



**8th International  
Humanistic  
Economic Forum**  
March 5-7 | 2026

**INNOVATIVE ECONOMY IN  
TIMES OF GEOPOLITICAL  
CHANGE**

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Ministry of Economics  
Republic of Latvia

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## AGENDA OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM

dedicated to the

**80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE LATVIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

### LOCATION LATVIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Akademijas Square 1  
Riga, LATVIA

### DATES 5 – 7 MARCH 2026

The **8th International Humanistic Economic Forum**, organized under the patronage of the **European Parliament**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia** and the **Investment and Development Agency of Latvia (LIAA)**, aims to explore the role of innovation in the context of geopolitical change, digital transformation and strategic security.

The Forum will analyze and seek answers to the following questions: **How can we discover new sources of growth and new export markets? How can we better invest in education and human being's productivity? How can we introduce science-based innovations on a large scale, including dual-use products? How can we stimulate increased exports and foreign investment in Latvia and Europe? What are the most impactful and competitive investment projects for Latvia in the areas of smart specializations?**

The successful practice of seven previous Economic Forums is continuing, that the **Forum serves as a platform for the exchange of experience and cooperation of scientists, entrepreneurs, international investors, diplomats and politicians**, stimulating the entry of local and foreign investment and the development of an innovative economy in the long term. As a platform for dialogue and cooperation, the Forum brings together experts from diverse fields, including modern technology, finance, academia, and policy. These participants will share their experiences and insights through a series of plenary sessions, roundtable discussions, and interactive workshops.

**We look forward to welcoming you to the Latvian Academy of Sciences in March,  
when Science meets international Business!**

# 8<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL HUMANISTIC ECONOMIC FORUM INNOVATIVE ECONOMY IN TIMES OF GEOPOLITICAL CHANGE

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PARTNERS



# DAY 1 | 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026, THURSDAY

**Location** PORTRAIT HALL

3rd Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

## AGENDA

| Time                 | Description   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>9.00 - 10.00</b>  | <i>Registration &amp; Early Morning Coffee</i>  |
| <b>10.00 - 10.50</b> | <b>OPENING CEREMONY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Musical Performance</li><li>• Opening Address of the President and Academician of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, prof., Dr. <b>Ivars Kalviņš</b></li><li>• Address of the Member of the European Parliament, Member of the Committee on International Trade, Member of Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, prof., Dr. <b>Inese Vaidere</b></li><li>• Address of the Minister of Economics of the Republic of Latvia, MBA <b>Viktors Valainis</b></li><li>• Address of the Minister of Climate and Energy of the Republic of Latvia, MBA <b>Kaspars Melnis</b></li><li>• Address of the Director of the Export and Innovation Services Department of the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia, M.S. <b>Vita Balode Andrews</b></li><li>• Address of the Academician of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine, prof., Dr. <b>Valerii Zhuk</b></li><li>• Address of the Archbishop of Riga of the Roman Catholic Church of Latvia, Metropolitan, Honorary Member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Dr. <b>Zbignevs Stankevičs</b></li></ul> Moderator: Dr. <b>Nina Linde</b> , Director of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences   |
| <b>10.50 - 13.00</b> | <b>1<sup>st</sup> PLENARY SESSION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>OPEN INNOVATION IN THE ERA OF GEOPOLITICAL UNREST</b> (Speaker: Dr. <b>Solomon Darwin</b>, Business Consultant to Nobel Laureates &amp; Silicon Valley Entrepreneurs, Silicon Valley Campus, Former Director of the Garwood Centre for Corporate Innovation and Centre for Growth Markets of the University of California - Berkley, Founder of the Smart Village Movement &amp; Open Innovation Solutions for Emerging Markets, Director of Open Innovation at the University of California of Santa Cruz, USA)</li><li>• <b>BUILDING THE TECHNOLOGICAL COMPETENCES FOR A EUROPEAN RENAISSANCE</b> (Speaker: Dr. <b>Daniele Archibugi</b>, Professor of the Universitas Mercatorum in Rome &amp; Birkbeck Business School, University of London, Renowned Italian Economist and Innovation Policy Expert focusing on Technological Change and Globalization, Italy/UK)</li><li>• <b>WORLD MACROECONOMIC CLIMATE AT THE BEGINNING OF 2026</b> (Speaker: Dr. <b>Andrei Rădulescu</b>, Senior International Macroeconomist, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for World Economy of the Romanian Academy, Member of Think Tanks in Several Countries, Macroeconomic Columnist in Luxembourg, Switzerland, and Romania)</li><li>• <b>HUMAN CAPITAL, RESPONSIBILITY, AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD</b> (Speaker: Dr. <b>Pamela Bernabei</b>, Entrepreneur, President of the Antonio Meneghetti</li></ul> |

Scientific and Humanistic Research Foundation – a Swiss no-profit Foundation in Special Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council of United Nations (ECOSOC), Switzerland)

- **WHO GETS HEARD SHAPES WHAT GETS BUILT: LEADERSHIP FOR A CHANGING ECONOMY** (Speaker: Dr. **Anthony Giannoumis**, Social Entrepreneur, Global Expert in Inclusive Leadership, Chair of the Board of the “Inclusive Creation”, Equality Advocate, Norway)

Moderator: **Gerald Hoppstaedter**, Entrepreneur, Adviser to the Director of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Austria

**13.00 – 14.00**

*Lunch and Coffee Break, B2B, B2S, S2S<sup>1</sup> Networking*

**14.00 – 15.30**

**PANEL EXPERTS QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION** by following experts:

- **Ivars Kalviņš**, President of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia
- **Solomon Darwin**, Director of Open Innovation at the University of California of Santa Cruz, USA
- **Daniele Archibugi**, Professor of the Universitas Mercatorum in Rome & Birkbeck Business School, University of London, Italy/UK
- **Pamela Bernabei**, President of the A. Meneghetti Scientific and Humanistic Research Foundation, Switzerland
- **Andrei Rădulescu**, Senior International Macroeconomist, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for World Economy of the Romanian Academy, Romania
- **Anthony Giannoumis**, Global Expert in Inclusive Leadership, Chair of the Board of the “Inclusive Creation”, Social Entrepreneur, Equality Advocate, Norway
- **Reinhold Schneider**, Chairperson of the Board of the Foreign Investors’ Council in Latvia (FICIL), Entrepreneur, Head of the Board of the “SCHWENK Latvija”, Germany

Moderator: **Gerald Hoppstaedter**, Entrepreneur, Adviser to the Director of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Austria

**15.30 – 16.00**

*Coffee Break & B2B, B2S, S2S networking*

**16.00 – 17.30**

**2nd PLENARY SESSION**

- **INNOVATIONS IN SMART SPECIALIZATION AREAS FOR INCREASING LATVIA'S EXPORT CAPACITY: THE LATEST RESEARCH RESULTS** (Speaker: Dr. **Jānis Vanags**, Lead researcher of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia)
- **BUILDING SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING ECOSYSTEM IN INDIA** (Speaker: **Sagar Sharma**, Entrepreneur, Indian Expert in Semiconductors, Head of Business Intelligence & Strategic Affairs at the “Tata Electronics”, He was Instrumental in Attracting over USD 18 Billion in Semiconductor Investments, Developing the Semicon India Strategy and Policy, and Establishing the India Semiconductor Mission, India)
- **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AS A STRATEGIC FACTOR IN EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF GEO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION** (Speaker: Dr. **Abdraim Bakytzhan**, Ph.D in Law, Professor, Advisor to the Center “Freedom Horizons”, Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan)
- **COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH SMART INNOVATION AND INDEPENDENCE IN THE ENERGY SECTOR** (Speaker: **Reinhold Schneider**, Chairperson of the Board of the Foreign Investors’ Council in Latvia (FICIL), Entrepreneur, Head of the Board of the “SCHWENK Latvija”, SCHWENK Northern Europe CEO, Germany)

Moderator: **Nina Linde**, Ph.D., Director of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

**17.30 – 18.00**

*End of Day 1: Coffee, Snacks & Networking*

<sup>1</sup> B2B – Business to Business, B2S – Business to Science, S2S – Science to Science

# DAY 2 | 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026, FRIDAY

**Location** PORTRAIT HALL

3rd Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

## AGENDA

| Time                 | Description   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>10.00 - 11.00</b> | <i>Registration &amp; Morning Coffee</i>  |
| <b>11.00 - 11.30</b> | <b>INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AWARD "LIEPA" CEREMONY</b><br>In cooperation with the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia, Investment and Development Agency of Latvia (LIAA), Latvian Academy of Sciences & the INDUSTRRA Bank<br>Moderator: Dr. <b>Nina Linde</b> , Director of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences  |
| <b>11.30 - 12.00</b> | <b>Inspirational Workshop: THE RESPECT ADVANTAGE: INNOVATION THROUGH INCLUSION</b><br>Moderator: Dr. <b>Anthony Giannoumis</b> , Social Entrepreneur, Global Expert in Inclusive Leadership, Chair of the Board of the "Inclusive Creation", Equality Advocate, Norway  |
| <b>12.15 - 14.15</b> | <i>SIDE EVENTS</i><br><b>Workshop 1: KNOWLEDGE BASED BIOECONOMY &amp; FINANCE FOR STARTUPS</b><br>Location: SENATE HALL, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences<br>Moderators & Keynote Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. <b>Baiba Rivza</b>, Professor, Academician of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia</li><li>• <b>Egija Aurēlija Liepiņa</b>, Senior Expert of the Department of Entrepreneurship Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economics, Latvia</li><li>• Dr. <b>Irina Pilvere</b>, Professor at the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, Full Member of the Latvian Academy of Science, Latvia</li><li>• Dr. <b>Damyán Kirechev</b>, Chief Assistant Professor at the University of Economics - Varna, Department of Agricultural Economics, Bulgaria</li><li>• <b>Roberts Alhimionoks</b>, Executive Director of the Latvian Startup Association "Startin.LV"</li><li>• Dr. <b>Valerii Zhuk</b>, Professor, Academician of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine</li><li>• Dr. <b>Stanislav Vasylishyn</b>, Professor, Director of the Institute of Accounting and Finance of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine, Leading Researcher of the NSC "Institute of Agrarian Economics", Ukraine</li></ul> <b>Workshop 2: DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY: ENABLING ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES THROUGH POLICY AND SUPPORT</b><br>Location: 2 <sup>nd</sup> AUDITORIUM, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences<br>Moderators & Keynote Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. <b>Andris Anspoks</b>, Director of the Institute of Solid State Physics of the University of Latvia, Full Member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia</li><li>• <b>Feliks Bikaunieks</b>, Senior Expert of the Department of Entrepreneurship Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economics, Latvia</li></ul> |

- **Raimonds Kašs**, Director of the Department of Financial Instruments of the the Ministry of Climate and Energy, Latvia

### **Workshop 3: NEW ASIAN MARKETS: EXPORT, INVESTMENT & GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS**

Location: PORTRAIT HALL, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

Moderators & Keynote Speakers:

- H.E. **Timur Rakhmanov**, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Latvia, Uzbekistan
- **Alexander Vidyakin**, Head of the Board "Baltic-Central Asian Economic Development Association", Latvia
- H.E. **Dace Rutka**, Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Latvia
- H.E. **Namrata S. Kumar**, the first resident Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Republic of Latvia, India
- **Konstantin Siniushin**, Entrepreneur, Partner of the Investment Fund "The Untitled Ventures", Kyrgyzstan
- **Anna Svarena**, Head of Customer Service of the INDUSTRA Bank, Latvia
- M.S. **Vita Balode Andrews**, Director of the Export and Innovation Services Department of the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia
- **Haidong Feng**, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Latvia, China

### **Workshop 4: INVESTMENT CULTURE SPRINT: FROM CHALLENGES TO ACTION**

Location: ACADEMIC HALL, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

Moderators & Keynote Speakers:

- Dr. **Jeļena Titko**, Professor, Vice-Rector for Science and International Relations, EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia
- **Aija Brikše**, Head of Financial Literacy Division, Latvijas Banka, Latvia
- **Kristaps Kopštāls**, Head of Investment Support Division, Swedbank, Latvia
- **Jeļena Miltuze**, Founder of the Latvian Society of Women Investors, Latvia
- Dr. **Renāte Indrika**, Researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia
- **Kristiāna Janvare**, Head of Investment Banking at Signet Bank, Latvia
- **Mārtiņš Valters**, Member of the Board, Mintos, Latvia
- **Laura Čistjakova**, Financial Analyst and Advisor, Capital Markets Committee, Finance Latvia Association, Latvia
- **Igors Petrovs**, Member of the Board, Head of Risk and Regulatory Compliance, NECTARO SIA, Latvia
- **Linda Sablinska**, Head of Offer Development, Retail Customer Strategy & Offer Development Department, SEB Bank, Latvia
- **Inta Buša**, Head of Marketing & Business Development of the Investors Club, Latvia

**14.15 - 15.00**

*Lunch & Coffee Break, B2B, B2S, S2S networking*

**15.00 - 17.00**

*SIDE EVENTS*

### **Workshop 5: BIOMEDICINE, MEDTECH & PHARMA: INNOVATION & INVESTMENTS FOR AN AGING SOCIETY**

Location: ACADEMIC HALL, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

Moderators & Keynote Speakers:

- Dr. **Osvalds Pugovičs**, Deputy Director of the Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis, Latvia
- **Olevs Nikers**, Senior Expert of the Department of Entrepreneurship Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economics, Latvia

- Dr. **Indriķis Muižnieks**, Full Member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia
- Dr. **Divya Vishwanath**, Entrepreneur, Data Scientist and Garwood Fellow of Haas School of Business University of California - Berkley, India

**Workshop 6: INVESTING IN DUAL-USE INNOVATION: AI, MILTECH, HIGH-TECH MANUFACTURING & INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Location: PORTRAIT HALL, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

Moderators & Keynote Speakers:

- **Māris Tūtins**, Colonel and Head of Information Management and Analysis Department of the National Armed Forces, Latvia
- Dr. **Guntis Bārzdiņš**, Leading Researcher at the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory of the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics of the University of Latvia, Academician of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia
- Dr. **Elīna Egle-Ločmele**, Co-Founder and Chairwoman of the Board at Federation of Security and Defence Industries of Latvia, Latvia
- **Diāna Baranova**, Director of the Department of Defence Industry and Innovation Policy of the Ministry of Defence, Latvia
- Dr. **Valerij Zhuk**, Professor, Academician of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine
- Dr. **Yuliia Bezdushna**, Professor, Head of the Department of Accounting and Taxation, NSC "Institute of Agrarian Economics", Ukraine
- Dr. **Daria Trachova**, Leading Researcher of the NSC "Institute of Agrarian Economics", Ukraine

**Workshop 7: EDUCATION, INNOVATION AND HUMAN BEING'S FUNCTIONAL UTILITARIANISM**

Location: SENATE HALL, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

Moderators & Keynote Speakers:

- Dr. **Zane Drinķe**, Chairwoman of the Knowledge Economy Council of the Latvian Chamber Commerce and Industry, Latvia
- Dr. **Pamela Bernabei**, President of the A. Meneghetti Scientific and Humanistic Research Foundation, Switzerland
- Dr. **Valdis Segliņš**, Lead researcher of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia
- **Yuliia Nezhyd**, PhD candidate in Management, Academic Secretary of the Institute of Accounting and Finance of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine
- MSc. **Olena Voloshyna**, Junior Researcher of the Institute of Accounting and Finance of the NAAS, Ukraine. of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine

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**19.00 - 22.00**

**GALA DINNER** (with Invitations)

- *Ceremonial Opening of the 80th Anniversary of the Latvian Academy of Sciences*
- *Latvian Songs, Music & Dance, Networking*
- *Certificates for Participants & Other Surprises 😊*

## DAY 3 | 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026, SATURDAY

**Location OLD RIGA**

# AGENDA

11.00 - 13.00

**GUIDED CULTURAL PROGRAM with B2B, B2S, S2S networking**

- **Excursion around Old Riga with Guide**
- **Latvian Cuisine Lunch**

## WORKING LANGUAGES

**ENGLISH** (with subtitles translated into Latvian)

## CONTACT FOR INQUIRIES

E-mail: [ei@lza.lv](mailto:ei@lza.lv)

Tel: +371 20207092 (Linda Lukaševica)

## INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

[www.economicforum.lv](http://www.economicforum.lv), [info@economicforum.lv](mailto:info@economicforum.lv), Phone: +371-20207092 (Linda)

## Dress code

- BUSINESS - at the Forum
- BLACK TIE - at the Gala Dinner

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