

wiiw Spring Seminar 2025

Growing Cities vs. Shrinking Countryside in Central Europe

in cooperation with the City of Vienna
and the Centre for Public Administration Research (KDZ)

3 June 2025

Venue: Wappensaal, Vienna City Hall, first floor,
Lichtenfelsgasse 2, 1010 Vienna, Austria

Programme

08:30 – 09:00 Registration and Coffee

09:00 – 09:30 **Welcome Addresses**

NN, Executive City Councillor of Finance, Business, Labour, International Affairs and Vienna Public Utilities (tba)

Hannes Swoboda, President, wiiw

Robert Stehrer, Scientific Director, wiiw

09:30 – 10:30 **Keynote Address: Political trust and economic development in European regions**

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, Princesa de Asturias Chair and Professor of Economic Geography, London School of Economics and Political Science

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:15 **Panel discussion: Challenges of urban renewal in Central Europe**
moderated by **Heidrun Maier-de Kruijff**, Director of the VÖWG Association of the Public Sector and Public Economy

Rüdiger Ahrend, Head of the Economic Analysis, Data and Statistics Division in the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions, and Cities

Jakub Mazur, Deputy Mayor Wroclaw (tbc)

Alexandra Sandu, Lecturer in Human Geography, Cardiff University

Peter Wieser, Head of the City of Vienna Municipal Department for Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics (MA 23)

12:15 – 12:45 **Presentation of wiiw forecasts for Central, East and Southeast Europe**
Richard Grieveson, Deputy Director, wiiw

12:45 – 13:45 Buffet luncheon

13:45 – 14:45 **Keynote Address: Sustainability and resilience in European regions**
Kata Tüttő, President of the European Committee of the Regions, Brussels

14:45 – 16:00 **Panel discussion: How to avoid becoming one of the 'places that don't matter'**
Moderator: **Thomas Prorok**, Managing Director, Centre of Public Administration Research (KDZ), Vienna
Dubravko Bilić, Mayor of Ludbreg
Ivana Marković, Mayor of Supetar
Roman Römisch, Senior Economist, wiiw, Vienna
Thomas Schwab, Senior Expert European Economics, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Berlin

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 17:15 **Presentations on the challenges for the regional development of Ukraine: European lessons learned from territorial reform, transition and EU accession processes**
Moderator: **Mario Holzner**, Executive Director, wiiw, Vienna
Presenters:
Andrey Horvat, Deputy Programme Director, U-LEAD with Europe, Kyiv
Ambre Maucorps, Economist, wiiw, Vienna

17:15 End of seminar

18:00 **Dinner at a traditional Viennese wine tavern, the Heuriger Schübel-Auer**
Address: Kahlenberger Straße 22, 1190 Vienna, Austria

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