

16th Baltic Development Forum Summit & 5th Annual Forum of EUSBSR: *Growing Together for a Prosperous, Inclusive and Connected Baltic Sea Region*

4 June: 15:30- 17:00 Parallel Work Streams

GENDER, INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Gender equality is one of key components of sustainable development. This is, however, a new area for all actors involved: policy makers, researchers, civil society and private sector. The Round Table will discuss how to make a link between gender equality, innovation and sustainable growth in terms of a conceptual framework, policy oriented research and good practices. During the workshop the proposal for a flagship project under the EUSBSR, namely the BSR Partnership Platform for Gender Equality, in Innovation and Sustainable Growth and Development based on a Quadruple Helix concept will be also presented. The discussion will include pre- conditions for mobilizing women's economic and innovative potential such as effective measures to reconcile work and family life for employees as well as entrepreneurs.

Keynote Address: Prof. Danuta Huebner, Chair of Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament (video)

Speakers: (alphabetical order):

Ewa Dębska, Deputy –Director, European Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland

Maria Grönroos, Deputy Manager, NIKK Nordic Information on Gender, University of Gothenburg

Inger Danilda, Chairwomen Quadruple Learning, Innovation and Gender Expert

Erik Kiesow, Senior Adviser, EU Coordination Secretariat Prime Minister's Office, Sweden

Marija Ausrine Pavilioniene, MP, Seimas/Parliament, Lithuania

Britt- Marie S. Torstensson, President Winnet, Sweden–Europe

Colin Wolfe, Head of Unit, DG Regional Policy, European Commission

Moderator:

Dr. Ewa Ruminska- Zimny, International Forum of Women in Science and Business at the Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Key issues:

- Europe 2020 and BRS: why equal opportunities matter for growth, development and intelligent specializations ?
- The soft power of the Baltic Sea Region: How to combine technical and social innovations?
- A female factor in innovation and creativity in BRS: issues, policies and good practices

- Welfare regimes and gender contracts at national/regional levels: an opportunity or an obstacle for gender equal labour market in BSR countries? Role of care infrastructure in increasing women's participation on the labour market also for entrepreneurs and self-employed women
- BRS Partnership platform: a Quadruple helix approach to involve academia, policy makers, private sector and civil society; role of Women's Resource Centers