

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
**European Integration and Baltic Sea Region:
Diversity and Perspectives**



Monday 26 to Tuesday 27 September 2011
Latvijas Universitāte – Raiņa bulv. 19, Rīga, Latvija

PROGRAMME

Monday 26 September 2011

- 09:00 to 10:00** REGISTRATION AND COFFEE
- 10:00 to 11:45** OPENING SESSION
- 11:45 to 12:00** COFFEE BREAK
- 12:00 to 13:30** PARALLEL SESSIONS
- 13:30 to 14:30** LUNCH
- 14:30 to 16:00** **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AND INAUGURATION OF THE JEAN MONNET CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**
“European Union External Relations with Focus on Eastern Partnership and Russia”
- 16:00 to 16:30** COFFEE BREAK
- 16:30 to 18:30** **PANEL DISCUSSION**
“Latvia & Canada: Socio-Economic Dimensions within the European Context”
- 19:00** RECEPTION
Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation (Palasta Street 4)

Tuesday 27 September 2011

- 09:00 to 09:30** REGISTRATION AND COFFEE
- 09:30 to 11:00** PARALLEL SESSIONS
- 11:00 to 11:30** COFFEE BREAK
- 11:30 to 13:00** **ROUNDTABLE DEBATE**
*“University - Business Partnership through the *Triple Helix* Approach”*
- 13:00** **CLOSING SESSION: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 13:30** FAREWELL RECEPTION

Supporting partners:

- European Regional Development Fund
- European Social Fund
- University of Latvia
- Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence at the University of Latvia
- Centre for European and Transition Studies at the University of Latvia
- Latvian European Community Studies Association
- Canadian Embassy to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
- Baltisch-Deutsches Hochschulkontor
- Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia
- Finnish Embassy to Latvia
- BalticSupply, The Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007–2013



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Indrikis Muiznieks, Vice-rector for Research, University of Latvia, Latvia

Vice-chairperson: Prof. Dr. Tatjana Muravska, University of Latvia, Latvia

Prof. Dr. Jean David Avenel, University of Paris XII, France

Prof. Dr. Giorgio Dominese, Tor Vergata University, Rome, Italy

Prof. Dr. Elena Dubra, University of Latvia, Latvia

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Prof. Dr. Roman Petrov, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine

Prof. Dr. Gunnar Prause, Wismar Business School, University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design, Germany

Prof. Dr. Juris Rozenvalds, University of Latvia, Latvia

Prof. Arild Sæther, Agder University, Norway

Prof. Dr. Christoph Schewe, Germany

Prof. Dr. Biruta Sloka, University of Latvia, Latvia

Dr. Janis Vaivads, University of Latvia, Latvia

CONFERENCE WEBSITE: www.lu.lv/eibsr-conference-2011



PROGRAMME

Monday 26 September 2011, morning (Mazā aula/Small Hall)

09:00 - 10:00 REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

10:00 - 11:45 OPENING SESSION

Welcome Words: **Marcis Auzins**, Rector, University of Latvia, Latvia
Inna Steinbuka, Head, the European Commission Representation in Latvia

Framework and Objectives of the Conference:

Tatjana Muravska, Professor, University of Latvia, Latvia

Keynote Speeches: **Luk Van Langenhove**, “*How and why are States building Regions?*”,
Director, UN University - Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies, Belgium

Giorgio Dominese, “*Baltic Transnational EU Convergence and Global Governance*”,
Professor, Tor Vergata University, Italy

Lassi Heininen, “*Baltic Sea Region as a part of (new) Northern Geopolitics and Security*”,
Chairman, Northern Research Forum, Finland

11:45 - 12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00 - 13:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS (Rooms 205, 240, 114, Mazā aula/Small Hall, 422)

1. SESSION GLOBALISATION AND THE FUTURE OF THE STATE (Room 205)

Chairs: **Prof. Dr. Lassi Heininen**, Northern Research Forum, Finland

Prof. Dr. Juris Rozenvalds, University of Latvia, Latvia

Presentations: “*Baltic Countries in the EU and in the Euro Area under the Economic Crisis*”, **Elzbieta Czarny**,
Katarzyna Sledziewska, Vistula University and Warsaw University, Poland

“*Will they return? Latvian Immigrants in the United Kingdom*”, **Elina Apsite**, University of
Latvia, Latvia

“*Political Responsibility and its Connection with the Countersignature Institute*”, **Simona
Dorina**, University of Latvia, Latvia

“*Boom and Bust in the Baltic States: What Happened to These Economies and What Should be
Done Now?*”, **Alexander Pfannkuche**, Bremen University of Applied Sciences, Germany

“*Europeanization of Foreign Policy of the New Member States: the Case of Latvia*”, **Gunta
Pastore**, University of Latvia, Latvia

“*Modern Approaches to Public Administration of Technological Research – on Reflexive Ethical
Governance*”, **Ilze Buligina**, Maastricht University, the Netherlands

2. SESSION LEGAL AND HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION (Room 240)

Chairs: **Prof. Dr. Roman Petrov**, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine

Prof. Dr. Zaneta Ozolina, University of Latvia, Latvia

Presentations: “*Competition Law Boundaries on Research and Development (R&D) Agreements*”, **Andrius
Puksas**, Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania

“*The Restructuring Procedure in the Republic of Lithuania and Legal Implications*”, **Paulius
Miliauskas**, Vilnius University, Lithuania

“*Legal Regulation of Cession in Latvia – the Directions for the Development of National Law*”,
Vita Nemenova, Riga Stradins University, Latvia

“*Provisional Measures in International Commercial Arbitration in the European Union Context*”,
Marta Abula, University of Latvia, Latvia

“*Common Trends in Cohabitation Law within the European Union*”, **Olga Beinarovica**,
University of Latvia, Latvia



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3. SESSION UNIVERSITY – BUSINESS COOPERATION: INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT (Room 114)

Chairs: **Prof. Dr. Gunnar Prause**, Wismar Business School, University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design, Germany

Prof. Dr. Ainars Roze, University of Latvia, Latvia

Presentations: “*Maritime Governance in the Baltic Sea - a European Sea between Co-operation and Conflict*”,

Tim-Ake Pentz, Rostock University, Germany

“*Baltic Ports: Strategic Interaction for Clean Shipping*”, **Daria Gritsenko**, University of Turku, Finland

“*Development of Aerobiological Monitoring in Latvia*”, **Olga Ritenberga, Laimdota Kalnina**, University of Latvia, Latvia

“*The European Union Emissions Trading System’s Impact on Baltic Companies*”, **Ilze Pruse**, University of Latvia, Latvia

“*Globalization and the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Economies in Baltic Sea Region*”, **Gints Turlajs**, Accounting & Consulting Institute, Latvia

“*Environmental Infrastructure in Latvia: Evaluation of the Results*”, **Jurijs Spiridonovs**, University of Latvia, Latvia

“*Marketing Activities for Hydrogen Energy Development in Baltic States*”, **Justs Dimants**, University of Latvia, Latvia

“*Integration and Competitiveness of Latvia*”, **Valery Roldugin**, Baltic International Academy, Latvia

4. SESSION EU INTERNAL MARKET AND SOCIAL DIMENSION (Mazā Aula/Small Hall)

Chairs: **Prof. Dr. Pavel Strach**, Skoda Auto University, Czech Republic

Prof. Dr. Elena Dubra, University of Latvia, Latvia

Presentations: “*Regulatory Competition of the EU’s Single Market: Underlying Theory and Evidence*”, **Sotiris Theodoropoulos**, University of Pireaus, Greece

“*A Classification of Consumer ADR Schemes – a Way Towards a Better Understanding of the Concept of ADR Schemes*”, **Laine Fogh Knudsen**, University of Latvia, Latvia

“*Public Procurements as a European Integration Indicator*”, **Larisa Naumova**, University of Latvia, Latvia

“*EU Citizen Initiative and Experience of Social Partners in Latvia*”, **Sergejs Stacenko, Ilze Gude**, University of Latvia, Latvia

“*Internal Dynamics of Recent Migration: the Case Study of Latvians in Guernsey*”, **Aija Lulle**, University of Latvia, Latvia

“*Mortgage Market Development: Current Trends and Challenges*”, **Ksenija Ijevleva**, University of Latvia, Latvia

“*Youth Policy in National Strategic Planning in Baltic States*”, **Romans Putans**, University of Latvia, Latvia

“*The salary gap between men and women in the Baltic States*”, **Agate Zake**, University of Latvia, Latvia

5. SESSION MACRO REGIONS, TERRITORIAL AND SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT (Room 422)

Chairs: **Prof. Dr. Biruta Sloka**, University of Latvia, Latvia

Dr. Daiva Labanauskaite, Klaipeda University, Lithuania

Presentations: “*Clubs within Clubs: the Council of Baltic Sea States (BSS) and the Benelux as Macro-regions within the EU*”, **Nico Groenendijk**, University of Twente, the Netherlands

“*European Union Regional Policy and the Reduction of the Regional Economic and Social Disparities between Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Puglia*”, **Floreta Kertusha**, European University of Tirana, Albania

“*Adolescents within Urban Public Space: the Case of Riga, Latvia*”, **Girts Burgmanis**, University of Latvia, Latvia

“*The Changes of Urban Structures in Former Working-Class Neighbourhoods in Riga*”, **Guntis Solks**, University of Latvia, Latvia

“*Local Communication Patterns of the Community: the Case of a Post-Soviet Suburban Neighbourhoods near Riga*”, **Margarita Miklasa, Maija Usca**, University of Latvia, Latvia

13:30 to 14:30 LUNCH Catered lunch in the University Cafeteria’s Private Hall



PROGRAMME

Monday 26 September 2011, afternoon (Mazā Aula/Small Hall)

14:30 to 16:00 **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AND INAUGURATION OF THE JEAN MONNET CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**
“European Union External Relations with Focus on Eastern Partnership and Russia”

Chairperson: **Tatjana Muravska**, Jean Monnet Professor, University of Latvia, Latvia
Greetings from: **Indrikis Muiznieks**, Vice-rector for Research, University of Latvia, Latvia
Lead Interventions: **Juris Krumins**, Vice-rector for Academic Affairs, University of Latvia, Latvia
Toms Rostoks, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Latvia, Latvia
Roman Petrov, Professor, Director, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, President, ECSA, Ukraine
Nils Muiznieks, Director, Advanced Social and Political Research Institute, University of Latvia, Latvia
Lassi Heininen, Chairman, Northern Research Forum, Finland
George Varlamov, Director, International Office, Pskov State Polytechnic Institute, Russia

16:00 to 16:30 COFFEE BREAK

16:30 to 18:30 **THE LATVIA-CANADA PANEL DISCUSSION**
“Latvia & Canada: Socio-Economic Dimensions within the European Context” to mark the 20th anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Latvia and Canada

Chairperson: **Indrikis Muiznieks**, Vice-rector for Research, University of Latvia, Latvia
Vice-chairperson: **R. Scott Heatherington**, Canadian Ambassador to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
Keynote Speech: **Ojars Kalnins**, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament of Latvia, Latvia
Lead Interventions: **Inna Steinbuka**, Head, European Commission Representation in Latvia
Georgs Andrejevs, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, the First Ambassador of Latvia to Canada
Margers Krams, Ambassador at Large, European Union Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, Latvia
In conjunction within the Panel, a photo exhibit devoted to Canada-Latvia relations will be presented

19:00 **RECEPTION (Invitations only)**
hosted by the University of Latvia, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and the Embassy of Canada to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

Venue: *Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation, Palasta Street 4*

Tuesday 27 September 2011, morning (Mazā aula/Small Hall)

09:00 - 09:30 **REGISTRATION AND COFFEE**

09:30 - 11:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS (Room 205, 101, 240, 114, Mazā aula/Small Hall, 104)**

6. SESSION **LEGAL AND HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION (Room 205)**

Chairs: **Prof. Dr. Roman Petrov**, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine
Dr. Arturs Kuks, University of Latvia, Latvia

Presentations: *“The Principle of Effectiveness – the Guarantee of Rule of Law in Europe?”*, **Dace Sulmane**, University of Latvia, Latvia
“Horizontal Effect of Basic Human Rights in Private Law as a Common Trend of European Integration”, **Edvins Danovskis**, University of Latvia, Latvia
“Freedom of Expression and Prohibition of Historical Interpretations: is There a Need for a ‘One-fits-all’ Approach in Europe”, **Arturs Kuks**, University of Latvia, Latvia
“Shared Responsibility in the Context of EU Integration”, **Edmunds Broks**, University of Latvia, Latvia



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“Is the European Union Regulation on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction Efficient?”,
Irena Kucina, University of Latvia, Latvia
“Legal Methods in Latvia’s Legal Arrangement and European Integration”, **Daiga Rezevska**,
University of Latvia, Latvia
“The Nature and Understanding of the Institute of Adoption in the Latvian SSR”, **Simona Innus-
Pavelskopa**, University of Latvia, Latvia

7. SESSION **LEGAL AND HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION (Room 101)**

Chairs: **Prof. Dr. Nico Groenendijk**, University of Twente, the Netherlands
Asoc. Prof. Janis Neimanis, University of Latvia, Latvia

Presentations: *“Development Tendencies of Understanding Causal Relationships in Criminal Law”*, **Evija Vinkalna**,
University of Latvia, Latvia
*“The Role of the Defense Counsel in Ensuring the Rights not to Confess Guilt in Latvian Criminal
Procedure”*, **Irena Nesterova**, University of Latvia, Latvia
“Peculiarities of Criminalistics in the Field of State Anti-criminal Politics”, **Vladimirs Terehovics**,
Elita Nimande, University of Latvia, Latvia
“Legal Aspects of Neighbouring Rights”, **Inese Volkova**, University of Latvia, Latvia
“The Development of Trends in Understanding and Applying the Subsidiary Sources of Law”, **Diana
Apse**, University of Latvia, Latvia
“The Role of a Judge in European Integration”, **Janis Neimanis**, University of Latvia, Latvia
“Judicial Independence and Impartiality as the Legal Value and its Genesis in Europe”, **Rada
Matjusina**, University of Latvia, Latvia

8. SESSION **CULTURE, ARTS AND EDUCATION (Room 240)**

Chairs: **Asoc. Prof. Dr. Ruta Mukstupavela**, Latvian Academy of Culture, Latvia
Asoc. Prof. Dr. Kestutis Ralys, Vilnius Pedagogical University, Lithuania

Presentations: *“Structural Changes and Mobility of Foreign Students in Higher Educational Institutions of the Baltic
Countries”*, **Inta Buka**, Baltic International Academy, Latvia
“Spiritual Education and Church in Lithuania”, **Kestutis Ralys**, Vilnius Pedagogical University,
Lithuania
*“The Impact of Supranational Institutions on Cultural Policy of the Baltic States during the Transition
Period”*, **Baiba Tjarve**, Latvian Academy of Culture, Latvia
*“Multiculturalism and Being Human: Human Identity, the Wholly Other, and European
Integration”*, **Stephen M. Garrett**, Vilnius Pedagogical University, Lithuania
“Realisation of Personal Adoption Potential in Childhood”, **Sigita Burvyte**, Vilnius Pedagogical
University, Lithuania

9. SESSION **RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS (Room 114)**

Chairs: **Prof. Dr. Biruta Sloka**, University of Latvia, Latvia
Asoc. Prof. Dr. Sotiris Theodoropoulos, University of Pireaus, Greece

Presentations: *“Strengthening a Country’s Touristic Attractiveness on the Global Tourism Market”*, **Daiva
Labanauskaite**, Klaipeda University, Lithuania
“Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Governance in the Baltic Sea Region”, **Anete Vitola**,
University of Latvia, Latvia
“Peculiarities of Trade Enterprise Management by Use of Quality Management Approach”,
Tatjana Kulikova, University of Latvia, Latvia
*“The Human Recourses Competitiveness in Baltic Sea Macro-region: Facts, Trends and Potential Risks
to Fulfilling the ‘Strategy 2020’ Targets”*, **Aksel Kirch**, **Vladimir Mezentsev**, **Mikhail Rodin**,
Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia
“New Approaches to Human Capital Development in Public Administration in Latvia”, **Silvija
Bruna**, **Zaneta Ilmete**, **Marija Simonova**, University of Latvia, Latvia
“European Integration and Co-operation for Competitiveness in the Baltic Sea Region”, **Zane Zeibote**,
University of Latvia, Latvia



PROGRAMME

10. SESSION **MACRO REGIONS, TERRITORIAL AND SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT** (*Mazā Aula/Small Hall*)

Chairs: **Prof. Dr. Elena Dubra**, University of Latvia, Latvia
Prof. Dr. Elzbieta Czarny, Vistula University, Poland

Presentations: “*Tendencies and Topicality of Implementation of Schengen Borders Code Provisions*”, **Arturs Gaveika**, College of the Border guard of Latvia, Latvia
“*Monitoring as a Tool for Collaborative Planning in the Riga Region*”, **Rudolfs Cimdins, Peteris Skinkis**, University of Latvia, Latvia
“*The Lifestyle and Socioeconomical Situation of the Zvārde Former Military Area: an Example of Sustainable Development*”, **Santa Beneza, Janis Balodis**, University of Latvia, Latvia
“*Implementation of Operational Programmes of 2007-2013: Progress, Evaluations and Lessons for the Future*”, **Janis Aprans**, University of Latvia, Latvia
“*Regional Development Policy in Latvia: Ahead or Behind the EU Cohesion Policy?*”, **Liga Baltina, Tatjana Muravska**, University of Latvia, Latvia

11. SESSION **UNIVERSITY – BUSINESS COOPERATION: PROMOTION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION** (*Room 104*)

Chairs: **Prof. Dr. Juris Rozenvalds**, University of Latvia, Latvia
Asoc. Prof. Dr. Runno Lumiste, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia

Presentations: “*Multidisciplinary Student Teams Boost Students’ Entrepreneurship and Innovations in SMEs*”, **Ari Koski**, University of Turku, Finland
“*University-Business Interaction in the Context of Demographic Change*”, **Gunnar Prause**, Wismar Business School, University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design, Germany
“*EuroFaculty: Project in Pskov*”, **George Varlamov**, Pskov State Polytechnic Institute, Russia
“*The Motivation Factors of Creativeness to Employees in the Telecommunication Industry of Latvia*”, **Laura Kersule**, University of Latvia, Latvia
“*University as the Core Element of Regional Cluster Environment*”, **Vera Boronenko, Khalil Arbi**, Daugavpils University, Latvia and University of Management and Technology, Pakistan
“*LSCC Business Cluster as a Intersectoral Cooperation Platform for Development of Companies Competitiveness in Latvia*”, **Andris Spulis**, Latvian Supply Chain Cluster of the Latvian Logistics Association, Latvia
“*Interregional Clusters to Promote Business Collaboration in the Baltic Sea Region*”, **Zane Zeibote**, BalticSupply, Latvia

11:00 - 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 - 13:00 ROUNDTABLE DEBATE

“*University - Business Partnership through the *Triple Helix* Approach*” organized jointly by the University of Latvia and Wismar Business School, University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design. The event is supported by the Baltic-German University Office in Latvia

Chairperson: **Gunnar Prause**, Professor, Wismar Business School, University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design, Germany

Vice-chairpersons: **Maris Purgailis**, Professor, Dean, Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Latvia, Latvia

Elina Egle, Adviser to the State President on Economics, Entrepreneurship and Employment, Latvia

Lead Interventions: **Gunnar Ljungdahl**, Senior Vice-president, Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, Chairman, Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Latvia, Latvia

Ari Koski, Project Coordinator, University of Turku, Finland

Pavel Strach, Head, Skoda Auto University, Czech Republic

Runno Lumiste, Associate Professor, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia

Merli Reidolf, Researcher, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia

13:00 CLOSING SESSION: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

13:30 FAREWELL RECEPTION

Venue: The University Cafeteria’s Private Hall



Annex to the Programme

DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUNDTABLE DEBATE AND DISCUSSIONS

Roundtable Discussion

European Union External Relations with Focus on Eastern Partnership and Russia

Monday 26 September 2011, 14:30-16:00

The Roundtable Discussion will focus on the topic of “European Union External Relations with Focus on the Eastern Partnership and Russia”. The Roundtable will serve as a practical and visible starting point for inauguration of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and its focus towards research on Eastern Partnership. The event will be open to public authorities, NGOs and civil society.

Background

The geo-political position of Latvia and shared history has an important role in EU external relations, e.g., geographically Latvia has the longest EU external border with Russia. The countries of Western Newly Independent States (NIS) (Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia) and the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) are of great interest for external political and economic relations for Latvia with potential for further development. This event conforms within the objectives set out in the documents of the Government of Latvia.

Prominent speakers from academia, national government, European Commission and Eastern Partnership countries will be invited to make presentations on the first day of the conference as well as at the Roundtable Discussion.

Panel Discussion

Latvia & Canada: Socio-Economic Dimensions within the European Context

Monday 26 September 2011, 16:30-18:30

The Panel Discussion, “Latvia & Canada: Socio-Economic Dimensions within the European Context” is organized jointly by the University of Latvia and the Embassy of Canada to Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. The Panel Discussion will take place in the framework of the international conference “European Integration and Baltic Sea Region: Diversity and Perspectives”, hosted by the Doctoral School “European Integration and Baltic Sea Region Studies”.

This event will mark the 20th anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Latvia and Canada.

During conference, a photo exhibit to mark the 20th anniversary of renewed Canada-Latvia diplomatic relations featuring photos from official visits, meetings and other key bilateral events will be exhibited at the 2nd floor Gallery Hall of the University of Latvia.



Annex to the Programme

Roundtable Debate

University - Business Partnership through the 'Triple Helix' Approach

Tuesday 27 September 2011, 11:30-13:00

The Roundtable Debate will provide a platform for participants from public research, business and government sector to express their ideas on strategic partnerships between businesses and universities and governments. The event will be open to public authorities, NGOs and civil society.

The aim of the roundtable is to exchange ideas about cooperation between enterprises and universities as one of the key priorities for the economic development of the Baltic Sea Region and to help to facilitate business activities and education in the Region.

Background

In times of economic hardship it is important that businesses, universities and governments elaborate on research, innovation and development. With no clear end to the currently ongoing economic crisis, there is more need than ever for strategic partnerships all partners involved.

The Roundtable Debate will take place at the University of Latvia on the occasion of the International Conference "European Integration and Baltic Sea Region: Diversity and Perspectives". Prominent speakers from national and international organizations, enterprises, researchers and education experts will be invited to make presentations and participate in the debates.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RECEPTION LOCATION

The Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation

Monday 26 September 2011, 19:00 (Palasta Street 4)

The Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation is the oldest in Latvia and the whole of the Baltics, and one of the oldest in Europe. The Museum is situated in Old Riga, in a remarkable architectural monument of the 13th–20th centuries – the ensemble of the Riga Dom.

The history of the Museum dates back to the 18th century. The rich and diverse collections of the Museum originated from an art and natural sciences collection of Nikolaus von Himsel (1729–1764), a Riga doctor. Upon his death, his mother Catherina von Himsel carried out his wish to have his collection handed over to the city of Riga. On 22 February 1773, the Riga Town Council founded a museum, named it after Himsel. During the Second World War as a result of the Baltic German exodus, the evacuation of collections to the German-occupied territories, and the exclusion of the objects that were ideologically unacceptable for the Soviet power, the Museum lost part of its collections. In 1964, it was given its existing name of the Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation, which reflects the new aspects of its activities.