

Smart Factories of Tomorrow: *Transitioning to Industry 4.0/5.0*

26 March 2025 | 09:30 – 13:00

*University Foundation, Meeting Room A
Rue d' Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels*

The conference will focus on the future of smart factories and their broader societal impact. Specifically, it will explore the role of smart factories within the EU's research and innovation agenda, highlighting key initiatives at the EU level and the responsibility of Smart Specialisation Strategy in supporting these factories. Additionally, the event will offer a unique opportunity to learn from outstanding examples of smart factory research and innovation from Slovenia and beyond.

Programme

09:00 – 09:30 *Registration of participants*

09:30 – 09:40 **Welcoming remarks**

- *Asst. Prof. Dr. Draško Veselinovič - President of the Management Board, Slovenian Business & Research Association*

09:40 – 09:55 **Strategic Research Innovation Partnership Factories of the Future in Slovenia & Advances in Intelligent Robotics: Adaptive Systems, AI-Driven Machine Vision, and Industry Digitalisation**

- *Asst. Prof. Dr. Igor Kovač – Director of the Strategic Research-Innovation Partnership (SRIP) Factories of the Future in Slovenia and head of the Center for Research and Innovation Partnership at the Jožef Stefan Institute*
-

9:55 – 10:15 **Presentation of European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Manufacturing**

- **Ms. Caroline Viarouge** – *Chief Executive Officer, EIT Manufacturing*

10:15 – 10:25 **Driving the Transition to Industry 4.0/5.0: Advanced Technologies for Low-Carbon, Digital, and Energy-Efficient Production**

- **Prof. Dr. Niko Herakovič** – *Chair of manufacturing technologies and systems, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Ljubljana*

10:25 – 10:45 **Industry 5.0 from the EU perspective**

- **Dr. Liviu Stirbat** – *Head of Unit, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, Industry 5.0 and AI in Science Unit*

10:45 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 11:10 **Advanced Materials and Quantum Technologies: Enabling Electronics, Green Energy, and Next-Generation Innovations**

- **Prof. dr. Matjaž Spreitzer** – *Head of Advanced Materials Department, Jožef Stefan Institute*

11:10 – 11:20 **Made in Europe – State of Play**

- **Mr. Željko Pazin** – *Executive Director, European Factories of the Future Research Association (EFFRA)*

11:20 – 11:30 **Innovative Laser and Photonics Technologies: Flexible Laser Systems, Digital Processing, and Advanced Optical Fibre Solutions**

- **Prof. Dr. Rok Petkovšek** – *Head of Laboratory, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Ljubljana*

11:30 – 11:40 **Flexible assembly technologies – skill-based robot programming, computer vision and operator information support**

- **Maarten Witters** – *Research Fellow ProductionS, Flanders Make - Smart Factory Benelux*

11:40 – 11:50 **Transforming Toolmaking: Advanced Technologies, AI-Driven Mechatronic Tools, and Additive Manufacturing for Global Value Chains**

- **Dr. Aleš Hančič** – *Managing Director, TECOS, Slovenian Tool and Die Development Centre*

11:50 – 12:00 **Bridging the Physical and Digital Worlds: Control Technologies for Factories of the Future and Green Energy Solutions**

- **Dr. Miha Glavan** – *Chief Research Officer at KC STV & Researcher at Jožef Stefan Institute*

12:00 – 12:10 **Advanced Plasma Technologies: Surface Treatment, Coatings, and Innovative Applications in Health, Agriculture and Liquid Processing**

- **Asst. Prof. Dr. Ita Junkar** – *Research Associate, Jožef Stefan Institute*

12:10 – 12:15 **Q&A and discussion**

12:15 – 13:00 ***Walking lunch with networking***



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

