

Concept note of the joint event on investment climate in the Baltic States

Introduction

The joint Baltic foreign investors event will serve as a platform for discussing investment climates across the three Baltic states and for developing solutions to joint challenges. The discussion will focus on a joint research on investment climates in the Baltic States, conducted by the organisers of the event - [Foreign Investors' Council in Latvia \(FICIL\)](#), [Investors' Forum from Lithuania](#), [Foreign Investors Council in Estonia \(FICE\)](#), [German-Baltic Chamber of Commerce in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania \(AHK\)](#), in collaboration with the [Investment and Development Agency of Latvia](#) and [Stockholm School of Economics in Riga](#).

Given the geopolitical tensions that, to a large extent, affect European and other foreign investors in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the event will emphasize joint challenges, importance of stronger collaboration between the countries, and seek to generate greater support from the European Union to boost investor confidence. Among the key areas of focus are listed:

- Investments in the area of **defence** to stimulate greater security of Europe;
- Support to **research and innovation** for stimulating economic development and investments in times of a crisis.

The event will gather foreign investors that operate in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, alongside policymakers from these countries and representatives from the European Parliament, the European Commission, European Investment Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Aims, format and preparatory work

Aims

The overarching aim of the event is to boost investor confidence in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. For this purpose, the event seeks to stimulate greater support of the European Union to the Baltic States and encourage productive collaboration between the national policymakers in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to address common challenges. In addition, the event will highlight business opportunities in the Baltic region to encourage greater investment.

To ensure achievement of the overarching aim, the following specific objectives will be pursued:

- Present the analysis of the investment climates, placing it in the context of previous research in Latvia¹, Lithuania², and Estonia³, conducted based on survey and interview responses of the foreign investors in the respective countries;
- Highlight unique and common challenges and business opportunities in the Baltic region;

¹ FICIL Sentiment Index report

² Investors' Forum Confidence Index report

³ FICE Executive Survey report

- Design recommendations to tackle common challenges, promote collaboration between the Baltic States, and advocate for enhanced EU support in key areas of focus (defence, research and innovation);
- Facilitate discussions that lead to actionable plans and strategies for improving the investment landscape in the Baltic region.

Format

The event will be held onsite in Riga, in English. The formal part of the event will last 6 hours. The expected number of event participants is between 170 and 200.

Agenda

09:00 - 09:30 | Registration and welcome coffee

- Arrival and networking opportunity over coffee

09:30 - 09:45 | Opening remarks

- **Welcome words:** moderator ([Morten Hansen](#) – Head of Economics Department at Stockholm School of Economics in Riga) welcomes participants, presents aims of the event and agenda (5 min.)
- **Introduction into the topic:** moderator presents short analysis of FDI and economic development of the Baltic States since the beginning of the war in Ukraine (8 min.)

09:45 - 10:10 | Presentation of research results: Investment Climate in the Baltic States

- [Arnis Sauka](#): Comparative analysis of the investment climate across three Baltic States, based on common research questions (15 min.)
- **AHK:** Investment climate in the Baltic States, compared to situation in Eastern Europe (10 min.)

10:10 – 11:00 | Panel Discussion 1: Presenters reflect on investment trends across years and across Baltic States, highlighting key challenges and opportunities

- **Format:**
 - Panelists: Representatives from FICE, FICIL, Investors' Forum in Lithuania, AHK
 - Moderator: Arnis Sauka
 - Questions: moderator asks questions and asks for remarks/questions from the audience. Investors share concrete examples.
- **Discussion Points:**
 - Comparative analysis of investment climates across the three Baltic States across years;
 - Key challenges and opportunities in each country and in the region as a whole;
 - Recommendations for fostering a more favorable investment climate in the Baltic States and messages to the national and European policymakers.

11:00 - 11:30 | Coffee Break and Networking

- Light snacks and coffee/tea served

11:30 – 13:00 | Panel Discussion 2: Stimulating FDI and cooperation in the Baltic States in a new geopolitical reality

- **Format:**

- Panelists: Ministers of Economics and of Foreign Affairs from Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia
- Moderator: Morten Hansen
- Questions: moderator asks questions and some questions from the audience
- **Discussion Points:**
 - Reflection on research findings - how governments tackle identified challenges;
 - Key current and upcoming opportunities for investments in the Baltic States and strategies of each Baltic State to stimulate FDI;
 - How geopolitics shaped economic and defence collaboration among the Baltic States. Collaboration prospects to address joint challenges and limitations, and to build synergies in pursuit of opportunities;
 - Reflection on EU support measures to the Baltic States, especially in the areas of defence, research and innovation.

13:00 - 14:00 | Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:15 | Panel Discussion 3: Policy support for boosting investor confidence in the Baltic States in a new geopolitical reality

- **Format:**
 - Panelists: two representatives from the European Commission (Valdis Dombrovskis and Ekaterina Zaharieva), three representatives from the European Parliament (one per Baltic State), one representative from the European Investment Bank and/or European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - Moderator: Morten Hansen
 - Questions: moderator asks questions and some questions from the audience
- **Discussion Points:**
 - Reflection on research results – how can the EU contribute to addressing challenges of the foreign investors;
 - EU support measures to the Baltic States, especially in the areas of defence, research and innovation;
 - Collaboration between the foreign investors and EU policymakers;
 - EU perspective on investment opportunities in the Baltic States.

15:15 - 15:30 | Closing Remarks: Key takeaways from representatives of FICE, FICIL, Investors' Forum in Lithuania, AHK (3 min. each)

15:30 - 17:00 | Coffee Break and Networking

- Light snacks and coffee/tea served