductory speech

Hildegard Aichberger

Managing Director

Environment Agency Austria

Video message (English)

Sustainability risks & financial market stability

Frank Elderson

Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board

European Central Bank

Presentation of the agenda

Bettina Kerschbaumer

Moderator

9:55 Session I: Sustainable finance as a response to the ecological crisis

Keynote

The economics of sustainability

Sigrid Stagl

Head of the Institute for Ecological Economics

Vienna University of Economics and Business

Keynote (online)

Planetary boundaries & tipping points in the climate system

Ricarda Winkelmann

Professor of Climate System Analysis

University of Potsdam

Dialogue

What does Green Finance actually achieve?

Andreas Breitenfellner

Senior Principal

Oesterreichische Nationalbank

Laurent Millischer

Senior Economist

Joint Vienna Institute

11:05

Coffee break

11:30

Session II: Climate

Keynote (English)

Shades of sustainable finance: building bridges with climate bonds

Sean Kidney

CEO

Climate Bonds Initiative

Presentation (online)

Financing strategies for decarbonisation

Kristina Jeromin

Expert for transition finance

Initiative Made in Germany 2030

Presentation

Initiatives and highlights of the Austrian Green Finance Agenda

Andreas Rajchl

Head of Department, Green Finance and Sustainable Economy

Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental

Protection, Regions and Water Management

Panel

Bridges for financing a sustainable transition

Chair

Birgit Niessner

Director, Economic Analysis and Research Department
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

David Glod

Deputy Director
Luxembourg Environment Agency

Klaus Kumpfmüller

CEO
Hypo Oberösterreich

Jürgen Schneider

Director General of the Directorate Climate Action
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental
Protection, Regions and Water Management

Nadine Wiedermann-Ondrej

Deputy Director General for Financial Market Regulation
Federal Ministry of Finance

13:10 Lunch break (buffet)

14:10 Session III: Biodiversity

Keynote

The value of nature: key factor biodiversity

Franz Essl

Professor for Botany and Biodiversity Research
University of Vienna

Keynote (English)

Biodiversity risks in the financial sector

Marc Reinke

Co-Chair, Task Force on Nature-related Financial Risks
Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System

Panel

Financing the protection and restoration of nature

Chair

Hildegard Aichberger

Managing Director

Environment Agency Austria

Franz Essl

Professor for Botany and Biodiversity Research

University of Vienna

Georg Grüner

Senior Finance Manager

Verbund AG

Marc Reinke

Co-Chair, Task Force on Nature-related Financial Risks

Network for Greening the Financial System

Nina Schönemann

Managing Director Initiative Klimapartnerschaft.at

Wildnisgebiet Dürrenstein-Lassingtal

15:30

Coffee break

15:50

Session IV: International Transition Finance

Presentation (English)

Building bridges with transition finance

Linda Zeilina-Cross

CEO and Founder

International Sustainable Finance Centre

Presentation (English)

Green Finance at the Hungarian Central Bank

Márton Varga

Head of Department, Monetary Policy Instruments and Reserve Strategy

Magyar Nemzeti Bank

Panel (English)

International Green Transition Finance: Challenges and Solutions in Central, Eastern and Southeastern European Countries

Chair

Thomas Reininger

Senior Expert, Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe Section
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

Sasa Eichberger

Senior Environmental Specialist
World Bank

Sean Kidney

CEO
Climate Bonds Initiative

Andreas Rajchl

Head of Department, Green Finance and Sustainable Economy
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental
Protection, Regions and Water Management

Márton Varga

Head of Department, Monetary Policy Instruments and Reserve Strategy
Magyar Nemzeti Bank

Linda Zeilina-Cross

CEO and Founder
International Sustainable Finance Centre

Ca. 17:15 Concluding remarks and outlook

Friday, May 16, 2025

8:30 Registration and coffee

9:00 Welcome
Edeltraud Stiftinger
Vice Governor
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

Goals and schedule of the 2nd conference day
Bettina Kerschbaumer
Moderator

9:15 Session V: Investing in the sustainable transition

Keynote (English)
**Implementation of the EU sustainable finance agenda –
status quo and outlook**
Andrei Gurin
Sustainable Finance Unit, Team Leader – Taxonomy and Reporting
European Commission, DG FISMA

Keynote
**The role of financial markets in the transition to sustainable
economies and societies**
Michael Halling
Professor, Chair in Sustainable Finance
University of Luxembourg

Presentation
Transition between myths and facts
Astrid Matthey
Co-Rapporteur Technical Working Group, EU Platform Sustainable Finance
German Environment Agency

Spotlight
Climate policy & investment needs for the low carbon transition
Günther Lichtblau
Head of Division Climate and Energy
Environment Agency Austria

Presentation (English)

Monitoring Capital Flows

Bertrand Magné

Co-Rapporteur Subgroup EU Platform Sustainable Finance
European Investment Bank

Spotlight

Climate analysis for the Austrian financial market – Highlights

Caroline Vogl-Lang and Sabine Fritz

Senior Experts in Green Finance

Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental
Protection, Regions and Water Management; Environment Agency Austria

10:45

Coffee break

11:05

Session VI: Setting goals and measuring progress

Tools, methods, analyses and scenarios

Spotlight

Measuring the progress of the transition

Pedram Payami

Head of the Coordinating Office of the Green Finance Alliance
Environment Agency Austria

Spotlight

Biodiversity guide

Paul Simon Glade

Senior Expert in Green Finance and Biodiversity
Environment Agency Austria

Spotlight

Biodiversity alignment of financial portfolios

Juliet Blum

Scientific staff member, Economics and Innovation Division
Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

Spotlight

FMA analyses for greenwashing

Georg Lehecka

Sustainable Finance Hub Manager
Austrian Financial Market Authority

Spotlight (English)

Short-term scenarios – motivations, plans and challenges

Irene Monasterolo

Professor for Climate Finance
Utrecht University

12:05	End of live stream
12:05	Break (standing lunch)
12:30	<p>Three parallel breakout sessions (no live streaming)</p> <p>Breakout session (language: German) Climate Moderation: Günther Lichtblau and Natalie Glas Environment Agency Austria</p> <p>Breakout session (language: German) Biodiversity Moderation: Susanne Blank and Juliet Blum Swiss Federal Office for the Environment</p> <p>Breakout session (language: English) International Green Finance Moderation: Sophie Praniess and Alexander Feldmann Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management; Luxembourg Environment Agency</p>
13:25	<p>Plenary (no live streaming)</p> <p>Highlights from the breakout sessions</p> <p>Closing words and outlook for the next conference Birgit Niessner Director, Economic Analysis and Research Department Oesterreichische Nationalbank</p> <p>Günther Lichtblau Head of Division Climate and Energy Environment Agency Austria</p>
Ca. 13:45	End of conference