

# News

## IES shares experience on development of innovation ecosystem in regions

27.10.2020

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On the 27th of October, Inese Suija – Markova, managing director of the Institute for Environmental Solutions will participate online conference **INNO INFRA SARE** to share IES's knowledge and experience on development of research and innovation infrastructure in Vidzeme region.

The conference will focus on the importance of interregional cooperation for development for stronger research and innovation ecosystem in Europe. It will showcase the potential of digital innovation hubs as facilitators of industry transformation and analyse barriers and opportunities for interregional innovation networks.

I. Suija-Markova together with Kristaps Ročāns, representative of Vidzeme Planning Region, will share experience on development of innovation ecosystem in Vidzeme region. I. Suija-Markova is experienced professional in management of knowledge-intensive business services and innovation management. Following her lead, the institute is developing solutions for natural resource management and sustainable use of land by applying multidisciplinary and technological progress.

October 27, 2020 | 10.00-12.00 CET  
Online platform Zoom

### INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION FOR INNOVATION

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10:00 Welcome and introduction by the moderator Alison Hunter

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10:10 1st keynote  
**Barriers and opportunities for inter-regional innovation networks**  
**Kevin Morgan**, Professor of Governance and Development at Cardiff University

Kevin Morgan is Professor of Governance and Development at Cardiff University, where he is also the Dean of Engagement. He has worked with the EC for more than 20 years on regional innovation policy issues and he was part of DG Regio's Smart Specialisation Expert Panel.

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10:30 INNO INFRA SHARE project partner presentations

**University-industry cooperation in a startup-minded region**  
**Alo Lilles**, Tartu City Government

Alo is the Head of Department of Business Development for Tartu City Government. He has 15 years of experience in the fields of Creative Industry, ICT, Media, and Business Consulting. He is working at the Tartu City Government helping the companies to grow and generates new ideas how to bring the entrepreneurship to a new level in Tartu. Alo is currently finishing his doctoral thesis on linkages between regional capabilities and university-industry cooperation.

**Impact of the current situation on interregional cooperation**  
**Vojtech Helikar**, Central European Institute of Technology

Vojtech has joined Central European Institute of Technology in Brno in 2018. Between 2013 – 2018, he was director of the Trade and Investment Foreign Offices in Sydney and Stockholm under the Czech National Trade Promotion Agency. Vojtech graduated from the University of Economics in Prague, and started his career at Czech Business and Investment Development Agency.

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**Facing the future of innovation support in Europe - what we have learned with INNO INFRA SHARE about future challenges of innovation in Europe**  
**Katharina Schöps**, Chemnitz University of Technology

Katharina is more than 20 years active as consultant and researcher in the fields of regional development, innovation management, SME support, internationalisation. She has gained extensive experiences particularly in the fields of building innovation management capacities in SMEs, the support of internationalisation and innovation projects of research organisation as well as of SMEs and clusters and in several regional development projects. Presently, she is working as EU project coordinator of MEDISE, a Federal Cluster of Excellence and as senior innovation management consultant of Enterprise Europe Network.

**Development of regional innovation ecosystem in Vidzeme region**  
**Kristaps Ročāns**, Vidzeme Planning Region  
**Inese Suija-Markova**, Institute for Environmental Solutions

Kristaps is a Project Manager and Expert in Vidzeme Planning Region and also acts as a managing director of Latvian Food Bioeconomy Cluster. His professional expertise areas are in the fields of regional innovation ecosystem and cluster development, bioeconomy, international project management and regional development.

Inese is a Managing Director of Institute for Environmental Solutions Institute is developing solutions for natural resource management and sustainable use of land by applying multidisciplinary and technological progress. Inese is experienced professional in management of knowledge-intensive business services and innovation management.

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11:15 2nd keynote  
**European Digital Innovation Hubs – a European network for interregional cooperation**  
**Sandro D'Elia**, Programme Officer at European Commission (EC)

Sandro D'Elia is involved in the definition and implementation of European policy in the area of digitalisation of industry, with a specific focus on digital technologies for sustainability. He evaluates, negotiates, controls and supports research and innovation projects financed by the EC. He contributes to the drafting of the research and innovation work programme and to external communication of policy and research activities, and represents the EC in the governing board of ESSEI.

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11:35 The state of play of interregional cooperation - Interreg Europe Joint Secretariat

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11:50 Conclusions by the moderator Alison Hunter

Find out more about the event and interregional cooperation for innovation [here](#).

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