



Conference of the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers
**Education, science and innovations – key to sustainable and prosperous
regional development in the Baltic States**

12-13 May 2022 Riga, Latvia
Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

Preliminary programme
(11/05/2022)

Friday, 13 May	
8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:30	Opening Session of the Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Prof. Jānis Vucāns, President of the Baltic Assembly— H.E. Ms Ināra Mūrniece, Speaker of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia— Ms Anita Muižniece, Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia, <i>video address</i>— Mr Jānis Vitenbergs, Minister of Economics of the Republic of Latvia, <i>video address</i>
9:30-11:00	Session 1 Strong, forward-looking and coordinated science and innovation policy of the Baltic States and beyond <p><i>A strong, forward-looking and coordinated policy of science and innovation is vital for the Baltic States. Currently, there is active cooperation on the level of universities, scientific institutions, and individuals; however, there is a need to develop closer cooperation regarding science and innovation policy in the Baltic States. The Baltic States have similar challenges such as shortage of students in STEM fields, insufficient human resources, limited financial resources, and fragmentation that creates a need for closer cooperation and dialogue between business, academia, the education system, and government. The Baltic States have currently renewed their national guidelines for science, technological development, and innovation that allow understanding the common goals and challenges, and are also planning their successful participation in the programme “Horizon Europe”, where the Baltic States could increase cooperation as well. Another important topic to be discussed between the Baltic States is expanding the scope of recognition of qualifications concerning higher education.</i></p> <p>Report about the science and innovation policy in the Baltic States by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Mr Jānis Paiders, Deputy Director of Science, Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Ministry of Education and Science, Latvia <p>Keynote speeches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Mr Mindaugas Bulota, Head of the National Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre of the Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania— Ms Anu Noorma, Director General of the Estonian Research Council

	<p><i>Perspectives on expanding the scope of the recognition of higher education qualifications by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Prof. Jānis Vucāns, President of the Baltic Assembly — Ms Patricia Creutz, President of the Benelux Parliament <p><i>Discussions</i></p>
11:30-13:30	<p>Session 2</p> <p>Developing closer cooperation of the Baltic States in space and particle physics: a look back and a way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The Baltic States all have started their way towards space exploration, and in this context cooperation with the European Space Agency (ESA) is of great importance. The Baltic Space Roundtable has been established in the Baltics, and there is a need to expand this format. This also includes the role of the applications of space data derived from satellites (use of earth observation data, satellite navigation data, big data, etc.)</i> - <i>Important for the cooperation regarding particle physics in the Baltic States is the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). Since 2 August 2021, the Baltic States are the associated Member States of CERN. There is ongoing work on a joint technology study programme in all Baltic States as well as discussions about an internship programme for the Baltic students.</i> <p><i>Keynote speeches on cooperation within ESA:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Mr Paul Liias, Head of Space, Economic Development Department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Estonia — Ms Angelīna Bekasova, Director for International Relations and Industry Development, Latvian Space Industry Association; Space and Innovation Policy Senior Expert, Ministry of Economics, Latvia — Mr Edvinas Grikšas, Head of the Innovation Policy Division of the Innovation and Industry Department, Ministry of Economy and Innovation, Lithuania — Dr Jiří Svoboda, Astronomical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences <p><i>Keynote speech on cooperation within CERN:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Ms Charlotte Lindberg Warakaulle, Director for International Relations of CERN — Mr Edvinas Grikšas, Head of the Innovation Policy Division of the Innovation and Industry Department, Ministry of Economy and Innovation, Lithuania <p><i>Discussions</i></p>
14:00-15:30	<p>Session 3</p> <p>Role of education in fostering social resilience in the Baltic States</p> <p><i>Considering the Russian Federation’s invasion of Ukraine and the consequent spread of disinformation and propaganda, social resilience in the Baltic States has become an even more relevant issue than ever before. Education systems have numerous qualities that make them suitable for building individual, community, and systemic resilience. Considering the importance of education and the similar challenges regarding the resilience of the Baltic people, there is a need to discuss a common approach of the Baltic States on how to foster social resilience, trust and solidarity in our society.</i></p> <p><i>Keynote speeches by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Mr Jānis Sārts, Director of the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Ms Maia Klaassen, Specialist for Development of the Institute of Social Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tartu— Dr Viktorija Šimanauskienė, Director of the Centre for Defence Innovations of the General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania |
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Discussions

Concluding remarks by **Prof. Jānis Vucāns**, President of the Baltic Assembly

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