

# NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS FORUM

October 25, 10.00-16.00, Riga Castle



CHANCERY OF THE PRESIDENT OF LATVIA

**9.30 - 10.00** *Arrival and morning coffee*

**10.05 - 10.15** **Opening remarks by the President of Latvia Edgars Rinkēvičs**

**10.15 - 10.35** Keynote address

**Lars Frølund**, Member of the Board of the European Innovation Council, Special Advisor to EVP Margrethe Vestager, Strategic Advisor to the NATO Innovation Fund, and Lecturer at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

**10.40 - 11.50** *Panel*

**Science and innovation: a breakthrough for the knowledge economy?**

**Ints Dālderis**, Adviser to Prime Minister for European Union Funds

**Albert Cirera**, Professor of Electronics Engineering at the University of Barcelona, former Vice Rector of Entrepreneurship, Transfer, and Innovation at the University of Barcelona

**Lars Frølund**, Member of the Board of the European Innovation Council, Special Advisor to EVP Margrethe Vestager, Strategic Advisor to the NATO Innovation Fund, and Lecturer at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

**Taavi Madiberk**, CEO & Co-Founder of Skeleton Technologies

Moderator: **Liene Briede**, Vice-Rector for Innovation, Riga Technical University, Ambassador of the European Innovation Council

**11.55 - 13.00** *Panel*

**Data availability and digitalisation: a basis for data-driven decision-making?**

**Edvīns Elferts**, Data and Digital Transformation Work Group Leader of Foreign Investors' Council in Latvia; Head of the Data, AI and Emerging Technologies Centre "KPMG Lighthouse"

**Jānis Lazda**, META Public Policy Manager for International Trade and Economic Policy

**Marius Jurgilas**, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Axiology, former Board Member at the Bank of Lithuania, Professor at Vilnius University

**Victoria Bew**, Deputy Director, Strategy at i.AI (United Kingdom's Government's incubator for Artificial Intelligence)

Moderator: **Arkādijs Zvaigzne**, PhD candidate at Harvard University, Research Director at RTU Riga Business School, Senior Expert at Ministry of Education and Science

**14.00 - 15.10** *Panel*

**Implementation of OECD recommendations: how effective is the Latvian public administration?**

**Viktors Valainis**, Minister for Economics

**Raivis Kronbergs**, Director of the State Chancellery

**Inga Vilka**, Member of the Council of the State Audit Office

**Mame Fatou Diagne**, Head of Division, Country Studies, Economics Department, OECD

Moderator: **Daunis Auers**, Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Latvia, Director of the PhD Programme "Social Sciences", Chair of the Board of Latvian Strategy and Economic Research Institute

**15.15. - 15.45** **Fireside chat with the President of Latvia Edgars Rinkēvičs**

Moderator: **Arnis Sauka**, Chairman of the State Competitiveness Council, Professor at the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, Head of the Council of Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

**15.45 - 16.30** *Networking*

Event languages: English and Latvian.

The programme may be subject to change.