



**19TH  
BDF SUMMIT /  
BERLIN  
13 JUNE**

New Perspectives  
on Growth

**PROGRAMME**

# WELCOME

Over the past few months we have seen how the Brexit and the election of a new US president has added extra uncertainty to a world of change. The Baltic Sea Region will also be affected by these global developments. A solid economy, strong competitiveness and world-leading capabilities in innovation and entrepreneurship gives the Baltic Sea region a good basis for turning challenges into new opportunities. It is our hope that the BDF summit will showcase the region's strongholds in digitalization and sustainability and provide new perspectives on how to advance growth through regional cooperation and public-private partnerships.

We are pleased to organize the 19th BDF Summit back-to-back with the 8th Annual Forum for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. This year, the BDF Summit is held in Germany for the second time since the BDF Summit in Hamburg in 2004, and provides a good occasion to connect to our many collaboration partners in Germany and across the Baltic Sea Region.

**Welcome to the  
19th BDF Summit!**



**Lene Espersen**  
Chairman,  
Baltic Development Forum

## PROGRAMME

13 JUNE

08.30 **WELCOME AND REGISTRATION**

09.15 **WELCOME**

**Lene Espersen**, Chairman, Baltic Development Forum

09.25 **NEW BUSINESS MODELS FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

Sustainability rests on three pillars: Social, economic, and environmental sustainability. This is true for overall societal development, but also for business operations. More and more companies are realizing that environmental wins can have positive financial impact, and serve as a tool for reducing both economic and social risk. At the same time, the sharing economy and circular business models are allowing others to explore new ways of operating profitable businesses that meet current demand while also serving as good neighbors and community members, locally and globally. In this session we will explore new and smart business models for sustainability, from the perspective of companies operating in the Baltic Sea Region.

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Florian Lüdeke-Freund**, Senior Research Associate, University of Hamburg

**Anders Lendager**, Founder, Lendager Group

**Mari-Ann Meigo**, Co-founder & CEO, Gelatex

**Moderator:**

**Lovisa Selander**, Head of Sustainability and Communications,  
Baltic Development Forum

10.15

**CONNECTING DIGITAL START-UP ECOSYSTEMS  
IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION**

The Baltic Sea Region is a digital frontrunner, and home to countries that are among the most advanced globally within digital competences, use of internet, e-government services etc. Many cities in the region display thriving digital start-up environments, fueled by talents/entrepreneurs, high innovation scores and creative ecosystems. But while vibrant startup scenes are growing in several cities, their focus of collaboration tend to be the global hotspots beyond the region. By increasing connections within the region, connecting start-up communities in neighboring countries and finding ways to complement each other, much potential could be released.

How can the cities in the Baltic Sea Region interact across borders to boost transnational digital collaboration and an integrated digital labor market? Can we integrate a digital market by connecting innovative start-up ecosystems? How should it be done in practice?

**Introduction:**

**Joakim Wernberg**, PhD Candidate, Lund University

**Panelists:**

**Olle Zetterberg**, CEO, Stockholm Business Region

**Janko Milunovic**, COO, Startupbootcamp, Berlin

**Stephan Jacquemot**, Head of Microsoft Startup Strategy Germany

**Laila Gercane**, Head of Department, Vidzeme Planning Region, Latvia

**Moderator:**

**Torben Aaberg**, Head of Public and Digital Affairs, Baltic Development Forum

11.15

**COFFEE BREAK**

11.35

**KEY NOTE, European Investment Bank**

11.50

**STATE OF THE BALTIC SEA REGION - Presentation of the  
Political State of the Region Report 2017**

The last couple of years the issue of Russia-Western relations has been on the top of the political agenda. Now the Brexit-decision and the election of Donald Trump as president of Unites States raise the question of a broader West-West-divide. What will it mean to our region that UK is leaving the EU? Will it strengthen or weaken the cooperation between the North European countries, and what will it mean for growth and economy in the region. Will the change of administration in Washington lead to a new US-Russia understanding on international issues like Syria and Ukraine? And if so, what would that mean to the Baltic States, the Nordics, Germany and Poland?

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Jana Puglierin**, Head of the Alfred von Oppenheim Center for European Policy Studies at DGAP

**Dr. Agnieszka Lada**, MPA, Head of the European Programme in the Institute of Public Affairs

**Panelists:**

**Dr. Lykke Friis**, Prorector for Education, University of Copenhagen

**Andris Piebalgs**, Leader of Unity Party Latvia, frm European Commissioner

**Dr. Christian Ketels**, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm School of Economics, and Faculty Member, Harvard Business School

**Moderator:**

**Per Carlsen**, Senior Advisor, Baltic Development Forum

12.50

**CLOSING SPEECH**

**Flemming Stender**, Director, Baltic Development Forum

# BALTIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Baltic Development Forum (BDF) is a think-tank and network for high-level decision makers from business, politics, academia and media in the Baltic Sea Region. BDF is the platform that brings actors together across sectors, borders, regions, and levels of decision-making to facilitate collaboration, develop regional policy, and advance growth and competitiveness in the Baltic Sea Region. The annual Baltic Development Forum Summits have provided a high-level meeting place for regional cross-sectoral dialogue since 1999.

[www.bdforum.org](http://www.bdforum.org)

## HASHTAG

***#bdfsummit***

## BDF SESSIONS AT THE 8TH ANNUAL FORUM OF THE EUSBSR

### 13 JUNE

17.00 – 18.30

Climate Challenges for Energy Supply

### 14 JUNE

10.45 – 12.15

Inclusive Digitalization (*Part 1*) – Tech StartUps and Digital Transformation in Rural Areas

13.45 – 15.15

Inclusive Digitalization (*Part 2*) – Connecting Digital Bioeconomy and Rural Development

13.45 – 15.15

Looking Towards 2030: Preparing the Baltic Sea Region for the Future

sustainable growth  
innovation  
competitiveness



Baltic  
Development Forum



Konrad  
Adenauer  
Stiftung