

Gintaras Steponavičius

Minister of Education and Science of Lithuania

Welcome to the conference! This is going to be an open space for discussions among young researchers from various countries, sharing the ideas about professional or more global issues and visions.

We live in an era of major challenges. New ideas, courage and determination is the weapon to fight those challenges, and it is the young generation which is always equipped with it. Indeed, the Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers has been very proactive and has made a significant contribution to the ongoing higher education and research reform.

The conference agenda suggests a discussion about the link between the science and business. Currently there are many ongoing debates about how the science can generate the best added value for the economy, how to encourage the collaboration between the scientists and business enterprises by suggesting innovative solutions. This is very important as opportunity for you to influence a new kind of science.

On the other hand, you should not forget the main purpose of science: to search for the answers to the challenges faced by contemporary societies and prepare solutions to the future challenges. I refer to the environmental problems, ageing of society, food safety and the others. Therefore, researchers should not limit themselves by narrow specialisation, they must see a broad spectrum of problems and feel responsible for the future of the human race and everyone of us.