Latvijas Jauno zinātnieku apvienība

Schedule, NBM 2026

May 12, 2026

11.00 - 12.00 Registration, coffee and snacks

12.00 - 12.10 Welcome words

12.10 - 12.50 **Science for security and resilience**
Keynote: Prof. Gundars Bērziņš, rector of the University of Latvia, member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

12.50 - 13.40 Member presentations

Hannah Kaarina Yoken (Young Academy Finland)
Scientists for peace: academics & pacifism in the 1980s across the Iron Curtain

Abstract: Academics played a visible yet understudied role in anti-nuclear movements during the Cold War. Drawing on archival sources from the Finnish Peace Committee and the Finnish Committee of 100, this presentation explores how university workers partook in anti-nuclear activism during the 1980s. Situated between East and West, Finland offered a distinctive vantage point from which academics engaged in peace activism. In particular, I ask how scholars used professional authority, ethical responsibility, and transnational networks to intervene in the decade's escalating nuclear tensions.

Bio: Hannah Kaarina Yoken is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. She is a member of the Young Academy Finland's board, the chair of the Finnish Oral History Network, and part of the recently established research network Gender and Peace in the Nordics. Before returning to Finland in 2022, Yoken defended her doctoral thesis and worked at the University of Glasgow in Scotland.

Laura Bacete Cano (Young Academy of Sweden)
How resilient are our crops? Science at the frontline of biological security

Abstract: Food security is often framed as a question of quantity, but resilience is about much more than yields. Climate change, shifting trade dependencies, and the spread of crop diseases and invasive pests are increasingly exposing the fragility of the biological systems our societies depend on, not just for food, but for materials, energy, and a stable climate. From the wheat on our plates to the forests that store our carbon and the plants that clothe us, healthy and resilient crops underpin far more of our security than we tend to recognize. This talk will explore how plant science contributes to building that resilience: from understanding how plants defend themselves against disease to how protecting plant health can act as a first line of defense for our food, energy, and material supply chains.

Bio: Laura Bacete Cano is an assistant professor at Umeå University and leads a research group at Umeå Plant Science Centre (UPSC), one of Europe's leading centers for experimental plant biology. Her research focuses on how plants sense and respond to stress through their cell walls, with implications for crop resilience and food security. As a member of the Young Academy of Sweden, she is committed to making academia a more inclusive and internationally connected environment and to ensuring that plant science has a stronger voice in sustainable agricultural policy across Sweden and the EU.

13.40 - 15.00 Lunch

15.00 - 16.20 Member presentations (continued)

Andrius Tamošiūnas (Young Academy of Lithuania)
Waste-to-X concept for increasing local energy security and resilience

Abstract: The presentation will cover the waste-to-energy/fuels/chemicals concept as a means of increasing local energy security and resilience by using local biomass and waste sources. Special attention will be given to thermochemical conversion methods, such as plasma-assisted gasification and pyrolysis.

Bio: Andrius Tamošiūnas has received a PhD in energetics and power engineering. His research focuses on the investigation, development, and application of plasma processes and technologies for recovering energy from waste/biomass and producing fuels and chemicals via the Waste-to-X concept, as well as the application of plasma technologies, such as plasma torches, for industrial electrification.

Erik Sveberg Dietrichs (Young Academy of Norway)
Between cold and conflict: environmental exposure and human security in the high north

Abstract: In cold-conflict areas, environmental exposure is a lethal threat to human security. Refugees are exposed to freezing temperatures with insufficient housing and clothing, while soldiers often are badly equipped to stand the harsh weather conditions. Consequently, hypothermia is a common and dangerous condition with a lack of guidelines on how to detect and treat patients at the highest risk for succumbing to its most feared outcome, cardiovascular collapse. Scientific research in this area is of utmost importance for reducing preventable deaths and improving resilience in cold-conflict settings.

Bio: Erik Sveberg Dietrichs is a medical specialist in clinical pharmacology and serves as a professor at the Institute of Experimental Medicine, where he leads the Translational Cardiovascular Pharmacology research group. Dietrichs is co-chair of the Young Academy of Norway and serves on the pharmacology board of the Norwegian Society for Pharmacology and Toxicology. He is the author of several books: (Norwegian) *Din medisin – veien til persontilpasset behandling, Å bite seg i halen, På livets grense*, *Farfars dagbok* og *Togferie*.

Ingus Pērkons (Latvian Association of Young Researchers)
You cannot build resilience against what you cannot measure

Abstract: Societal resilience is often discussed in terms of food systems, energy supply, infrastructure, and emergency preparedness. Yet these systems are also affected by less visible risks that may remain poorly understood for years. Chemical risks such as chlorinated paraffins are one example: they are widely used in industry, persistent in the environment, and difficult to analyze. Their case illustrates a broader point: resilience depends not only on reducing hazards but also on maintaining the capacity to detect, understand, and monitor them. This talk will explore how different screening approaches can complement one another to build more adaptive chemical monitoring systems that respond not only to known contaminants but also to emerging and unexpected ones.

Bio: Ingus Pērkons is a researcher at the Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment (BIOR) in Latvia, where he studies the occurrence, fate, and behavior of emerging contaminants in food and the environment using high-resolution mass spectrometry. His research focuses particularly on chlorinated paraffins and other persistent pollutants. More broadly, he is interested in how hidden chemical risks can be identified and understood in complex real-world systems. Ingus is also a board member at the Latvian Association of Young Researchers.

16.20 - 16.30 Concluding remarks

16.30 - 19.00 Free time & city tour

19.00 - 22.00 Dinner

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08.30 - 09.00 Coffee and snacks

09.00 - 10.40 Young Academy introductions and updates

10.40 - 11.20 **Academic ethics and research integrity**
Keynote: Prof. Sanita Osipova, Supreme Court judge, member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences

11.20 - 11.40 Break

11.40 - 13.00 Roundtable workshop
A holistic view on academic ethics

Workshop hosts:

Laila Silamiķele (Latvian Association of Young Researchers)
What should define research integrity – shared values or formal rules?

Bio: Laila Silamiķele is a researcher at the Latvian Biomedical Research and Study Centre, where she studies molecular mechanisms and microbiome interactions in the context of osteoarthritis and metabolic diseases. She specialises in preclinical studies, 3Rs in laboratory animal research and research ethics. As a board member of the Latvian Association of Young Researchers, she is particularly interested in improving the academic ethics ecosystem in Latvia.

Raimonda Soloha (Latvian Association of Young Researchers)
How can research environments shift from reacting to misconduct to preventing it?

Bio: Raimonda Soloha is a researcher in social and economic geography with a subfield in environmental governance at the University of Latvia. She aims to develop a methodological framework for generated food waste quantification in food production and household stages by systematising common food waste quantification frameworks and research practices. Raimonda is also a board member of the Latvian Association of Young Researchers, contributing to topics related to doctoral education and academic ethics.

Antra Boča (Latvian Association of Young Researchers)
Building a culture of research integrity by empowering early-career researchers

Bio: Antra Boča is a researcher in soil biogeochemistry, head of the research office at the University of Latvia, and former chair of the Latvian Association of Young Researchers (2022-2025). In her administrative role, she leads and develops initiatives aimed at strengthening research quality and integrity, including advancing data stewardship practices and contributing to the development of the University's academic integrity strategy.

Meda Andrijauskienė (Young Academy of Lithuania)
Where should we draw the line between support and misuse of AI in research?

Bio: Meda Andrijauskienė is an associate professor of social sciences and vice-dean for research at the School of Economics and Business, Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania). In her role as vice-dean, she leads the development and implementation of the faculty's research strategy, with a strong focus on research quality and impact. She is actively involved in strengthening research capacity, supporting academic staff development, and advancing open science and responsible research practices.

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 14.40 **Academic freedom in times of global unrest**
Keynote: Dagnija Baltiņa, director of the National Library of Latvia

14.40 - 15.40 Panel discussion
Defending academic freedom in democratic societies

Oskars Teikmanis (moderator)
Robotics and machine learning researcher at the Institute of Electronics and Computer Science, chair of the Latvian Association of Young Researchers.

Helen Eenmaa
Associate professor of governance and legal policy at the University of Tartu, former president (2023-2025) of the European Young Academies Science Advice Structure (YASAS) and former vice president (2020-2023) of the Estonian Young Academy of Sciences.

Christoffer Basse Eriksen
Associate professor of history of science at Aarhus University, chair of the Young Academy of Denmark.

Guro Nore Fløgstad
Professor of linguistics and Norwegian at the University of South-Eastern Norway, former chair (2024-2025) of the Young Academy of Norway.

Juan Carlos Rocha Gordo
Associate professor of sustainability science at the Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University, member of the Young Academy of Sweden.

15.40 - 16.00 Conclusion of the meeting