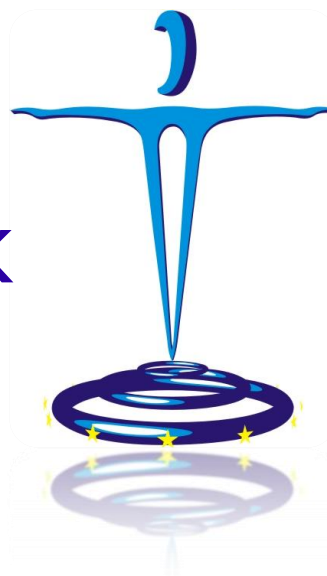


# Innovation Circle Network



*5th Annual ICN Conference*

## *Regions of Tomorrow*



Developing Attractive and Sustainable Regions through  
Change, Entrepreneurship and Cutting Edge Infrastructure

**Šiauliai, Lithuania**  
**29 - 30 Nov 2012**





To whom it may concern,

The Innovation Circle Network kindly invites all who are interested in the future of the regions of Northern Europe to the 5th Annual Conference:

## Regions of Tomorrow

Developing Attractive and Sustainable Regions through Change  
Entrepreneurship and Cutting Edge Infrastructure

**In Šiauliai, Lithuania  
29 - 30 November 2012**

The conference will focus on European transport strategies and priorities and highlight how new technology, frameworks and investments will transform Europe during the next decades. Cities will be significantly better connected across national borders and regions will become bigger. People will become more mobile and commuting will increase and cover larger distances. Cargo and passengers are expected to shift from cars and planes to fast railways. Carbon fuelled cars may be prohibited to drive in the cities.

What challenges and opportunities will be opened for areas in between the bigger cities and along the corridors? What kind of investments and political strategies are needed and useful in order to achieve regional benefits?

IC Network consists of smaller and medium sized cities, regions with rural districts and urban centers. How can these regions attract investments to their towns and cities? The conference will also focus on the EU programs 2014-2020 and explore priorities and options for new initiatives. Finally but not least will the conference offer the chance for partners to present and discuss best practices from previous projects and new project ideas.

It is with our pleasure to have our conference run concurrent to the **Šiauliai 2012 International Trade and Achievement Exhibition**. We will be attending and visiting the exhibition. The annual trade exhibition focuses this year on **Sustainable Development**: Energy, Ecology and Economy.



ŠIAULIAI  
UNIVERSITY

# Day 1 | 29th November

Conference Hall, 3rd floor, Siauliai Arena,  
J. Jablonskis Str. 16, Siauliai



- 09.30** Morning coffee and registration
- 10.00** Opening of the Plenary Session
- Siauliai Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts
  - Siauliai City Municipality
  - Siauliai University Faculty of Social Science
  - Innovation Circle Network
- 10.15** **EU's White Book on Transport - Impact on Regional Development**  
Prof. Cliff Hague, Heriot Watt University, UK
- 10.35** **Transport Challenges for Lithuania and the Baltic Region**  
Speaker from Ministry of Transport and Communications, LT
- 10.55** **Attracting Foreign Investment to Country's Regions. Poland's experiences.**  
Counsellor Minister Henryk Szymański, Head of Trade and Investment, Promotion Department at Embassy of Poland in Lithuania.
- 11.10** Representative from Invest in Lithuania
- 11.30** **Where are the EU's regional economical development differences? The territorial approach.**  
Dr. Mindaugas Butkus, Siauliai University, Department Economics
- 11.45** Discussion
- 12.00** Opening of the trade exhibition Sialuiai 2012
- 13.00** Lunch Break
- 14.00** **Transport challenges and visions for Northern Europe**
- 14.00** **High Speed Railroads making regions larger and Europe smaller**  
(Speaker to be confirmed)
- 14.20** **The Nordic Triangle and the Oslo-Stockholm-St. Petersburg Axis**  
Mr. Thor Hals, Mayor of Askim Municipality, NO
- 14.40** **Models of Financing Transport Infrastructure, Public Private Partnership**  
Speaker from Swedbank, LT
- 15.00** Discussion
- 15.15** Coffee Break
- 15.30** **Community Empowerment**  
Ms. Petra Bieberbach, Leader of Planning Aid for Scotland, UK



ŠIAULIAI  
UNIVERSITY



**16.00** **Report from Tranemo Environment Youth Camp**  
Mr. Staffan Arvegaard, Tranemo Municipality, SE

**16.15** **Innovation Circle Network Annual Meeting 2012**  
Separate agenda

**19.00** Welcome Event with Dinner  
by the Šiauliai 2012 International Exhibition

## Day 2 | 30th November

**09.00** Morning Coffee

**09.30** **Using evidence to connect with the themes of the Cohesion Structural Funds 2014 - 20 and develop project ideas**  
Prof. Mr. Cliff Hague, Heriot Watt University, UK

**10.00** **Review on EU programs 2014 - 2020**  
How can partners benefit in order to effect changes in Northern Europe?  
Ms. Siv Jacobsen, Council member of Østfold County Council, NO

**10.30** Plenary discussion

**11.00** Coffee Break

**11.30** Presentation of success projects, best practices and new ideas

- Young Innovative Entrepreneurs, Ms. Laila Dalhaug, Deputy Director of the Barents Secretariat, NO
- Competitive Entrepreneurship by Lifelong Learning and Business Cooperation, Ms. Inga Berzina, project manager Zemgale Planning Region, LV
- HEPROGRESS, Ms. Anna Broka, Vidzeme University, LV

**12.45** Summary and the closing of the conference

**13.00** Lunch Break

**14.00** Guided trip around Šiauliai and to the Hill of Crosses

**16.00** Visit to the Šiauliai 2012 International Exhibition

**19.00** Dinner

## Day 3 | 1st December

Visit to the Šiauliai 2012 International Exhibition

Departures



ŠIAULIAI  
UNIVERSITY



### **General Information**

The agenda is tentative and a final agenda will be updated at the conference website. More detail information about accommodation and online registration form can be found at

<http://www.innovationcircle.net>.

### **Registration Deadline: 1. November 2012**

Full conference package including all meals and 2 hotel nights in standard room (29 November -1th December): 350 euro. There is a discount offered for a number of countries. Please check the webpage for more information.

### **Airport**

Riga Airport: Buses run from Riga Airport to Šiauliai. The distance is 130 km from Šiauliai, by bus it takes about 2 hours.

Vilnius International Airport: Both buses and trains run to Šiauliai. The airport is 220 km from Šiauliai, you can take a shuttle to the Vilnius Railway Station (10km) which takes 2 hours 40 minutes to get into Šiauliai. The Vilnius Bus Station is next to the Rail Station. Kaunas airport and Palanga airport are also good alternatives.

### **Hotels**

Hotel Uzeiga is located in the middle of the center.

Address: Hotel „Šiaulių krašto medžiotojų užeiga“

Dubijos str.20, LT-77207, Šiauliai

### **Trade Exhibition**

The venue for the trade fair is Šiauliai Arena. It is organized by the Šiauliai Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts.



Regions of Tomorrow  
Innovation Circle Network Annual Conference