
wiiw Spring Seminar 2013
‘Is There a Growth Strategy for Central and Eastern Europe?’

Thursday, 21 March 2013

Venue: Oesterreichische Nationalbank
1090 Vienna, Otto-Wagner-Platz 3, Kassensaal

The question central to this year’s conference reflects the worry about a return to growth and to convergence processes which characterized the situation in Europe with respect to the countries in Central and Eastern Europe before the ongoing economic crisis. The region currently experiences deleveraging processes associated with high private sector debt, reduced flows of foreign direct investment, a weak banking system, increased unemployment rates and restricted space for fiscal policy. The conference will address policy perspectives at the national and European levels to reinitiate sustainable growth in the region.

Programme

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| 09:00 | Introduction to the Seminar | Michael Landesmann
<i>Scientific Director wiiw</i> |
| 09:15 | Welcome Address | Doris Ritzberger-Grünwald
<i>Head, Foreign Research Division,
Oesterreichische Nationalbank</i> |
| 09:30 | Keynote Speech:
EU – New Challenges and New Members | Gordon Bajnai
<i>Former Prime Minister of
the Republic of Hungary</i> |
| 10:30 | Coffee Break | |
| 11:00 | Economic Situation in CESEE: Double-dip
Recession over, yet no Boom in Sight | Vasily Astrov , wiiw |
| 12:00 | Slovenia, Slovakia, Estonia –
Implications of Euro Membership | Doris Hanzl-Weiss, Sebastian Leitner,
Hermine Vidovic , wiiw |
| 12:30 | Buffet Luncheon | |

- 13:30 **Keynote Speech:
Financial Constraints on
Economic Recovery in CESEE** *Debora Revoltella*
*Director of Research,
European Investment Bank*
- 14:30 **How Sustainable are
Public Debt Levels in CEE?** *Jarmila Urvova*
Oesterreichische Nationalbank
- 15:15 Coffee Break
- 15:30 **Industrial Policy for Growth** *Michael Landesmann, wiiw*
Roman Stöllinger, wiiw
- 16:15 **EU Budget and its Role in Fostering Growth** *Sándor Richter, wiiw*
Tamás Szemlér
*Dean, Budapest Business School,
College of International Management and Business*
- 17:00 End of Seminar
- 18:00 Informal gathering at a Viennese 'Heurigen' by invitation of wiiw
Address: 10er Marie, Ottakringer Straße 222, Wien XVI

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Gordon Bajnai is an adjunct professor at Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and a visiting fellow at Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He is also a senior adviser to the Center for Strategic International Studies (CSIS), the Washington-based think tank, and a member of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR).

In 2009-2010, Mr Bajnai served as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary, leading the crisis management government as a non-partisan technocrat. Prior to this, from 2006 he was appointed a Government Commissioner in charge of the National Development Plan; then Minister of Local Government, and then Minister of National Development and Economic Affairs.

Debora Revoltella is Chief Economist of the European Investment Bank since April 2011. Debora Revoltella holds a degree in Economics and a Master in Economics from Bocconi University, Milan, Italy and a PhD in Economics from the University of Ancona, Italy. Prior positions included Chief Economist for Central and Eastern Europe, UniCredit, financial economist at Banca Commerciale Italiana and adjunct Professor in Macroeconomics at Bocconi University. In 2001 Debora Revoltella joined UniCredit. She managed a team of 40 economists in charge of supporting the institution in its regional growth strategy.

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