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Invitation: Final project event

Academic career reforms in Latvia – taking stock and looking forward

February 20, 2026, 09:30am -12:30pm

“Sapere aude” hall, the Doctoral School of the University of Latvia,

Kalpaka bulvāris 4, 2nd floor, Rīga and online

Online meeting link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97322533655?pwd=OWhDOBfEblvsbhiqwQrUcVpXpwM5lw.1>

About this event

You are cordially invited to the final event of the project “Supporting the institutionalisation of academic career reforms in Latvia”, implemented by the OECD Higher Education Policy team, in collaboration with the European Commission and Latvia’s Ministry of Education and Science, and funded by the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) of the European Union.

The event will provide an important opportunity to reflect together on the progress to date on improving academic careers in Latvia and an outlook for the future. OECD and European Commission speakers will share their perspectives on the findings and outcomes of the TSI project, along with a proposed implementation roadmap for the coming years, developed with national stakeholders. Latvian experts and practitioners will share updates and reflections on the reforms to academic careers and doctoral education and the next steps to take.

The detailed programme for the event is available on the following pages. For more information on the TSI project (in Latvian) please visit [the Ministry of Education and Science website](#).

Event Programme

Welcome with coffee from 09:30

Opening remarks



Lana Frančeska Dreimane, Deputy State Secretary for Higher Education, Science and State Language, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia



Kees Van Duin, Head of Unit, SG REFORM, European Commission

09:45– 10:00



Simon Roy, Head of Higher Education Policy, OECD

Session 1: Key findings and perspectives from the project

Latvia's academic career reform: how far have we come and what lies ahead?



Gillian Golden, Project Manager, OECD

10:00– 10:25

Gillian is a policy analyst at the OECD, leading the Latvia academic careers project. She will present an overview of the key insights gained from a survey, interviews and site visits over the project duration, along with the final recommendations and the proposed future implementation roadmap for the reforms.



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Izglītības un zinātnes ministrija



Reflection by Sébastien Combeaud, Senior Expert, European Commission

Sébastien has overseen technical support projects in the field of education, training and skills, until recently within SG REFORM. He has just been assigned as education country desk officer for Latvia within the European Commission (DG EAC). He will reflect on the Latvian's academic career reform from an EU perspective.

Audience Q&A

Recent updates and next steps for Latvia's academic career reforms

10:25- 10:50



Brigita Kukjalko, Senior Expert for Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia

Brigita, in her role overseeing the current TSI project in collaboration with the OECD and the European Commission, and following from her previous presentation in June 2025, will provide an updated viewpoint on the progress of reforms and discussion of next steps.

Audience Q&A

10:50-11:00

Comfort break

Session 2: Voices from Latvia on academic career reform implementation

Creating Supportive Structures for the Doctoral School - the case of the University of Latvia

11:00- 11:20



Zanda Rubene, Head of the Doctoral School of the University of Latvia

Zanda, current Director of the Doctoral School of the University of Latvia, will present a case study of the academic career reform implementation, focusing on the establishment of the doctoral school at the University of Latvia.

Audience Q&A moderated by Gillian Golden

Assessing academic staff competency and professional development needs – an update from the COMPAC project

11:20– 11:40



Matīss Sīlis and **Nora Jansone-Ratinika**, Centre for Educational Growth, Rīga Stradiņš University

Matīss will present updates on the COMPAC project, which aims to develop an academic staff competence model to promote the transition to the New Academic Career Framework and its establishment in higher education and research institutions.

Audience Q&A moderated by Gillian Golden

Progress towards building a Community of Practice for academic staff

11:40 – 12:00



Andris Teikmanis, Latvian Council of Higher Education

The Community of Practice inauguration conference, held on 7 November 2025, launched the Community of Practice for academic staff in Latvia, initially focusing on the implementation of artificial intelligence in higher education, highlighting uneven institutional readiness, governance challenges, and the need for shared frameworks, capacity building, and peer learning.

Audience Q&A moderated by Gillian Golden

12:00 – 12:30

Panel discussion moderated by Simon Roy (OECD)

12:30

Closing remarks and light lunch