

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Europe's most significant research and innovation conference to be held in Latvia

Riga, 16 April 2015 – **Under the Latvian Presidency, the international conference entitled “Week of Innovative Regions in Europe 2015” (WIRE 2015) will take place on 4-5 June 2015 in Riga, Latvia. The conference will bring together regional representatives, policy-makers, business associations, researchers and other stakeholders in the innovation process from all around Europe.**

WIRE 2015 will be opened by Mārīte Seile, the Latvian Minister for Education and Science. The Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, and the President of the European Committee of the Regions, Markku Markkula, have confirmed their participation.

One of the main issues on the agenda of WIRE 2015 is the challenges faced by European regions in implementing the Smart Specialisation Strategy, which is the decisive element for national or regional competitiveness. Latvia is also in the process of implementing this strategy. It aims to focus resources on fields of smart specialisation that have the greatest potential for increasing the competitiveness of the national economy. The participants at the conference will also work on solutions to overcome barriers to innovation by promoting cooperation among researchers, businesses, public authorities and society. Issues related to research and innovation will be discussed from a regional perspective, thus promoting cooperation and the exchange of best practice.

WIRE 2015 is organised by the Latvian State Education Development Agency (VIAA) and supported by the European Commission. This annual research and innovation forum takes place in the EU Member State holding the presidency.

**Registration** for delegates and media is open on the conference homepage <http://wire2015.eu/>. Follow the latest news on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/wire2015eu>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/wire2015.eu?ref=profile>).

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