

Regional Implementation Initiative 2023 on Preventing & Combating Human Trafficking
Improving National and Transnational Coordination and Cooperation in Preventing and Combating all Forms of Human Trafficking; Developing and Strengthening National and Transnational Networks and Partnerships



Think-tank Event

International Expert Round Table

TIME TO GET REAL

Beyond Awareness Raising and Recommendations

**HOW TO REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF PEOPLE BEING
TRAFFICKED & EXPLOITED**

Chamber of Labour, Vienna, 6 October 2023

Experts/Speakers/Panelists Bios and Partners of Cooperation

Marija Andjelkovic,

Marija Anđelković is director and one of the founders of NGO ASTRA-Anti trafficking action, the first grass root women NGO combating trafficking in women. She is a lawyer by profession with more than 20 years of experience in field of gender-based violence and one of the first civil society activists to raise the issue of human trafficking in Balkan region, advocating for improving the position of victims and respect of victim's rights. She has experience in direct victims' assistance to more than 600 victims as well as in prevention and education activities as trainer and lecturer in Serbia and abroad sharing her anti-trafficking expertise with professionals from governmental institutions and NGOs. She is an author of numerous publications, manual, articles and shadow reports on human trafficking. Her work and work of ASTRA has influenced shaping and delivering of policy and practice across the region.

Ludovica Banfi,

is a Project Manager in Social Research at the EU Fundamental Rights Agency where she focuses mainly on migration and asylum. Her areas of expertise with respect to the FRA's work include: severe labour exploitation; migrant and refugee integration; health and migration; multiple discrimination; and social research methods. She has managed several projects in areas such as the rights of long-term residents in the EU; migration and domestic work, healthcare of migrants, multiple discrimination and transnationalism in the context of migration in the EU and neighbouring countries. She holds a PhD in sociology and has previously worked as a research fellow at the University of Bologna, the University of Trento and at Middlesex University.

Peter von Bethlenfalvy,

Founder and Executive Director of CEIPA - Centre for European and International Policy Action, has a long professional experience of European and international cooperation in the field of migration, foreign and development policies, security and human rights. He formerly held leading positions at IOM – International Organization for Migration in Brussels, Berlin, Rome and Vienna. He has been the driving force in strengthening the European Union and International stance towards a number of issues such as economic migration, organized crime and trafficking in human beings, democratization and parliamentary elections as well as humanitarian and emergency aid. He advised and worked closely with a number of EU Presidencies and European Commissioners as well as European Parliamentarians in carrying forward EU policy priorities. His experience and commitment led to numerous policy improvements in the

above fields in Europe, and strengthened cooperation between governments, international organizations, civil societies and regions.

Eva Burger,

is the leading the team on Women's Rights, Equality and Family in the Austrian Chamber of Labour (Leitung Abteilung Frauen und Familien). She previously worked in the public service and private sector on topics around Diversity and Inclusion: on Gender Equality on the labour market, European and International with the Austrian Public Service; then as a business consultant on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with a global consultancy. She also worked as a social worker with LEFÖ-IBF for many years, being as well a passionate human rights activist with Amnesty International.

Valentina Carraro,

is an Assistant Professor at Leiden University's Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA) and Institute of Political Science, and the Deputy Coordinator of the Global Transformations and Governance Challenges (GTGC) interfaculty programme at Leiden University. Her research interests include global and regional human rights governance, the fight against torture, state compliance with international law, and the use of expertise in public bodies. She holds a PhD in International Relations from Maastricht University (2017).

Mike Dottridge,

Independent Expert/Consultant. He spent 25 years working with human rights non-governmental organizations and was one of the organisers of the Global March against Child Labour in 1998. For the past 15 years he has worked as an independent consultant on human rights and child rights issues. His work takes him to different parts of the world, particularly regions where human trafficking is regarded as a major problem, such as South East Europe and South East Asia. He has focused on various forms of exploitation, including child labour, the commercial sexual exploitation of children, forced labour and trafficking in human beings. In 2002 he was one of the experts invited by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a set of Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking. In 2006 he prepared a Reference Guide on Protecting the Rights of Child Victims of Trafficking in Europe, published by UNICEF. His subsequent publications on child trafficking include a handbook on designing projects to prevent child trafficking. He was one of the two authors who drafted a set of Recommended Principles to Guide Actions Concerning Children on the Move and other Children Affected by Migration.

Maria Grazia Giammarinaro,

UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children 2014-2020; former OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2010-2014). Since 1991 she has been a judge at the Criminal Court of Rome. From 2006 until 2009 she served in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security in Brussels, where she was responsible for work to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, as well as for penal aspects of illegal immigration within the unit dealing with the fight against organized crime. During this time, she coordinated the Group of Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings of the European Commission. From 2001 to 2006 she was a judge for preliminary investigation in the Criminal Court of Rome, dealing with serious crimes including violent crimes, drug trafficking and trafficking in persons. During this time she was also a member of the Equal Opportunity Committee at the National Superior Council of the Judiciary. Prior to that, from 1996 she was Head of the Legislative Office and Adviser to the Italian Minister for Equal Opportunities, where she drafted the Italian legislation on trafficking in human beings, judicial action against discrimination, and protection orders against domestic violence. In February 2019, she was appointed Adjunct Professor of Human Rights Law at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, School of Law, National University of Ireland, Galway.

Claire Healy,

is Research Officer at the UNODC Crime Research Section, coordinating the UNODC Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants and conducting research on trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, conflict and child rights. She was previously Senior Advisor and Research Officer on Trafficking in Persons at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), and conducted policy-orientated research on human trafficking, migrant smuggling and migration in West Africa, South America, the Middle East and Europe, with a focus on child rights in migration contexts, and on the intersections of conflict, international refugee protection, irregular migration, and exploitation. She also worked as Advisor to the Portuguese Government's High Commission on Migration, and as Research Consultant

for various migration-related NGOs in Dublin, Ireland. Dr. Healy is originally from Ireland, and holds a PhD in Migration History, awarded by the National University of Ireland in 2006. She has also worked as a translator and is fluent in English, Gaelic, Portuguese, German, Spanish and French.

Suzanne Hoff,

Since 2004, Suzanne Hoff is International Coordinator of La Strada International, the European NGO Platform against trafficking in human beings. As International Coordinator, Suzanne Hoff manages a broad range of tasks including strategy planning, lobby & advocacy and representation of the Platform in different international fora, next to coordination of European projects and research on the issue of human trafficking. She has been coordinating many international projects, campaigns and research. Before La Strada International, she worked for different NGOs, like Caritas Netherlands, the Dutch Centre for International Cooperation and the Dutch Refugee Council as well as for the Amsterdam Mayor's office and the International department of the Amsterdam Municipality. Most of her work focused on human rights and the situation in Central and Eastern Europe. Suzanne has an academic background; a master in Eastern European Studies and in (television) journalism.

Vassilis Kerasiotis,

Human Rights Lawyer, Legal Representative of the Applicants 'Chowdury and 42 Others vs Greece'. He was the lawyer who took a case to the European Court of Human Rights, known as 'Chowdury versus Greece'. It concerned a number of irregular migrants from Bangladesh who cultivated strawberries on farms in northwest Greece – a case of deemed to be 'trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation'. In his recent work he focuses on refugees as country director in Greece for HIAS, a refugee support NGO in Lesbos. Hias supports also cases of criminalization of search and rescue as well as hate crime victims.

Sangeetha Manavalan,

is Deputy Head of the LEFÖ-Intervention Centre for Trafficked Women and Girls, and as such monitors the support system available to trafficked persons and their access to legal and social rights in Austria. She has worked on multiple projects and research, in particular in the areas of migration and labour exploitation in Europe and Asia. Her work also focuses on prevention, lobby and advocacy of gender, human rights and human trafficking issues. She holds a PhD in Law from Queen Mary University of London.

Manfred Nowak,

is Professor of Human Rights in Vienna, Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice and Scientific Director of the Vienna Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. He has been Professor at various universities, such as Utrecht, Lund, Geneva and Stanford. He also held various expert functions in international organizations, such as UN expert on enforced disappearances, judge at the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Vice-Chair of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and Independent Expert leading the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, presented to the UN General Assembly in 2019. He is author of various books and over 600 articles in the fields of international and constitutional law and human rights.

Roger Plant,

Independent Expert/Consultant. Between 2002-2009 he was Head of the ILO's Special Action Program to Combat Forced Labour since its inception, spearheading the ILO's work against forced labour and human trafficking. His book *Sugar and Modern Slavery*, published in the 1980s, was one of the first to draw attention to new forms of forced labour and human trafficking in today's global economy. He has consulted on issues such as human rights and labour standards, migrant workers and contract labour, rural development, indigenous people and ethnic minorities, and corporate social responsibility for a range of international organizations, governments, financial institutions, private companies and NGOs.

Marie-Theres Prantner,

Head of the Department Prevention of and Protection from Violence of the Directorate General for Women and Equality in the Federal Chancellery Republic of Austria. In addition, Marie-Theres Prantner chairs the Working Group on Prostitution of the Austrian Task Force on Combating Human Trafficking and is head of the National Coordination Centre for Violence Against Women. She is a legal expert and works in the field of gender-based violence against women including Human Trafficking and on the issue of sexworkers rights since 2001.

Conny Rijken,

was appointed Dutch National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence against Children per 1 September 2022. She is also professor of Human Trafficking and Globalisation at Tilburg Law School, Tilburg University in the Netherlands, and elected member of GRETA since January 2021. She holds a PhD in Law (2003). Before she was director of INTERVICT (the interdisciplinary research Institute on Victimology) and served for ten years as a deputy judge in criminal proceedings. She is trained as a lawyer in International and European law with specialization in Human Rights Law. Over the last twenty years Rijken has researched and published on various aspects of human trafficking including labour exploitation, the role of businesses in combating human trafficking and the psychological consequences of human trafficking. She has conducted innovative research for instance on, urban refugees, Sinai Trafficking, the needs of victims of human trafficking and the nexus between human trafficking and statelessness in Thailand. She has extended her field of research to other areas including global migration, European criminal law and inclusion and exclusion through migration. Central in her research is the focus on human rights, engagement with the position of the individual and conducting 'research that matters'.

Tetjana Rudenko,

(Ukraine) joined the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings as Senior Co-ordination Adviser in October 2017. During the previous 15 years, Tetiana has been serving in international and public organizations dealing with issues of combating human trafficking and domestic violence, ensuring gender equality and economic empowerment of women. Since she joined the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU) in June 2005, she initiated and implemented over 30 projects to combat trafficking in human beings, domestic violence, cybercrime and to promote gender equality. Since 2014, she was also responsible for facilitating PCU's assistance to conflict-affected population, including IDPs, ex-combatants and their family members, people who cross the contact line, as well as police reform. As an expert, she contributed to the development of the UN Model Law Against Human Trafficking and several state programs to combat human trafficking, national action plan on "Women. Peace. Security" agenda, Laws of Ukraine "On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings" and "On Prevention of Domestic Violence", as well as numerous by-laws. Among other, currently Tetiana leads the Office efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking in the context of war against Ukraine.

Ryszard Piotrowicz,

has been a Professor of Law at Aberystwyth University since 1999. He was a member of GRETA, the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings from 2013-20, Vice-President from 2017-20. He also served two terms as a member of the European Commission's Group of Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings (2008-15). He is Visiting Professor in Migration Law at Viadrina University, Frankfurt-Oder, and a Senior Research Associate at the Refugee Law Initiative, University of London. He has acted as a consultant on human trafficking for the Council of Europe, IOM, OSCE, UNHCR, EU and ICMPD, as well as national governments and NGOs, and has conducted training programmes on human trafficking in many countries. He has published extensively on the law relating to human trafficking. He is a member of the Board of Editors of the *International Journal of Refugee Law*. He is a specialist adviser to the UK House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee current enquiry into human trafficking in the UK.

Helmut Sax,

Senior researcher at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights, Vienna/Austria, and former Member of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA, 2011-18, 13 country evaluations); completed legal studies in 1993, Doctorate in 2017. Main areas of work in research, consultancies and training: human rights of children, human rights of victims of trafficking in human beings. Co-editor (with Julia Planitzer) of the first legal Commentary on the CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2020); member of the Commission of Inquiry for the protection of the best interests of the child in the Austrian asylum procedure (2021).

Kiril Sharapov,

Kiril is Associate Professor of Applied Social Sciences at Edinburgh Napier University and Associate Director at the Scottish Graduate School of Social Science. He is internationally recognised for his research in the field of forced migration and, in particular, human trafficking. He remains both an advocate and a practitioner of co-produced participatory and emancipatory research which meaningfully incorporates voices of seldom heard communities, including persons with disabilities, refugees and asylum seekers, sex workers and persons with lived experiences of human trafficking. Kiril received his PhD in Politics from the University of Glasgow and an MA in Human Rights from the Central European University.

Klara Skrivankova,

is an internationally recognised expert on business and human rights, decent work and modern slavery. She has been working in the field since 2000, starting as a programme manager in La Strada Czech Republic. Between 2005 and 2019 she managed programmes in Anti-Slavery International and led the development of the organisation's business and human rights programme, providing advice to numerous businesses. Since 2018 she has been acting as the Decent Work Advisor for a private sector development programme in Myanmar. Internationally she advises development, human rights organisations and the private sector. She provides expert witness statements in courts in the UK, Ireland and Hong Kong in modern slavery cases and in 2007 co-founded the UK Trafficking Law and Policy Forum, an educational think-tank on human trafficking and related issues. She publishes extensively, including as a specialist contributor of Human Trafficking Handbook: she has been an expert on human trafficking with the Council of Europe and was member of the EU Experts Group on Trafficking in Human Beings advising the European Commission. she served on the board of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking and on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. She also co-chaired the Transparency in Supply Chains Working Group of the UK Government Modern Slavery Strategy Implementation Group.

Wolfgang Spadinger,

is an Austrian career diplomat in the Ministry of European and International Affairs. After postings in Sofia, Ottawa, Madrid and Milan, where he was Consul General, he is was nominated director of the division for border issues and deputy National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator in 2020. His tasks include chairing the meetings of the Austrian Task Force on combatting human trafficking and the negotiations of the 6 and 7 Austrian National Action Plans on THB. For the past three years he has been organising and moderating the Vienna Conference on Combatting THB. He regularly represents Austria in international conferences and fora on the fight against human trafficking. With the Council of Europe he was a Member of the Drafting Committee on Trafficking for the purpose of Labour Exploitation (DH-TET) 2021-2022. In his former position as director of host country affairs in the protocol department, he developed a system of scrutiny measures for the protection of Domestic Private Staff of diplomats and IO staff members. In this context he contributed the chapter "Private Domestic staff – a risk group on the fringe of the Convention" to the Handbook *Diplomatic Law in a new Millennium, Oxford University Press, 2017.*

Gerald Tatzgern,

Police Brigade General against Migrant Smuggling, Human Trafficking, Head of Special Investigations, Benefit fraud, illegal gambling, Visa fraud. Shortly after joining the police in 1988, Tatzgern spent three years with the WEGA special unit in Vienna. The team spirit that he got to know there - "as a lone fighter you can only lose" - is something that he has continued to cultivate ever since, both as a police officer in Ottakring and as the architect of the Europol unit in Austria. Since the turn of the millennium, he has been professionally involved in the fight against smugglers and human traffickers - an area that is housed in the Federal Criminal Police Office of the Ministry of the Interior. Tatzgern is a university lecturer in Linz, Graz and Vienna as well as a trainer for communication and conflict management, and studies at the University of Economics. Two books on child trafficking and on begging are soon to be followed by a third on prostitution.

Baerbel Heide Uhl,

is a political scientist and has been working on anti-trafficking politics both in academia and in operational missions in Europe for almost three decades. She is a co-founder of the European NGO network 'La Strada' and a founder of the NGO initiative dataACT, data protection in anti-trafficking action. Dr.Uhl held positions of anti-trafficking expert for the OSCE Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). In addition, she advised EU candidate countries and new Member States, including Turkey, Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania, on European anti-trafficking policies within the framework of EU enlargement procedures. Dr. Uhl was a member of the European Commission's Experts Group to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings from 2003-2007 and served as the Chairperson to the second Group from 2008-2011. She is a Member of the Advisory Board of La Strada International. She is the co-editor of the Routledge Handbook on Human Trafficking (2017), author of "Die Sicherheit der Menschenrecht (Securitization of Human Rights) (2014), and the co-author of the OSCE/ODIHR Handbook on National Referral Mechanisms (2004). Dr. Uhl earned her Doctorate and her Diploma in Political Science at the Free University of Berlin.

Afia Zabre,

Since January 2023, Afiah is working as coordinator of Ac.Se, the French national program against human trafficking. As coordinator, Afiah manages a network of over 80 partners who are associations, shelters for victims of trafficking. She also works to protect trafficking victims by offering them a geographical move away from the city in which they

are trafficked. Before joining ALC, the association that supports the national program, she worked for various NGOs such as the European Society of Cardiology, the Monaco Red Cross and Alizeta Monaco. Afiah has an academic background, with a master's degree in international project management and public health. She also has a good knowledge of project management in West African countries.

Markus Zingerle,

is a Sociologist in Vienna and co-founder of MEN VIA, the specialized victim support organization for men affected by THB in Austria. The comprehensive program has been established in 2013 by the Men's Health Center in Vienna and meanwhile has mandates by the Federal Ministries for Social Affairs, for Interior and for Justice. In Markus' opinion, working with male victims of crime has a positive impact on modern gender politics. It's empowerment for affected men to access their rights and have better individual perspectives. And it is also a contribution in the efforts and struggles against the deception of exploitation and systematic discrimination of various vulnerable groups in different ways.

Helga Konrad,

Head/Coordinator of the '**Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing & Combating Human Trafficking**' since 2010. Executive Director Anti-Trafficking; Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe IDM; former (first) Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the OSCE - Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (2004-2006); Chair of the EU Stability Pact Task Force on Human Trafficking for South Eastern Europe (2000-2004). In her capacity as Austrian Federal Government Minister for Women, she hosted the first EU Conference on Trafficking in Women for Sexual Exploitation in Vienna (1995). She was Head of the Austrian government delegations to the fourth UN World Conference on Women in Beijing/China and of the first World Congress on Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm/Sweden (1996).

Roberto Ziglio,

Advisor and Assistant of the '**Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing & Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**' on Web-management themes. Psychologist, Psychotherapist and Deputy Manager at Diakonie-Jefira - Intercultural Psychotherapy Centre in St. Pölten, which is specialized on Trauma-Psychotherapy with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers; He has been also Psychologist, Psychotherapist and Head of Organization and Administration at CentroMoses, S.r.l., a private mental health centre in Italy, where he used to perform his clinical activity since 2010. As Head of Organization and Administration he was involved in the organization of numerous trainings for mental health practitioners and citizens. He collaborated with the Treviglio-Caravaggio Hospital, in the Centre for Family Therapy and with the A.L.T. Association (association against drug addictions), located in Treviglio (Bergamo, Italy).

Partners of Cooperation:

Centre for European and International Policy Action (CEIPA)

Founded in 2011, the Centre for European and International Policy Action (CEIPA) is an independent think-tank committed to promoting public debate on major European and international policy issues, Central to CEIPA's work is the belief that providing a platform for informed debate, the exchange of ideas and the search for common ground between EU policy-makers on one side, and non-state actors and European citizens on the other, is vital to obtain the necessary broad support to underpin EU democratic governance and cohesion. Complexity and interdependence are the main features of modern societies around the world. Europe is no exception. It too must foster unbiased dialogue, beyond narrow national goals, party lines, dogmatism or vested interests. The perception that EU member states and institutions are imposing policies from the top down is robbing the process of European integration of its legitimacy in the eyes of many. Access to information is a human right. The CEIPA platform and activities keep citizens abreast of developments on key policies and provide contacts to the European Institutions and civil society organisations.

Human Rights Office of the City of Vienna

The Human Rights Office of the City of Vienna coordinates human rights as a cross-cutting topic in all areas of the Vienna City Administration and makes the City of Vienna's commitment to human rights visible. The Human Rights Office was opened in September 2015. The Human Rights Office works together on specific focus topics with other municipal departments, public institutions, civil society initiatives, and experts. Cooperation and networking are

essential for human rights work. A dialogue between interest groups is organised in the form of focus groups and round tables. The cooperation concentrates on the following focus topics:

- Raising awareness on the topic of human rights
- Children's rights, unaccompanied refugee minors, fighting poverty and violence
- Security policies and human rights at provincial level
- Fighting human trafficking, implementing the recommendations of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) of the Council of Europe

The results will be incorporated into the development of an action plan for the next few years to continue and deepen the process "Vienna - city of human rights". A steering group continues to accompany the work of the Human Rights Office. It consists of representatives of the administrative groups in the City Administration, the human rights spokespersons of the political parties forming the city government, and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights.

EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

The [EU Strategy for the Danube Region \(EUSDR\)](#) is a macro-regional strategy that addresses 12 thematic areas ([Priority Areas](#)) to strengthen quality of life in the Danube Region. Priority Area 10 (PA 10) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) aims at stepping up institutional capacity and cooperation as a precondition for shaping a sustainable, resilient and prosperous future. In doing so, we address institutional capacity-building at local, regional and national level, involvement of civil society in public governance, increasing local development and better spending as well as increasing absorption rates of EU funds. Priority Area 10 "Institutional Capacities & Cooperation" serves as an information and communication hub for local, regional, national and European stakeholders responsible for as well as working in the field of institutional capacity building, participative governance and spatial development. The activities of Priority Area 10 aim at supporting policy and project development, stakeholder relations and capitalisation in the Danube Region. Priority Area 10 "Institutional Capacities & Cooperation" supports activities that contribute to the actions and targets defined in the EUSDR Action Plan. Priority Area 10 "Institutional Capacities & Cooperation" is jointly coordinated by the City of Vienna (AT) and the Centre for European Perspective (CEP) on behalf of Slovenia. The Coordinators of the Priority Area are supported by the Steering Group.

Urban Forum – Egon Matzner-Institut for Urban Research

is a non-partisan association dealing with urban issues. The goal was and is to support the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, as a constitutional representation of the interests of cities and larger municipalities, in its work - especially through project-related events, publications and research. Urban Forum is an associate member of the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns, a member of the Urban Platform Danube Region (PA Area10) and cooperates with national and international universities. Official partners are for example the Federation of Austrian Industry, the Chamber of Labour, several Austrian cities, but also European Union Project Innovation Center (EUPIC) in Chengdu PR China. Urban Future Edition is a publishing house to publish publications on urban research and municipal science topics as well as on the field of public management in a strategic and targeted manner. In doing so, aspects of urbanity and urban development that have not yet been sufficiently illuminated scientifically are to be deliberately taken up. Internationality and thinking in terms of regions represent an essential cornerstone of Urban Forum's activities, and thus also of Urban Future Edition.

Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)

The Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) is a regional think tank registered as an association and predominantly financed by public funds. IDM acts as a gateway to the region and contributes greatly to the cooperation in the fields of politics, economics, research and culture. At the same time, IDM sees itself as a clearinghouse for the Danube region and Central and Southeast Europe by supporting the work of embassies, trade missions, cultural institutes and national tourist offices. Founded in 1953 as a non-university research institution based on associations and consisting of individual and corporate members, the Vienna-based institute carries out research with a geographical focus on Central, East and South East Europe, particularly focusing on the Danube Region. Through events, publications and educational activities, the experts of the IDM aim to transfer knowledge and initiate debates that revolve around the central questions of our time:

- How can we strengthen and guarantee a democratic, peaceful and resilient future of (Central) Europe?
- What policies will improve processes of EU enlargement and further integration?
- Which concrete actions enhance cross-border cooperation in the region?

In line with its slogan: **European Perspectives – Regional Actions – Cooperation and Expertise since 1953** the IDM's focus is on questions relating to the future of the European Union, with a particular focus on Central and South-Eastern Europe.

The IDM is the carrier organisation of the **'Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing & Combating Human Trafficking'**