



RĪGA

UBC

UNION
OF THE BALTIC
CITIES

INVITATION

"Youth Empowerment 2.0 in the 21st Century - Trends and Policy Solutions"

Union of the Baltic Cities and City of Riga are glad to invite you as speaker to policy workshop on "Youth Empowerment 2.0 in the 21st Century - Trends and Policy Solutions" within the EUSBSR Annual Forum 2023

Date and time: 5th of October 2023; 11h00-12h30 EET

Venue: Riga, Latvia

Context:

The Annual Forum of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) is a major event that brings together policymakers, stakeholders, and experts from across the Baltic Sea Region. The EUSBSR is a macro-regional strategy of the European Union that aims to promote cooperation and integration among the countries of the Baltic Sea Region. The Annual Forum provides a platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas on key issues facing the Baltic Sea Region, such as innovation, sustainable development, and social inclusion. The event includes a range of activities, including policy workshops, seminars, plenary sessions, and networking opportunities.

Rationale of the workshop:

The policy workshop on "Youth Empowerment 2.0 in the 21st Century - Trends and Policy Solutions" within the Annual Forum of EUSBSR 2023 aims to explore the opportunities and challenges faced by young people in the 21st century and to identify policy and ICT solutions that can empower and enable them to shape a better future for themselves and for society as a whole. The workshop will focus on 4 topics connected to empowerment of young people: digital transformation, entrepreneurship and employment, education and training, and active citizenship and participation.

Agenda:

*Welcome note from **Ms. Anna Norvele**, President of the Latvian Youth Council (5 min)
workshops, speakers and main "youth trends" (5 min)

Topic 1: "Digital Transformation" (15 min)

This theme will focus on the impact of digital technologies on youth empowerment. We aim to talk about how digital transformation has changed the way young people learn, work, and engage with society, and what policy solutions can be implemented to ensure that young people are able to fully participate in the digital world.

Speaker: Ms Triin Adamson

Topic 2: Education and Training (15 min)

This theme focuses on educational and training opportunities available for the youth in the region. The section answers how education and training can empower young people, and what can be done to ensure that they have access to high-quality education and training that prepares them for the future, in the context of European Year of Skills 2023, Non-Formal education and/or Youth Action plan.

Speaker: European Commission

Topic 3: "Entrepreneurship and Employment" (15 min)

This theme will focus on how to encourage entrepreneurship and employment among young people in the region. We will explore, with young entrepreneur, different initiatives and policies that can support young people in starting their own businesses, finding employment opportunities, and building their careers.

Speaker: Ms Māra Lieplapa

Topic 4: Encouraging Active Citizenship (15 min)

The last topic focuses on how cities in the BSR are engaging young people in decision-making processes and creating opportunities for them to participate in different participatory models. These models can take many forms, including youth councils, participatory budgeting, and community engagement projects. How these empower young people, increase their engagement in civic life, and promote a more democratic and inclusive society?

Speaker: Mr Dmitrijs Zverevs

*Moderator ask additional questions or interventions from the audience and the panel, concludes and invites guests to engage into youth dimension within the EUSBSR. (10 min)

Speakers:

- Ms Anna Norvele, President, Latvian Youth Council
- Ms Triin Adamson, Communication strategist, Optimist, Estonia.
- Mr Charalampos PAPAIOANNOU, Policy Officer, European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
- Ms Māra Lieplapa, CEO and co-founder, Company "Plūkt"
- Mr Dmitrijs Zverevs, Head of Youth Division, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Riga City Council

*Moderated by Marko Paunovic, Union of the Baltic Cities

Sincerely,

Marko Paunovic
Head of Union of the Baltic Cities Antenna in Brussels