



## CONFERENCE “*COOPERATION FOR CLUSTER EXCELLENCE, INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS*”

***Registration is opened!***

### *Theme:*

Development, role and impact of clusters and cross-industrial collaboration on competitiveness of companies and their innovation capacities in context of RIS3.

### *Date, time and venue:*

May 24, 2017. 10.30 – 17.00. Chamber Hall, area of former VEF Factory, Ieriķu iela 5A, Riga, Latvia.

### *Target audience:*

- Clusters' developers and managers
- National and regional public authorities
- Companies
- Business and industry associations

### *Key activities:*

During the event participants will have possibility to listen and exchange opinion about clusters development in various areas and different countries, to discuss issue of clusters' excellence (what it is and how to achieve it), to share experiences and acquire new contacts. Also participants will have a special opportunity to take part in Peer Review exercise to help to shape the future cluster policy in Latvia.

*Detailed agenda is provided below. Number of participants is limited. Please do not forget to register timely!*

***Registration can be done [here](#).***



**THE AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE**  
**“COOPERATION FOR CLUSTER EXCELLENCE, INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS”**

Date and venue: 24.05.2017, Chamber Hall, area of former VEF Factory, Ieriķu iela 5A, Riga, Latvia.  
 Format: Presentations of the partners, key-note speakers, moderated panel discussions.  
 Language: English  
 Target audience: Cluster developers and managers, national and regional public authorities, companies, business and industry associations.  
 Moderator: Ms. Inese Suija-Markova, managing director at “Institute for Environmental solutions”  
<https://lv.linkedin.com/in/inese-suija-markova-7819301>

Time	Content
10.30 - 11.00	Registration, coffee&snacks
11.00 - 11.10	Introduction and opening remarks
11.10 - 11.20	<b>Supporting cluster excellence - projects funded under the COSME Programme of the European Union</b> Mr. Andrea Golfieri, European Commission Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (EASME)
11.20 - 11.45	<b>The project “5FOREXCELLENCE” - cross sectorial cluster collaboration example, and presentations of clusters involved</b> Project partners from Sweden, Estonia, Latvia
11:45 - 12:15	<b>Key note presentation:</b> <i>Clusters strategic development and cross-industrial collaboration for innovation in Austria – experience of “Business Upper Austria”</i> Mr. Christoph Matthias Reiss-Schmidt, Business Upper Austria
12.15 - 12.35	<b>Why companies say “yes” to clusters - impact of clusters activities on performance of companies</b> Mr. Jānis Garančs, CEO of Aloja Starkelsen, Ltd
12.35 - 12.55	<b>Clusters, their initiatives and development trends in Baltic Sea region countries</b> Ms. Maija Kāle, Nordic Council of Ministers in Latvia
12:55 - 13.20	<b>Panel discussion - The role of the clusters in development of innovation and competitiveness</b> (key note speaker, clusters CEO' s, policy makers)
13.20- 14.20	Lunch and networking
14.20 - 14.40	<b>How to support clusters - Cluster development policy in Europe: INTERREG Europe project “Clusters3” presentation</b> Mr. David Fernández Terreros, Clusters Coordination and Research, SPRI - Basque Country Business Development Agency
14.40 - 16.00	<b>Workshop - Clusters and stakeholder engagement in RIS3 (Peer Review exercise)</b> Dr. Emily Wise, Lund University, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Consulting
16.00 - 16.30	<b>Panel discussion - The role of clusters in the context of RIS3</b> Dr. Gerd Meier zu Koecker, Managing director Cluster Agentur Baden-Württemberg
16.30 - 17.00	<b>Summary and next steps</b>
17.00	Coffee, snacks, networking
+	Additional session only for partner cluster managers and board members – together with key note speakers. Workshop and peer review on cluster development (after the conference finishes, before dinner)

**Registration can be done [here](#).**