



# 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 everchanging 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. VMC provides a 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.

VMC2025 comes at a critical juncture: its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary coincides with the transition of leadership at ICMPD, offering a unique opportunity for reflection on the evolving migration landscape, and forward-thinking conversations on the future of migration governance.

## Our focus

Every autumn VMC 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 and outreach

## The conference

An exclusive group of more than 250 key stakeholders convenes in Vienna, while the wider migration community can join the VMC discussions via livestream. In 2025, the tenth edition of VMC takes place on 21-22 October.

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 nine editions, VMC has attracted ministers, leading experts and practitioners from governments across the EU, Türkiye, Western Balkans, Africa, Asia and North America, as well as top figures from international and non-governmental organisations, academia, media, civil society and the private sector.

The VMC programme combines one-on-one conversations with moderated debates and larger panel discussions which each zoom in on specific geographic or thematic questions. Keynote speeches and invitation-only side events complement the schedule. Alongside these formats, the conference programme is designed specifically to build in time for networking among in-person participants.

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

## Bridging events and networking

On the eve of the conference, the Migration Futures Dinner brings together a group of influential leaders and thinkers in the field to stimulate an informal and frank exchange of views and ideas on the central topics on the agenda. Through the year, ICMPD also hosts a series of thematic roundtables, webinars and discussions that dive deeper into key topics and create thematic bridges to/from the programme of the conference each autumn.

