



## **14<sup>th</sup> CERN Baltic Group General Meeting**

17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2024, Tallinn (Estonia)  
Hybrid format: in-person and remotely

Agenda and supporting documents are available at  
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1455678/>

### **Summary of the meeting**

1. Welcome address to the General Meeting (GM) participants was given by Chairperson of the CERN Baltic Group (CBG) Dr Brigita Abakevičienė and, from the host institution - Tallinn University of Technology, the Dean of School Engineering Prof. Fjodor Sergejev.
2. The GM was opened by Prof. Emmanuel Tsesselis, Head of Relations with Associate and Non-Member States.
3. Agenda was adopted with no additional points. Participants of the meeting are listed in Annex I. Chairperson of the CBG presented the new representative from Vilnius University, Prof. Ramūnas Aleksiejūnas, and informed that the mandate from Latvia University was given to Dr Elīna Pajuste (instead of Prof. Mārcis Auziņš), and the mandate from Vytautas Magnus University was given to Augustinas Stepšys (instead of Prof. Saulis Mickevičius). It was reported prior to the meeting, that the representative to the CBG from Daugavpils University will no longer be able to fulfil their duties. Daugavpils University is going to nominate a replacement in November this year. For this meeting, Dr Kārlis Dreimanis has been delegated the mandate of the Daugavpils University.

#### **4. Report of CBG Study Programme Working Group**

The convener of the Working Group (WG), Dr Karlis Dreimanis, summarized the updates, milestones, and upcoming goals for an academic program focused on high-energy physics and interdisciplinary applications.

The doctoral study program is set to have its first graduate imminently, with the thesis defence anticipated in early 2025. This milestone marks a critical point for the program, offering a first evaluation of administrative and procedural aspects that have not been previously tested. Insights from this graduation will help in refining processes for future students. The program currently has 15 students enrolled, with a goal to enrol an additional two students each year. However, maintaining consistent enrolment numbers has been challenging due to limited funding, which restricts international student admissions. Despite these limitations, the program remains optimistic about future recruitment and seeks to stabilize enrolment numbers by securing additional resources.

A joint master's program has been in development under the Erasmus framework, aimed at offering a structured, interdisciplinary curriculum that merges high-energy physics with industry-relevant skills. Initiated in 2022, after delays due to restructuring at RTU, the program's design phase was completed in May 2023. The program's structure, curriculum, and student evaluation mechanisms were formalized, culminating in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by five partnering universities. The project's funding of €55,000 was successfully utilized to establish this foundational framework. The program aims to build expertise in modern physics technology, specifically,

instrumentation relevant to CERN and societal applications, including medical fields. The curriculum will focus on hands-on training and interdisciplinary skills, with an emphasis on connecting academia and industry to enhance employability and attract policy support. International collaboration is integral, with an eye toward broadening participation and fostering an internationally competitive research ecosystem in the region. The program's interdisciplinary focus aligns with European priorities for cross-disciplinary research programs, and it is being developed with industry relevance in mind to strengthen policy support and public-private partnerships. A critical component of the program is to offer a single joint diploma, which requires different approval processes across Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. In Latvia, preliminary assessments suggest that only university-level approval is needed. However, processes in Lithuania and Estonia remain unclear. The collaborative team is committed to resolving these differences, as a single diploma is seen as essential for program credibility and student recruitment.

The study program team anticipates a call for the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's program in early November, with an application deadline in mid-February 2025. The national contact point in Latvia has expressed strong support for the initiative, which is expected to aid in the application process. Efforts are underway to review relevant documentation and prepare the necessary materials to position the program competitively in the application process. With strong backing from Latvian authorities, the program team is optimistic about securing Erasmus funding and moving forward with the initiative.

To summarize, the doctoral study program is on the cusp of significant achievements, including its first graduate, which will serve as a benchmark for future improvements. With the successful development of a joint master's program framework and support from Erasmus Mundus and national bodies, the program is positioned to establish itself as a key player in high-energy physics and interdisciplinary training, offering opportunities that bridge academic research and industry needs.

## **5. Report of CBG Working Group "Advanced Particle Therapy Centre for the Baltic States"**

The report was presented by Mr Kristaps Palskis and focused on the development and progress of a collaborative research initiative "Advanced Particle Therapy Centre for the Baltic States", identified as a "flagship project" for the Baltic region. It has involved a working group dedicated to promoting and building interest around this initiative, despite initial challenges in engaging stakeholders and securing commitment from institutions. The session underscored both the accomplishments of the WG and the challenges faced in consolidating support and involvement from various institutional partners.

The team has successfully built awareness and gathered initial interest from stakeholders in the Baltic region, which includes universities, research institutions, and clinicians. This progress was acknowledged as a milestone, signifying increased credibility and recognition from international entities, such as CERN. There was a difficulty in securing active participation from some stakeholders and institutional partners, particularly due to the voluntary nature of the initiative and the lack of formal institutional backing. Attempts to secure official responses or nominations from relevant institutions have not been entirely successful. A proposal document, with contributions from representatives from CERN, has been prepared and submitted for review. This document includes a strategic chapter outlining CERN's position, which adds a layer of credibility and support for the project. The proposal is ready for feedback, and the team is waiting on a formal response to this submission.

As the convener of WG Prof. Toms Torims announced his intention to step down, citing the need for more formal institutional support and an entity capable of coordinating the various parties involved. Prof. Torims acknowledged areas of shortcoming of the WG, particularly in ensuring consistent engagement from all interested stakeholders.

The representatives of CBG agreed to shift from an informal working group to a structured, institutionally-backed body that can better manage stakeholder relations and strategic planning. This proposed entity, tentatively named the "Feasibility Study Strategy Group", will ideally include representatives from the majority of CBG partners.

During the meeting, University of Latvia (UL) and Riga Stradiņš University's (RSU, Latvia) the position, outlined in the letter signed by UL's Vice-Rector for Research Dr. Guntars Kitenbergs and

RSU's Vice-Rector for Science, Dr. Agrita Kiopa was presented, which includes the following key points:

- **Inclusion of RSU and the University of Latvia:** RSU and the University of Latvia emphasize the need for representatives from both universities to participate actively in the CBG Working Group. This involvement aligns with Latvia's State Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (RIS3), reflecting the strategic importance of these universities' expertise in medicine, health sciences, and biomedicine.
- **Review of the Feasibility Study Proposal:** RSU values the efforts invested in the feasibility study proposal and suggests expanding consultations to include other Latvian universities, specifically RSU and the University of Latvia. Incorporating input from these institutions is crucial for aligning the proposal with Latvia's national research priorities and supporting the academic institutions' interests.
- **Further Engagement:** RSU recommends an in-depth discussion that includes their representatives to ensure the proposal fully reflects Latvian universities' perspectives and strategic objectives, particularly in fields relevant to the Advanced Particle Therapy Centre.

The RSU representative, Dr Jevgenijs Eugene Proskurins proposed to include to the further formed Working Group Prof. Maija Radziņa, Lead Researcher at the Radiology Research Laboratory at RSU and Radiologist at Paul Stradins Clinical University Hospital, along with Dr. Kārlis Rācenis, Vice-Dean of Science at the Faculty of Medicine at RSU, with their clinical and research expertise.

The CBG will seek nominations from institutions to appoint representatives to this new strategic body, with invitations to be sent within the next two weeks and a meeting proposed for late November or early December to formalize roles and responsibilities.

Action items and timelines were concluded:

- Chairperson of the CBG will complete the CBG GM minutes within two-weeks and send them to stakeholders as a record of the status and decisions made.
- Invitations for nominating representatives of CBG to the new strategic group will be sent within the next two weeks following, aiming for responses by mid-November.
- A follow-up meeting is tentatively scheduled for late November or early December to discuss the structure and objectives of the new strategic body, ensuring all relevant parties are on board.
- The next phase of engagement will focus on consolidating support from participating institutions, with a goal of securing funding and political backing. This will include an official position or letter of intent signed by all stakeholders to present a unified front.

## 6. Baltic ILO activities and industrial engagement, and news from CERN Finance Committee

The recent changes and initiatives in CERN's procurement processes, as well as related industrial outreach activities, particularly relevant to Baltic countries were presented by Ms Alise Pīka-Ozola (Industrial Liaison Officer (ILO) for Latvia at CERN). ILOs, who act as links between CERN and the industry in their home countries, are now working under newly approved procurement rules aimed at modernizing and streamlining CERN's contract management. Key changes include raised financial thresholds for contract approvals, reducing paperwork for lower-value contracts and allowing CERN's procurement service to focus on high-value contracts. Another significant change is the expanded use of limited tendering, which now allows at least 12 countries with lower industrial returns to compete for contracts on a preferential basis, potentially benefiting smaller states like the Baltics. Additionally, CERN's procurement team has been granted more autonomy to award contracts based on the "best value for money" rather than solely on the lowest bid, which may favour suppliers offering environmentally friendly or technologically advanced products. CERN's outreach activities to companies, which include webinars and targeted thematic events to introduce new companies to CERN's procurement opportunities, were presented. Upcoming events, including matchmaking sessions and B2B meetings, will help introduce new companies to CERN's technical decision-makers. CERN's recent LinkedIn account ("Business with CERN") provides an accessible platform to showcase tender opportunities, enhancing visibility for companies not directly connected to ILOs.

CERN is also cleaning up its supplier database to improve response rates to inquiries by removing inactive or outdated entries. ILOs are encouraged to guide this process, identifying companies that should remain active participants.

Meanwhile, CERN is developing a new procurement strategy for 2025–2030, including KPI updates and onboarding new staff to improve cross-country industrial collaboration. Furthermore, CERN is broadening industry engagement beyond procurement through R&D collaborations, knowledge transfer, and open labs, signalling a shift towards greater partnership with industry in technological innovation.

In Latvia, efforts to raise awareness about CERN procurement have increased, with the ILO working to expand Latvian companies' presence on the CERN supplier database and organizing events to promote these opportunities. Additionally, the Big Science Business Forum, held every two years, provides a major networking event for industry and research institutions, allowing companies from associate member states like Latvia and Estonia to engage with Europe's largest physics labs. The Big Science Business Forum, an event aimed at connecting European industries with large science organizations like CERN, Fusion for Energy, and the Einstein Telescope project. The forum promotes the idea of a "big science market" in Europe, where organizations with significant procurement and R&D needs engage with industry to address shared challenges. This event provided valuable insights for ILOs into the workings of other science organizations and procurement opportunities across Europe, which include avenues for member and associate member states like Latvia and Estonia to bid on projects related to international science initiatives. The Latvian ILO also moderated a panel on complex building and safety systems, which offered both networking opportunities and visibility for Latvian expertise.

Summary from the Finance Committee covers a meeting focused on budgetary and operational updates for CERN, addressing a few key points:

1. Budget Adjustments: The current budget will extend as planned to accommodate ongoing projects, with an improved financial outlook due to lower energy prices. However, helium and nitrogen prices remain high, continuing to pose challenges.
2. India's Contribution Issues: India, an associate member state, has missed its financial contributions for over a year. Despite this, Indian companies are still participating in procurements, raising some concerns among members.
3. Administrative Concerns: With a recent schedule adjustment in the planned shutdown, there are questions around staffing needs. Positions initially intended for upcoming projects may not be required as soon as anticipated.
4. Upcoming Council Elections: The impending election of a new Council President has created a politically charged atmosphere, although it was not discussed in the finance meeting.

These points indicate ongoing financial and operational adjustments, member contributions concerns, and preparations for leadership transitions.

## **7. Report on 4<sup>th</sup> BALTIC SCHOOL of High-Energy Physics and Accelerator Technologies (BSHEPAT'24) in LATVIA**

The recent organization and outcomes of an annual training summer school targeting primarily first-year PhD students in various physics fields was given by Dr Kārlis Dreimanis. The school traditionally focused on experimental physics, broadened its curriculum this year to include topics in effective field theory and machine learning, aligning with the COST Action CA22130 - COMETA (*COMprehensive Multiboson Experiment-Theory Action-COMETA*), which co-sponsored the event. This expansion introduced 7.5 hours of teaching on these topics. The school was held in Kuldīga, Latvia, over 4.5 days with 29 students from diverse fields, such as medical physics and theoretical physics, and a received positive feedback from students, though some concerns were raised about overloading the curriculum with topics. The event included a successful outreach activity, a public lecture on High Energy Physics (HEP) with substantial local attendance. Coverage from RTU's publication department boosted the event's visibility in the news. Survey feedback was largely positive, though participation from Baltic students was lower than initially hoped. Organizers from Baltic institutions noted concerns that funding from external initiatives, like COMETA, could shift

the school's focus away from regional needs. A discussion on securing more consistent regional participation and balancing external funding priorities with the Baltic countries focus was suggested. The school will be held in Estonia next year, with the aim to refine topic selection to prevent over-saturation, maintain focus, and improve local engagement.

## 8. LITHUANIA the state-of-play of CERN related activities

Prof. Ramūnas Aleksiejūnas presented Lithuania's recent progress in establishing a single-entry point for particle physics through the newly created Lithuanian Consortium for Particle Physics (LCPP), recognized by CERN in 2022. The main points were discussed:

1. LCPP Structure and Mission: The LCPP now includes three Universities and the Lithuanian Energy Institute, creating a consolidated approach for particle physics research, outreach, and knowledge transfer with industry in Lithuania. This integration allows streamlined collaboration with CERN.
2. Lithuania's Membership Review and Achievements: A five-year membership review confirmed Lithuania met CERN's associate membership criteria, after an extensive evaluation involving additional meetings and feedback. LCPP used this review to conduct a SWOT analysis, highlighting Lithuania's strengths, such as state-funded PhD programs and motivated students, alongside weaknesses like limited direct involvement in data analysis and hardware projects.
3. Opportunities and Challenges: Opportunities include access to European grant proposals and a potential return of Lithuanian particle physicists working abroad. Challenges include geopolitical concerns and an impending government change, which may require reestablishing support for the LCPP's initiatives.
4. Future Focus Areas and Funding: The LCPP secured a contract with the Lithuanian Research Council, securing funding for 2024-2027, with specific allocations for membership fees, outreach, infrastructure, and CERN-related research grants. Additionally, the group aims to increase its involvement in CERN experiments, particularly by supporting members' roles in specific projects.
5. Financial Strategy: The Consortium's funding strategy includes a 50/50 recommendation from CERN and substantial additional support from Lithuanian sources. Notably, many Consortium scientists hold dual roles at universities and research institutes, allowing for a sustainable funding model that does not depend solely on the allocated CERN-related budget.

This strategic alignment and funding have set up a robust framework for Lithuania's deeper engagement with CERN, aiming to elevate both research contributions and public engagement.

## 9. ESTONIA the state-of-play of CERN related activities

Prof. Veronika Zadin provided the information on the ongoing efforts and challenges faced by Estonian universities, particularly in the context of research collaborations, PhD programs, and funding. The main points were discussed:

1. Collaborative Research Initiatives: The discussion highlights the participation of Estonian universities in various research projects, including activities related to the Compact Linear Collider (CLIC) and Future Circular Collider (FCC). The group is also exploring new research areas, particularly in medical applications, which have garnered interest from Estonian doctors.
2. Impact of Political Relations: There are significant obstacles due to current geopolitical tensions, particularly regarding collaborations with Russian and Belarusian institutions. Estonian universities have made a clear stance against any collaborations with these countries, impacting ongoing projects and future collaborations.
3. PhD Program Reforms: A significant reform was introduced in 2022, transforming PhD students into junior researchers with salaries instead of stipends. This new structure is intended to motivate students, as they are now more integrated into research teams. However, there is a challenge in ensuring timely publication of research, as students are expected to produce at least one article per year. Failure to do so can jeopardize their completion of the PhD program.

4. Financial Concerns and System Complexity: The transition from a scholarship-based system to a salary model has created a complex situation, with both old and new systems operating simultaneously. This has led to administrative challenges, especially in managing funding and salary calculations, as the costs are comparable to those of postdocs.
5. Research Funding Opportunities: The optimism for future funding opportunities related to research infrastructure at CERN, which could benefit Estonian institutions were expressed. The aim is to secure funding successes in the coming years.
6. PhD Students: The pressure to publish research outputs can be significant for PhD students, and there is concern about how this might affect their progress and overall well-being. The discussion emphasizes the need for supportive environments within research teams to help students succeed.
7. Comparison with Industry: There is a concern that academic salaries, based on the average income in the country rather than salaries for individuals with advanced degrees, may not be competitive. This issue is particularly relevant in technology sectors, where industry jobs offer higher salaries and less pressure, leading to talent leaving academia.

The reflection a combination of optimism for advancements in research and education in Estonia, alongside challenges posed by geopolitical tensions, funding complexities, and the need for structural improvements in PhD programs were presented.

## 10. LATVIA the state-of-play of CERN related activities

Prof. Toms Torims presented an update on Latvia's scientific engagement and collaboration at CERN, focusing primarily on the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment as a flagship project. This involvement is spearheaded by a Consortium from Riga Technical University and the University of Latvia. The Consortium prioritizes CMS over other experiments like ATLAS, pooling resources effectively. Additionally, Latvian participation in the MEDICIS project and the AEGIS experiment, albeit smaller in scale, is significant.

Latvian institutions have been engaged in a variety of CERN accelerator initiatives and Horizon projects, including the International Muon Collider Collaboration and Future Circular Collider (FCC), in which Latvia has been active since 2015. Over the past decade, Latvia's contribution to CERN has grown, with hands-on engagement in detector technology and a robust doctoral program that currently supports eight doctoral candidates, a technical student program, and a summer internship initiative with 27 Latvian students participating since 2013.

Latvia's outreach programs have been extensive, involving over 1,000 Latvian students, teachers, and young scientists in visits to CERN, job-shadowing, and competitions. Through partnerships with several universities and groups, Latvia has built a strong scientific portfolio at CERN, including maintaining a TIER II computing centre and providing research that now constitutes about 20 % of Latvia's scientific publications in high-impact areas.

CMS 2023 Award for great support and enthusiasm in CMS P5 operation as run Filed Manager was given to Dr Kārlis Dreimanis.

Financially, Latvia's CERN activities are supported by approximately €2 million annually, funded through partnerships between CERN and Latvian national programs. Future goals include establishing full membership by 2027, contingent on continued engagement with both domestic and CERN policymakers to secure reliable support and funding. The Latvian Prime Minister recently reaffirmed the government's commitment to this objective during CERN's 70<sup>th</sup>-anniversary event.

## 11. Feedback from March 2024 CERN Council, Scientific Policy, Finance Committees - by Council representatives

Prof. Mario Kadastik, Prof. Veronika Zadin, and Dr. Andrius Juodagalvis provided an overview of key discussions and decisions from a recent CERN Council meeting, detailing strategic and operational concerns regarding funding, governance, member state involvement, and upcoming elections.

- Council Meeting Structure and Key Issues

The CERN Council meeting operates with both "restricted" and "closed" sessions. The restricted Council focuses on internal policies, open to all associated and full member state representatives.

In contrast, the closed council discusses sensitive political topics, such as international relations, specific funding allocations, and the next steps for collaborative initiatives like the Future Circular Collider (FCC). Recent discussions addressed CERN's international strategy, particularly regarding relations with China and future collaborative projects. The upcoming elections for CERN Director-General (DG) are seen as pivotal for determining CERN's future direction.

- Current CERN Status and Political Dynamics

CERN is generally viewed to be in a stable position, but concerns exist over its direction and leadership, especially with upcoming elections for the Council president and the DG. Estonia's participation marked its first involvement in council voting, creating notable shifts in the balance of votes. Smaller countries' votes hold equal weight to those of larger countries like Germany and France, sparking concerns from larger member states about potentially disproportionate influence from smaller states. The new Council president is noted to be constructive and communicative, promising open dialogue, particularly with the smaller states.

- Director-General (DG) Election Process

The election for CERN's next DG is set for early November. Estonia and other countries are carefully evaluating candidates, recognizing that the selected candidate will heavily influence CERN's trajectory. A two-thirds majority is required for the election, underscoring the importance of consensus. The three DG candidates are all seen as capable, making any potential outcome favourable for CERN's stability and development.

- Evaluations and Five-Year Plans

Estonia's CERN involvement received a positive evaluation, leading to an extension of its current assessment period by five years. This reflects the progress Estonia has made in organizational restructuring, though monitoring is expected to continue.

- Industrial and Employment Balancing

Discussions on balancing financial and industrial returns and employment distribution across CERN member states were held in the restricted council. Estonia's contributions and returns are balanced, but discussions are ongoing about improving equity in employment opportunities and industrial returns for other member states.

- Future Circular Collider (FCC) Feasibility Study and Funding Challenges

A major focus of the Council meeting was the feasibility study of the FCC project and the broader European Particle Physics Strategy Update. The FCC's funding remains uncertain, as it is unlikely Europe alone can bear the full cost. Contributions from non-European countries, especially the United States, are being considered, though this raises questions about governance. The U.S. has shown interest in potentially becoming a CERN member state under a budget cap agreement like Germany's, to avoid disproportionate financial obligations. This interest could be pivotal in securing FCC funding and is a notable development in international collaboration for CERN.

- Science Gateway Funding and Operations

The Science Gateway project, a major initiative aimed at public engagement and education in particle physics, is being successfully funded through a combination of private donations and operating revenue. CERN covers half of the operating costs, while the remaining funding comes from event rentals, such as a recent private event hosted by a watchmaker. The council expects that increased event hosting at the Science Gateway will continue to offset operational expenses.

- Challenges in FCC Funding

Despite the successful fundraising model for the Science Gateway, financing for the FCC remains a significant challenge. The estimated shortfall for the FCC's budget is approximately 2-4 billion euros. Current private donations, even if expanded, would not be sufficient to close this gap, highlighting the need for alternative financing solutions. While private equity and philanthropic donations may supplement funding, the scale required surpasses what these sources alone can provide.

- Future Collider Options and Feasibility Studies

Discussions on the feasibility study of the FCC emphasized the importance of advancing European particle physics capabilities. The council is weighing options beyond the FCC, including potential designs for colliders like Compact Linear Collider as alternatives, although

FCC remains the frontrunner. A particular concern with FCC technology is the advancement of magnet technology, necessary for high-energy particle acceleration. Though CERN's Director-General expressed confidence that these technological challenges would be addressed in time, the council acknowledged the risk involved, especially given that magnet development timelines for the FCC are still uncertain.

- Strategic Developments and Competition from China

China's recent strides in accelerator technology have accelerated CERN's timelines. China is reportedly planning its own collider project, which, if successful, could place it at the forefront of particle physics research. Although Chinese developments appear ambitious, concerns remain about their ability to fully complete the project due to limited person power and expertise in particle physics and supporting engineering. The European Strategy Group, with input from each member state, will provide guidance on prioritizing a flagship project for CERN in the next year. This includes selecting a "Plan B" should FCC face insurmountable hurdles. The timeline for finalizing these strategic priorities has been moved forward to 2026 in response to potential competition from China.

- Internal Council Consensus and Strategic Mandates

While the European Strategy Group will formally decide on flagship projects, there is substantial overlap between CERN Council members and Strategy Group delegates, suggesting continuity in strategic preferences. The consensus among delegates is that, regardless of China's progress, Europe should pursue its own flagship collider project to maintain leadership in particle physics. Some council members emphasized that building an FCC in Europe would ensure higher standards of reliability, even if China completes its collider first. Maintaining technical expertise within Europe is also seen as critical to fostering innovation in accelerator technology.

12. An update on the **CERN Baltic Group Conference - ESTONIA**, Tallinn, October 15-17, 2024 was given by Prof. Ants Koel. The host institution of Conference was Tallinn University of Technology. The 48 participants, 30 presentations, 3 posters, and 5 welcome addresses were presented.

13. **Organisational aspects of the 5<sup>th</sup> CERN Baltic Group CONFERENCE in LITHUANIA**

The next CBG Conference will be held in Kaunas, Lithuania, likely on the week starting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2025. The host institution will be Kaunas University of Technology. The organisational aspects will be discussed at the next CBG Coordination Team Meeting.

A proposal to organise one CBG event (School or Conference) per year was given by representatives of CBG. The proposal will be further discussed at the next CBG Coordination Team Meeting. The Coordination Team Meeting will be held remotely in November 2024.

CBG members agreed to organise the next in-person 15<sup>th</sup> CBG General Meeting on spring (the second week of April) 2025 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

October 18, 2024

By CBG Chairperson

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**Participants List of the 14<sup>th</sup> CERN Baltic Group General Meeting**17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2024

Hybrid format: in-person and remotely, Tallinn (Estonia)

**The Representatives of CBG Members with the voting rights**

1. Dr. Brigita Abakevičienė, Kaunas University of Technology, LT – Chairperson of the CBG
2. Dr. Karlis Dreimanis, Riga Technical University, LV – Deputy of Chairperson of the CBG (*mandate from Daugavpils University*)
3. Prof. Fjodor Sergejev, Tallinn University of Technology, EE
4. Prof. Mario Kadastik, National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, EE (*remotely*)
5. Prof. Veronika Zadin, University of Tartu, EE (*remotely*)
6. Dr. Jevgenijs Proskurins, Riga Stradins University, LV (*remotely*)
7. Dr. Gediminas Stankūnas, Lithuanian Energy Institute, LT
8. Dr. Augustinas Stepšys, Vytautas Magnus University, LT (*by delegation and remotely*)
9. Dr. Jonas Venius, National Cancer Institute, LT
10. Dr. Ramūnas Aleksiejūnas, Vilnius University, LT
11. Dr. Erika Korobeinikova, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, LT
12. Dr. Elina Pajuste, University of Latvia, LV (*by delegation*)

**Other contributors invited by Members**

1. Prof. Emmanuel Tsesselis, CERN (*remotely*)
2. Prof. Toms Torims, Riga Technical University, LV
3. Dr. Andrius Juodagalvis, Vilnius University, LT
4. Alise Pīka-Ozola, Industrial Liaison Officer (ILO) for Latvia at CERN (*remotely*)
5. Aušrinė Krištopaitytė, Innovation Agency, LT
6. Giedrė Urkė, Kaunas University of Technology, LT
7. Kristaps Palskis, Riga Technical University, LV
8. Andris Ratkus, Riga Technical University, LV
9. Gundega Selga Horste, Riga Technical University, LV (*remotely*)
10. Martti Raidal, National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, EE
11. Maija Radzina, University of Latvia, LV (*remotely*)
12. Ingus Skadiš, Riga Stradins University, LV (*remotely*)
13. Ants Koel, Tallinn University of Technology, EE
14. Alberto Degiovanni, Riga Technical University, LV (*remotely*)