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REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND RESEARCH



PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Baltic Science Network transnational seminar

New Tools for Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation in Research and Innovation Programmes

16 November 2017, Tallinn, Estonia

Venue: Art museum of Estonia / KuMu (Weizenbergi Street 34)

The aim of the transnational seminar is to gather input for political interference to increase participation of moderate innovators in research and innovation initiatives in the European Research Area (including the Baltic Sea Region (BSR), the EU Framework Programme, and joint activities such as Joint Programming Initiatives, EraNet, activities of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, Joint Technology Initiatives, Nordforsk or participation in bilateral research cooperation programmes). The BSR is considered considered as a test-bed to develop and implement innovative measures to tackle the participation gap and widen participation in collaborative research and innovation programmes (at EU and regional level) to exploit the region's full innovation and scientific potential.

As a result of the event and the following analysis during the Baltic Science Network (BSN) project, the members of BSN receive information and suggestions which help them formulate national action plans, and suggestions for a regional strategy.

The transnational seminar is a part of the activities focussing on widening participation in research and innovation in the BSN project. BSN is a policy network gathering relevant transnational, national and regional policy actors from the BSR countries. The Network is a springboard for targeted multilateral activities in the frame of research and innovation excellence, mobility of scientists and expanded participation. The focus is on establishing a political coordination framework for joint BSR higher education, science & research policy. The project also strengthens the political ownership of the regions and member states in the field of science policy within the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR).





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Moderator Andres Koppel, Head of Estonian Research Council.

Indicative programme

8:45–9:15 *Registration and coffee* at Kumu

9:15–9:30 Opening and greetings by **Mailis Reps**, Minister for Education and Research (TBC), Estonia.

9:30–10:45 **Session 1 - European and macro-regional experience on widening participation**

During the first session an overview of measures that have been used for widening participation and eliminating the innovation divide is provided. The described measures that aim to increase excellence in the region can be of different origin – part of the Framework Programme or regional. The possibilities of being involved in several cooperation projects at once and their potential added value are discussed. Widening (regional) networks and enlarging the number of partners – is it an asset or just allocation of resources?

- Keynote Speech **Dimitri Corpakis**, an independent expert, former EU official of Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission.
- *Regional perspective* **Gunnel Gustafsson**, Director of Nordforsk.
- *Regional perspective* **Anders Bergström**, Coordinator of the Policy Area Education, Research and Employability, EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.
- *Perspective of partnerships* **Mike Cherrett**, Director of External Partnerships (climate Knowledge and Innovation Community).

10:45–11:15 *Coffee break*





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11:15–12:30 Session 2 - barriers for widening excellence and collaboration

The session focusses on the barriers to joining the EU and regional networks of research and innovation and the measures to make them more open for newcomers. The main orientation is to maintain the level of excellence and increase it. Researchers wish to collaborate with equal partners, globally, inside the EU and regionally, and that should not be changed. However, selecting equal partners from the BSR could increase excellence and advance economy more effectively. What are the reasons behind closed networks? What are the difficulties in opening up networks?

- Keynote speech **Žilvinas Martinaitis**, Partner, Research Manager at Visionary Analytics, Lithuania.
- *National perspective* **Agrita Kiopa**, Deputy State Secretary, Director of the Higher Education, Science and Innovation Department, Ministry of Education and Science, Latvia.
- *National perspective* **Katarzyna Kaczowska**, Head of Unit (Support Programs for Innovation and Development), Ministry of Development, Poland.
- *Regional perspective* **Johanna Leino**, Baltic Institute of Finland, BSR Stars S3.
- *University perspective* **Bettina Eichler-Löbermann**, Vice-Rector for Internationalisation, Gender and Diversity Management, University of Rostock, Germany.

12:30–13:30 *Lunch break*





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13:30–14:45 Session 3 - perspectives of overcoming widening barriers

There are measures directly targeted for widening in Horizon 2020, measures that can be used for widening in the Framework Programme and forms of cooperation that integrate the BSR. All of them can also be seen as widening measures. Great examples of using these measures can be drawn in all mentioned areas. Some additional direct actions may have been necessary to open up existing networks to widen participation – how this was achieved, will briefly be described by presenting some best-practice examples of the region. New measures can be designed for opening up networks in the EU and in the BSR. Examples of great measures that have been able to do that in the past, and novel suggestions will be presented. The panel will focus on discussing possible applicability of novel measures.

- Keynote speech **Kadri Ukrainski**, Head of Chair, Professor in Research and Innovation Policy, Chair of Public Economics and Policy, University of Tartu, Estonia.
- *Regional perspective* **Kaisa Kononen**, Executive Director of the BONUS Programme.
- *Perspective of partnerships and university*, a twinning project of the region, **Sarmet**:
 - **Ülle Jaakma**, Professor at the Estonian University of Life Sciences, Vice Rector for research,
 - **Lotte Strøbech**, Affiliate Associate Professor of Anatomy at Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences of the University of Copenhagen and Scientific Advisor and Media Development for IVF Bioscience.
- *Perspective of university and enterprises* **Christoph Quitmann**, Director of MAX IV Laboratory.

14:45–15:15 *Coffee break*





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15:15–16:15 **Panel 4 the way forward**

In this panel policy-makers will discuss possible changes, future vision and possible integration of the suggestions obtained from the first three panels.

- *EU perspective* **Wolfgang Burtscher**, Deputy Director-General (Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World), Directorate-General of Research and Innovation, European Commission.
- *EU perspective* **Rudolf Niessler**, Director, Smart and Sustainable Growth and Programme Implementation IV (Southern-Europe), Directorate General of Regional and Urban Policies, European Commission.
- *Regional perspective* **Maira Mora**, Director General of the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat.
- *Regional/national perspective* **Sebastian Schröder**, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, Germany (TBC).
- *National perspective* **Indrek Reimand**, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Education and Research, Estonia.

16:15–16:30 **Sum-up**

~16:40 Transport to airport if registred.

