



**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 8TH INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM

dedicated to the

80th 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!**

8TH INTERNATIONAL HUMANISTIC ECONOMIC FORUM INNOVATIVE ECONOMY IN TIMES OF GEOPOLITICAL CHANGE

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DAY 1 | 5TH MARCH 2026, THURSDAY

Location PORTRAIT HALL

3rd Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

AGENDA

Time	Description
9.00 - 10.00	<i>Registration & Early Morning Coffee</i>
10.00 - 10.45	OPENING CEREMONY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Musical Performance• Opening Address of the President and Academician of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, prof., Dr. Ivars Kalviņš• 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. Inese Vaidere• Address of the Minister of Economics of the Republic of Latvia, MBA Viktors Valainis• Address of the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Latvia, prof., Dr. Andris Sprūds [u.r.]• Address of the Minister of Climate and Energy of the Republic of Latvia, MBA Kaspars Melnis• Address of the Director of the Export and Innovation Services Department of the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia, M.S. Vita Balode Andrews• Address of the Academician of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine, prof., Dr. Valerii Zhuk Moderator: Dr. Nina Linde , Director of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences
10.45 - 13.00	1st PLENARY SESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• OPEN INNOVATION IN THE ERA OF GEOPOLITICAL UNREST (Speaker: Dr. Solomon Darwin, Business Consultant to Nobel Laureates & 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 & Open Innovation Solutions for Emerging Markets, Director of Open Innovation at the University of California of Santa Cruz, USA)• BUILDING THE TECHNOLOGICAL COMPETENCES FOR A EUROPEAN RENAISSANCE (Speaker: Dr. Daniele Archibugi, Professor of the Universitas Mercatorum in Rome & Birkbeck Business School, University of London, Renowned Italian Economist and Innovation Policy Expert focusing on Technological Change and Globalization, Italy/UK)• WORLD MACROECONOMIC CLIMATE AT THE BEGINNING OF 2026 (Speaker: Dr. Andrei Rădulescu, 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)• HUMAN CAPITAL, RESPONSIBILITY, AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD (Speaker: Dr. Pamela Bernabei, Entrepreneur, President of the Antonio Meneghetti 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, S2S¹ 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

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)
- **To be confirmed** (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)
- **INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE - AMBASSADOR OF INNOVATIVE APPROACHES** (Speaker: Dr. **Abdraim Bakytzhan**, Advisor to the Center "Freedom Horizons", Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan)
- **To be confirmed** (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*

¹ B2B – Business to Business, B2S – Business to Science, S2S – Science to Science

DAY 2 | 6TH MARCH 2026, FRIDAY

Location PORTRAIT HALL

3rd Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

AGENDA

Time	Description
10.00 - 11.00	<i>Registration & Morning Coffee</i>
11.00 - 11.30	INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AWARD "LIEPA" CEREMONY In cooperation with the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia, Investment and Development Agency of Latvia (LIAA) & the INDUSTRIA Bank Moderator: Dr. Nina Linde , Director of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences
11.30 - 12.00	INSPIRATIONAL WORKSHOP
12.00 - 14.00	<i>SIDE EVENTS</i> Workshop 1: KNOWLEDGE BASED BIOECONOMY & FINANCE FOR STARTUPS Location: SENATE HALL, 2 nd Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences Moderators & Keynote Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Baiba Rivza, Academician of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia• Egija Aurēlija Liepiņa, Senior Expert of the Department of Entrepreneurship Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economics, Latvia• Dr. Irina Pilvere, Professor at the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, Full Member of the Latvian Academy of Science, Latvia• Dr. Damyan Kirechev, Chief Assistant Professor at the University of Economics - Varna, Department of Agricultural Economics, Bulgaria• To be confirmed, Latvijas jaunuzņēmumu asociācija "Startin.LV"• Dr. Valerii Zhuk, Dr. Stanislav Vasylishyn, Professors, Academician of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine Workshop 2: DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY: ENABLING ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES THROUGH POLICY AND SUPPORT Location: 2 nd AUDITORIUM, 3 rd Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences Moderators & Keynote Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Andris Anspoks, Director of the Institute of Solid State Physics of the University of Latvia, Full Member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia• Felikss Bikaunieks, Senior Expert of the Department of Entrepreneurship Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economics, Latvia• 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 rd 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. **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 INDUSTRIA 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, 2nd Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

Moderators & Keynote Speakers:

- Dr. **Jeļena Titko**, Professor, Vice-Rector for Science and International Relations, University of Applied Sciences (EKA), Latvia
- **Aija Brikše**, Head of Financial Literacy Division, Latvijas Banka, Latvia

14.00 – 14.30

Lunch & Coffee Break, B2B, B2S, S2S networking

14.30 – 16.30

SIDE EVENTS

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

Location: ACADEMIC HALL, 2nd Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

Moderators & Keynote Speakers:

- Dr. **Osvalds Pugovičs**, Acting Director of the Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis, Latvia
- Dr. **Indriķis Muižnieks**, Full Member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia
- **Oļevs Nikers**, Senior Expert of the Department of Entrepreneurship Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economics, 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, 3rd Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

Moderators & Keynote Speakers:

- 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
- **Māris Tūtins**, Colonel and Head of Information Management and Analysis Department of the National Armed Forces, Latvia
- **Diāna Baranova**, Director of the Department of Defence Industry and Innovation Policy of the Ministry of Defence, Latvia
- Dr. **Valerii Zhuk**, Dr. **Yuliia Bezdushna**, Dr. **Daria Trachova**, Academicians of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine

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

Location: SENATE HALL, 2nd 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
- **Liene Levada**, Director of the Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Ministry of Education & Science, Latvia
- Dr. **Valdis Segliņš**, Lead researcher of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia
- Dr. **Yuliia Neahyd**, Dr. **Inna Gryshova**, Dr. **Olena Voloshyna**, Representatives 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 Folk Songs, Music & Dance, Networking*
- *Certificates for Participants & Other Surprises 😊*

DAY 3 | 7TH MARCH 2026, SATURDAY

Location OLD RIGA

AGENDA

Time	Description
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11.00 - 13.00

GUIDED CULTURAL PROGRAM with B2B, B2S, S2S networking

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

WORKING LANGUAGES ENGLISH / LATVIAN

CONTACT FOR INQUIRIES

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Dress code

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

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