

12:00 - 13:00





AER 40th Anniversary | 2025 General Assembly Maribor Innovation Forum

MONDAY	16.06.2025	
20:00	Welcome cocktail at the World's Oldest Grapevine Old Vine House, Vojašniška ulica 8, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia	
TUESDAY	17.06.2025	
9:00 - 10:00	Registrations in Catacombs of the Old Puppet Theater & Welcome Coffee in the Minorite Church Entrance for participants: Maribor Old Puppet Theatre, Vojašniški trg 2A, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia	
	Opening of the Maribor Innovation Forum Room: Old Puppet Theater	
10:00 - 10:20	 Speakers: Aleksander Saša Arsenovič, President of Development Council Eastern Slovenia and Mayor of Maribor Srečko Đurov, State Secretary for Regional Development Albert Castellanos, President of the Assembly of European Regions (AER) Moderator: Nataša Briški, international journalist and editor-in-chief of Meta's List Institute 	
10:30 - 12:00	Video-address by EU representative Political Roundtable: Regions Boosting Europe's Competitiveness Room: Old Puppet Theater Speakers: • Andrew Boff, Vice President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities • Maja Schussler, Political Reporter at the Representation of the European Commission to Slovenia • Rastislav Trnka, Chairman of the Košice Self-Governing Region, Slovakia • Vladimir Prebilič, Member of the European Parliament (video message)	
	Moderator: • Nataša Briški, international journalist and editor-in-chief of Meta's List Institute	

Lunch Break







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Room: Judgement Tower

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13:30 - 16:00	Eurodyssey Steering Committee *only for members of the Steering Committee		
	Panel Discussion Drivers of technological innovation at national and regional levels		
		Room: Old Puppet Theater	
13:00 - 14:30	 Speakers: Lilijana Madjar, AER Vice President for Public Services, Digitalisation & Cohesion Małgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak, member of Podkarpackie Regional Board, Poland Dr. Robert Drobnič, Director-General, Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development Tamara Zajec Balažič, Acting Director at SPIRIT Slovenia Business Development Agency 		
	Moderator: • Matija Stepišnik, editor-in-chief	at Večer (newspaper)	
14:30 - 15:00	Coffee Break		
15:00 - 16:30	Room: Old Puppet Theater Speakers: Mr. Juhasz Balint, President of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Serbia Mr. Marián Šefčovič, Director of Radenska (mineral water and beverages) Mr. Kristjan Magdič, Director of Paradajz (greenhouse tomato production) Dr. Zvone Simončič, Director of Pharmaceutical Research and Development, Krka d.d. (pharmaceuticals) Mr. Avgust Šibila, Assistant Chief Executive for Talum (aluminium)		
	 Mr. Marián Šefčovič, Director of Fbeverages) Mr. Kristjan Magdič, Director of Fproduction) Dr. Zvone Simončič, Director of Fbevelopment, Krka d.d. (pharma 	Radenska (mineral water and Paradajz (greenhouse tomato Pharmaceutical Research and aceuticals)	
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Room: Wine Cellar







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19:30

AER 40th Anniversary reception

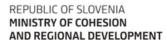
Vinag 1847 (Trg svobode 3, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia)

Hosted by the Assembly of European Regions

WEDNESDAY	18.06.2025	
9:00 - 13:00 *8:00-9:00 welcome coffee and registrations	AER General Assembly 2025 Room: Old Puppet Theater The General Assembly 2025 will mark the election of the AER new political leadership: President, the Executive Board and the Bureau. Further information on the agenda HERE.	
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch Break	
14:30 - 16:30	AER Spring Bureau Meeting Room: Old Puppet Theater The Spring Bureau meeting will kick-start the new mandate for 2025–2027. Members will be invited to discuss and vote on the AER Political Priorities 2025–2030. Further information on the agenda HERE.	
16:45 - 18:15	AER Focus Group on Ukraine Room: Old Puppet Theater	
19:30	Gala Dinner at the Maribor Castle (Grajska ulica 2, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia) Hosted by the Mayor of Maribor, Aleksander Saša Arsenovič, and the director of Regional Development Agency, Nataša Ritonija.	







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THURSDAY	19.06.2025		
	Parallel sessions		
	Panel on Sustainable Tourism	Panel on Bioeconomy	
	Room: Old Puppet Theater	Room: Judgement Tower	
9:00 - 10:30	 Speakers: Opening speech by Dubravka Kalin, Director of the Directorate of Tourism, Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport Marina Ferfolja, Head of Department Business Insights & Sustainable Development, Slovenian Tourist Board Karmen Razlag, Head of Tourism at Regional Development Agency for Podravje, Maribor Baran Güneş, Deputy Mayor of Mudanya Municipality, Bursa, Türkiyie Marine Zuber, Canton Fribourg (Switzerland) Moderator 	 Speakers: Patrick Mülhauser, Canton Fribourg (Switzerland) Ellen Mulder, Director of International Relations and Public Affairs, Province of Gelderland (Netherlands) Nataša Ritonija, Chair of the AER Working Group on Bioeconomy Joaquín Villaplana, CIRCSYST – Circular Systemic Solutions, AIJU Spain Moderator Nuša Lazar, Lead expert on Circular Economy 	
	 Andrej Vršič, Director of the Destination Jeruzalem Slovenia 		
	<u>Parallel s</u>	study trips	
10:45 - 17:30	Study Visit on Good Practices in Sustainable Tourism: Green Horizons of Štajerska	Study Visit on Good Practices in the Circular Economy: the demonstration sites of Nigrad and Ptuj	
	Learn more <u>here</u>	Learn more <u>here</u>	
20:00 - 23:00		estic Maribor Oak with DJ Set Maribor, Slovenia)	