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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)

Estonian Ministry of Education and Research is delighted to announce the transnational seminar of the Baltic Science Network „**New tools for spreading excellence and widening participation in research and innovation programmes**“ contributing to the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU on **November 16, 2017 in Tallinn**.

The event is part of Baltic Science Network programme that is aimed at discussing the most promising solutions to help increase the participation of moderate innovators in research and innovation initiatives implemented in the European Research Area. The Network is connecting the targeted multilateral activities in the frame of research and innovation excellence, mobility of scientists and expanded participation. The current event is focussing on widening participation in research and innovation programmes.

The European capacity to address societal challenges does not depend solely on the innovation front-runners. This is a shared responsibility to be addressed at both the Member States´ and the EU level. Balancing the overall engagement among the Member States, in full accordance with each country´s performance, will maximise the overall impact of research and innovation investments across Europe. Therefore, this event is dedicated to encouraging consultations and enhancing collaborative ties between innovation hubs and promising research centres, specifically in the Baltic Sea Region. Several survey results introduced during the seminar will contribute to the discussions on widening participation. Possibilities to decrease the research and development performance divide in the EU and regional science and innovation programmes, enhancing the commitments of regional institutions to widening in Horizon 2020 and of the Commission to widening in regional activities are also in scope of the seminar.





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The sessions focus on macro-regional experience in widened participation and solutions for overcoming widening barriers and bridge the innovation gap. It will gather such high level speakers as:

- **Ambassador Maira Mora**, Director General of the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat;
- **Wolfgang Burtcher**, Deputy Director-General of Directorate General for Research & Innovation, European Commission;
- **Rudolf Niessler**, Director, Smart and Sustainable Growth and Programme Implementation IV (Southern-Europe), Directorate General of Regional and Urban Policies, European Commission;
- **Indrek Reimand**, Deputy Secretary General for Higher Education and Research of Estonia;
- **Agrita Kiopa**, Deputy State Secretary and Director for Higher Education and Research at the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science;
- **Christoph Quitmann**, Director of MAX IV Laboratory;
- **Gunnel Gustafsson**, Director of NordForsk;
- **Kaisa Kononen**, Executive Director of the BONUS Baltic Organisations' Network for Funding Science EEIG.

The event is free of charge. Online registration will open in June 2017. The electronic registration will be available [here](#). Hotel pre-bookings and transportation to the seminar site are made available upon request.

A list of practical information is published along with the opening of the online registration.

We look forward to welcoming you to Tallinn.

Estonian Ministry of Education and Research Baltic Science Network (BSN)

For further enquiries, please contact:

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Baltic Science Network website: <http://www.baltic-science.org/>

