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# Conference “Building bridges for financing a sustainable transition”

May 15 to 16, 2025, in Vienna, Austria



umweltbundesamt  
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA

Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Climate Action, Environment,  
Energy, Mobility,  
Innovation and Technology

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  
PROVINCE OF LIEDERSVLEI

OENB  
ÖSTERREICHISCHE NATIONALBANK  
EUROSISTEM

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 March 27, 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.

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**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

Moderation

**Andreas Breitenfellner**

Senior Principal

Oesterreichische Nationalbank

18:00      End of the pre-conference event

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## 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

Welcome

Minister or high-level representative of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management (tbd)

Welcome and introductory speech

**Hildegard Aichberger**

Managing Director

Environment Agency Austria

Presentation of the agenda

**Bettina Kerschbaumer**

Moderator

**9:50            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

Video message

**Sustainability risks & financial market stability**

**Frank Elderson**

Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board

European Central Bank

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Dialogue

**What does Green Finance actually achieve?**

**Andreas Breitenfellner**

Senior Principal

Oesterreichische Nationalbank

**Laurent Millischer**

Senior Economist

Joint Vienna Institute

**11:10**

**Coffee break**

**11:35**

**Session II: Climate**

Keynote

**Shades of sustainable finance: building bridges with climate bonds**

**Sean Kidney**

CEO

Climate Bonds Initiative

Presentation

**Financing strategies for decarbonization**

**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\*

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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

**Kristina Jeromin**

Expert for transition finance  
Initiative Made in Germany 2030

**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

**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

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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

**15:30**

**Coffee break**

**15:50**

**Session IV: International Transition Finance**

Presentation

**Building bridges with transition finance**

**Linda Zeilina-Cross**

CEO and Founder

International Sustainable Finance Centre

Presentation

**Green Finance at the Hungarian Central Bank**

**Márton Varga**

Head of Department, monetary policy instruments and reserve strategy

Magyar Nemzeti Bank

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Panel

**International 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**

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**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  
**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 climate and energy  
Environment Agency Austria



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Presentation

**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**

**11:00**

**Session VI: Setting goals and measuring progress  
Tools, methods, analyses and scenarios**

Spotlight

**Measuring the progress of the transition**

**Pedram Payami**

Head of the Coordination Office of the Green Finance Alliance  
Green Finance Team  
Environment Agency Austria

Spotlight

**Biodiversity guide**

**Paul Simon Glade**

Senior Expert in Green Finance and Biodiversity, Green Finance Team  
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 greenwashing analysis**

**Georg Lehecka**

Sustainable Finance Hub Manager  
Austrian Financial Market Authority

Spotlight

**Banks' climate stress tests**

**Benjamin Neudorfer**

Expert, Supervision Policy, Regulation and Strategy Division  
Oesterreichische Nationalbank

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Spotlight

**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)**

**12:35**      **Three parallel breakout sessions (no live streaming)**

Breakout session (language: German)

**Climate**

Moderation:

**Günther Lichtblau** and **Natalie Glas**

Environment Agency Austria

Breakout session (language: German)

**Biodiversity**

Moderation:

**Susanne Blank** and **Juliet Blum**

Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

Breakout session (language: English)

**International Green Finance**

Moderation:

**Sophie Praniess** and tba

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

**13:15**      **Plenary (no live streaming)**

**Highlights from the breakout sessions**

**Closing words and outlook for the next conference**

**Ca. 13:40**      **End of conference**

*This is a preliminary program which may be subject to minor changes.*