



ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

LABOUR MARKETS IN THE BALTICS: CHALLENGES AHEAD

2 October 2019

Ziedonis Hall of the National Library of Latvia,
Mūkusalas iela 3, Riga

The working language of the conference is English
(simultaneous interpreting into Latvian will be provided).

Twitter: #LBconference

9.00–9.30

REGISTRATION, COFFEE

9.30–9.35

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

Ilmārs Rimšēvičs, Governor, Latvijas Banka

9.35–10.00

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Andrea Bassanini, Editor of the OECD Employment Outlook, OECD
The Future of Work: Challenges and Opportunities in Light of Technological and Demographic Developments

10.00–11.30

PANEL DISCUSSION I

PERSPECTIVES AND POLICIES TO RAISE RESILIENCE OF LABOUR MARKETS IN THE BALTIC COUNTRIES

- What are the main labour market challenges in the Baltic States? Why do labour shortages coexist with above-frictional unemployment rates? Does rapid wage growth deplete the cost competitiveness of the Baltic companies? How would demographic trends shape the future of labour market?
- How to address labour shortages? What are the best policy practices to improve matching in the labour market? What role should be played by immigration policy versus policies to boost labour productivity and technological advance?

Moderator: Mārtiņš Kazāks, Member of the Council, Latvijas Banka

OPENING PRESENTATION

Uldis Rutkaste, Head of Monetary Policy Department, Latvijas Banka

Discussion participants

Uldis Rutkaste, Head of Monetary Policy Department, Latvijas Banka

Ülo Kaasik, Deputy Governor, Eesti Pank

Borja Gracia, Senior Economist, Mission Chief for Lithuania, International Monetary Fund

Arvils Ašeradens, Chair of the Education, Culture and Science Committee, Saeima of the Republic of Latvia

Andris Vanags, Chairman of the Board, AS SAKRET HOLDINGS

11.30–12.00

COFFEE BREAK

12.00–13.30

PANEL DISCUSSION II

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AUTOMATION AND THE FUTURE OF WORK: A CHALLENGE OR AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE BALTIC STATES?

- Artificial intelligence, automation and spread of digital technologies has a potential to raise productivity, but may also result in job displacements and social pressures. How and through which channels does automation affect real economy and labour markets?
- What are the country experiences in the region with the adoption and use of the new digital technologies?
- How can Baltic companies benefit from automation and a wider use of digital technologies? How could policy makers support these endeavours and what should be done on an individual company level?

Moderator: Andris Strazds, Adviser to International Relations and Communication Department, Latvijas Banka

OPENING PRESENTATION

Anders Sørensen, Professor, Copenhagen Business School

Discussion participants

Anders Sørensen, Professor, Copenhagen Business School

Meri Obstbaum, Head of Forecasting Division of Monetary Policy and Research Department, Suomen Pankki – Finlands Bank

Maksims Jegorovs, Country Managing Director, Accenture

Ignas Mačeika, Head of Treasury, SBA Group

CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

13.30–14.30

LUNCH