

EMN Austria National Conference 2024

The Speakers

Opening remarks

Marian BENBOW PFISTERER

Chief of Mission, IOM Country Office for Austria



Marian Benbow Pfisterer has been heading the IOM Country Office for Austria and representing IOM in Austria since 2017. She oversees all activities and is responsible for the overall coordination and management of the mission. Between May and October 2023 Marian Benbow Pfisterer also served as IOM's Head of Office Ad Interim for IOM Estonia. She has many years of experience in the field of migration and asylum and has been with IOM in various functions for more than 15 years. Marian Benbow Pfisterer studied Law in Heidelberg (Germany) and Bergen (Norway).

Peter WEBINGER

Director-General for Migration and International Affairs, Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior



Peter Webinger is Director General for Migration and International Affairs at the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior. He serves as Chair of the Board of the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services, for the Country of Origin Information Department at the Austrian Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum as well as for the interministerial Task-Force Migration of the Austrian government. He is a member of the Austrian Migration Commission and Head of the Austrian delegation to the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers, and Asylum. Moreover, Peter Webinger is the editor of several scientific publications and gives lectures on migration and asylum i.a. at the Strategic Leadership Course of the Austrian government and various European universities.

Keynote

Philippe LECLERC

Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe,
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



Philippe Leclerc is the Europe Bureau Director of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) since 2 October 2023. He graduated in International Law in Paris in 1986 and served as Cultural Attaché for the Embassy of France in Tirana, Albania (1987-1988). He has been working for UNHCR since 1990 in various positions throughout the world (Cameroon, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Slovenia, Belgium, Afghanistan, Syria) as well as at UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva. He also participated to many emergency missions to the field, the last of which was in the Central African Republic from December 2013 to February 2014. He was the Representative in France (2010-2015) and in Greece (2015-2020). Philippe Leclerc lastly served as the Representative in Türkiye between January 2021 – September 2023, before his assignment as UNHCR Europe Bureau Director.

Panel I: Migration Diplomacy – How to build strong partnerships

Moderator

Sandra LAVENEX

Professor of European and International Politics, University of Geneva



Sandra Lavenex is Professor of European and International Politics at the University of Geneva, Visiting Professor at the Council of Europe, and Member of the German Expert Council on Integration and Migration. She focuses on international governance, European integration, migration policies and democracy beyond States. Sandra Lavenex has a PhD from the European University Institute in Florence and a Habilitation from the University of Bern.

Panellists

Peter WEBINGER

Director-General for Migration and International Affairs, Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior



Peter Webinger is Director General for Migration and International Affairs at the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior. He serves as Chair of the Board of the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services, for the Country of Origin Information Department at the Austrian Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum as well as for the interministerial Task-Force Migration of the Austrian government. He is a member of the Austrian Migration Commission and Head of the Austrian delegation to the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers, and Asylum. Moreover, Peter Webinger is the editor of several scientific publications and gives lectures on migration and asylum i.a. at the Strategic Leadership Course of the Austrian government and various European universities.

Johannes LUCHNER

**Deputy Director General for Horizontal Affairs and Migration,
Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission**



Johannes Luchner is an Austrian national who joined the European Commission in 1996. He holds a Master's degree from the University of Vienna and a PhD from Penn State University. Before joining the European Commission, he worked as a free journalist and in the Austrian diplomatic service. He started his career in the Commission as desk officer for development cooperation. Johannes Luchner subsequently worked in the cabinet of Vice-President Kinnock, in DG Industry and Enterprise, the DG for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) as well as a Member of the Task Force for Greece in DG ECFIN. In April 2020, he joined DG HOME as Director for Strategy and General Affairs and he is now the Deputy Director General in charge of migration policy.

Lindsay JENKINS

Senior Advisor, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, U.S. Department of State



Lindsay Jenkins serves as Senior Advisor for Migration Policy in the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM). Her responsibilities include promoting safe, orderly, humane, and regular migration and protections for vulnerable migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people. She also facilitates multilateral responses to the impact of climate change on migration and forced displacement. Prior to joining PRM in June 2022, Lindsay was a Protection Officer with the UNHCR office in Washington, DC, where she led policy efforts related to access to asylum, border processing and reception capacity, regional protection and solutions response to forced displacement in northern Central America, and statelessness. Before her time with UNHCR, she worked as an immigration attorney for detained asylum-seekers and torture survivors in Pennsylvania and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras from January 2002 to June 2005. Lindsay holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Virginia, and a Juris Doctor and a Master's Degree in International Affairs from American University, where she was a Public Interest/Service Scholar.

Catherine NORTHING

Head of International Partnerships Division, Office of Partnerships, Advocacy and Communication, International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Catherine Northing is the Head of the International Partnerships (within the Office of Partnerships Advocacy and Communication) at the International Organization for Migration. Prior to this post she was the Chief of Mission in Sudan and also served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Yemen, as Chief of Mission in Rwanda and as Programme Manager in Afghanistan.

In her current role she leads a team that is responsible for institutional partnerships with civil society, local and regional governments, intergovernmental organizations, inter-state consultation mechanisms on migration, youth and ad interim, multilateral development banks.

Prior to IOM she worked for the UN Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and with NGOs in Tanzania, Sierra Leone and UK. Catherine holds a BA in Politics and International Relations (with honours) from the University of Lancaster, and a MA in Development Studies from the University of Leeds and a post-graduate Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance from Fordham University.

Panel II

Migration Partnerships in the context of global, multi-faceted challenges

Moderator

Philip SCHMIDT

Head of Unit for International Migration Communication and Research, Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior



Philip Schmidt is the Head of Unit for International Migration Communication and Research at the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior. In this role, he is responsible for the implementation of information campaigns on migration as well as developing strategic and innovative approaches regarding international migration policy. In addition, Philip Schmidt serves as the Austrian Member of the Steering Board of the European Migration Network.

Panellists

Lynder NKURANGA

Director General for Immigration, National Intelligence and Security Service, Republic of Rwanda



Assistant Commissioner of Police Lynder Nkuranga serves as the Director General of Immigration and Emigration for Rwanda. Before this role, she led Rwanda's External Intelligence Services as Director General. With over a decade of experience in the Rwanda National Police (RNP), she has held multiple significant positions, including Acting Director of Community Policing, Deputy Commissioner for Public Relations, Media, and Protocol, and Director of the Anti-GBV Desk. She holds a Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Transformation from the University of Rwanda, underscoring her dedication to fostering stability and security. Her extensive career reflects a commitment to public service and national development across various leadership capacities.

Souadou N'DIAYE

Technical Advisor for Migration and Refugees, Ministry of the Interior, Mauritania



Souadou N'diaye serves as the Technical Advisor on Migration and Refugees at Mauritania's Ministry of the Interior. Since 2015, she has held several key roles within the Ministry, including Director of Borders, Deputy Director General of Territorial Administration, and, as of January 2024, her current position. Souadou N'Diaye holds a Master's degree in Environment from the European University Institute of the Sea, at the University of Western Brittany in France. In 2011, she joined the National School of Administration, Journalism and Magistracy in Nouakchott, where she graduated in 2014.

Grith Sacha NØRGAARD

Director of International Migration, Ministry of Integration and Immigration, Denmark



Grith Sacha Nørgaard is the Director of International Migration at the Danish Ministry of Integration and Immigration. Specialized in asylum and refugee law, she is the co-lead of the joint inter-ministerial migration taskforce together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs working on new solutions to address irregular migration. She is appointed member of the Refugee Appeal Board and former UNHCR staff.

Daniel THYM

Professor of Public Law, European and International Law at the University of Konstanz



Daniel Thym is Professor of Public, European and International Law and serves as Director of the Research Centre Immigration & Asylum Law at the University of Konstanz, Germany. He regularly appears as an expert witness in the home affairs committee of the German Bundestag, contributes to the pan-European Odysseus Academic Network, and has served as the Vice-Chairperson of the German Expert Council on Integration and Migration. Daniel Thym has published widely on diverse aspects of migration, including the 700-page reference work on European Migration Law published with Oxford University Press in 2023.

Emilie WIINBLAD MATHEZ

Senior Protection Coordinator, Division of International Protection, Policy and Law Service, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



Emilie Wiinblad Mathez is Senior Protection Coordinator in the Division of International Protection in UNHCR, Geneva, with focus on the route-based approach to mixed and onwards movements of refugees and migrants. She has more than 25 years of experience with international protection, policy and programming in UNHCR from Asia, Europe, Africa, MENA and HQ. Emilie Wiinblad Mathez was Senior Policy Office with UNHCR's Bureau for Europe in Brussels from 2009 to 2014 and has held various positions in UNHCR related to the humanitarian and development nexus, external relations and evaluations.

Panel III

New frameworks for legal migration pathways

Moderator

Marina MANKE

**Chief of Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), Global Data Institute,
International Organization for Migration (IOM)**



Marina Manke is currently heading IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre within the Global Data Institute in Berlin. She prides herself for over 20 years of work within IOM, supporting governments and partners on data driven and forward-looking solutions to good migration governance. With a Ph.D. in International Relations from Cambridge, Marina Manke's strive has always been to find efficiency, impact and cutting edge through innovation, collaboration and technological progress. With her teams and partners, she has been contributing to several IOM institutional initiatives such as the Global Diaspora Summit in Dublin in 2022, the International Forum on Migration Statistics, the International Recruitment Integrity System, technical advice to governments within the UN Network on Migration on bilateral labour agreements, Global Compact for Migration (GCM) monitoring or migrant rights protection.

Panellists

Shadrack MWANGOLO MWADIME

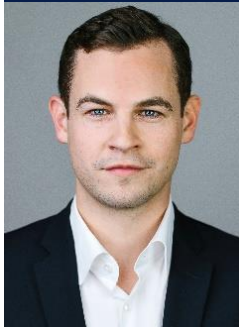
**Principal Secretary of the State Department for Labour and Skills Development,
Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Republic of Kenya**



Shadrack Mwangolo Mwandime is currently the Principal Secretary in the State Labour and Skills Development where he is both the Authorized and Accounting officer. He holds an MBA in Business Administration from the Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya. Shadrack Mwangolo Mwandime is a career civil servant who has risen through ranks and has a wealth of experience and over 30 years offering leadership, policy direction and coordination of government development projects in various counties across the nation.

Maximilian BUCHLEITNER

Head Internationale Fachkräfte-Offensive (IFO), Austrian Federal Economic Chamber



Maximilian Buchleitner, MBA, is the head of the International Skilled Workers Initiative of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber. With this strategic programme, targeted measures are taken in focus countries to improve the influx of qualified skilled workers in shortage occupations for member companies. He is responsible for securing skilled labour and migration in the Department for Social and Health Policy at the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, a national member of the Advisory Committee on the Free Movement of Workers at the European Commission and a substitute member of the Federal Government's Strategy Committee for International Skilled Workers.

Margit KREUZHUBER

Head of WORK in AUSTRIA, Austrian Business Agency



Margit Kreuzhuber has been Head of WORK in AUSTRIA at the Austrian Business Agency since December 2021. She has more than 15 years of expertise in labour migration, securing skilled workers and labour market policy. Margit Kreuzhuber was previously Deputy Head of the Social Policy and Health Department at the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber. She is a national and international speaker and has published numerous articles on labour migration, labour market policy and securing skilled workers.

Final remarks

Franziska KANDOLF

Deputy Director General for Migration and International Affairs and Head of EU and International Affairs, Residence, Subsidies, Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior



Franziska Kandolf has been Deputy Director General for Migration and International Affairs and Head of EU and International Affairs, Residence, Subsidies since November 2020. She had joined the Federal Ministry of the Interior as a Policy Officer for EU Coordination in 2006, thereafter she served in various leadership positions in the areas of migration, asylum, Schengen, anti-corruption, and ICT security. Prior to her current position she was Head of Department for National, European and International Migration Strategies and Policy Officer for EU and international relations in various ministerial cabinets of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Chancellery. She also serves as Deputy Head of the Austrian delegation to the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers, and Asylum and gives lectures on migration, EU and International Affairs at national and international level.

The Moderator

Saskia HEILEMANN

Head of the Policy Research and Migration Law Unit, IOM Country Office for Austria



Saskia Heilemann is a professional in migration policy and research, currently leading the Policy Research and Migration Law Unit at the IOM Country Office for Austria. Among other things, she is responsible for the overall coordination of the National Contact Point Austria in the European Migration Network (EMN). Prior to that, she worked as a Research Associate at IOM Austria and Programme Support Officer at IOM Egypt. She graduated in International Development from the University of Vienna.