

TILAIKUUS: European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Annual Forum

OSALLISTUJAT LIITOSTA: Petteri Partanen, Salla-Maria Lauttamäki

PAIKKA: Riika, Latvia

AIKA: 4.-5.10.2023

TILAIKUUDEN OHJELMAKUVAUS:

European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Annual Forum¹ on vuosittainen EU:n Itämeri-strategian sidosryhmätilaisuus, joka järjestettiin tänä vuonna 14. kerran. Tällä kertaa foorumi järjestettiin Riikassa, Latviassa. Foorumin teema oli turvallinen ja kestävä Itämeren alue tulevaisuuden sukupolville ("Safe and Sustainable Baltic Sea Region for Future Generations").

Foorumin ensimmäinen päivä (4.10.) koostui 9 rinnakkain työpajasta, jotka käsittelevät muun muassa energia-asioita, ilmastonmuutokseen sopeutumista, yhteistyötä Ukrainan kanssa, EU:n merimissiota ja nuorten osallisuutta.

Varsinais-Suomen liitto oli mukana järjestämässä yhtä ensimmäisen päivän työpajoista liittyen innovaatioyhteistyön vahvistamiseen Itämeren alueella ("Co-creating the vision and foundations of a BSR innovation valley"). Työpajaan ilmoittautui noin 60 osallistujaa Itämeren alueelta. Työpaja järjestettiin yhteistyössä Region Västerbottenin (koordinaattorit Annelie Karlsson ja Marta Bahta), EUSBSR Policy Area Innovationin / Suomen Itämeri-instituutin (johtaja Esa Kokkonen), CPMR:n Itämeri-komission (Executive Secretariat Lucille Ehrhart) ja Economic and Public Policy Consultancyn (johtaja Alison Hunter) kanssa.

Foorumin toinen päivä (5.10.) koostui kaikille osallistujille yhteisistä seminaarisessioista ja muutamista rinnakkaisessioista. Näissä käsiteltiin muun muassa Itämeren alueen geopoliittista tilannetta, tuulienergiaa, nuorten voimaannuttamista, vihreää siirtymää ja Interreg-rahoituksen tulevaisuutta.

Foorumiin oli ilmoittautunut yhteensä 560 osallistujaa. Pääosin osallistujat saapuivat Latviasta, Puolasta, Suomesta ja Ruotsista.

TILAIKUUDEN KOKONAISKUSTANNUS LIITOLLE (€)

MATKAKULUT	MAJOITUS	PÄIVÄRAHAT	YHTEENSÄ
421; -	320; -	364; -	1 105; -

¹ <https://www.eusbsr.eu/annual-forum>

TAVOITTEET TILAISSUODESSA, TILAISSUUDEN MERKITYS MAAKUNNALLE JA SAADUT TULOKSET:

Foorumiin osallistumisen ja työpajan järjestämisen tavoitteena oli nostaa innovaatioyhteistyö ja erityisesti EU:n aloite innovatiolaaksoista² itämerelliseen (makroalueelliseen) keskusteluun. Varsinais-Suomi on ilmaissut kiinnostuksensa olla yksi Euroopan innovaatio-ohjelman mukaisista 100 innovatiolaaksoista. Varsinais-Suomi on avaintoimijoiden välichen keskustelun perusteella, ja Varsinais-Suomen älykkään erikoistumisen strategiaan liittyen, valinnut päätetekseen ruokaturvan lisäämisen ("Increasing global food security"). Työpajan tavoite oli nostaa esiin Varsinais-Suomen (ja Västerbottenin alueen) osaamista ja panostusta innovatiolaaksoaloitteeseen, ja toisaalta keskustella makroalueellisen innovatiolaakson muotoutumiseen liittyvistä haasteista ja mahdollisuksista. Uutinen tilaisudesta löytyy Varsinais-Suomen liiton verkkosivulta ("Co-creating a macro-regional innovation valley", 11.10.2023³).

Foorumiin osallistumisen ja siihen liittyyvän näkyvyyden kautta tavoitellaan kontakteja varsinaissuomalaisille toimijoille (korkeakouluille, kehittämisyhtiöille, yrityksille, kunnille) hanketoiminnassa ja yhteisen osaamisen vahvistamisessa. Samalla tehdään Varsinais-Suomea tutuksi avoimena, yhteistyökykyisenä ja kansainväliseen keskusteluun kykeneväänä alueena. Hanketoiminnan lisäksi osallistumisen toivotaan avaavan Varsinais-Suomelle ja sen kumppaneille mahdollisuksia vaikuttaa mm. eurooppalaisen kaksoissiirtymää edistävän innovaatioyhteistyön toteuttamistapoihin. Hyvä kontakti työpajan järjestäjille syntyi myös, kun työpajan paneelikeskusteluun saatiin mukaan DG REGIO:n edustaja.

TEHDYT PÄÄTÖKSET, KANNANOTOT YMS.

Tilaisuudessa ei tehty päätöksiä tai kannanottoja. Keskustelua erityisesti Region Västerbottenin edustajien kanssa käytettiin yhteistöön seuraavista askelista ja niihin liittyyvästä aikataulusta. Työpajasta tulleet syötteet viedään käsiteltäväksi ja päättetäväksi Varsinais-Suomen ja Västerbottenin yhteistöön taustalla olevan Baltic Sea Region S3 Directors' Networkin kokoukseen Oulussa, marraskuussa 2023.

LIITOLTA EDELLYTETTÄVÄT JATKOTOIMET:

Ei varsinaisia edellytettyjä jatkotoimia. Varsinais-Suomi valmistautuu Baltic Sea Region S3 Directors' Networkin seuraavaan yhteistyökokoukseen. Lisäksi valmistaudumme innovatiolaaksoaloitteeseen liittyviin mahdollisiin lisäselvityspyyntöihin komissiosta, ja seuraamme siihen liittyviä tulevia Horisontti EIE- ja I3-rahoitushakuja ja yhteistyömahdollisuuksia.

LUETTELO LIITTEISTÄ

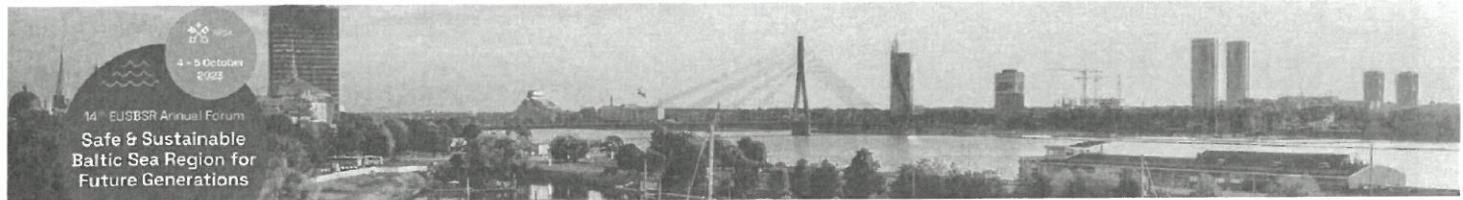
Foorumin ja työpajan ohjelma (2 kpl).



Turku 18.10.2023, Salla-Maria Lauttamäki

² https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/call-expression-interest-regional-innovation-valleys-now-open-2023-03-28_en

³ <https://varsinais-suomi.fi/en/co-creating-a-macro-regional-innovation-valley/>



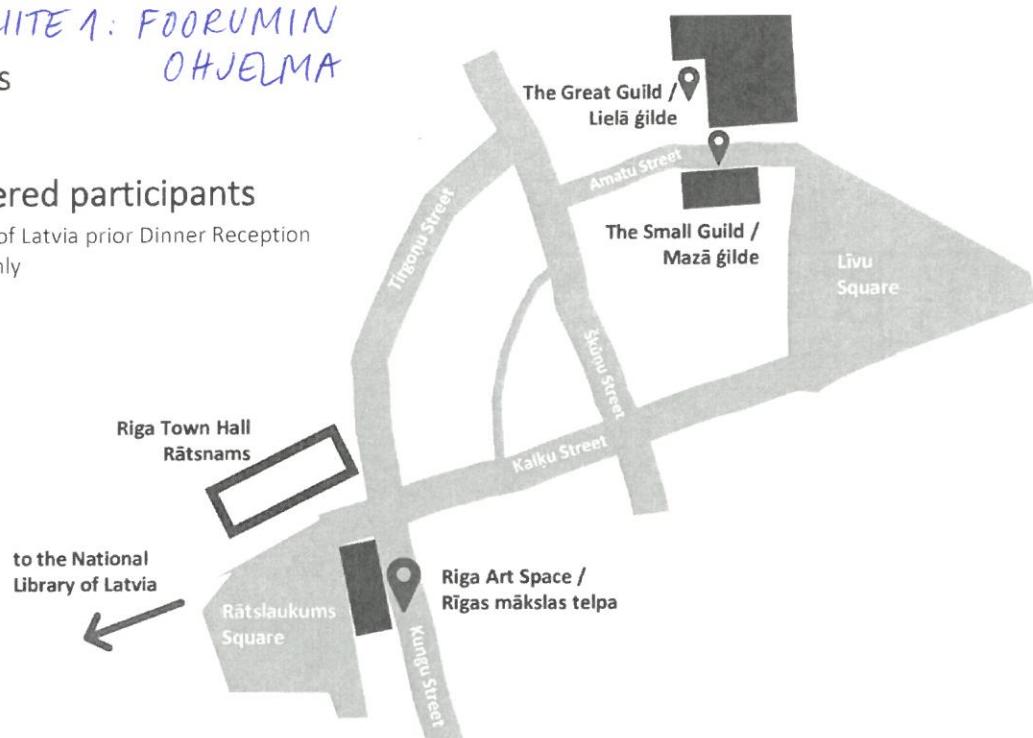
LIIITE 1: FOORUMIN OHJELMA

Venues



Check-in for registered participants

4 October at National Library of Latvia prior Dinner Reception
5 October at Riga Art Space only



National Library of Latvia /
Latvijas Nacionālā bibliotēka
[Dinner Reception]
Address Mukusalas iela 3,
entrance from Uzvaras bulvāris

Riga Art Space /
Rigas mākslas telpa
Address and entrance
Kungu iela 3

The Great Guild /
Lielā ģilde
Address and entrance
Amatu iela 6

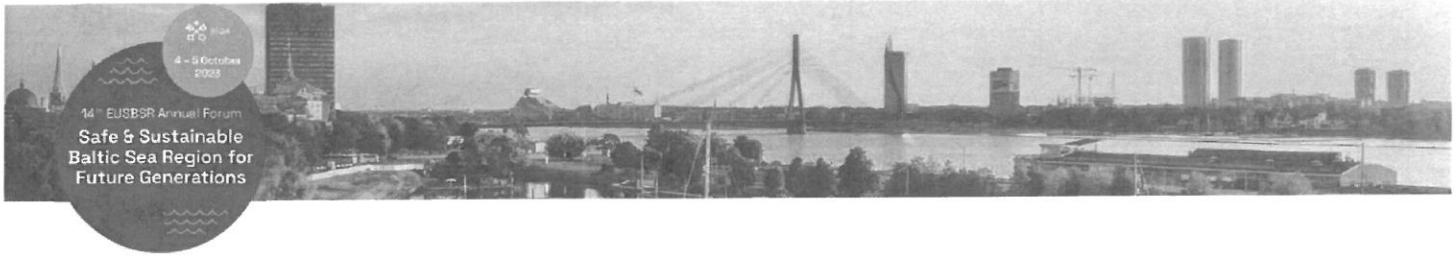
The Small Guild /
Mazā ģilde
Address and entrance
Amatu iela 5

Programme

Wednesday / 4 October

[click here for detailed descriptions](#)

10:00 – 16:30	Workshops Venue: The Small Guild		
10:00 – 11:30	Workshop 1: Offshore energy and safety of maritime traffic – adoption of interests	Workshop 2: Driving collaborative decarbonization and climate adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region	Workshop 3: All hands on deck: safe and secure Baltic Sea Region through “whole-of-society” approach”
13:00 – 14:30	Workshop 4: Strengthening and developing cooperation with Ukraine to empower sustainable rebuilding	Workshop 5: The EUSBSR as an important facilitator of the Mission Ocean	Workshop 6: Economy of Wellbeing of People. A multi-policy areas flagship for a prosperous and sustainable BSR
15:00 – 16:30	Workshop 7: Co-creating the vision and foundations of a BSR innovation valley	Workshop 8: Submerged munitions in the Baltic Sea – environmental, security and other challenges	Workshop 9: Youth and Culture driving resilient communities in the BSR
19:00	Dinner Reception (Check-in for Registered Forum Participants will be possible) Venue: National Library of Latvia		

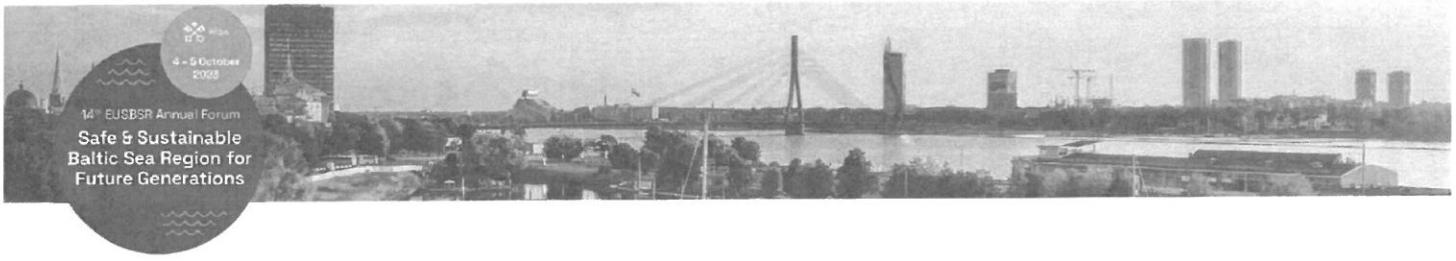


Programme

~~~~~ Thursday / 5 October

[click here for more information](#)

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| 9:00 – 10:00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Check-in for Registered Forum Participants</b><br>Venue: Riga Art Space                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                            |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10:00 – 11:00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Opening Session</b><br>Venue: Riga Art Space<br><br><b>Building a Prosperous, Sustainable and Connected Baltic Sea Region in the New Geopolitical Reality</b><br>Common challenges and opportunities in the BSR and beyond – ways to address them through macro-regional cooperation.<br>Discussion on cross-sectoral and multi-level governance approach aimed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to guarantee stable energy supplies in light of the uncertainties created by climate change and geopolitical situation;</li><li>• stimulate innovation and establish sustainable economic growth in the region over the long run;</li><li>• encourage young people in the policy making processes;</li><li>• engaging Ukraine, to provide support, encourage reform and European integration process, address the consequences of the war, and form synergies for future approaches and solutions in the wider region.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                            |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 11:00 – 11:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Coffee Break &amp; Networking</b><br>Venues: Riga Art Space & The Small Guild                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Networking Village</b><br>Venue: The Small Guild                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                            |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 11:30 – 13:00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Parallel Sessions I</b><br><br><table border="1"><tr><td><b>1. Oceans, Seas and Waters</b><br/>Venue: Riga Art Space</td><td><b>2. Harnessing the Power of Wind Energy in the Baltic Sea Region</b><br/>Venue: The Small Guild</td><td><b>3. Youth Empowerment 2.0 in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - Trends and Policy Solutions</b><br/>Venue: The Great Guild</td></tr><tr><td>Initiatives aiming for healthy Baltic Sea: protection of marine environment, maritime spatial planning, sustainable management of maritime activities, climate neutrality and adaptation; circularity and sustainability of our waters and Region in general. Exploring the challenges and opportunities related to the Baltic Sea and its surrounding waters.</td><td>The latest developments in wind energy technology and opportunities they provide for the Region, as well as short- and long-term political, economic, social and environmental challenges, and opportunities of wind power implementation in the Region. Pressing issues where energy and security policies intersect, including robust and interconnected infrastructure, production capacities and spatial considerations in the Region.</td><td>Opportunities and challenges faced by young people in the 21st century. Policy and ICT solutions that can empower and enable them to shape a better future for themselves and for society as a whole: digital transformation, entrepreneurship and employment, education and training, and active citizenship and participation.</td></tr></table> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  | <b>1. Oceans, Seas and Waters</b><br>Venue: Riga Art Space | <b>2. Harnessing the Power of Wind Energy in the Baltic Sea Region</b><br>Venue: The Small Guild | <b>3. Youth Empowerment 2.0 in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - Trends and Policy Solutions</b><br>Venue: The Great Guild | Initiatives aiming for healthy Baltic Sea: protection of marine environment, maritime spatial planning, sustainable management of maritime activities, climate neutrality and adaptation; circularity and sustainability of our waters and Region in general. Exploring the challenges and opportunities related to the Baltic Sea and its surrounding waters. | The latest developments in wind energy technology and opportunities they provide for the Region, as well as short- and long-term political, economic, social and environmental challenges, and opportunities of wind power implementation in the Region. Pressing issues where energy and security policies intersect, including robust and interconnected infrastructure, production capacities and spatial considerations in the Region. | Opportunities and challenges faced by young people in the 21st century. Policy and ICT solutions that can empower and enable them to shape a better future for themselves and for society as a whole: digital transformation, entrepreneurship and employment, education and training, and active citizenship and participation. |
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| 13:00 – 14:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Lunch Break</b><br>Venues: Riga Art Space & The Small Guild                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Networking Village</b><br>Venue: The Small Guild                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                            |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 13:10 – 13:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Official Signing Ceremony of “Baltic Sea Region Hydrogen Council”</b><br>Venue: The Small Guild                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                            |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 13:30 – 14:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Pitch Stage</b><br>Venue: The Small Guild                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                                            |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



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| 14:30 – 16:00 | <b>Parallel Sessions II</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|               | <b>4. Driving Innovation and the Green Transition: Exploring Hydrogen and Other Clean Technologies in the Baltic Sea Region</b><br><u>Venue: Riga Art Space</u> <p>The current state of the art in development of hydrogen technology and other novel clean technologies, its potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and accelerating the green transition. Political, economic, technological and environmental challenges and opportunities associated with hydrogen production, transportation, and storage, as well as regulatory frameworks that are shaping the transition to a low-carbon economy implementation of hydrogen and other clean technologies in the Region.</p> | <b>5. Climate Neutral and Smart Cities</b><br><u>Venue: The Great Guild</u> <p>Low emission zones (LEZs) and other EU related important aspects such as ports/maritime emissions. LEZs have had a positive impact on air quality in many European cities. They are one of many measures that are implemented in cities to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Several cities in the Region have already implemented LEZs, while others plan to do so in the coming years. Challenges and benefits of implementing LEZs, and what could be done to improve air quality in our cities.</p> | <b>6. Interreg Funding for the Macro-Region</b><br><u>Venue: The Small Guild</u> <p>How do Interreg Baltic Sea Region projects help implement the EUSBSR Action Plan? Past achievements, new solutions, and opportunities for future cooperation. Learn what the Interreg projects are good at, where the biggest need for transnational Interreg cooperation is in the Region in the future, and what we can already say about the third call for applications coming in the very near future.</p> |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | <b>Coffee Break &amp; Networking</b><br><u>Venues: Riga Art Space &amp; The Small Guild</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Networking Village</b><br><u>Venue: The Small Guild</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 16:30 – 17:30 | <b>Closing Remarks</b><br><u>Venue: Riga Art Space</u> <p><b>Looking Ahead: A Call to Action for Green Energy, Climate and Youth in the Baltic Sea Region</b><br/> The key takeaways from the discussions on green energy, climate change and youth engagement in the Baltic Sea Region.<br/> VASAB Vision 2040.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## Moderators

**Dr. Juha Jokela**, Programme Director of the EU research programme, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Juha is the Programme Director of the European Union research programme at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. His previous academic and policy studies projects and publications include the EU's sanctions policy, political implications of Brexit for the EU, political and security developments in the Arctic, Europeanisation of foreign policy, EU's Asia relations, and Finland's EU policy. His current research interests include differentiated integration in EU's foreign policy, and the role of G7 and G20 in multilateral cooperation. He holds a PhD from the University of Bristol (UK), which focused on Europeanisation and foreign policy in Finland and the UK, and a Bachelor of Social Sciences from the University of Birmingham (UK).

**Ms. Vineta Kleinberga**, Researcher, Faculty of European Studies, Riga Stradiņš University

Vineta is a researcher and doctoral student at Faculty of European Studies, Department of Political Science in Riga Stradiņš University. She has focus on prospects and limitations of EU integration and particularly is interested in the dynamics between policy formation, political communication and its reception by society, leading to action or inaction in certain policy areas. Vineta is also involved in the research on narrative formation, projection and perceptions with regard to Ukraine and EU-Ukrainian relations; climate change narrative in Latvia; and COVID-19-related strategic communication.



# LIIITE 2: TÖÖPAJAN OHJELMA



Regional Council of  
Southwest Finland



BALTIC SEA  
COMMISSION



## EUSBSR Annual Forum Workshop: Co-creating the vision and foundations of a BSR innovation valley

Date: Wednesday, 4.10.2023, at 15:00-16:30

Place: Small Guild (Mazā ģilde), Amatu iela 5, Riga, Latvia



Agenda:

### 15.00 Introduction and welcome

Moderator Ms Alison Hunter, Economic and Public Policy Consultancy

#### The BSR – taking its place at the forefront of the EU's innovation collaboration agenda

Keynote speaker Ms Sari Nurro, Chair of the CPMR BSC Maritime Working Group and Member of the Board of the Regional Council of Oulu Region, Finland

#### Sharing results from pre-workshop survey and panel reactions

Panelists:

Ms Marta Bahta, Coordinator, Region Västerbotten, Sweden

Mr Petteri Partanen, Business Manager, Regional Council of Southwest Finland

Mr Petri Koistinen, Policy Coordinator, Unit D1 – Macro-regions, Transnational, Interregional Cooperation, IPA, Enlargement, DG REGIO

#### Panel insights: barriers and enablers to co-creating a BSR innovation valley

#### Facilitated group discussions with key questions:

- How compatible is the concept of regional innovation valleys (RIVs) with the role and vision of the BSR macro-region? What are the biggest opportunities?
- What are the limitations, bottlenecks and barriers and how could these be overcome?
- What routes could be applied or accelerated for regions of BSR to further explore the idea of BSR RIVs?

#### Feedback from discussions and on-line survey with audience

#### Final remarks and conclusions

### 16.30 Closing

More information and registration (on 10.9.2023 the latest)!

Please note that registration for EUSBSR Annual Forum is also required.

Warmly welcome!

