

VIENNA MIGRATION CONFERENCE

Europe's leading forum on migration

Our mission

Today's world is interconnected and constantly evolving, and so is international migration. Realities and perspectives are as dynamic as the flows and effects of migration. They differ not just among but also within countries and stakeholder groups. Making progress and finding common ground in this ever-changing and divisive policy area requires a platform for a continuous, structured debate and open discourse.

The Vienna Migration Conference (VMC) provides just that: a trusted space for frank exchanges, where decision-makers and practitioners discuss the latest developments and trends and outline their visions for the road ahead – on stage, in side talks and through networking.

The VMC provides space for the exchange of a wide range of perspectives. In so doing, it sheds light on key migration-related opportunities and challenges – along routes to and within Europe, as well as for countries of origin and transit and other European partners.

Our outreach

We make use of our global network to bring together decision-makers, thought leaders and frontrunners in the migration sphere to convene, connect and engage.

Over the past six editions, the VMC has attracted ministers, leading experts and practitioners from governments across the EU, Turkey, Western Balkans, Africa and Central Asia, as well as top figures from international and non-governmental organisations, academia, media, civil society and the private sector.

We stream most of our debates online, which brings the VMC to the doorsteps of the wider migration community and ensures the broadest possible outreach. The conference is covered by international and local media and we share the highlights and analysis of the debates through social media, interviews and a conference report.

Our focus

Every autumn the conference offers an indispensable opportunity to discuss unfolding geopolitical dynamics, global trends and the current EU migration agenda. It is the premier international platform for high-level discussions on migration in Europe and beyond, where debates put the spotlight firmly on the state of play in migration diplomacy and where real progress among key partners can be made.

Recurring topics

- Strategies to strengthen international cooperation on migration and build sustainable migration partnerships
- Dynamics along key migration routes to Europe and priorities for joint action
- New EU policy developments, including asylum reform and innovative labour migration schemes
- International protection, solidarity and crisis management
- The EU's geopolitical power to advance its migration interests in a turbulent world

Our formats

The conference

An exclusive group of up to 250 key stakeholders convenes in Vienna's historic city centre, and a dedicated virtual platform connects the wider migration community to the VMC discussions via livestreaming.

The programme's centrepiece is a mix of one-on-one conversations, moderated dialogue and triologue debates and larger panel discussions which each zoom in on specific geographic or thematic questions. Keynote speeches and invitation-only side events complement the VMC's lively schedule. Alongside these formats, the VMC schedule is designed specifically to build in time for networking among in-person participants.

Bridging events and networking

On the eve of the conference proper, a Migration Futures Dinner brings together a group of agenda setters and thought leaders in the field to stimulate an informal and frank exchange of views and ideas on the central topics on the agenda. This invitation-only, intimate networking event is organised in partnership with the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

Through a series of thematic roundtables, webinars and discussions held throughout the year, organised by ICMPD's Annual Policy Initiative and Member States Programme, we also dive deeper into key topics and create thematic bridges to/from the programme of the conference each autumn.

In 2022, a special mid-year VMC event convened a targeted group of senior migration decision-makers in a debate on a pressing issue on the policy agenda: managing the displacement caused by the war in Ukraine. This event was organised in Berlin under the auspices of the German Chair of ICMPD's Steering Group.

