



8th International
Humanistic
Economic Forum
March 5-7 | 2026

INNOVATIVE ECONOMY IN TIMES OF GEOPOLITICAL CHANGE

PATRON & SUPPORTER



Ministry of Economics
Republic of Latvia

ORGANISERS



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AGENDA OF THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM

LOCATION LATVIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Akademijas Square 1
Riga, LATVIA

DATE 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**, 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

MADE POSSIBLE BY



Under the patronage
of the European Parliament

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Ministry of Economics
Republic of Latvia

PARTNERS



Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



DAY 1 | 5TH MARCH 2026

Location **PORTRAIT HALL**

3rd Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

Date Thursday, 5 March 2026

AGENDA

Time	Description
9.00 - 10.00	Registration & Early Morning Coffee
10.00 - 10.40	OPENING CEREMONY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Musical Performance• 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., PhD. Andris Sprūds [u.r.]• Address of the Minister of Climate and Energy of the Republic of Latvia MBA Kaspars Melnis• Address of the Director General of the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia, MBA Ieva Jāgere• Address of the President of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, prof., PhD. Ivars Kalviņš <p>Moderator: PhD. Nina Linde, Director of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences</p>
10.40 - 13.00	1st PLENARY SESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative Economy in Times of Geopolitical Change (Speaker: PhD. Solomon Darwin, Director of the Garwood Centre for Corporate Innovation and Centre for Growth Markets, University of California - Berkley, USA)• Building the Technological Competences for a European Renaissance (Speaker: PhD. 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)• Human Capital, Responsibility, and Sustainable Growth in a Fragmented World (Speaker: PhD. Pamela Bernabei, President of the A. Meneghetti Scientific and Humanistic Research Foundation, Switzerland)• To be confirmed (Speaker: PhD. Raivis Kakānis, Chairman of the Management Board of the INDUSTRA Bank, Latvia) <p>Moderator: Gerald Hoppstaedter, Entrepreneur, Adviser to the Director of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia / Austria</p>
13.00 - 14.00	<i>Lunch and Coffee Break, B2B, B2S, S2S¹ networking</i>

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

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 the Garwood Centre for Corporate Innovation and Centre for Growth Markets, University of California - Berkley, 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
- **Jānis Vanags**, Lead researcher of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia
- **Anthony Giannoumis**, Global Expert in Inclusive Leadership, Chair of the Board of the "Inclusive Creation", Social Entrepreneur, Equality Advocate, Australia/Norway
- **Raivis Kakānis**, Chairman of the Management Board of the INDUSTRA Bank, Latvia

Moderator: **Gerald Hoppstaedter**, Entrepreneur, Adviser to the Director of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia / 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: Ph.D. **Jānis Vanags**, Lead researcher of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia)
- **New Sources of Growth & Inclusive Leadership** (Speaker: Ph.D. **Anthony Giannoumis**, Global Expert in Inclusive Leadership, Chair of the Board of the "Inclusive Creation", Social Entrepreneur, Equality Advocate, Norway)

17.30

End of Day 1

DAY 2 | 6TH MARCH 2026

Location **PORTRAIT HALL**

3rd Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

Date Friday, 6 March 2026

AGENDA

Time	Description
10.00 - 11.00	Registration & Morning Coffee
11.00 - 11.30	INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AWARD "LIEPA" CEREMONY In collaboration with the EQUALS Global Partnership Moderator: Director of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, PhD. Nina Linde
11.30 - 12.00	Inspirational Workshop
12.00 - 14.00	SIDE EVENTS Workshop 1: EDUCATION, INNOVATION AND HUMAN BEING'S FUNCTIONAL UTILITARIANISM Moderators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PhD. Pamela Bernabei, President of the Scientific and Humanistic Research Foundation, Switzerland• PhD. Zane Drinke, Chairwoman of the Knowledge Economy Council of the Latvian Chamber Commerce and Industry, Latvia• Elina Petersone, Director of the Department of Entrepreneurship Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economics, Latvia Workshop 2: INVESTING IN DUAL-USE INNOVATION: AI, HIGH-TECH MANUFACTURING & INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP Moderators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PhD. Guntis Barzdins, 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• Beate Hermansone, Senior Expert of the Department of Entrepreneurship Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economics, Latvia Workshop 3: NEW ASIAN MARKETS: EXPORT, INVESTMENT & GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS Moderators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Timur Rakhmanov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan in the Republic of Latvia• Alexander Vidyakin, Head of the Board "Baltic – Central Asian Economic Development Association"• To be confirmed, representative of the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia
14.00 - 14.30	<i>Lunch and Coffee Break, B2B, B2S, S2S networking</i>

14.30 - 16.30

SIDE EVENTS

Workshop 4: BIOMEDICINE, MEDTECH & PHARMA: INNOVATION & INVESTMENTS FOR AN AGING SOCIETY

Moderators:

- PhD. **Ivars Kalvins**, President of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia
- **Olevs Nikers**, Senior Expert of the Department of Entrepreneurship Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economics, Latvia

Workshop 5: SECURING THE FUTURE: INVESTMENT IN ENERGY & NATIONAL DEFENCE

Moderators:

- PhD. **Gints Kucinskis**, Leading Researcher and Head of the Energy Materials Laboratory of the Institute of Solid State Physics of the University of Latvia, Correspondent Member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia
- **Feliks Bikaunieks**, Senior Expert of the Department of Entrepreneurship Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economics, Latvia

Workshop 6: KNOWLEDGE BASED BIOECONOMY & FINANCE FOR STARTUPS

Moderators:

- PhD. **Baiba Rivza**, Academician of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia
- **Baiba Borherte-Smilge**, Senior Expert of the Department of Entrepreneurship Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economics, Latvia

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19.00 - 23.00

GALA DINNER (with Invitations)

- *FINAL REMARKS: Main Recommendations for Policy Makers, Entrepreneurs and Scientists & Conclusions of the Forum and its Sections Discussion*
- *B2B, B2S, S2S discussions*
- *Latvian folk songs, music & dance*
- *Certificates for participants & other surprises 😊*

Dress code

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

DAY 3 | 7TH MARCH 2026

Location OLD RIGA

Date Saturday, 7 March 2026

AGENDA

Time	Description
12.00 - 14.00	GUIDED CULTURAL PROGRAM with B2B, B2S, S2S networking <ul style="list-style-type: none">Excursion around Old Riga with Guide

WORKING LANGUAGE ENGLISH

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INFORMATION & www.economicforum.lv
REGISTRATION

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