

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE STIM-REI 2.0

Symposium

*“Centres of Excellence: Driving Innovation,
Technology Transfer and Industry Collaboration”*

Monday, 16 March 2026

DATE & TIME

Monday, 16 March 2026

09:00 – 16:45 h (Registration from 08:30)

VENUE

MedILS, University of Split

Meštrovićevo šetalište 45, 21000 Split, Croatia

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The Centre of Excellence STIM-REI 2.0 warmly invites researchers, innovators, industry representatives, and policymakers to its Symposium on *Centres of Excellence: Driving Innovation, Technology Transfer and Industry Collaboration*. The event offers a unique opportunity to explore how Centres of Excellence can serve as engines of knowledge transfer, commercialisation, and industry collaboration.

The one-day event brings together leading researchers, innovators, industry professionals, and government representatives committed to advancing research-to-market outcomes in Croatia and the wider European and African context.

The symposium features keynote addresses by internationally recognised experts, presentations of cutting-edge research innovations by STIM-REI 2.0 principal researchers, and a high-level panel discussion on public–private cooperation in research, development and innovation.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

01**Keynote Address**

Danica Ramljak, DVM, PhD (The World Bank) on the role of Centres of Excellence in innovation, technology transfer and commercialisation.

02**International CoE Experiences**

Case studies from KU Leuven (Belgium) and the University of Ghana, presented by senior experts from each institution.

03**Research Pitch Session**

Nine STIM-REI 2.0 principal researchers present their most promising innovations to private sector partners and potential investors.

04**Panel Discussion**

High-level dialogue on key factors for public–private cooperation in R&D and innovation, moderated by Danica Ramljak, DVM, PhD (The World Bank).

FEATURED SPEAKERS

SPEAKER**AFFILIATION & TOPIC**

Danica Ramljak, DVM, PhD	Senior Expert for Science and Innovation, The World Bank <i>Keynote: Centres of Excellence and Their Role in Innovation Development, Technology Transfer and Commercialisation Moderator, Panel Discussion</i>
Ms An Huts	Senior Advisor on Joint PhD Policy, KU Leuven, Belgium <i>Experiences of a Centre of Excellence at KU Leuven</i>
Prof. David Dodoo-Arhin, PhD	Director, Research and Innovation Directorate, University of Ghana <i>Institutional Support to Centres of Excellence at the University of Ghana</i>
Prof. Mile Dželalija, PhD	STIM-REI 2.0, University of Split <i>Vision and Strategy of STIM for Knowledge and Technology Transfer</i>
Ms Andrea Smolić	Law Office WAHL and Partners, Zagreb <i>Protection of Intellectual Property (IP) and Its Importance</i>
Slaven Šteković, PhD, MBA	Aeterna Omics Health GmbH; Vienna University of Technology, Austria <i>From Discovery to Impact: What It Takes to Move Science Beyond the Lab</i>
Ms Gordana Kovačević, M.S.	Former President, Ericsson Nikola Tesla; Former President, Economic Council, University of Zagreb <i>Panellist</i>
Prof. Nikola Mišković, PhD	Director, European Centre of Excellence in Maritime Robotics and Technologies for a Sustainable Blue Economy (CoE MARBLE), Head of the Laboratory for Underwater Systems and Technologies (LABUST), University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (FER) <i>Panellist</i>
Mr Mateo Ivanac	President of Management Board, DIH Innovamare Šibenik; Interim Innovation Director, EIT Water <i>Panellist</i>

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

16 March 2026 · MedILS, University of Split

TIME	SESSION / SPEAKER
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Registration</i>
09:00 – 09:15	Opening Ceremony Prof. Roko Andričević, PhD (Head of CoE STIM) · Prof. Mile Dželalija, PhD (Leader, Technology Transfer Activity) · Prof. Dragan Ljutić, MD, PhD (Rector of the University of Split and Leader of STIM-REI 2.0 project) · Prof. Radovan Fuchs, DVM, PhD (Minister of Science, Education and Youth, Croatia — TBC)
09:15 – 09:45	Keynote: Centres of Excellence and Their Role in Innovation Development, Technology Transfer and Commercialisation Danica Ramljak, DVM, PhD — Senior Expert for Science and Innovation, The World Bank
09:45 – 10:30	Examples of Successful International Centres of Excellence Ms An Huts — Experiences of a Centre of Excellence at KU Leuven (Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium), Prof. David Dodoo-Arhin, PhD, (Director, Research and Innovation Directorate, University of Ghana) — Institutional Support to Centres of Excellence at the University of Ghana
10:30 – 10:50	Q & A Moderator: Assist. Prof. Mija Marinković, PhD — STIM-REI 2.0, University of Split
10:50 – 11:10	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:10 – 11:40	Vision and Strategy of STIM for Knowledge and Technology Transfer and Cooperation with the Private Sector Prof. Mile Dželalija, PhD — STIM-REI 2.0, University of Split

11:40 – 12:30	Examples of STIM Researchers' Results and Innovations: From Laboratory to Market Short presentations by STIM-REI 2.0 principal researchers: Prof. Ante Bilušić, PhD, Prof. Frano Barbir, PhD, Assoc. Prof. Željka Sanader Maršić, PhD, Assoc. Prof. Damir Kovačić, PhD, Prof. Roko Andričević, PhD, Assoc. Prof. Jadranka Šepić, PhD, Tvrtko Smital, PhD, Sandi Orlić, PhD and Prof. Mile Dželalija, PhD
12:30 – 13:00	Q & A Moderator: Assist. Prof. Mija Marinković, PhD — STIM-REI 2.0
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:20	Protection of Intellectual Property (IP) and Its Importance Ms Andrea Smolić — Law Office WAHL and Partners, Zagreb
14:20 – 14:50	From Discovery to Impact: What It Takes to Move Science Beyond the Lab - Slaven Šteković, PhD, MBA — Aeterna Omics Health GmbH; Vienna University of Technology, Austria
14:50 – 15:45	Panel Discussion: Key Factors for Cooperation Between the Public and Private Sectors in R&D and Innovation Development Moderator: Danica Ramljak, DVM, PhD (The World Bank) Panelists: Ms Gordana Kovačević, M.S. (Former President, Ericsson Nikola Tesla) · Prof. Dr. Nikola Mišković (CoE MARBLE, University of Zagreb) · Mr Mateo Ivanac (President of Management Board, DIH Innovamare Šibenik, Interim Innovation Director, EIT Water)
15:45 – 16:15	Q & A Moderator: Assist. Prof. Mija Marinković, PhD — STIM-REI 2.0
16:15 – 16:45	Conclusions and Next Steps Prof. Mile Dželalija, PhD — STIM-REI 2.0

ONLINE PARTICIPATION

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/36226384139830?p=fg3eVsEc1FH8lstAyE>

Meeting ID: 362 263 841 398 30 · Passcode: SA7hh3SU

ABOUT STIM-REI 2.0

The Centre of Excellence STIM (Science, Technology, Innovation and Management) is a research and innovation centre at the University of Split, serving as a platform that actively invests in young researchers as future leaders in science, higher education, and technology transfer. By integrating emerging scientists into a transdisciplinary environment spanning natural sciences, engineering, social sciences, and innovation management, STIM fosters a generation of academics capable of thinking across boundaries and translating knowledge into real-world impact. Transdisciplinarity is not merely a methodology; it is a model for academic integrity, genuine collaboration, and responsible innovation.

The STIM-REI 2.0 project, co-funded by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund, focuses on reinforcing the innovation ecosystem in the Dalmatia region and beyond, with particular emphasis on technology transfer, intellectual property protection, and engagement with the private sector.

REGISTRATION & CONTACT

To participate, please confirm your attendance by:

- **Online registration form:** <https://shorturl.at/7OTB0>

Organising Committee

STIM-REI 2.0: Prof. Mile Dželalija, PhD, Assist. Prof. Mija Marinković, PhD, Ms Petra Šimundić, Mr Petar Roje, Ms Tonka Petričević, Ms Ivana Bobeta

UNIST, MedILS: Ms Irena Rajić, Mr Prosper Radonić, Ms Anja Šuta

Moderator: Assist. Prof. Mija Marinković, PhD

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