

# Innovation **IMPACT** forum 2026

2026

12 May 2026

## PROGRAMME

VENUE: University of Latvia, Riga, Jelgavas 3, ALFA

8.30 - 9.00

Registration and morning coffee

### ▶ OFFICIAL OPENING

9.00 - 9.05

Welcome address by the Moderator

9.05 - 9.10

Welcome address by a Latvian Policymaker (TBC)

9.10 - 9.15

Welcome address by a Latvian Policymaker (TBC)

9.15 - 9.20

Welcome address by the **Rector of the University of Latvia, Professor Gundars Bērziņš**

9.20 - 9.25

Welcome address by the **Director of the Development and International Cooperation Department of the Patent Office of the Republic of Latvia, Ms Ilze Grava**

### ▶ I BLOCK:

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

9.25 - 9.50

Keynote Address — *Overview of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and its use as a tool for Business and Technology Transfer, with a Focus on Empowering Startups in the Baltic Region*

**Speaker: Mr Ali Jazairy, World Intellectual Property Organization, Switzerland (WIPO)**

9.50 - 10.15

Keynote Address — *Intellectual Property as a Venture Capital Catalyst: From Technology Transfer to Investment Deals*

**Speaker: Mr Andrea Basso, MITO Tech Ventures, Italy**

10.15 - 10.40

Keynote Address — *From Idea to Capital: IP Strategy and Financial Architecture in the Age of Innovation Deals*

**Speaker: Mr Cyrus Gunalan Veloo, Caetan, Singapore**

10.40 - 11.05

Coffee break, networking

### ▶ II BLOCK:

## TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

11.05 - 11.30

Keynote Address — *From Startups to Corporations: Marketing That Hits Quarterly Targets*

**Speaker: Mr Michael Norton, Wolven Industries, United States of America**

11.30 - 12.20

Panel Discussion — *Intellectual Property Strategies for Cross-Sector and Cross-Border Innovation*

**Participants: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Switzerland;**

**Kaunas University of Technology (KTU), Lithuania; Caetan, Singapore**

**MITO Tech Ventures, Italy**

12.20 - 13.20

Lunch break, networking

### ▶ III BLOCK:

## INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS STORIES

13.20 - 13.45

Keynote Address — *Innovation Without Borders: Startup Growth, Intellectual Property Strategy, and Capital Flows Between the United Kingdom and Malaysia*

**Speaker: Mr Raj Mendhir, Wippp, United Kingdom**

13.45 - 14.45

Panel Discussion — *Intellectual Property Strategies for Cross-Sector and Cross-Border Innovation*

**Participants: Wolven Industries, United States of America; Wippp, United Kingdom;**

**TALTEC, Estonia; University of Latvia, Latvia**

14.45 - 15.15

Coffee break, networking

### ▶ IV BLOCK:

## BIOPHOT PITCH SESSIONS

15.15 - 17.40

Up to 40 BioPhoT Pitch sessions organized into two thematic tracks:

1. *Biomedicine, Medical Technologies & Pharmaceuticals*

2. *Photonics, Smart Materials & Advanced Engineering Systems*

**Participants: BioPhoT teams**

17.40 - 20.30

Award Ceremony for the Best Pitches and Networking Reception

Participants: Investors, Industry Representatives, and Research Community

Please note that the programme is subject to change. Speakers will be confirmed and added closer to the event date.

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