

Setting a new direction towards smart and collaborative innovation in the Baltic Sea Region

International conference

Date: February 23, 2021 | times are in CET time zone

Venue: Zoom platform, hosted by the Vidzeme Planning Region (Latvia)

Audience: national, regional authorities, RDI Institutions, business support organizations, business associations, transnational innovation, smart specialisation, and innovation actors

AGENDA

9:00-9:10 Opening

Inese Suija-Markova, Managing Director of the Institute for Environmental Solutions (Latvia)

9:10-9:20 Welcome speeches

- Esa Kokkonen, Director of The Baltic Institute of Finland, EUSBSR PA Innovation coordinator (Finland)
- Wieslaw Urban, Associate professor at Bialystok University of Technology (Poland)

9:20-9:50 Tipping points shaping the policies for industry and innovation

European Commission, DG REGIO, TBC

9:50-10:20 Bringing regions and countries together to set a new agenda for competitiveness

- EUSBSR National Coordinators' Group, TBC
- Charis-Ariadni Loupasi, Project Officer and Deputy Programme Manager at Interreg BSR Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat

10:20-10:30 Break

10:30-10:50 Developing an innovation ecosystem that works for the industry

Esa Kokkonen, PA Innovation coordinator, Director of The Baltic Institute of Finland

10:50-11:10 Transnational innovation brokerage system – a solution for strengthening macro-regional innovation

Wieslaw Urban, Associate professor at Bialystok University of Technology

11:10-12:00 Implementing collaborative innovation for the industry. Experience stories from Transnational Innovation Brokerage System (TIBS)

- Ģirts Broks, Vidzeme Planning Region (Latvia)
- Alfred Šostko, Lithuanian Innovation Centre (Lithuania)
- Anna Wrzesinska, Podlaska Regional Development Foundation (Poland)
- Steven Dehlan, Artificial Intelligence Centre Hamburg (Germany)
- Laura Gredzens, Valga municipality (Estonia)



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12:00-12:10 Break

12:10-13:30 Panel discussion. How can a policy get along with the needs of an industry?

Moderated by Inese Suija-Markova, Managing Director of the Institute for Environmental Solutions

Panellists:

- Kristaps Ročāns, Managing Director of the Latvian Food bioeconomy cluster
- Steven Dehlan, TIBS Innovation broker, Artificial Intelligence Centre Hamburg
- Sebastian Rynkiewicz, President of Metal Processing Cluster, Poland
- Innovation/industry policy representative, female – TBC

13:30-13:45 Innovation policy and practice developments planned for 2021

Robert Girejko, Representative of the Bialystok University of Technology

13:45-14:00 Wrap-up and closing

Inese Suija-Markova, Managing Director of the Institute for Environmental Solutions

*The conference “**Setting a new direction towards smart and collaborative innovation in the Baltic Sea Region**” is organized by the Vidzeme Planning Region in Latvia in close cooperation with EUSBSR Policy Area Innovation in the framework of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme project “GoSmart BSR”. Conference will be one of the local events of the **European Union Industry Week 2021** that is an opportunity for stakeholders and citizens from all over Europe to establish a strong dialogue on the future of European industry. Conference is also one of the **Vidzeme Innovation Week 2021** events that is an annual innovation promotion platform gathering regional, national, and international partners from the policy, research sector, education, and industry.*

Through this conference we aim to show how private, public and third sector stakeholders from various levels can work together to develop joint solutions for macro regional competitiveness in innovation and industry, therefore also strengthen the competitiveness of the industry locally in very practical way. We believe that elaborating local policies with a foresight look on the trends, macro-regional priorities and knowledge from the industry make local development and growth rapid.

Read more about the project “GoSmart BSR” and Transnational Innovation Brokerage system [HERE](#).

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