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Introduction of speakers



Mailis Reps is the Minister of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia since 23 November 2016. She held this position also in 2005 - 2007 and in 2002 - 2003. She is a member of the Estonian Centre Party. Mailis Reps was a member of the 10, 11, 12, 13th Parliament of Estonia and has served as the Vice-Chairman of the Estonian Centre Party faction and as the Vice-Chairman of the Cultural Affairs Committee. Mailis Reps has a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from Kalamazoo College in Michigan, USA and in Law from Nord University, Norway. She has a Master's degree in Law from Central European University, Hungary and a Master's degree in European Public Relations from Maastricht University, Holland. Mailis Reps is currently obtaining a PhD in European Law from Uppsala University.

Photo credit: Estonian Ministry of Education and Research.



Andres Koppel is the moderator of the event. He is Director General of the Estonian Research Council. Prior to this, he was the Deputy Secretary General for Higher Education and Research of the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research. He has worked as Vice Rector and Professor of Production Ecology at the Estonian University of Life Sciences. He has conducted research in forest ecophysiology (carbon and water exchange and productivity of trees). He is a foreign fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry and the Member of The Governing Board of Science Europe, the Association of European Research Funding and Research Performing Organisations.

Photo credit: Piret Ehrenpreis, Estonian Research Council.

Session 1: European and macro-regional experience on widening participation



Dimitri Corpakis is an independent expert, advising organisations, governments and local and regional authorities on innovation, growth and technological change. An engineer and planner by training, he has more than 30 years' experience on the European integration process. Dimitri (who recently retired from the services of the European Commission following a career of over 26 years in Brussels) has worked in many policy areas including Education and Training, Information and Communication Technologies, Social Sciences and Humanities, and Regional





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Innovation Ecosystems with an emphasis on interactions and synergies between the Union's Research and Innovation and Cohesion Policies (ESIF).

In recent years, Dimitri led Directorate-General for Research and Innovation's Unit on the Regional Dimension of Innovation (now called 'Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation) managing the legacy of 7th Framework Programme actions on "Regions of Knowledge" and "Research Potential," building links with the Union's Cohesion Policy, focussing on developing Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). There he ensured the Commission's link with the Joint Programming Initiative on "Urban Europe" and launched actions on closing the innovation divide (Horizon 2020 Part IV on Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation - Teaming, Twinning and ERA Chairs). Dimitri has a PhD in regional policy. He can be reached at d.corpakis@gmail.com. For more information please see: https://about.me/dimitri_corpakis.

Photo from personal collection.



Gunnel Gustafsson served on the NordForsk board from the organisation's formation in 2005 until she took the position of Director in 2010.

Gunnel has broad experience in research cooperation and politics both nationally and internationally. In addition, she has wide knowledge of NordForsk through her position as a member of the board.

Her background and extensive research cooperation network in Sweden and the other Nordic countries will help to strengthen the interaction between NordForsk and the national players in the field of research.

She has also worked closely with the development of the European research cooperation and has, amongst other things, played a role within this field under the Swedish Presidency of the EU in the autumn of 2009. She holds professorship in Political Science and is a former Deputy Director General of the Swedish Research Council.

Photo credit: NordForsk, Terje Heiestad.



Anders Bergström holds the positions of Policy Area (PA) Coordinator for PA Education, Research and Employability and Horizontal Action (HA) Coordinator for HA Capacity since 2013.

He studied at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, and has a MSc in civil engineering.

Anders has been involved in international cooperation since 1981 after becoming a member of the Norden Association Youth. When started to work for the Norden Association in 1986, he started as project manager involved in the development of a





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labour mobility project “Nordjobb.” The project is still in operation and offers students a summer job, a place to stay and a leisure programme within the Nordic region (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden). In 1991 he started to develop projects involving Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, from 1995 also northwest Russia. The projects concerned mainly international business development and management training. In 1998 he became Programme Director for Nordpraktik – New Managers for Russia, part of the Presidential Initiative on Management training - a bilateral programme for matchmaking viable business projects between Russian and Swedish companies. In total 650 projects were finalised in the framework of this programme. In 2003 a similar programme was launched towards Ukraine, with a result of 200 projects over six years. In 2007 the Norden Association got involved in the development of what today is the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Photo credit: Norden.



Mike Cherrett is responsible for Climate-KIC’s relationships with the European Union and its agencies and for developing Climate-KIC’s international relations. He is also responsible for developing our European footprint through the Regional Innovation Scheme. He joined Climate-KIC with a career spanning engineering and a career in the British Diplomatic Service, and started off as the Director of Operations from 2014 to 2016. From 2016 he is the Director of External Partnerships.

Between 1984 and 1997 Mike worked in the aerospace industry in roles spanning technology development, international collaboration & business development. He gained an industry-based PhD from Imperial College in 1994 and was awarded the Royal Aeronautical Society’s Sir Roy Feddon Award for propulsion research that year. He is a Member of the Society and a Chartered Engineer.

Mike joined the British Diplomatic Service in 1997 and established a high-tech trade and investment unit at the British Embassy in Seoul. Subsequent roles encompassed conflict resolution and bilateral relations with Africa. He was Britain’s Deputy High Commissioner to New Zealand from 2006 to 2010 and responsible for a wide range of operational and policy issues, including advocacy on climate change and sustainability in the public and private sector. He returned to the UK in January 2011, where he led a cross-Whitehall study on climate change and resource scarcity and their implications for national security. From 2011 to 2013 Mike worked with a start-up bringing a systemic approach to regional resilience.

Photo credit: Climate-KIC.





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Session 2: barriers for widening excellence and collaboration



Žilvinas Martinaitis is a Founding Partner and Research Manager at Visionary Analytics. He has over 10 years of experience in managing research and evaluation of policies and programmes at national and EU levels. Thematically his work focuses on research and development (R&D), education and labour market policies.

The topics Žilvinas has published on are varied, ranging from foresights as a strategic R&D policy intelligence tool, management of intellectual capital in universities, measuring skills of labour force in Europe to skills formation systems. Žilvinas is also Associated Professor at Vilnius University, where he lectures policy analysis and

research design.

Žilvinas has a PhD in political economy from Vilnius University.

For more information please see: <http://www.visionary.lt/about-us/zilvinas>.

Photo credit: Visionary Analytics.



Agrita Kiopa is the Deputy State Secretary and Director of the Higher Education, Science and Innovation Department in the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia. She leads the structural reform programme with a focus on establishing core institutions that foster excellence and relevance of research and higher education. She has been involved in designing Latvian Smart Specialization Strategy and works to ensure its delivery.

Having studied engineering, political science, public administration and public policy, she has a wide range of interests.

Prior to joining public service, she was working as a researcher at the University of Liverpool and Georgia Institute of Technology, where she was awarded PhD in public policy with the specialization in science and technology and public organisations.

Photo credit: Ministry of Education and Science, Latvia.





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Katarzyna Kaczowska is the Deputy Director in the Department for Innovation and Development Support Programmes, Ministry for Economic Development, Poland.

Katarzyna has recently been appointed the Deputy Director in the Managing Authority of the largest operational programme supporting research, development and innovation, which is co-financed from European Union's structural funds (Operational Programme Smart Growth). She has worked for the Managing Authority for the last 8 years, dealing with the largest strategic projects and financial instruments.

After receiving her Master's degree in management and marketing, she started her career in one of the largest non-governmental organisations in Poland. She started working in public service to deal with EU funds, focusing on competitiveness and innovation.

Photo credit: Aleksandra Targońska.



Johanna Leino works as Development Director at The Baltic Institute of Finland. She is responsible for managing and developing several international projects, including the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region flagship project BSR Stars S3. Johanna is an active networker with 15 years of experience in international communication, EU funding programmes, writing EU project applications and managing complex EU-funded projects. In her earlier career, Johanna gained experience as a researcher. She has also taught Project Management and International Trade at the Tampere University of Applied Sciences.

During 2000-2002 Johanna spent time as an Erasmus exchange student and international intern in Poland. Johanna graduated in 2002 as a Master of Administrative Sciences from the University of Tampere.

Photo credit: Ljubov Rotko.



Bettina Eichler-Löbermann is the Vice-Rector for Internationalisation, Gender and Diversity Management at the University of Rostock Germany since 2013. She is an Associate Professor in Agronomy and Crop Science at the University of Rostock. Highly active in scientific research, Bettina is the author or co-author of approximately 220 scientific papers.

In addition to her academic career, Bettina is also actively involved in advancing international relations. She has been a partner in more than 25 international projects, and is also involved in advancing cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region (member of the expert group of Baltic 21). She has contributed to recommendations for good agricultural practice in Germany as an agricultural advisor.

Bettina has a PhD in agro-ecology from the University of Rostock.

Photo from personal collection.





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Session 3: Success stories of overcoming widening barriers and measures for the future



Kadri Ukrainski received her PhD in economics from the University of Tartu, Estonia. She currently works as a Professor of Research and Innovation Policy and the Chair of Public Economics and Policy at the School of Economic and Business Administration at the University of Tartu. She is also involved in teaching intermediate level courses in public economics, public management and innovation and technology policy. Her research interests lie in science and innovation policies more broadly, but currently she is granted with research projects concerning research funding, research internationalisation and sectoral innovation policy. She has published in *Scientometrics*, *Post-Communist Economies*, *Science and Public Policy*, *Industry and Higher Education*, *Forest Policy and Economics*, *Forestry Studies*, *Social Research* and others.

Photo credit: Mati Kose.



Kaisa Kononen has worked as the first Executive Director of the BONUS, the joint Baltic Sea research and development programme funded jointly by eight Member States and the EU since 2007. Her duty is the overall management, coordination and monitoring of the BONUS activities and leading the BONUS Secretariat. Kaisa received her PhD in hydrobiology in 1992 from the University of Helsinki, Finland. She worked approximately 20 years as a research scientist in the Finnish Institute of Marine Research focusing on studies of cyanobacterial blooms' dynamics in the Baltic Sea. During 1997-2002 she worked as the Head of Research of the Maj and Tor Nessling Foundation, one of the key private environment research funders in Finland. In 2002 she started working at the Academy of Finland first as the Programme Manager of the Finnish Baltic Sea Research Programme BIREME, and later as the coordinator of the ERA-NET project BONUS for the Baltic Sea Science Network of Funding Agencies until 2008.

Kaisa has been active in many international science organisations, for example ICES, SCOR-IOC, HELCOM, Marine Board of the European Science Foundation, and many other national European and international science policy committees.

Photo credit: BONUS.





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Ülle Jaakma is currently the Vice-Rector of Research at the Estonian University of Life Sciences. She is a Professor of Animal Physiology and also an expert in gamete biology, embryotechnology and other reproductive techniques. She has been awarded twice with a national science award for the research on the field of embryotechnology and animal reproduction - as a pioneer of bovine *in vivo* and *in vitro* embryo production, initiator of the development of new semen testing methods and introduction of sexed semen in Estonia. She has been also actively involved in the studies on animal cloning, resulting in the birth of the first cloned calf in Estonia and Baltic countries. She has experience in leading research projects (the target-financed projects and Estonian Science Foundation grants, subprojects at the CCHT, collaborative applied projects, industrial projects).

Ülle has a PhD in biology from the University of Tartu, Estonia.

Photo from personal collection.



Lotte Strøbech is Affiliate Associate Professor at Copenhagen University and the founder and CEO of EmbryoTrans Biotech (a global bovine *in vitro* fertilisation (IVF) media development company), a private research partner in the research projects Searmet (EE, UK, DK), GIFT (DK, BR) and has a new Danish grant EliteOVA. Lotte has more than 15 years of experience in developing animal IVF media. She is a networker, connecting people with very different competences, creating exceptional synergies meeting the needs of developmental business. Her active network includes key opinion leaders within academic, commercial and political society and top scientists within animal and human IVF/ART industry. As an entrepreneur and innovative leader she is motivated to deliver a passionate, engaged and energetic approach for achieving goals that are aligned with the company vision. The result is an extremely motivating, good spirited and fun working environment combined with the ability to function well in a high pressure, fast-paced environment with an appropriate sense of urgency. Her recurring mantra is “If you can dream it - you can do it!”

She is also an international consultant, delivering consultancy to the cattle IVF/ET industry as well as human IVF clinics supporting business processes, optimising and increasing performances.

Lotte is a Doctor of veterinary medicine (The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen) and has a PhD in veterinary physiology from Copenhagen University.

Photo credit: IVF Bioscience.





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Christoph Quitmann is Director of MAX IV Laboratory, a research infrastructure offering world-leading opportunities in X-ray science.

He studied physics at the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany, where he earned a diploma degree on unconventional superconductors. In 1993 he defended his PhD in RWTH Aachen on metal-insulator transition in high-temperature superconductors. Christoph has also worked on the pairing mechanism in superconductors with angle resolved photoemission (ARPES) and built and end station for the DELTA synchrotron.

He was involved in building one of the first beamlines at the new Swiss Light Source and the beamlines for soft x-ray microscopy and spectroscopy in Paul Scherrer Institut. He became Head of the Laboratory for Condensed Matter in 2007.

Since 2012 he is Director of MAX IV Laboratory, which inaugurated the new MAX IV facility in June 2016. MAX IV is the first of a new generation of light sources using the so-called multiband achromat concept to provide X-rays of unprecedented brightness. Since spring 2017 MAX IV is receiving regular users.

Christoph is a professor of physics with a specialization in X-ray microscopy at Lund University. He also holds an adjunct professor position in synchrotron radiation at the Niels Bohr Institute, Copenhagen.

Photo credit: Johan Persson.

Session 4: The way forward



Wolfgang Burtscher is Deputy Director-General (DG) for the European Commission's Directorate-General of Research and Innovation, responsible for Open Innovation, Open Science and Open to the World.

An Austrian national, Wolfgang Burtscher acted before joining DG Research and Innovation as a Director in DG Agriculture of the European Commission since 2000. Before his Commission career, Mr Burtscher was representative of the Länder at the Austrian Permanent Representation to the EU. From 1992 to 1996 he was Director of European Affairs in the Vorarlberg administration. Previously, from 1990 to 1992,

he was a legal advisor at the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in Geneva, at the time of negotiations on the European Economic Area (EEA). He focused particularly on the free circulation of goods and capital and on competition issues. Between 1983-1990 he was a lecturer in international and European law at the University of Innsbruck.

Wolfgang Burtscher holds a doctorate in law and also has a qualification from the Institut Européen des Hautes Études Internationales in Nice.

Photo credit: European Commission.





Rudolf Niessler is Director in the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policies, responsible for Smart and Sustainable Growth and Programme Implementation IV (Southern-Europe).

He was born in Austria. He studied economics and informatics at the Vienna University and holds a PhD in economics. After qualifying he worked in economic research in Vienna. In 1991 he moved to the Federal Chancellery and then to the OECD in Paris where he was counsellor for trade and environment. In 1997 he joined the European Commission where he served in several functions, for example as

Director for policy coordination and policy development. On 1 October 2016, he took up the duty of Director for the competence centre for Smart and Sustainable Growth and Programmes Implementation in Southern Europe. This covers the implementation of Cohesion Policy in Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain and Portugal.

Photo credit: European Commission.



Ambassador Maira Mora is the Director General of the Permanent International Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS Secretariat). With more than twenty years of diplomatic and foreign policy experience, Ambassador Mora is working for the 11 Member States of the CBSS alongside the European Union, coordinating the work of the organisation in line with the three CBSS long-term priorities - Regional Identity, Sustainable & Prosperous Region and Safe & Secure Region and managing the CBSS Secretariat in Stockholm.

Previous to joining the CBSS, she was the Head of the EU Delegation in Belarus.

As the representative of the EU, she coordinated and pursued EU policies in all areas, promoting EU principles and values, ensuring EU visibility and developing cooperation projects. Within the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs she has held the position of Ambassador to Lithuania, to Belarus, as well as Ambassador at Large, Head of the Policy Planning Unit and Deputy Head of the Latvian Delegation to the OSCE in Vienna. She has also been Counsellor within the State Secretary's Bureau, the European Correspondent, as well as a member of the crisis control expert commission at the Latvian Prime Minister's Bureau.

Ambassador Maira Mora holds a degree from the University of Latvia, Department of Foreign Languages, and has been educated at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva and the International Security Studies College in Germany. Her expertise is linked to security policy, development and economic cooperation, as well as neighbourhood policy.

Photo credit: CBSS Secretariat.





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Klaus Freiherr von Lepel is the Director for Research and Innovation Policy, European and International Affairs in Hamburg Ministry for Science, Research and Equalities.

He has studied law, political sciences, history and finno-ugrian languages at the universities of Göttingen, Freiburg, Helsinki and the London School of Economics and Political Sciences (LSE). He holds a master- and bar exam-degree in law and a master-degree in European Politics and Policy from the LSE.

In 2001 he started his professional career as government official for the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, working as a representative for European and Baltic Sea Affairs at the Hamburg Representation in Berlin. He has also held the positions of Head of Unit for European Affairs at Hamburg Senate Chancellery and Chief of Cabinet for the Hamburg Senator for Science and Research. From 2011 until 2012 he worked in the German Federal Foreign Office organising the German Presidency of the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS). Since 2012 he has been working in his current position as Head of the Department for Research and Innovation Policy at the Hamburg Ministry for Science, Research and Equalities. Since 2016 he also acts as project-director and lead partner of the Baltic Science Network, an EU-INTERREG-project.



Indrek Reimand has been working in the Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia for approximately 15 years. He holds the position of the Deputy Secretary General for Higher Education and Research since 2012. He coordinates higher education and research related issues.

To follow closely the implementation of science policy, he is also a chairman of the Estonian Research Council board.

Before heading to public service, he worked as a scientist and engineer in Estonia and Germany. He has also worked as the Director of Estonian Information Technology Foundation.

He has a PhD in physics (optics and spectroscopy) from the University of Tartu.

Photo credit: Ministry of Education and Research.

