

## AER General Assembly & 40th Anniversary

### Maribor Innovation Forum

[Maribor Old Puppet Theatre, Vojašniški trg 2A, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia](#)

#### AGENDA

Monday 16 June 2025

*Travel day*

Welcome cocktail at the World's Oldest Grapevine

20:00

[Old Vine House, Vojašniška ulica 8, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia](#)

The heart of Maribor, Lent, is home to the oldest grapevine in the world. It is more than 450 years old and is the only plant with its own museum, situated in the **Oldest Vine House**.

Tuesday 17 June 2025

Welcome Coffee & Registrations (09:30 - 10:00)

*Venue: [Maribor Old Puppet Theatre, Vojašniški trg 2A, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia](#)*

Opening of the Maribor Innovation Forum | AER 40th

Anniversary

10:00-10:45

Speakers:

- Aleksander Arsenovič, President of Development Council Eastern Slovenia and Mayor of Maribor
- Aleksander Jevšek, Minister for Cohesion and Regional Development of Slovenia
- AER President Albert Castellanos

Political Roundtable: Regions Boosting Europe's

Competitiveness

11:00-12:30

This roundtable will explore the different factors enabling regions to boost Europe's competitiveness through place-based innovation.

Speakers:

- Rastislav Trnka, Chairman of the Košice Self-Governing Region, Slovakia

Lunch break (12:30 - 13:30)

**Afternoon activities (13:30-16:00)**

<p><b>Eurodysey Steering Committee</b> *only for members of the Steering Committee 13:30-16:00</p>	<p><b>Panel:</b> Drivers of technological innovation at national and regional levels 13:30-14:15</p>	<p>This panel will gather perspectives on which drivers proved to be efficient in boosting technological innovation.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matjaž Han, Minister of Economy, Tourism and Sport of Slovenia</li> <li>• Matevž Frangež, State Secretary for internationalization, entrepreneurship, development resources and tourism</li> <li>• Srečko Đurov, State Secretary for regional development</li> <li>• Two representatives of AER member regions</li> <li>• Dr Simon Savšek, Head of EIB Group Office, Ljubljana</li> </ul>
<p><i>Coffee break (14:15-14:45)</i></p>		
<p>Roundtable: International business practices for technological excellence 14:45- 16:00</p>	<p>This roundtable will be an opportunity for multinational technological companies to illustrate successful business practices for achieving technological excellence.</p>	
<p>Parallel afternoon activities (16:00-18:00)</p>		
<p>AER Executive Board Meeting (only for Executive Board members)</p>	<p><b>Workshop of the AER Working Group on Mental Health</b></p>	
<p>AER 40th Anniversary reception (19:00) <a href="#">Vinag 1847 (Trg svobode 3, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia)</a> Hosted by the Assembly of European Regions</p>		
<p><b>Wednesday 18 June 2025</b></p>		
<p>AER General Assembly 2025 with keynote address by Mr Andrew Boff, Vice-President of the Bureau of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. 9:00-13:30 (coffee break at 11:00-11:30)</p>	<p>The General Assembly 2025 will mark the election of the AER new political leadership: the Presidency, the Executive Board and Bureau. <a href="#">More details on the elections here.</a> The agenda will be communicated soon.</p>	
<p>Lunch break (13:30-14:30)</p>		

<p>AER Spring Bureau 14:30-16:30</p>	<p>The Spring Bureau 2025 will host a debate on the AER Political Priorities 2025-2030. <a href="#">Read here on how to contribute to the call for amendments.</a> <a href="#">Read the draft agenda here.</a></p>
<p>AER Focus Group on Ukraine 16:45- 18:15 (coffee will be served next to the room)</p>	<p>The AER Focus Group will catalyse efforts to improve the cooperation between AER member regions from and beyond Ukraine.</p>
<p>Gala Dinner at the Maribor Castle (<a href="#">Grajska ulica 2, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia</a>) Hosted by the Mayor of Maribor, Saša Arsenovič and director of Regional Development Agency, Nataša Ritonija (19:00)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday 19 June 2025</b></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Parallel sessions (9:00 - 10:30)</p>	
<p><b>Panel on Sustainable Tourism</b> This panel will be an opportunity to exchange good practices on different aspects and types of tourism.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baran Güneş, Deputy Mayor, Mudanya Municipality, Türkiye</li> </ul> <p><i>Other speakers will be announced soon</i></p>	<p><b>Panel on Bioeconomy</b> This Panel will be an opportunity to exchange good practices on different aspects of bioeconomy.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representative of the <a href="#">Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI)</a></li> <li>Two Representatives of AER member regions</li> </ul> <p><i>Other speakers will be announced soon</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parallel study trips</b></p>	
<p>Study trip on Bioeconomy 10:45-17:30</p>	<p><b>Study Trip on Sustainable Tourism</b> 10:45-17:30</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Farewell Party under the Majestic Maribor Oak with DJ Set (<a href="#">Pristan 8, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia</a>) (20:00-23:00)</b></p>	