

## 3rd FORUM

### The demographic situation and innovation: growth perspectives for Latvia



### Europe: Latvia

tens, and housing.

#### Partners:

- Freedom and Solidarity Foundation  
<http://www.bsf-latvija.lv/en/>
- Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)  
<http://www.feps-europe.eu/>

#### Objectives:

- To evaluate the demographical situation in Latvia;
- To investigate local resources that could potentially create new jobs and working places.

#### Expected results:

Latvian Human Development Strategy

#### Activities:

- 1st part:** speeches by Latvian scholars (I. Indāns, Social Demography docent in the University of Latvia, and E. Karnītis, professor and delegate of the National Development Plan Expert's Forum);
- 2nd part:** speeches by representatives of interest groups (I. Kiukucāne, representative of the Employer's Confederation; P. Krīgers, chairman of the Latvian Free Trade Union, and Z. Schmidt, immigration expert from the EC representation in Geneva);
- 3rd part:** Discussions with participation of

Latvian politicians (D. Ivāns, Latvian Social Democratic Worker's Party, and Ģ. V. Kristovskis, Citizens Union).

#### Target group:

Scholars, politicians, NGOs, employers, workers, trade unions, the Latvians in Ireland.

#### Funding:

Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)

#### Website:

Published on: <http://www.bsf-latvija.lv/en/history/bsf-3rd-forum/>

#### Context/short summary:

The Chairman of the Freedom and Solidarity Foundation opened the 3rd Forum by pointing out the demographic problems Latvia might be facing in the coming years and stressed the need to resolve these problems within the EU context.

According to recent study by "Human Resources and Latvia's Development", the drop in population decline is not longer increasing, nevertheless the natural increase in population growth is still negative and will remains so in the foreseeable future.

So Latvia will be faced by population aging and all the social political problems

that come with this.

Regarding the economical development and innovations, very important issue is the instability of the government and the phenomenon that ruling coalitions are formed by political forces that have very different plans and interests. This makes the life of governments very short and compels the politicians to concentrate on quickly attainable results by clinging to the so-called "100 day" paradigm, instead of implementing long-term strategies. Latvia must raise the mobility of local labor, including the reduction of the gray economy, increasing the legal labor market and creating new work places by investments in infrastructure, kindergar-



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