

Practical Scientific Conference
***Higher Education and Outlook for Sustainable Development and Balanced
Regional Development in the Baltic States under Europe 2020 Strategy***

24 February 2011 from 10:00 to 18:00
at the University of Latvia, the Great Hall (Raiņa bulv. 19)

AGENDA

9:00-10:00 REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

10:00–10:40 WELCOME SPEECHES BY

- **Prof. Mārcis Auziņš**, Rector of the University of Latvia, Member of Latvia's Academy of Sciences
- **Mr. Rolands Broks**, Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia
- **Mr. Raimonds Vējonis**, Minister of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia
- **Ms. Iveta Šulca**, Head of the European Commission Representation in Latvia
- **Prof. Juris Ekmanis**, President of Latvian Academy of Science

10:40–12:00 INTRODUCTORY REPORTS

- **Ms. Teresa Condeco**, Directorate-General for Education and Culture, European Commission
- **Dr. Gita Rēvalde**, Director of the Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia: *Latvia's Higher Education, quo vadis? Challenges of EU 2020 Strategy*
- **Prof. Mārcis Auziņš**, Rector of the University of Latvia, Member of Latvia's Academy of Sciences: *Basic Research in Universities*
- **Mr. Mart Laidmets**, Head of the Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia: *Implementation of the Estonian Higher Education Strategy 2006-2015*
- **Mr. Rimvydas Labanauskis**, Division of University Studies, Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Education

and Science of the Republic of Lithuania: *Higher Education Reform in the Context of Economic Crisis: the case of Lithuania*

- **Dr. Ivars Kalviņš**, Director of Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis, Professor at Riga Technical University, Member of Latvian Academy of Science: *Education, Science and Innovation in Latvia – Challenges and Responses*

12:00–12:30 COFFEE BREAK

**12:30-13:00 PANEL DISCUSSION I:
EXCELLENCE OR ACCESS TO
EDUCATION**

Moderator: **Dr. Ainārs Dimants**, Head of Department of Communication Sciences, Associate Professor at the School of Business Administration "Turība"

12:30-13:06 Presentations:

- **Prof. Ivars Knēts**, Professor at Riga Technical University, Member of Latvian Academy of Science: *The Role of Higher Education in the Development of Society*
- **Prof. Toivo Maimets**, Chairman of Estonian Science Foundation: *Finding Balance between Quality and Availability of Higher Education in Small Countries*
- **Prof. Vladas Žulkus**, Rector of Klaipėda University: *Changing Role of Universities and Implementation of Higher Education Reform in Lithuania*

13:06-13:21 Comments:

- **Prof. Mārcis Auziņš**, Rector of the University of Latvia, Member of Latvia's Academy of Sciences
- **Dr. Juris Dzelme**, Chairman of Board, Higher

Education Quality Evaluation Centre

- **Dr. Raita Karnīte**, Board Member of Economic Prognosis Centre, Member of Latvia's Academy of Sciences, Team Europe expert

13:21-13:30 Q&A

13:30-14:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION II:
UNIVERSITIES IN THE BALTIC
STATES — COOPERATION
PARTNERS OR COMPETITORS?**

Moderator: **Dr. Andrejs Rauhvargers**, Secretary General of the Council of Rectors of Latvia

13:30-14:06 Presentations:

- **Prof. Jānis Vētra**, Chairman of the Council of Higher Education: *Opportunities for Formation of Consortia of the Higher Education Study Programs in the Baltic States*
- **Ms. Helen Põllo**, Chief Expert of the Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia
- **Prof. Rimantas Vaitkus**, Vice-rector of Vilnius University responsible for International Affairs: *Baltic Sea Strategy — the Tool for Better Cooperation of Universities*

14:06-14:21 Comments:

- **Dr. Aldis Baumanis**, Board Member, Association of the Private Universities
- **Mr. Alfs Vanags**, Director of the Baltic International Centre for Economic Policy Studies
- **Prof. Dace Markus**, Rector of Riga Teacher Training and Educational Management Academy, Member of Latvia's Academy of Sciences

14:21-14:30 Q&A

14:30–15:15 LUNCH

15:15-16:25 **PANEL DISCUSSION III:
RESEARCH AT UNIVERSITIES
AND ITS INNOVATIVE POTENTIAL**

Moderator: **Dr. Jānis Vaivads**, Chairman of Board, SIA „Eirokonsultants”

15:15-15:58 Presentations:

- **Dr. habil. Andris Šternbergs**, Director, Institute of Solid State Physics, University of Latvia; Member of Latvia's Academy of Sciences: *Large Research Infrastructures as an Efficient Tool Promoting Education-Science-Innovation Chain*
- **Prof. Eugenijus Butkus**, Chairman of the Science Council of Lithuania: *Research Funding Mechanisms in Lithuania*
- **Prof. Erkki Truve**, Vice-rector of Tallinn University of Technology: *University Funding, Research and Innovation Potential — Are They Related to Each Other?*
- **Mr. Matīss Neimanis**, Head of Development and Planning Unit of Latvia's University and Innovation Centre, University of Latvia: *Trust between Scientists and Entrepreneurs Is the Basis for Successful Innovation*

15:58-16:13 Comments:

- **Ms. Ilze Beināre**, Director of the Economic Competitiveness Department, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Latvia
- **Mr. Vitālijs Skrīvelis**, Chairman of Board of the Association of Latvian Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry
- **Mr. Andrejs Domkins**, Director, SIA „Meža un koksnes produktu pētniecības un attīstības institūts”

16:13-16:25 Q&A

16:25-17:40 **PANEL DISCUSSION IV:
THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Moderator: **Prof. Juris Krūmiņš**, Vice-rector of the University of Latvia, Member of Latvia's Academy of Sciences

16:25-17:15 Presentations:

- **Prof. Arvīds Barševskis**, Prof. Arvīds Barševskis, Rector of Daugavpils University, Chairman of Council of Rectors, Corresponding

Member of Latvia's Academy of Sciences: *The Role of Latvian Universities in Regional Development*

- **Dr. Anzori Barkalaja**, Director, University of Tartu, Viljandi Culture Academy: *Regional Colleges of Estonian Universities: a Modern Version of Gold-spinners Tale?*
- **Prof. Jūras Banys**, Vice-rector of Vilnius University: *Vilnius University Sunrise Valley: Regional Perspective*
- **Prof. Rimantas Didžiokas**, Vice-rector of Klaipeda University: *Marine Valley in Klaipeda University — New Challenges for Regional Science and Business Cooperation Development*

17:15-17:28 Comments:

- **Mr. Andris Jaunsleinis**, Chairman of Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments
- **Prof. Baiba Rivža**, Latvia's University of Agriculture, Member of Latvia's Academy of Sciences
- **Dr. Edmunds Teirumnieks**, Rector of Rezekne University

17:28-17:38 Q&A

17:40 CONCLUDING REMARKS

(**Prof. Jānis Vētra**, Chairman of the Council of Higher Education)

THE CONFERENCE IS HOSTED AND CHAIRED by **Mr. Andris Nātriņš**, Director, Commercial and Financial Reserach Agency, *Team Europe* expert

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