



Norwegian Embassy
Riga



Nordic Days in Cēsis 2022

Baltic - Nordic Business Forum

STEM & SPACE: NEW HORIZONS FOR COOPERATION

Time: September 22, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Place: The Exhibition Hall at Vidzeme Concert hall "Cēsis", Latvia

Information: www.norden.lv

As a contribution to the tradition of the Nordic-Baltic cooperation and the vision of strengthening the high value-added economies of our countries, this forum will devote its attention to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and the space economy as a resourceful and inspirational domain for innovation, cooperation, synergies and growth.

STEM competencies are becoming the backbone of industrial competitiveness and thus, are enjoying a rapidly growing demand in Europe and beyond. At the same time, the space economy is gaining momentum globally, and it offers the Baltics and Nordics a favorable context for innovation-stimulating cooperation and STEM development: by inspiring curiosity for science, driving technology transfer and advancing the already well-developed capacities in the region's space sectors.

The forum aims to inspire discussions and create insights in mission-oriented cooperation development, efficient use of investments, science and entrepreneurship collaboration for the benefit of the society, economy and environment as well as space becoming a catalyst for cooperation and growth of economies, industries and life-long education.

The forum is organised in the framework of Nordic Days in Cēsis 2022 by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Riga, the Cēsis Space Education Centre, the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia, the Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Riga and Cēsis Municipality in cooperation with other Nordic Embassies.

DRAFT AGENDA

10:00-10:20 REGISTRATION, COFFEE

10:20 WELCOME SPEECHES

- [Jānis Rozenbergs, Cēsis Mayor](#)
- [Ine Måreng, Ambassador of Norway to Latvia](#)

10:30 OPENING SPEECH: NORDIC-BALTIC COOPERATION: TRADITION, VALUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- [Online address of Ilze Indriksone, Minister of Economics of the Republic of Latvia](#)
- [Ieva Siliņa, Advisor to the Minister on Innovation and Digitalisation, the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia](#)

10:40 KEYNOTE: WHAT IS LATVIA FOR NORDIC BUSINESSES AND WHAT IS THE NORDIC REGION FOR LATVIA'S BUSINESSES?

- [Ivi Anna Buce, Director of Investment Project Department, Investment and Development Agency of Latvia](#)

PART I: STEM AND ITS GROWING INFLUENCE ON ECONOMIES, INDUSTRIES AND EDUCATION

10:55 INTEGRATING SCIENCE INTO BUSINESSES. What drives innovation?

- **John Tully, Chairman of the Board at Co-founder and CEO at MikroTik, Chairman of the Board at American Chamber of Commerce**

11:10 KEYNOTE: DRIVING INTEREST FOR STEM. What drives innovation and why should people choose science?

- **Jaan Praks, Aalto University, Finland**

11:25 PANEL DISCUSSION: STEM OR NOT STEM? The significance of STEM competencies for economic development

Moderator: Pauls Irbins, President of the Latvian Space Industry Association and the Director of the Space Education Centre in Cēsis

Participants

- **Tālis Juhna, Vice-Rector for Research, Riga Technical University**
- **Intars Palameiks, Sales Manager, TietoEvry**
- **Anna Andersone, Founder, Riga TechGirls**

12:15-12:40 COFFEE BREAK

PART II: SPACE AS A CATALYST FOR STEM AND GLOBAL ECONOMIES

12:40 KEYNOTE: SPACE AS AN OLD INSPIRATION AND A NEW REALITY. Why invest into space?

- **Åsunn Lyngedal, Chairman of the Advisory Board of Andøya Space Education and Director at UiT The Arctic University of Norway**

12:55 KEYNOTE: SPACE AS AN OPPORTUNITY. How invest into space?

- **Timo Stein, Head of Space Technology at Kjeller Innovasjon and Managing Director at European Space Agency Business Incubation Centre Norway**

13:10 PANEL DISCUSSION: SPACE AS A CATALYST FOR STEM AND NEW BUSSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Moderator: Pauls Irbins, President of the Latvian Space Industry Association and the Director of the Space Education Centre in Cēsis

Participants:

- **Ričardas Valančiauskas, Director of Innovation and Industry Department, the Ministry of Economy and Innovation, Lithuania**
- **Angelina Bekasova, Space and Innovation Policy Senior Expert, Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia and Director for International Relations and Industry Development at the Latvian Space Industry Association**
- **Jaan Praks, Assistant Professor, Aalto University, Finland**

13:40 – 14:05 COFFEE BREAK

PART III: GOAL-ORIENTED AND INCLUSIVE FUTURE NORDIC-BALTIC COOPERATION

14:05 KEYNOTE: MISSION-ORIENTED APPROACH FOR BALTIC – NORDIC COOPERATION

- Raimonds Lapiņš, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Economics, Republic of Latvia

14:20 KEYNOTE: MISSION SATELLITE AS A SPRINGBOARD FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

- Angelina Bekasova, Space and Innovation Policy Senior Expert, Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia and Director for International Relations and Industry Development at the Latvian Space Industry Association

14:35 PANEL DISCUSSION: NORDIC – BALTIC SPACE COOPERATION TO BENEFIT INDUSTRIES ON EARTH

Moderator: Pauls Irbins, President of the Latvian Space Industry Association and the Director of the Space Education Centre in Cēsis

Participants:

- Åsunn Lyngedal, Director at UiT the Arctic University of Norway and Chairman of the Advisory Board of Andøya Space Education
- Jānis Vucāns, President of the Baltic Assembly and Member of Parliament of Latvia, Member of the Education, Culture and Science Committee; Member of the Mandate, Ethics and Submissions Committee
- Raimonds Lapiņš, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Economics, Republic of Latvia
- Timo Stein, Head of Space Technology at Kjeller Innovasjon and Managing Director at European Space Agency Business Incubation Centre Norway

15:20 CLOSING SPEECH

- Stefan Eriksson, Director, Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia

15:30 NETWORKING LATE LUNCH at Cēsis Concert Hall

16:30 OPTIONAL: VISIT TO CONSTRUCTION SITE OF CESIS SPACE EDUCATION CENTRE (NORWAY GRANTS)