



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL AFFAIRS



THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF LITHUANIA

BALTIC WORKSHOP ON SCAR AND BIOECONOMY STRATEGIES

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Venue: Hotel Mercure Riga Centrum and Latvia Academy of Sciences

SPEAKERS, MODERATORS AND ORGANISERS BOOKLET



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INVITED

Kaspars Gerhards

State Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia

Mr. Kaspars Gerhards was appointed as the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia since January 2019. Previously he was the Minister for Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia since November 2014. Mr. Gerhards held the positions of the Minister for Economics and the Minister for Transport and Communications. He has also served as the State Secretary at the Ministry of Economics for 8 years. Since 2008, Gerhards is a Member of one of the oldest political parties in Latvia – the National Alliance.

Gerhards was born in Jelgava in 1969. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Latvia. Gerhards has also studied at the Westphalia Wilhelms University and the Goethe Institute in Germany.



MINISTRY REPRESENTED BY

Janis Eglits

Head of Cabinet of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia

Mr. Eglits is the head of Cabinet of the Minister of Agriculture. He was parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Environment and Rural Development. He was head of the national association and deputy head of the County Council of Baldone.



Liutauras Guobys

*European Commission, Directorate-General Research & Innovation (DG RTD),
Bioeconomy Directorate*

Mr. Liutauras Guobys works as a Policy Officer at the Bioeconomy Strategy Unit of DG RTD. He is the Executive Secretary of the European Commission's Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) – responsible for the SCAR Secretariat (planning and organising the work of the Committee, advising and assisting the Chair of SCAR), the 5th SCAR Foresight Exercise process (including the Experts Group), as well as the EU H2020 CASA Project supporting SCAR. Furthermore, he is responsible for elaborating and coordinating issues related to financing, investing, and digitalisation in the sustainable and circular bioeconomy areas, and the associated actions of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy. Liutauras Guobys is an alumnus of the Catholic University of Leuven (European Master of Public Administration, 2003) and throughout the career has been involved in a broad range of activities of the European Union at the European Commission, European Parliament, Lithuanian Parliament, and European Economic and Social Committee.



Baiba Rivza

President of the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences of Latvia

Prof. Baiba Rivza is a Professor of Economics of Latvia University of Life Sciences and technologies; ex-minister of Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia. President of the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences of Latvia; Member of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of Latvia; Foreign member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Science, of the Academia dei Georgofili and of the Lithuania Academy of Sciences; Vice chair of the Latvia Council of Higher education, President of Latvia universities professors association.

Expert from the European Academy of Sciences Academic Advisory Board (EASAC) in the field of economics. Co-author of Research "Circular economy: a commentary from the perspectives of the natural and social sciences".



Christine Bunthof

Policy officer at Wageningen University & Research (WUR), The Netherlands.

WP leader in SCAR CASA, organiser SCAR national meetings

Dr. Christine Bunthof is a research policy and - strategy officer and leads the joint programming team at Wageningen University and Research. As the focal information point on public research partnerships, the joint programming officers give advice, maintain www.jointprogramming.nl and publishes a monthly newsletter. Dr Bunthof coordinated the Platform of bioeconomy ERA-NET Actions (FP7, H2020 PLATFORM), is since 2010 involved in FACCE-JPI, is a Work Package leader FACCE EVOLVE and FACCE ERA - GAS ERA-NET Cofund. She is also member of several national mirror groups and expert advisory boards of JPIs and ERA-NETs. In SCAR CASA Christine leads the work on inclusiveness and representation. Christine has an MSc degree in Molecular Sciences from Wageningen University, a PhD degree in Food Microbiology and was a post-doc fellow at the Dutch research institute Plant Research International. She worked previously as manager ERA-NET Plant Genomics (at the Dutch Research Council 2004-2010), as FP7 liaison officer and subsidy advisor (2010-2012), and has extensive experience in various review processes (of proposals, programmes, and ERA-NET Cofund processes). In 2013 Dr. Bunthof was selected as a European Bioeconomy Panel member.



Ojārs Spārītis

President of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

Prof. Ojārs Spārītis was elected Professor at the Latvian Academy of Art in 1998. At present he is among the most experienced members of the faculty at the Latvian Academy of Art. He is among the highly esteemed professionals who participate in a number of research projects both in Latvia and abroad, from 2013 and until 2017 he supervises the national research programme Letonika (Letonics).

In 1999, Ojārs Spārītis was elected corresponding member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences and in 2003 became its full member. In 2012, the Autumn General Meeting elected Prof. Ojārs Spārītis president of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, whereas on 7 April, 2016 he was re-elected to the second term and assumed the office on May 2016.



Elke Saggau

Head of the unit “European Research Affairs”, Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) in Bonn, Germany

Dr. Elke Saggau is Head of the unit for “European Research Affairs” in the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) in Bonn, Germany. She has a PhD in Agriculture – Animal Nutrition (University of Kiel, Germany). Since 2000 she is Project Coordinator in the department of Research & Development in the BLE and responsible for the national funding of research projects along the whole value chain. In addition, since 2009 she coordinates transnational programmes and projects in the field of food and agriculture. She is involved in several ERA-NETs (e.g. ICT-Agri, Core Organic, ForestValue, BlueBio, SUSFOOD, SusAn (Coordinator)) and in EU initiatives (JPI FACCE & JPI HDHL). Since 2010, she is an active member of the Steering Group of the Standing Committee on Agriculture Research (SCAR), Member of the SCAR AKIS Group & SCAR CWG SAP and Chair of the SCAR Foresight Group. Elke Saggau and her team are advising the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and the Federal Research Centres with regard to the EU Framework Programmes.



Jean-Marc Chourot

In charge of “European research affairs” in the General Direction for Education and Research at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Paris, France

Dr. Jean-Marc Chourot is Dpl. Ing. in Food Technologies and has a PhD in Food Processing (Univ. Nantes, France). After several years as researcher, he works in Research policy and management, firstly, as a seconded national expert at the EC (DG-RTD), then at national level for French Research Agency (ANR) and regional level in Region Champagne-Ardenne for the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research.

Since 2018, for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, he is involved in ERA-NETs (CORE Organic, C-IPM), in the Steering Group of the Standing Committee on Agriculture Research (SCAR), and he is Member of the SCAR AKIS Group and co-organises the national French SCAR mirror group.



Alexandros Theodoridis

*National Contact Point Bioeconomy, Project Management Jülich, Germany.
Co-chair of the SCAR Strategic Working Group Bioeconomy*

Dr. Alexandros Theodoridis is a Bio-NCP at the German National Contact Point Bioeconomy since February 2014. He is one of the BBI JU experts in the NCP Bioeconomy. He also represents the German NCP Bioeconomy in the European Bio-NCP network “BioHorizon” and is a member of its management team. Before joining the National Contact Point he worked for 1.5 years as a programme manager in the field of European framework programmes (FP7 and Horizon 2020) for a project management office. He holds a PhD in immunobiology from the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg (Erlangen, Germany).



Martin Greimel

Civil servant at the Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism, Austria

Mr. Martin Greimel is a civil servant at the Austrian Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism. He is responsible for international cooperation in the field of forestry research and is Austrian expert to the H2020 Programme Committee in Societal Challenge 2 and core member of the SCAR SWG Forest. In the ERA-NET+ Woodwisdom Net plus he was deputy work package leader and co-organised the scientific evaluation and co-moderated the external expert evaluation of the proposals. As the overall coordinator of the ERA-NET Sumforest he was responsible for coordinating 23 partners from 18 countries with the aim to harmonise forest research in Europe. Within the H2020 Project “Platform of bioeconomy ERA-NET Actions” he organised a Masterclass for Inclusiveness countries. He is deputy coordinator of the ERA-NET Cofund ForestValue. From 2004 till 2006 he was a National Expert at the European Commission in the DG Research; Dir Biotechnology, Agriculture and Food Research.



Alvija Šalaševičienė

Director of the Food Institute of Kaunas University of Technology (KTU FI)

Dr. Alvija Šalaševičienė is director of the Food Institute of the Kaunas University of Technology. She is a member of the SCAR Working Group FOOD SYSTEM as a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania. She is leader of the National Food System policy lab within the JPI project FIT4Food2030 framework. She is scientific expert – member at Research and Innovation Council of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania. Dr. Šalaševičienė is furthermore a global auditor of BRC and FSSC Food schemes and expert of the Centre for Quality assessment in Higher education as education programme designer and expert.



Rolf Stratmann

Scientific Officer at Project Management Jülich, Germany

Coordinator of SCAR CASA

Dr. Rolf Stratmann is Scientific Officer at Project Management Jülich. Profession: Biologist (cell and molecular biology); Diploma (2002) and PhD (2007) at the University of Heidelberg. Employment: Scientific Officer at the Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH in the department Project Management Jülich; National Contact Point for Theme 1 Health and 2 “Bioeconomy” in the 7th Framework Programme and in Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 1 and 2 as well as the Biotechnology part of Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (pillar 2). Participated in KBBE-NET (2005-2011) and SCAR (ongoing). Prepared and coordinates the Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action CASA.



Irina Pilvere

Rector, Professor and Leading Researcher in Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

Dr. Irina Pilvere is a Doctor of Economics (2001) and is currently working as Rector, Professor and Leading Researcher in Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies. She has 243 scientific publications, including 29 books and brochures or chapters in them, 4 scientific monographs, 150 papers in internationally reviewed editions, 60 paper in periodicals and others. She has experience in 19 international and 60 national research projects, with scientific focus on following subjects: Agricultural and Rural Development, Land Use Efficiency, Common Agricultural Policy and its Support Instruments, Agrarian Economy, Food Processing Development, Finances, Investments, Challenges and Trends in Public Administration etc. She is True Member of Latvian Academy of Science, True Member and Vice President of the Latvian Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Science, Member of Republic of Latvia Ministry of Agriculture Consultative Board, Manager of the Latvia Bioeconomy Strategic Research Alliances. She is a Member of European Union Rural Networks' Assembly and Nordic Association of Agricultural scientists (NJF), Member of Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR), Member of the Editorial Board of various international scientific journals and conferences. She is currently leading work of 2 PhD students, she has led to successful defending 10 Doctoral Theses and 14 Master's Theses.



Dalia Miniataitė

Chief Adviser of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania

Ms. Dalia Miniataitė is the chief adviser of the Ministry of Agriculture with main responsibilities related to bioeconomy development. Ms Miniataitė joined the Ministry of Agriculture in 1992. Between 1994 and 2009, she held various high-level positions at the Ministry, most notably that of vice minister, when heading the negotiation team for agriculture chapter during Lithuania's accession to the European Union process. At the same period, she was responsible for the coordination of drafting and management of Rural development programs. Application of LEADER method was of particular interest. In 2009-2018, Ms Miniataitė worked as the Chancellor of the Ministry, covering the areas of the administration, budget and management of finance, human resources and drafting and harmonisation of laws.



Helena Pärenson

Chief Specialist of Research and Development Department, Ministry of Rural Affairs, Estonia

Ms. Helena Pärenson's main area of responsibilities is related to the planning and programming of strategies and policies in the field of agricultural research and innovation. She is responsible for the coordination of agricultural research and innovation cooperation and acts as the NCP and Governing Board member of several ERA-NETs.



Janis Ancans

National Contact Point Coordinator and Expert for the European Commission Horizon 2020 programs in Health and Bioeconomy, Latvia

Dr. Janis Ancāns has been expert for the European Commission Horizon 2020 programs in Health and Bioeconomy. National Contact Point Coordinator in Latvia since 2018. After completing his PhD degree at Bradford University in 2002, Janis established Bioanalytical Laboratory at University of Latvia. Has been a member of the Committee for Advanced Therapies at European Medicines Agency (EMA) 2009 - 2014.



Maarja Malm

Chief Specialist of Research and Development Department, Ministry of Rural Affairs, Estonia

Ms. Maarja Malm current responsibilities include planning of strategies and policies in the field of agricultural research and coordination of agricultural research cooperation; she acts as the NCP and Governing Board member of several ERA-Nets. She has a solid background in project management and she is responsible for the overall coordination of the programme “Agricultural Applied Research and Development 2015–2021”.



Ainars Nābels-Šneiders

Expert, Senior Desk Officer, Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia

Dr. Ainars Nābels-Šneiders works at the Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia at the Foreign Affairs and Strategic Analysis Department. He is the BIOEAST National Contact Point, OECD Governing Body and National Correspondent. He worked as National Expert of the Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia in the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine. Latvian Diplomat Advisor on Agriculture Matters to three Latvian Prime Minister's, Deputy Director of the Forest Policy Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia. Lecturer, Agriculture Policy of Latvia in the Context of the EU - University of Latvia, European Studies Master programme and lecturer in the School of Public Administration.



Canan Göksu Sürücü

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey

Ms. Canan Göksu Sürücü is a food engineer and Phd Student in the field of food engineering at the Ankara University. She has been working for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey since 2005 and worked at the food inspection department until 2011. Since then, she is working in the international project office of DG Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM) and is mainly responsible for coordination of EU Framework Programme activities and preparing the Turkish National Bioeconomy Strategy. She is also working on the activities of some international organizations (G20, SCAR, BSEC, ECO, IFAD etc.) in terms of agricultural research. She is representing TAGEM in EJP Soil and ERA-NET FOSC Consortium and is representing Turkey at SCAR Steering Group.



Murray McLaughlin

McLaughlin Consultants and Bioindustrial Innovation Canada (BIC)

Dr. Murray McLaughlin is President of McLaughlin Consultants and an Advisor to Bioindustrial Innovation Canada (BIC) and to Forest Products Innovation(FPI). From 2010 to 2016 he was the Executive Director of BIC and the Sustainable Chemistry Alliance in Sarnia, Ontario, with a focus on a Sustainable Bioeconomy. Also he managed a national Bioproducts cluster supported by AAFC. Dr. McLaughlin has held various positions in the private, government and non-profit sectors such as Director of Business Development for the Canadian Light Source, President of Ontario Agri-Food Technologies, Deputy Minister of Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, and President of Ag-West Biotech Inc. He managed a Venture Capital Fund, Foragen had 15 years with ELANCO in R& D and marketing. His career has focused on bioindustrial and agricultural technologies including research, development and product management, marketing, commercialization, economic development and cluster building. He is a member of numerous Boards of Directors and Advisory Committees, including, BioNB and BC Research Institute(BCRI). He co-chairs the Industrial Bioproducts Value Chain Roundtable which is a partnership between Industry and AAFC for the bioeconomy. He is a graduate of NS Agricultural College, McGill (BSc) and Cornell (MSC/PhD). He has an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Dalhousie University and received several awards ; LSO Community Service Award; the GoldLeaf award from BioteCanada and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal. He was recipient of the LSO Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016 and recognized in the top 100 global leaders in the Advanced Bioeconomy at Biofuels Digest Conference in 2016.