



Within the framework of the European Union Recovery Fund project “Digital Innovation and Development of Digital Skills for Entrepreneurs” (Project No. 2.3.1.2.i.0/3/24/I/CFLA/002).

## Conference “Smart Borders: Digital Innovation and Security”

On May 20, 2026, at the Augšdaugava Municipality Culture Center “Vārpa”, Dobeles iela 30, Daugavpils, Latvia.

### Agenda:

9:30 - 10:00 – Registration of participants, coffee.

10:00 - 10:10 – **Opening and welcome speeches:**

Arvīds Barševskis, Rector of Daugavpils University

Līvija Jankovska, Daugavpils City Municipality, Daugavpils Medical College

### Experts:

10:10 - 10:30 – Support opportunities for digitalization and entrepreneurship, Andris Ondzuls

10:30 - 10:50 – Digitalization and digital transformation as a growth tool for entrepreneurs, Andris Vagalis

10:50 - 11:20 – The importance of adult education in the digital age, Oksana Soročina

11:20 - 12:00 – Cybersecurity challenges today, Gints Mālkalnetis

12:00 - 12:30 – AI and vibe coding mobile apps and community @Newly, Jahid Sakhi

12:30 - 14:00 – Lunch break

14:00 - 14:45 – **Panel discussion:**

*Cybersecurity as a priority in the public and private sectors*

Moderator Gints Mālkalnetis, CERT.LV

A discussion led by a CERT.LV expert on current cybersecurity risks, data protection, and practical security solutions for businesses.

*Informal Education in the Digital Age*

Moderator Oksana Soročina, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia, Project Manager at the Department of Vocational and Adult Education

A discussion on the importance of lifelong learning, the development of digital skills, and the role of informal education in strengthening competitiveness.

*Digital Transformation Challenges and Opportunities in Entrepreneurship*

Moderator Andris Ondzuls, Latgale Planning Region

A discussion on the implementation of technologies, business adaptation to the digital environment, and the development of new business models.

15:00 - 16:30 – **Closing session and informal discussions**

*Organizer: Daugavpils University*

*Contacts: Biruta Mūrniece, phone: +371 26472110*

*Working languages: Latvian and English.*

*More information:*

*Registration: <https://forms.gle/25s9z8aOpxwSwkmC9>*

*Photography and video recording will take place during the conference for project purposes.*

*The venue is accessible for persons with special needs.*

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## Experts

### **Cybersecurity as a priority in the public and private sectors**

Gints Mākalnietis, CERT.LV



Gints Mākalnietis is an experienced cybersecurity expert who has been working for more than 10 years at the national cyber incident prevention institution CERT.LV, focusing on handling various types of cyber incidents. His experience includes work in both the public and private sectors. Before joining CERT.LV, Mākalnietis worked at the LMT Security Department and Aizkraukle Bank, where he developed key skills in IT security. He is also an expert appointed by the State Police in criminal cases involving cyber components. Gints Mākalnietis is regularly involved in public discussions on cybersecurity, providing explanations about fraud activities and recommendations for improving citizens' cybersecurity awareness.

### **The Importance of Non-Formal Education in the Digital Age**

Oksana Soročina, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia, Project Manager at the Department of Vocational and Adult Education



Oksana Soročina is a Project Manager at the Department of Vocational and Adult Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia. Her professional activity is related to lifelong learning, including vocational continuing education, non-formal adult education, and informal learning, as well as the implementation of educational digitalization initiatives. She coordinates and implements projects aimed at developing high-quality, modern, and accessible education opportunities, promoting the development of digital skills, competitiveness, and societal resilience in the digital age.

### **Challenges and Opportunities of Digital Transformation in Entrepreneurship**

Andris Ondzuls, Latgale Planning Region



Andris Ondzuls is a business and digitalization expert working at the Latgale Planning Region, where he manages the implementation of EU-funded projects and provides support to businesses in Latgale in the field of digital transformation. His daily work includes assessing the digital maturity of SMEs, developing digital development roadmaps in cooperation with EDIC and LIAA, as well as preparing companies for EU funding programmes, including “Support for the Digitalisation of Business Processes.” Andris Ondzuls is actively involved in international Interreg projects—he is one of the implementers of the Interreg Central Baltic project Rural-UP in Latgale, which supports the growth and export capacity of rural food and beverage producers. His experience spans both the public and private sectors, and he regularly participates in public discussions on digitalization opportunities in Latgale and Latvia as a whole.

## **Digitalization and Digital Transformation as a Growth Tool for Entrepreneurs**

Andris Vagalis



Andris Vagalis is a lecturer at Daugavpils University and a representative of the academic community with experience in education and research. In his professional work, he focuses on current academic and societal development issues, actively participating in conferences, discussions, and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

## **Founding Growth and Community, @Newly**

Jahid Sakhi (Sweden)



Jahid Sakhi is a community development and growth specialist working at Newly, where he promotes international collaboration, innovation, and the development of digital communities. His professional experience is related to community building, communication, and the development of new initiatives in the fields of technology and education.