

## **INNOVATION – POWER OF THE 21ST CENTURY**

### **RIGA DECLARATION**

The Conference “Innovation – Power of the 21st Century”, taking place on 24 – 26th of February, 2020 in Riga, patronized by president of the Republic of Latvia Vaira Vīķe Freiberga (1999-2007), focused on the discussing the major challenges and opportunities for the Baltic Sea region countries in the fields of research, technological development and innovation. During the Conference more than 15 presenters and speakers shared information about different relevant initiatives and developments in the field of innovation in their countries. Through discussions with the participants of the Conference Riga Declaration has been elaborated and accepted:

1. The participants of the Conference are going to work to promote scientific cooperation in all fields of natural sciences, social sciences and humanities and will start the development of an innovation platform of Baltic Sea region countries;

2. The participants will promote cooperation in the fields of 3S strategies, in the following areas:

- sustainability and circular economy;
- health of society by means of life sciences, biotechnology and regenerative medicine;
- growing economical potential by means of cooperation among Baltic Sea Region countries in various fields including logistics and trade.

3. The common goal of the Baltic Sea Region countries is the development of a knowledge-based society and economy. To achieve this goal, it is essential for all participants to maintain academic autonomy and integrity, to promote the principles of open science, to develop all forms of institutional and cross-disciplinary cooperation, and to find and develop various support instruments for successful cooperation.

4. The participants of the conference will use networking and information exchange to increase transnational scientific cooperation in the context of the rapidly changing science and technology ecosystem of the 21st century.

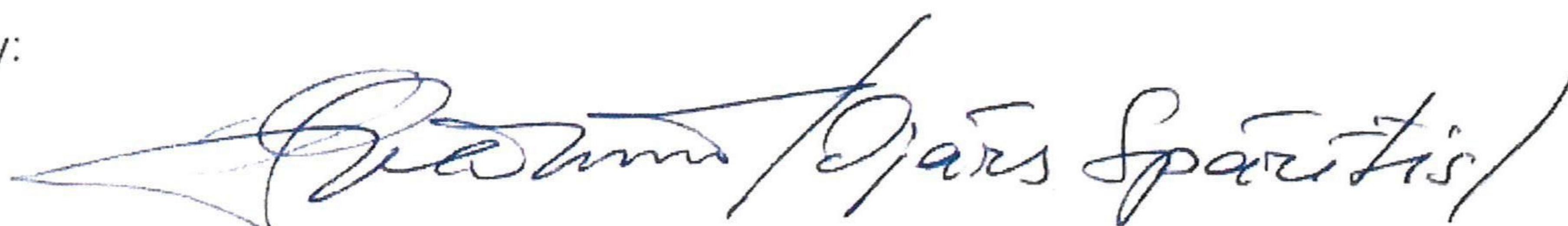
5. The participants of the conference highlight the importance of the academia as institutions of scientific excellence, expertise and opinion.

6. The participants of the conference recognize that successful science policy development can be achieved through cooperation between universities and academies of science. It should be based on innovation-friendly economic environment.

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> of February, 2020



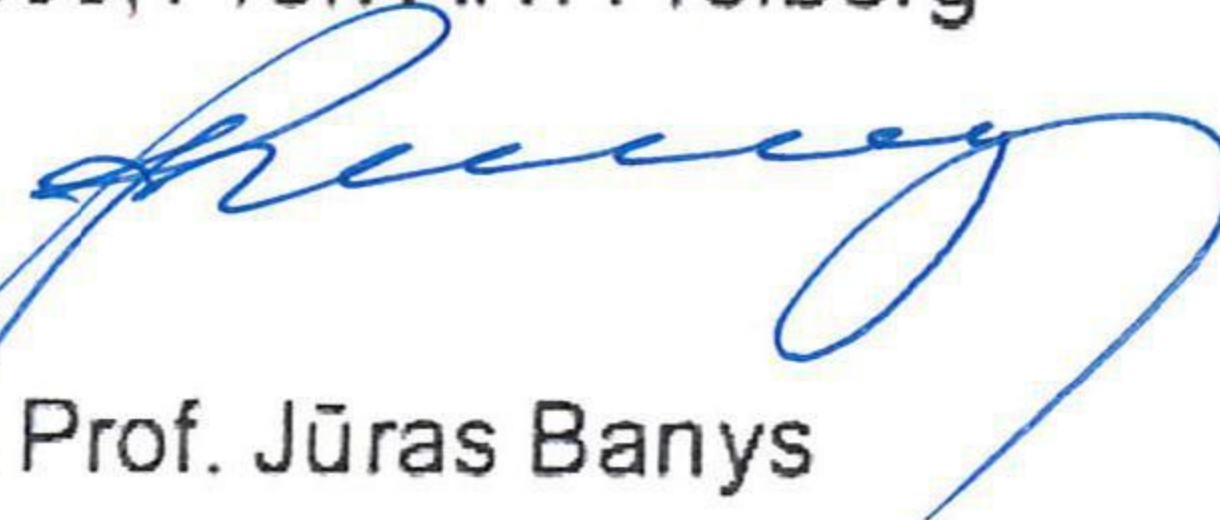
Signed by:



President of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Prof. Ojārs Spārītis



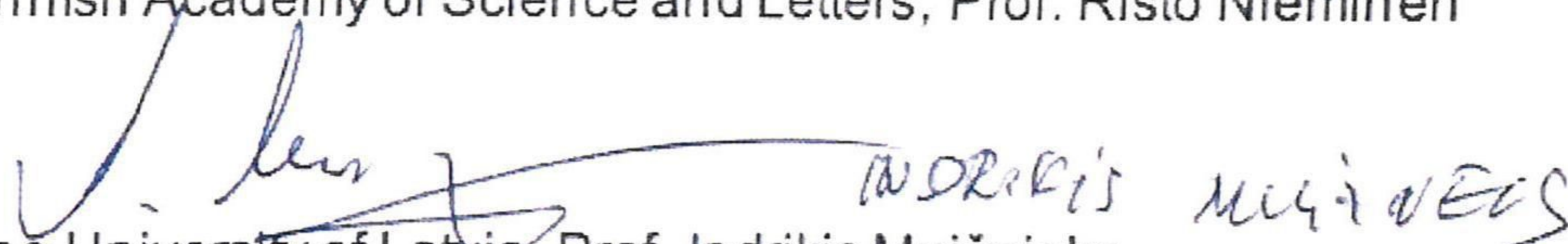
Vice president of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, Prof. Arvi Freiberg



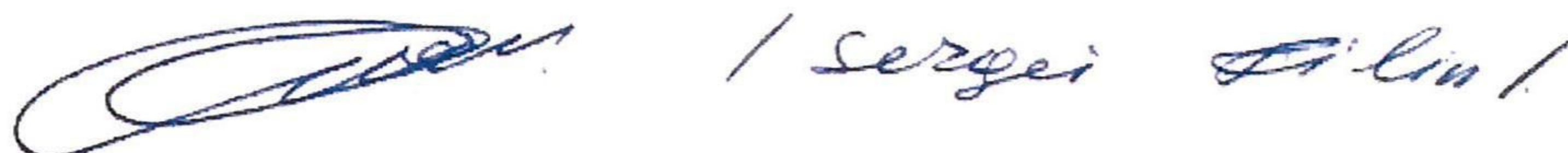
President of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, Prof. Jūras Banys



President of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, Prof. Risto Nieminen



Elected Rector of the University of Latvia, Prof. Indriķis Muižnieks



Vice president of the Belarus Academy of Sciences, Prof. Sergei Kilin



Aalto University, Leader of the Smart Up project consortium, Prof. Taina Tukiainen



Academia Europea, Bergen Knowledge Hub manager Kristin Bakken, on behalf of  
professor and academic director Eystein Jansen



European Commission, Expert, Prof. Eugene Eteris