



**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**, 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

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	<p>OPENING CEREMONY</p> <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., Ph.D. 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 and Academician of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, prof., Ph.D. Ivars Kalviņš <p>Moderator: Nina Linde, Ph.D., Director of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences</p>
10.40 – 13.00	<p>1st PLENARY SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative Economy in Times of Geopolitical Change (Speaker: Solomon Darwin, Ph.D., Business Consultant to Nobel Laureates & Silicon Valley Entrepreneurs, Former Director of the Garwood Centre for Corporate Innovation and Centre for Growth Markets, Founder of the Smart Village Movement & Open Innovation Solutions for Emerging Markets, University of California - Berkley, USA)• Building the Technological Competences for a European Renaissance (Speaker: Daniele Archibugi, Ph.D., 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: Andrei Rădulescu, Ph.D., 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: Pamela Bernabei, Ph.D., Entrepreneur, President of the A. Meneghetti Scientific and Humanistic Research Foundation, Entrepreneur, Switzerland/Italy)

- **Who Gets Heard Shapes What Gets Built: Leadership for a Changing Economy** (Speaker: **Anthony Giannoumis**, Ph.D., 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, Latvia/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 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
- **Andrei Rădulescu**, Senior International Macroeconomist, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for World Economy of the Romanian Academy
- **Anthony Giannoumis**, Global Expert in Inclusive Leadership, Chair of the Board of the "Inclusive Creation", Social Entrepreneur, Equality Advocate, Norway
- **Pēteris Šmidre**, President of the Latvian Telecommunications Association, 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**

- **To be confirmed** (Speaker: **Pēteris Šmidre**, Entrepreneur, President of the Latvian Telecommunications Association, One of the First Telecommunications Developers in Latvia)
- **Innovations in Smart Specialization Areas for Increasing Latvia's Export Capacity: the latest Research Results** (Speaker: **Jānis Vanags**, Ph.D., Lead researcher of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia)
- **International Financial Centre - Ambassador of Innovative Approaches** (Speaker: **Abdraim Bakytzhan**, Ph.D., Advisor to the Center "Freedom Horizons", Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan)
- **To be confirmed** (Speaker: **Sagar Sharma**, Entrepreneur, Head of Business Intelligence & Strategic Affairs at the "Tata Electronics", India)

17.30 *End of Day 1*

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

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 Moderator: Nina Linde , Ph.D., 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">• Baiba Rivza, Ph.D., 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 Workshop 2: SECURING THE FUTURE: INVESTMENT IN ENERGY & NATIONAL DEFENCE Location: ACADEMIC HALL, 2 nd Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences Moderators & Keynote Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Andris Anspoks, Ph.D., Director of the Institute of Solid State Physics of the University of Latvia, Full Member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia• Māris Tūtins, Colonel and Head of Information Management and Analysis Department of the National Armed Forces, Latvia• Feliks Bikaunieks, Senior Expert of the Department of Entrepreneurship Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economics, 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Timur Rakhmanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Latvia, Uzbekistan• 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

- **Alexander Vidyakin**, Head of the Board "Baltic-Central Asian Economic Development Association", Latvia
- **To be confirmed**, representative of the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia, Latvia

14.00 – 14.30

Lunch and Coffee Break, B2B, B2S, S2S networking

14.30 – 16.30

SIDE EVENTS

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

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

Moderators & Keynote Speakers:

- **Indriķis Muižnieks**, Ph.D., Full Member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia
- **Olevs Nikers**, Senior Expert of the Department of Entrepreneurship Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economics, Latvia
- **Osvalds Pugovičs**, Ph.D., Acting Director of the Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis, Latvia
- **Divya Vishwanath**, Ph.D., Entrepreneur, Data Scientist and Garwood Fellow of Haas School of Business University of California - Berkley, India

Workshop 5: INVESTING IN DUAL-USE INNOVATION: AI, HIGH-TECH MANUFACTURING & INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Location: PORTRAIT HALL, 3rd Floor of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

Moderators & Keynote Speakers:

- **Guntis Barzdins**, Ph.D., 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 6: EDUCATION, INNOVATION AND HUMAN BEING'S FUNCTIONAL UTILITARIANISM

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

Moderators & Keynote Speakers:

- **Zane Driņķe**, Ph.D., Chairwoman of the Knowledge Economy Council of the Latvian Chamber Commerce and Industry, Latvia
- **Pamela Bernabei**, Ph.D., President of the A. Meneghetti Scientific and Humanistic Research Foundation, Switzerland
- **Eliņa Petersone**, Director of the Department of Entrepreneurship Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economics, Latvia

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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 ☺*

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
11.00 - 13.00	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 & REGISTRATION www.economicforum.lv

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