

European Forum Alpbach 2026

The [European Forum Alpbach 2026](#) (EFA2026) will take place in Austria from 24 August to 4 September 2026. In this context the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Land of Tyrol are currently cooperating to develop a joint programme during the "Euregio Days" (28–30 August) of EFA2026. The program includes: a full-day joint activities on Saturday, 29 August 2026, as well as in the morning of Sunday, 30 August.

Venue: Congress Centrum Alpbach, Alpbach 246, A-6236 Alpbach, Austria

SATURDAY 29 AUGUST

Workshop “Between Security and Rights: Minority Governance in the Baltic States and Ukraine” - 09:00-12:00

Security concerns since 2022 have reshaped how minority issues are governed in the Baltic States and Ukraine. The session brings together regional perspectives to examine these shifts and their policy effects. It identifies risks of securitisation and outlines approaches to balance security and minority rights. The session will be held all in **English**.

Speakers:

- **Günther Rautz**, Head of Institute for Minority Rights, Eurac- Research Minority Rights Institute
- **Martha Gärber**, Director of the Department Europe of the Province of Bolzano
- **Petr Blížkovský**, Secretary-General of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Davide La Cecilia**, Italian commissioner for the reconstruction of Ukraine
- **Csaba Borboly**, Vice-President of the Harghita County Council and Vice-Chair of the SEDEC commission, European Committee of the Regions
- **Hanna Vasilevich**, Senior Researcher, Eurac-Centre for Ethnic and Linguistic Diversity Studies
- **Andrea Carlà**, Senior Researcher, Eurac-Research Minority Rights Institute
- **Kiryl Kascian**, Head of the Centre for Communication Influences and Propaganda Research, Vilnius University, Lithuania.
- **Karyna Keliohlo**, representative of the State Service of Ukraine for Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience, Ukraine
- **Alexander Krasnitsky**, journalist and media professional, Latvia.
- **Elizabete Krivcova**, lawyer and human rights advocate, Latvia.
- **Vyacheslav Likhachev**, a human rights activist and expert of the Center for Civil Liberties, Kyiv, Ukraine – ONLINE
- **Mari-Liis Paaver-Potašenko**, art historian and a member of the Lithuanian Estonian Society, Lithuania.
- **Grigorijus Potašenko**, Associate Professor at the Faculty of History, Vilnius University

Location: CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

[More information here](#)

Workshop “Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation: Perspectives for Europe” 13:30-15:00

Border regions require reliable frameworks and effective funding instruments to address shared challenges. This session brings together local and regional perspectives with European experience in an interactive exchange. The discussion will provide orientation for the next European Union funding period and explore ways to strengthen the representation of cross-border interests at the European level. The workshop will follow a fishbowl format, and simultaneous interpretation will be available in **English, Italian and German**.

Speakers:

- **Martha Gärber**, Director of the Department for Europe, Autonomous Province of Bolzano-South Tyrol
- **Elisa Bertò**, Representative in the General Secretariat of the Euregio Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino
- **Denis Šakić**, Vienna City Council, Alternate member of the Committee of the Regions
- **Nikola Dobroslavić**, Regional Assembly of Dubrovnik-Neretva County and Member of COTER commission, European Committee of the Regions.

Location: CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

[More information here](#)

Walking dialogue - 15:00-17:30

Local communities need direct channels to the European Union. This Hike brings members of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), the European Commission (EC), EU Local Councillors, Young Elected Politicians, and citizens into dialogue. It stops at a hut for an exchange on the partnership between the CoR and EC and next steps to strengthen the EU Local Councillors network. The Hike concludes at the Alpengasthof Rossmoos. The session will be held in **English**.

Walking Dialogue with:

- **Kata Tüttö**, President of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Anton Mattle**, Governor of Tyrol, President of the Euregio Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino and Member of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Csaba Borboly**, Vice-President of the Harghita County Council and Vice-Chair of the SEDEC commission, European Committee of the Regions
- **Nikola Dobroslavić**, Member of the Regional Assembly of Dubrovnik-Neretva County and Member of the COTER commission, European Committee of the Regions

Followed by Q&A on the partnership between CoR and EC and on how to promote and expand the EU Local Councillors network:

- **Petr Blížkovský**, Secretary-General of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR)
- **Richard Kuehnel**, Director for Representation and Communication in Member States, European Commission

Location: Congress Centrum Alpbach - Hike Start 3 | CCA Terrace

Note: Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water. A shuttle bus service will be provided.

[More information here](#)

Euregio Awards Ceremony - 18:30-20:00

The winners of the Euregio Innovation Award and the Euregio Young Researchers Award will be honoured in a festive setting, celebrating outstanding achievements in innovation and research across the Euregio area. A get-together will follow, offering guests the opportunity to connect and celebrate together. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in **English, Italian and German**.

Location: CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

[More information here](#)

SUNDAY 30 AUGUST

Ceremonial Welcome and Official Addresses by Political Representatives - 10:00-11:00

Official reception with welcome addresses by political representatives of the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino. The session will be held in **English**.

Location: CCA – Square

[More information here](#)

EUREGIO SUMMIT - 11:00-12:00

The Euregio Summit illustrates how regions and the EU advance innovation through collaboration and secure Europe's long-term competitiveness. The session links regional perspectives with European policymaking and demonstrates how joint action strengthens Europe's capacity to succeed. The session will be held in **English**.

Speakers:

- **Kata Tüttö**, President of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Magnus Brunner**, EU Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration

Location: CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

[More information here](#)