The Economic Profile of Riga 2017
Riga in 2030...
...will be internationally recognizable Northern European metropolis. The full membership of the Riga in the Northern European Metropolises family based on the quality of life in the city, an innovative economy, smart and efficient resources management and modern governance, with the active participation of the population.

Riga in 2017...
...is one of the largest metropolises in the Baltic Sea region and the biggest industrial, business, financial, cultural and sports centre in the Baltic States, as well as an important port city and transportation hub between the West and the East.

**Area:** 304 km²

**Time zone:** GMT+2

**Accessibility:**
- By plane – from more than 80 cities all over the world
- By train – from Russia, Belorussia and Estonia
- By bus – from more than 100 European cities

**Population (2016):** 639.6 thousand

**Share of economically active population (2016):** 71.2 %

**The average monthly gross wages and salaries (2016):** 949 EUR

**Unemployment rate (2016):** 4.8 %

**National currency:** Euro (EUR)

**Number of enterprises (2015):** 71,465

**Number of newly established enterprises (2016):** 6,305

**The largest sectors of the economy based on the number of enterprises (2015):**
- Services (32,064)
- Construction (4,783)
- Manufacturing (3,994)

**Non-financial investments (2015):** 2,534.3 million EUR

**Accumulated foreign direct investment in share capital of companies (2015):** 5,789.7 billion EUR

**World Bank Doing Business 2017 rating of Latvia:**
- 14th place among world countries
- 6th place among the member state of the European Union

**Standard & Poor’s credit rating of Riga (2016):** BBB+/A-2

**Climate:**
- Average temperature in summer months does not exceed 20 °C
- Average temperature in winter months is not lower than 0 °C

**Information about Riga:**
- www.riga.lv
- www.investinriga.lv

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- **USEFUL INFORMATION**
Riga is formed by its residents, its urban environment and economic activity. These are the main characteristics that create and develop our northern metropolitan style and are collected and reviewed in this annual edition.

Riga is an important business centre that concentrates more than half of all economic activity of Latvia. It is demonstrated also by the World Economic Forum study, which concluded that of all the European countries particularly Latvia has the highest rates of new businesses and our city is very suitable and open for starting a new business. Most of the start-up companies are registered particularly in Riga. Acknowledging that the establishment of new businesses promotes the growth of the city, the city council therefore focuses its attention and provides support for the development of both traditional and social enterprises, and will ensure such support in future as well.

Riga has the biggest port in the Baltic States, and also the airport “Riga” is the largest in the Baltic States; and it not only promotes the development of tourism, but also contributes to the diversity of cultural life. It is known that this year a number of world-class music stars will be performing in Riga and up to the time of the celebration of Latvia’s centenary the city will continue to delight people with not only already known artistic and cultural activities, but will also actively participate in the creation and implementation of new ideas.

Compared to other European cities, Riga is a city with extensive natural area that takes 40% of the total area of Riga and gives the unique leisure and recreational opportunities for residents and city guests. Acknowledging this value, the city council also pays particular attention to improvement of city’s green area. In previous years, a lot of effort has been made to implement the projects for the development of attractive urban environment. For example, in 2016 the project for revitalisation and transformation of the former dump area to recreation area for residents has been completed, the development of the biggest children’s playground of Latvia in Lucavsala has been continued, and also infrastructure improvement works have been carried out in Riga Zoological Garden, as well as in residential places, and on central traffic highways of the city.

Riga is a city of opportunities and our competitiveness lies not only on the geographical location, the availability and quality of education or economic activity, but at the same time also on the ability to offer increasing quality of life. Riga is able to offer living space in a clean city with a convenient and accessible public transport, low noise level and comprehensive educational, cultural, sport and entertainment opportunities.

As the legend tells, Riga is a city that will never be finished, it is always in a dynamic development process, and therefore I invite everyone to devote their time and generate ideas that is one of the most valuable investments what each of us can make for the development of the city.
**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Geographic Location**

Riga is the capital city of the Republic of Latvia. Geographically it is located in the centre of the Baltic State region, and it is the largest city in the Baltics and the third largest city (after St. Petersburg and Stockholm) in the entire Baltic Sea region.

![Map showing distances from Riga to the nearest European capital cities](image)

- **Distance from Riga to the nearest European capital cities**:
  - Moscow: 920 km
  - Stockholm: 550 km
  - Helsinki: 310 km
  - Vilnius: 480 km
  - Tallinn: 310 km
  - Warsaw: 400 km
  - Minsk: 660 km

**Climate**

The climate of Riga is determined by the moderate latitude air masses of the Atlantic Ocean connected with the active cyclonic action; therefore, it is often cloudy and with precipitations in the city. Summers in Riga are moderately warm (average temperature in summer months does not exceed 20 °C) and winter months are also relatively warm (average temperature in winter months is not lower than 0 °C).

![Graph showing sunshine hours in Riga in 2016](image)

**The total area of the city is 304 km²; and it is divided into six districts that, in turn, are sub-divided into 58 neighbourhoods.**

**Nature and Water Territories**

The terrain of Riga is mostly flat and gently sloping, and its relative height is 1-11 m above the sea level. Judging by the size of the green area, Riga can be considered as one of the greenest capital cities in Europe. There are large variety of green areas in Riga – parks, forest areas and forest parks, squares, courtyards, boulevards, etc. To be able to follow and to monitor air quality and noise level in the city, the regular air quality monitoring has been carried out.

![Map showing the planned usage of territory of Riga](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Usage</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential area</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>91.03 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green area</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>85.09 km²</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water bodies</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>45.69 km²</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industrial area</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>45.19 km²</td>
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<td>Technical construction territories</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>5.65 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farfield territory</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2.86 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roads (streets), within the borders of red lines</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2.86 km²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOCIETY**

### Population

According to the data on population, Riga is the largest city in the Baltic States – in 2016 639,6 thousand people lived in Riga, 532.8 thousand people – in Vilnius, 423.4 thousand people – in Tallinn. 32 % of total population of Latvia lives in Riga and it is the highest indicator among the Member States of the European Union (along with Tallinn in Estonia (32 %) and Athens in Greece (29 %)). Despite the number of overall population in the city is decreasing (due to demography and migration), over the last five years the birth rate is increasing.

The proportion of population till the working-age in Riga, 2016

![Chart showing the proportion of population till the working-age in Riga, 2016](chart)

In recent years the ethnic composition of the population in Riga has not changed significantly – the proportion of Latvians has slightly increased and the proportion of Russians – decreased. In 2016 46.2 % of those who live in Riga were Latvians, 37.7 % - Russians, 3.9 % - Belarusians, 3.5 % - Ukrainians, but about 9 % – various other nationalities.

### Education

In 2016, in Riga there were 232 pre-school educational institutions (under the authority of local governments and private institutions) and 145 general education institutions, where respective-ly 30 989 and 79 142 school children studied. In Riga 11 thousand students receive vocational education, and it is 40 % of all vocational education students in Latvia. Furthermore, there are 46 high schools and colleges in Riga and more than 77 thousand students are studying there, that is more than 80 % of all students in Latvia. Apart general and higher education opportunities, there is a wide range of interest education offers in sports, culture, leisure and other activities.

### Culture

Riga, as the capital city of the Republic of Latvia, has always maintained the city’s and the whole country’s tangible and intangible cultural heritage. There are many architectural monuments of national importance in the city; and it is also a venue for cultural events of regional, national and international significance, in one year the municipality organizes more than 300 events and in overall more than 700 thousand people attend them. The offer of wide range of cultural activities is also provided by event organisers working in private sector that organize more than 4 thousand events a year for which generally more than 1 million tickets are sold. Residents of Riga are provided with opportunities to involve themselves in amateur performances – 174 amateur groups are working in municipal cultural institutions.
Once every five years the Latvian Nationwide Song and Dance Celebration Festival is held in Riga, every three years – the international folklore festival Baltica. Every year such events like the Riga City Festival, the Lāčplēsja day, the Staro Riga Light Festival, the Proclamation Day of the Republic of Latvia, the Music and Arts Festival Blides, the international music festival Rīgas Ritmi, the Baltic Ballet Festival, the Gold- 

en Mask Theatre Festival in Latvia and other events take place in Riga. In 2017 Riga - Gauja region will become the European gastronomy region (along with Aarhus and central Denmark, as well as the Lombardy region in Italy). In cooperation between cities Riga, Sigulda, Cesīs and Valkmiera, the special concept With Nature on The Plate was created for exploring gastronomic diversity of the region.

The historic centre of Riga is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. In the centre of Riga 40 % of all buildings are Art Nouveau buildings, and it is much more than in any other European city.

The largest culture events in Riga in 2017:

- **08.-14.05.** Riga Restaurant Week in spring
- **13.-14.05.** Lattelecom marathon
- **20.05.** Museum Night
- **08.06.-18.06.** Riga Opera Festival
- **22.06.** Midsummer Fair in Dome Square in the Old Town
- **23.06.-24.06.** Midsummer Night celebration in 11th November Embankment and in Dzeguzkalns
- **16.07.-23.07.** European Chorus Games
- **28.06.-02.07.** Jazz music festival Rīgas Ritmi
- **18.08.-20.08.** Riga City Festival
- **09.09.** Contemporary culture forum White Night 2017
- **09.-15.10.** Riga Restaurant Week in autumn
- **17.11.-19.11.** Staro Riga Light Festival
- **26.11.-06.01.** Christmas markets in Riga
- **09.12.-08.01.** Festival of environmental objects Path of Christmas Spruces
- **15.12.-29.12.** Arts students’ exhibition Jarmarka
- **31.12.** Celebration of New Year Eve in Riga, in 11th November Embankment

INFRASTRUCTURE

### Housing

The standard multi-apartment houses are the bases of Riga housing fund. The city’s housing fund consists of state, local and private-owned residential houses constructed in different time periods. Most of the houses were built in the Soviet times – 72 % of the total population of Riga live in such houses. Large part of the houses were also built before the war and during the first independence period of Latvia, while the third big housing construction boom began in 2006, which significantly slowed down along with the economic crisis.

88 % of the population of Riga live in multi-apartment houses with 10 or more apartments, 5 % – in multi-apartment houses with up to 9 apartments, 7 % – in private houses or estates. The total residential area per citizen of Riga is 30 m² and over the last five years it has increased for 3 m².

Swedbank Baltic Housing Affordability Index shows that in Riga this figure is 171.3 and it is higher than in Tallinn (159.6) and Vilnius (128.1). The fall of the average prices of houses for 6.9 % during the last year facilitated improvements in housing affordability. Time required to save 15 % needed for the first deposit for buying a home in Riga is 23.6 months.

In the Latio Residential Market Report it is concluded that significant increase of activity is observed in the market of private houses in Riga and its suburbs, where in 2016 the increase of the number of transactions has been for 32 %. Housing market activity in Riga is about 600 transactions per month. Sales of standard multi-apartment makes 66 % of the housing market in Riga, 20 % – apartments in new projects, but 13 % apartments in the centre of the city. At the same time, the sum of sales of apartments in the new projects makes nearly half (46 %) of the total Riga housing market transaction. In the near future 10 more new projects will supplement the housing market.

### Transport

For reaching the long-term objectives, the sustainable transport infrastructure and its organisation is determined as one of the main priority directions in the Riga City Development Programme 2014-2020.

#### Road Transport

Riga is the key international, domestic, suburb passenger and cargo transportation junction in Latvia. The road network in the Riga region is relatively dense and it ensures a radial link of Riga with the rest of the territory of Latvia.

In Latvia all the major roads and transport corridors are crossing the capital city:
- in the North – South direction, it is ensured by the first transport corridor in Europe Via Baltica and it connects European cities: Helsinki – Tallinn – Riga – Kaunas – Warsaw and Riga – Kaliningrad – Gdansk; in the West – East direction, it is ensured by the European route E222 that begins in the UK and extends till the central part of Russia.
In order to clear the city centre from transportation transits and traffic jams, the Southern Bridge was opened in 2008. On its both shores trunk roads with transport junctions are built ensuring the operatior of the bridge. In 2011 Slavu transport junction, as well as the Eastern highway became publicly accessible. In 2013 the transport junction on the left shore in direction to Zemgale was finished, thus concluding all the trunk roads required for complete exploitation of the Southern Bridge. Thus, all the transportation transits can freely bypass the city centre; moreover, the system of the new trunk roads creates an exit to the transport corridor of the national importance road Via Baltica.\(^{26}\)

Riga also provides the efficient and comfortable public transportation services for citizens and visitors of the city. The responsible company is the municipal LLC Rigas Satiksme (Traffic of Riga) providing the city with 53 bus routes, 19 trolley-bus routes and 9 tram routes serving about 150 million passengers. Besides, LLC Riga Satiksme ensures parking lots services offering more than 5 thousand parking lots.

In Riga, as in the capital city of Latvia, a great importance is given to ensuring agglomeration with the rest territory of Latvia, as well as to transportation of international passengers; that is provided by JSC Riga International Coach Terminal, cooperating with 30 passenger transportation companies (16 companies ensure domestic transportations, 18 companies ensure international transportations, 12 of those are foreign companies). The Riga International Coach Terminal on average maintains 420 routes daily, of those 350 are domestic and 70 are international routes, serving more than 2 million passengers.\(^{27}\)

**Railway Transport**

Railway transport is one of the most advantageous means of land transportation from security, as well as from ecological aspect. From all the domestic land transportations, railway cargo transportation is approximately 52% and passenger transportation in the Riga region – 30%. In the railway cargo transportation structure, 85% are transit operations, mainly from Russia and Belorussia to Latvian ports (the Eastern – Western transit corridor); inland transportation is about 5% that can be explained with relatively short transportation distances. Almost all railway routes in Latvia go through Riga.

In 2015 the project envisaging development of the infrastructure in Krievu Island to transfer port activities from the city centre has been successfully completed. The aim of the project was to free city centre from coal dust and carriage noise, and to facilitate the competitiveness of the port. In Krievu Island four bulk handling berths with a total length of 180 meters and 15.5 meters depth at the piers were built, as well as all necessary access roads and railway links, and engineering communications to port area were ensured. Total capacity of Krievu Island project is 20 million tons of bulk cargo a year.

Railway of Latvia is included in one of the five transnational transport corridors defined by the European Union – the Northern Transport Corridor connecting the northern part of the European Union with Norway and the eastern part with Belorussia and Russia.

The existing railway network in the Baltic States was built according to Russian standards, but in the Western Europe railway tracks differ in width, therefore, railway of Latvia cannot be connected directly with the railway network of Poland and Germany and currently on Lithuanian boarder the width of wagon wheels is being changed. However, the project Rail Baltica has been implemented, aiming to re-establish a direct link between the railway network of the Baltic States and the European railway network and to promote the regional integration by connecting metropolises of Tallinn – Riga – Kaunas – Warsaw – Berlin. Implementation of the Rail Baltica project will ensure the high-quality railway connection between the Baltic States and the major Western European economic, administrative and cultural centres. It will also provide possibilities for the new cargo corridor (North-South), as well as development of logistic services. It is estimated that thus at least 1.5 billion euros will flow into the Latvian economy. Thanks to the new railway network, not only railway capacity will be increased, but the speed, as well; whereas, regarding passenger services, travel time will be reduced, as well as car traffic flow to ViaBaltic highway and to the Polish and German highways will be reduced, thus contributing also to environmental friendly transport – railway – development.\(^{28}\)

Following companies operate in the Latvian railway sector:
- JSC Latvian Railway, manages the public railway infrastructure;
- JSC Pasazeru Viciens (Passengers’ Train);
- several organisations and sector companies

Cargo transportation in Latvia is ensured by JSC Latvian Railway daughter-company LLC LDZ Cargo and by two private capital companies – JSC Baltijas Ekspressis and JSC Baltijas Tranzit Serviss. Private companies transport on average 20% of the total amount; it is one of the highest rates in Europe.

Domestic public rail transport service provider is JSC Pasazeru viciens, but international railway passenger transport is currently provided to Russia and Belarus by JSC LDZ Cargo in cooperation with LLC L-Ekspressis.

**Water Transport**

Water transport in Riga is ensured by the Freeport of Riga that plays an important role in the global and regional cargo transport chain, as well as in the passengers’ transportation network in the region of the Baltic Sea. The port is a middle point of main transit roads and the eastern – western transport corridor, as it is included in such corridors:

- Trans-Siberian highway;
- North – South road through Minsk;
- Daugava – Dnieper waterway project.

Moreover, the European Union has determined that Riga is a part of the Trans European corridor I (TEK I) connecting Helsinki with Tallinn, Riga, Kaunas and Warsaw.

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\(^{29}\) The Authority of the Freeport of Riga: www.sf.sip.lv

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Key facts and figures about the Freeport of Riga:
- The Freeport of Riga is located along both banks of the river Daugava and it is 15 km long.
- Total area – 6 348 ha.
- The Freeport of Riga is open for sailing throughout the whole year.
- Status of free economic zone.
- Total length of piers – 18.2 km.
- Maximum depth at piers – 14.5 m.
- Warehouse area – 370 979 m².
- Cargo storage area capacity – 1 926 362 m².
- Cargo handling capacity – 40 million tons.
- Cargo turnover – 58.2 million tons a year.
- Cargo storage area capacity – 1 926 362 m².
- Cargo handling capacity of port terminals is 58.2 million tons a year.
- Freezer facility capacity – 25 500 t.
- Reservoir capacity – 665 063 m³.
- Cargo handling capacity – 58.2 million tons a year.
- Cargo turnover – 40 million tons.
- Number of ships – 3 587.
- Up to 80 % of cargo turnover in the Freeport of Riga consists of transit cargos sent to or received from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).
- 35 stevedoring companies and 28 shipping agents operate in the Freeport of Riga.
- The main cargos are containers, different metals, wood, coal, fertilizers, chemical cargos and petroleum products.
Air Transport
Large amount of passenger transportation between Latvia and other world countries facilitates the economic growth not only for the city, but also for the entire country. Air transport has a great influence on the national economy in general and on the increase of its gross domestic product, creating preconditions and promoting development of other sectors (especially tourism), as well as contributing to the increase of the level of employment. In Latvia air transport is provided by JSC Riga International Airport, JSC Latvian Air Traffic and air operators, of which the most influential is the national operator JSC Air Baltic Corporation.

In 2015, in Riga International Airport the EU cohesion fund project The International Airport Engineering Infrastructure Development was completed, within which the major infrastructure reconstruction works has been carried out during the past two years. In the result there has been increased flight safety, improved environmental conditions and increased the capacity of the airport. Based on the estimates of the airport, in the result of the project activities greenhouse gas emissions of arriving aircraft has decreased for about 700 tonnes, and the amount of waste per passenger has reduced for about 46 %. In 2016 the new North Terminal was opened providing new boarding sectors, three aircraft bridges, new commercial premises, as well as spacious and comfortable waiting rooms for passengers.9

Pipeline Transport
Currently in Latvia there is a trunk of gas pipeline network connecting the system of gas pipelines of Latvia with Russia, Estonia and Lithuania. In total 3.7 billion m3 of natural gas are transported via these pipelines.10 There are two gas pipelines crossing the city and ensuring it with natural gas:
- Since 1962 Dashava (Ukraine) – Riga
- Since 1972 Torzhok (Russia) – Riga

Engineering Infrastructure
Modern urban life is unthinkable without such obvious things as water, heat, electricity, light and sewerage. Connections to centralized supply systems and the qualitative service thereof are essential for comfortable life.

Water and Sewerage System
Water supply and sewerage system in the city is ensured by LLC Rigas Udens (Water of Riga) that provides good quality drinking water and collects, drains and cleans domestic wastewater. Drinking water in Riga is obtained from six important city’s water sources, using both surface and ground water sources. Most inhabitants living on the left bank of Daugava receives water from Daugava river basin in the water supply zone of the Riga Hydroelectric Power Plant (Riga HEPS), while inhabitants of the right bank of Daugava – from the ground water source Baltzers-Zakumuza. Water treatment station Daugava can produce up to 210 thousand m3 drinking water a day, while Baltzers-Zakumuza – up to 85 thousand m3 drinking water. Quality of the produced drinking water and safety of water treatment stations meet the European standards.11

The total length of water supply networks in the amount of 1 423.1 km, including network inlet 332 km in length. To provide the safe and qualitative water supply, every year LLC Rigas Udens changes or reconstructs pipelines, hydrants and boits in the whole territory of Riga.

The total length of the sewerage system network in Riga is 141.8 km, including street sewer outlets 153 km in length. Every year LLC Rigas Udens increases the power of the sewerage system network and its pumps, thus ensuring safe collection of wastewater and its drainage to the biological wastewater treatment plant Daugavgriva.8

Heat Supply
The JSC Rigas Siltums (Heat of Riga) is the main producer of heating in Riga. It ensures production, distribution and sales of heating, as well as provides technical maintenance services of the internal heat supply systems in the buildings.

The main heat producers in Riga are the cogeneration stations owned by JSC Latvenergo. JSC Rigas Siltums purchases from these stations approximately 70 % of all the necessary heat. About 0.05 % of heat is bought from other companies and the rest is produced in JSC Rigas Siltums heat sources, as well as several tens of small and medium-sized boiler-houses. Mainly gas (97 %) is used as fuel; it is also possible to use heating oil, marked fuel and woodchips. 76 % of all heat necessary for Riga is transmitted and distributed by JSC Rigas Siltums. 77 % of all the produced and supplied heat is used for household heating and boiling hot water. The total length of the city’s heating circuit is about 900 km.

Power Supply
Similarly, like heat supply, power supply is also ensured by the leading energy company in Latvia – JSC Latvenergo. The company produces 90 % of all the electro energy produced in Latvia; the majority is produced using water as energy resource.12 In accordance with the Electricity Market Act from 1st January 2015 the electricity market is fully open, allowing the natural and legal persons to buy electricity from mutually competing suppliers. Apart from the largest supplier JSC Latvenergo, power supply for private persons is ensured by LLC BaltKom TV, LLC WIN Baltic, LLC 220 Energy, and for legal persons also – LLC En-efit, LLC Baltic Energy Services, etc.

Gas Supply
The supply of natural gas in the Latvian market is ensured by JSC Latvijas Gaze (Gas of Latvia) that transfers, distributes, maintains and sells natural gas, in accordance with licenses issued by the Public Utilities Commission. From the gas used in Latvia, approximately 65 % is consumed in Riga.

Lightening
Already since 1947 the lighting system of the city is managed by the Riga Municipality Agency Riga Gaisma (Light of Riga), whose main task is to maintain, to repair and to improve the operational efficiency of the external lighting networks of city roads, streets, parks and other public objects, as well as reconstruction of its technical basis. The agency provides lightening on streets 3 912 hours a year, ensures work of 357 traffic lights, including maintenance of 88 controlled pedestrian crossing.13

Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure
In parallel to the traditional infrastructure elements (railway, road, ports and airports, as well as energy supply) the comprehensive telecommunications networks providing fast data and information flow, thereby increasing the efficiency of the economy as a whole, are crucial in the 21st century. ICT is also one of the leading economic sectors in Riga and in Latvia stimulating development of all the national economy – the share of value added of ICT sector in gross domestic product is approximately 4 %. According to the assessments carried out by the company Akamai in 2016, Latvia has 7th fastest Internet in the world (5th place among European countries and 1st place among Baltic States) – the average Internet speed in Latvia was 17.5 Mbps, while the world average speed is only 6.1 Mbps.14

The Riga municipality is a friendly and suitable city for ICT sector, actively participating, supporting and promoting different activities and services provided by this sector. For example, electronic travel cards are used in the public transport in Riga, as well as collections of the museums of Riga can be explored on mobile applications. In the catalogues of the National Museum of Latvia anyone who is interested

11 LLC Rigas Udens. Available: www.rigasudens.lv
12 JSC Rigas Siltums. Available: www.rs.lv
16 JSC Rigas Siltums. Available: www.rs.lv
17 JSC Latvenergo. Available: www.latvenergo.lv
20 JSC Rigas Siltums. Available: www.rs.lv
can explore collections and search for specific expositions and items located in the stocks of museums from the distance. Whereas, in the education sector, the portal e-klase (e-class) has gained popularity among education institutions, students and parents. To ensure convenient communication between inhabitants and local authorities and departments, the Riga municipality is using IT tools more and more, at the same time reducing its expenses and administrative burden. The main partners in the development of the ICT sector in Riga are the Latvian Information and Communication Technology Association, Latvian IT cluster, the foundation TechHubRiga, Latvian Startup Association Starin.LV, as well as the Riga Technical University and the University of Latvia.

In 2014 Riga became the capital city of free wireless Internet in Europe (taking into account the number of free Wi-Fi points on one km² and the number of citizens) and also maintained this status in 2015, overcoming all other 27 EU capital cities. On average, in Riga one Lattelecom free Wi-Fi connection point is available for 750 people and three Wi-Fi points on one square kilometre. 39

QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CITY

The quality of life in the city is an important factor for attracting population and for development of entrepreneurship environment, as well as for international competitiveness of the city. Therefore, the sustainable development strategy of Riga until 2030 defines the mission as: Riga – a city of opportunities. This means that the municipality creates varied opportunities for continuing growth, for creating and implementing ideas and dreams of people who live here, and those who learn and study, those who have come to rest or for doing business here. Therefore, the ultimate mission of the Riga municipality is the improvement of the quality of life of its population.

Every year the Riga municipality carries out the population survey to determine what aspects of the quality of life in the city are rated more positive, and what aspects should be improved in future. 2016 survey data shows that the majority of the population of Riga is comfortable with such aspects of the quality of life as cultural events (share of satisfied population – 93 %), the quantity and quality of natural environment (93 %), availability of public transport services (93 %), availability of municipal general education services (88 %), quality of building site environment (82 %), the sound level in surroundings (82 %). 40 Whereas, EUROSTAT data shows that the main quality of life advantages of Riga compared with other European Union countries, is availability of green area, availability of public transport, low noise level in the city, cleanness in the city, and good housing services. 41

The most positive aspects of life quality in Riga

- Low noise level
- Availability of cultural events
- Available public transport
- Cleanness in the city
- Low level of crime/security in the city
- Accessibility of green area (parks, boulevards, squares)
- Availability of general education
- Availability of good housing at affordable price

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40 Information of Lattelecom. Available: www.lattelecom.lv
GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Riga has a dominant role in the economy and in the business of Latvia. According to the Lursoft data, 50 % of all active enterprises in Latvia are located in Riga, and 87 % of the total share capital of enterprises registered in Latvia are located in Riga. Out of 20 companies in Latvia with the highest turnover, 18 are located in Riga and 2 – Pieriga region. The newly produced value in the city of Riga is around 50 % of all the produced in Latvia. The dominance of the capital city of Latvia in the national economy is the most explicit in the European Union, not counting such small countries as Malta and Luxembourg.

The number of population and population density are crucial indicators of any territorial development opportunities. The population density indicators suggest that there are only few areas of concentration of the population in Latvia, where the density is higher than the national average. Mostly it is Riga and the area around Riga about 50 km toward Jurmala, Jelgava, Bauska, Ogre, Saulkrasti and Sigulda. Besides, during the last five years region close to Riga – Pieriga region is the only area where the population density is increasing.

Along with such factors as availability of capital and technologies, availability of workforce is one of the three key urban development determinants. Riga’s attractiveness in this respect is outstandingly high – the number of population of Riga metropolitan area is the largest in the Baltic States, the population density in Riga and Pieriga region is explicitly higher than in other cities and regions, and the largest part of higher education institutions are located here, etc. The statistical data of the State Employment Agency shows that the employment situation in Riga and Pieriga region is significantly better than in other regions of Latvia – in the autumn of 2016 the unemployment rate in Riga is only 4.8 % and in Pieriga region – 5.1 %, while the average unemployment rate in Latvia is 8.0 %. This shows that Riga is largely able to balance demand and supply of labour, as it has essential socio-economic pre-conditions.

In foreseeable future the dominance of Riga in the national economy will remain: Riga is the largest city in the Baltic States, here are located the major national higher education institutions and public administration institutions, Riga is a transport highway node, the international airport and the unfreezing port are located nearby.

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Number of Enterprises

Riga is the most active business region in Latvia – if on average there are 86 companies per 1 000 inhabitants in Latvia, then in Riga this indicator is 112. Overall there are 71 465 economically active enterprises in Riga and during the last four years this number has increased by 18 %, while in Latvia on average – about 12 %. 58 % of all companies registered in Latvia are located in Riga.43

Although the number of newly-established enterprises has decreased in recent years (6 305 new enterprises were registered in 2016), still the number of enterprises established in Riga exceeds the number of enterprises wound up that indirectly suggest that the viability of enterprises working in Riga is larger than those which has been established in other regions of Latvia. In 2016 of all the newly established enterprises in Latvia 69 % were registered particularly in Riga.43

Economically active units in Riga

92 % of companies registered in Riga employ not more than 9 persons, and in the last three years the number of such companies has increased by 13 %. The number of large companies employing more than 250 people has increased by 8 %, besides 66 % of all large companies of Latvia are located in Riga.44

Number of Employees in Enterprises

92 % of companies registered in Riga employ not more than 9 persons, and in the last three years the number of such companies has increased by 13 %. The number of large companies employing more than 250 people has increased by 8 %, besides 66 % of all large companies of Latvia are located in Riga.44

Largest Enterprises

List of the largest enterprises by turnover (million EUR) in Riga in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Turnover (million EUR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>JSC Uralchem Trading</td>
<td>1 133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>LLC Rimi Latvia</td>
<td>785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>JSC Latvenergo</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>LLC Orlen Latvia</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>JSC Latvijas Gāze</td>
<td>445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>LLC Neste Latvija</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>JSC ELKO Grupa</td>
<td>368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>LLC Circle K Latvia</td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>LLC LDZ Cargo</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>LLC TransBaltic OIL</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STRUCTURE OF THE ECONOMY

Priority Sectors

Sustainable Development Strategy of Riga until 2030 as one of the long-term development objectives has defined the development of innovative, open and export-capable economy, and furthermore as the basis of economy of the city it has defined such priority sectors as transport and logistics, chemical industry, computer technologies, electrical engineering, professional, scientific and technical services, production of metal products and mechanical engineering, tourism and education.

TRANSPORT AND STORAGE

Riga is strategically important transport hub in the European transport network, providing access to the European Union and the Eastern markets in Russia, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Asia. Traffic infrastructure in the city of Riga, both geographically and by various modes of transport is organised and managed efficiently – it facilitates safety and continuity of the flow of goods and passengers, as well as the mutual complementarity of transport infrastructure. Riga is the transport and logistics centre of the region – the location in the international importance railway and road intersection, as well as availability of the international airport and the port are essential factors that determine the economic competitiveness of Riga in the international context. Several logistics and business parks (Dominante Park in Kekava, NP Logistics in Bērzi, etc.) are located in the immediate vicinity of Riga. For major world markets Riga is easy reachable – by plane Riga is accessible from more than 80 cities around the world, by train – from Russia, Belarussia and Estonia, by ferry – from Sweden, by bus – from more than 100 cities in Europe.

CONSTRUCTION

The growth of the construction sector is closely linked with the country’s overall economic development – till 2007, the industry experienced significant growth, while during the economic crisis and post-crisis time the development of the sector was reluctant and moderate. It is expected that starting to use funding of the European Union fund 2014-2020 programming period in 2017 will give a new impulse for the development of the construction sector.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

In 2015, 4 180 companies were working in the ICT sector, most of which work in the field of computer programming. Over the last three years, the number of companies working in ICT sector has increased by 18 %. The most explicit growth is observed in the field of computer programming, where the number of companies has increased by 24 %, as well as in the field of information services, where increase is up to 19 %. Riga provides all the prerequisites for the successful development and exportability of the ICT sector – skilled workforce (education, experience, language skills) and highly developed ICT infrastructure (Latvia stands on 7th place in the world by the average Internet connection speed and on 8th place in the world by broadband connections, for several years Riga is the capital city of free wireless Internet in Europe) with high cost efficiency (labour and infrastructure costs, real and virtual accessibility of the city) are available here.

MANUFACTURING OF COMPUTERS

The computer manufacturing is one of the high-tech industries with high added value and high exportability. It is confirmed also by the statistics of the industry – in recent years, the computer and electrical engineering industry in Latvia shows significant growth trends, besides more than 70 % of production is exported.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES PRODUCTION

Latvia’s geographical location is strategically advantageous for both food and raw materials markets – wide agricultural (as well as fisheries) raw material basis is available here. Whereas, the long-term experience in the field of agriculture provides qualified and knowledgeable human resources with significant work and scientific experience in the food industry. It is confirmed also by internationally known Latvian food industry brands – Laima, Rigas Balzams, Aladars, Rigas sprotes, etc. Land resources available in Latvia for intensifying agricultural activities provide ample opportunities for the development of food and beverage production, exporting in the European Union markets and beyond its borders.

TURISMS

About 2 million tourists are visiting Riga every year and each year the number of tourists shows increasing trend. Mostly tourists from Germany, Russia, Finland and Estonia are visiting Riga, but the largest increase is observed in the number of tourists from Ukraine, Spain, Great Britain and Poland. Overall, there are almost 130 accommodation places in Riga providing more than 15 thousand beds. Bed occupancy rates (the highest occupancy is observed in August – at about 75 % level) show that Riga has still great growth opportunities in attracting tourists. In recent years the quality of infrastructure available in Riga hotels is qualitatively improved. The number of 4-star hotels and respectively number of beds are gradually increasing and the number of guests served therein is growing even faster. Riga is an important transport hub in the Baltic States. For foreign travellers the capital city of Latvia is accessible using air transport and water transport (regular ferry traffic in the direction Riga – Stockholm and cruise ships), and international railway transport (where the most important routes are Moscow and St.Petersburg) and international bus transport. The substantial growth potential is linked to the development of Riga passenger port. After dredging, all the required infrastructure is available in the port of Riga ensuring service to big cruise ships in the city centre.

PROCESSING OF WOOD AND CORK PRODUCTS

Forests are one of the main strategic resources of Latvia. Latvia is one of the six richest countries in the EU by forestland, since the total area of forests accounts for 50 % of the country. The climate conditions in Latvia and the exit to the Baltic Sea favourably impact development of wood processing industry, including its export growth. Advantage of Riga and Latvia in development of wood processing industry is the availability of suitable timber for further processing, as well as lower labour costs. The wood processing industry already now is one of the leading sectors of the economy of Latvia – it makes up to 27 % of the total manufacturing output. Further growth opportunities are rated to both the export development and the timber further processing, creating higher value added products.

Types of Business Activity

Most enterprises located in Riga work in services (45%) and trade (21%) spheres. 7% represent the construction field, but 6% – the manufacturing industry. Over the last four years, the biggest increase in the number of enterprises has been in the spheres of education (+51%), finance and insurance (+23%), as well as environment and energy (+22%) and construction (+22%).

Economically active enterprises in Riga by main kind of activity (NACE Rev. 2) in 2015

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing: 756
- Trade: 15 016
- Industry: 3 994
- Services: 32 064
- Other: 9 336
- Public administration: 288
- Financial and insurance activities: 4 783
- Construction: 1 172
- Education: 1 463
- Human health and social work activities: 2 133
- Other service activities: 3 994
- Not defined: 458

INVESTMENTS

Non-financial Investments

In 2015 non-financial investments in Riga amounted to 2.5 billion euros. Although in the past four years overall amount of investments in Latvia has dropped by 8%, in Riga it has increased by 15%. Respectively, the proportion of non-financial investments of Riga in overall indicator of Latvia has increased as well – if four years ago 46% of all non-financial investments of Latvia were invested in Riga, then in 2015 – already 58%.

Accumulated Foreign Direct Investments

The largest sectors where non-financial investments were made in Riga in 2015 are transport and storage sphere (19% of total investments) and real estate activities (18%). During the last three years the largest non-financial investments growth is observed in the field of education (+64%) and professional, scientific and technical services (+47%).


ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF POPULATION

Employment and Unemployment

The proportion of economically active population in Riga makes up 71.2 %, but the proportion of employed population –65.9 % (in absolute figures respectively – 337.9 thousand and 312.7 thousand). Over the last four years, the share of economically active population has increased by 2 %, but employed – about 6 %. The unemployment rate in the last five years in Riga has declined three times (from 15.1 % in 2010 to 4.8 % in 2016). According to the data of the Central Statistical Bureau, in Riga on average there are overall 483 000 job places a year, of which 153 thousand are in the public sector and 330 thousand – in the private sector. During the last five years, the number of jobs increased by 21 % in the private sector, and about 3 % – in the public sector. The free vacancy rate in Riga is about 2 % in the public sector and less than 1 % in the private sector.

Most of the population of Riga is employed in trade, accommodation and food services (21.3 %), financial, insurance, science, administrative services and real estate services (16.2 %), transport, storage, information and communication services (15.8 %), as well as processing and mining industry and other industries (12.7 %). Over the last five years the share of employees in financial, insurance, science, administrative services and real estate services has increased (+4.5 %), but it has decreased in trade, accommodation and food services (-3.9 %).

Level of Education of Economically Active Population

Statistical data about the level of education of economically active population of Riga shows that 43 % of the population of the capital has higher education, 31 % – vocational education or professional secondary education, 20 % – general secondary education, and only 5 % – basic education. During the last ten years, the proportion of those who have higher education has increased by about 10 %.

Wages and Salaries of Employees

Over the last five years, the average monthly wages and salaries of employees in Riga has increased overall by 22 % and in year 2016 it was 949 EUR. Wages in the private sector has grown the most rapidly (+25 %, 921 EUR), but still in the public sector wages are higher – 1 005 EUR.

TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

Air Transport

The Riga International Airport serves about 5 million passengers a year. The number of transfer/transit passengers is about 25 % of the total number of served passengers, and the most popular destinations of passengers traveling through the Riga International Airport are Tallinn, Vilnius, Helsinki, Stockholm and Moscow. Of the total number of passengers, almost 49 % are served by the national airline airBaltic and 18 % – by the airline Ryanair. In recent years, the number of the number of travelers has rapidly increased for airlines Ryanair, Wizz Air, Aeroflot and Norwegian Air Shuttle. The Riga International Airport is the largest air transport junction in the Baltic States servicing 68 thousand aircrafts and nearly 20 thousand tons of air cargo in 2016.

Cargo, flights and passengers at the Riga International Airport

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cargo (tons)</th>
<th>Flights</th>
<th>Passengers (million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>32 953</td>
<td>68 572</td>
<td>4.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>53 540</td>
<td>67 407</td>
<td>4.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>32 984</td>
<td>65 819</td>
<td>4.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>18 863</td>
<td>68 078</td>
<td>5.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>19 759</td>
<td>68 061</td>
<td>5.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Riga International Airport. Available: www.riga-airport.com
Statistical data about the level of education of economically active population of Riga shows that 43 % of the population of the capital has higher education, 31 % – vocational education or professional secondary education, 20 % – general secondary education, and only 5 % – basic education. During the last ten years, the proportion of those who have higher education has increased by about 10 %.

Level of education of economically active population of Riga in 2016, share %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Education</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher education</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational education or professional secondary education</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General secondary education</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic education or less than basic education</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic education or less than basic education</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes 2015/2012, %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Changes 2015/2012, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DE Germany</td>
<td>+26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK United Kingdom</td>
<td>+43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RU Russia's Federation</td>
<td>-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO Norway</td>
<td>+6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FI Finland</td>
<td>-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE Sweden</td>
<td>+12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LT Lithuania</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EE Estonia</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Italy</td>
<td>-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK Denmark</td>
<td>+2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average monthly wages and salaries, EUR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Public sector</th>
<th>Private sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1 005 EUR</td>
<td>1 005 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1 025 EUR</td>
<td>1 025 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1 050 EUR</td>
<td>1 050 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1 075 EUR</td>
<td>1 075 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1 095 EUR</td>
<td>1 095 EUR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Air Baltic Corporation 2 507 122
Ryanair 950 030
Wizz Air 453 653
Lufthansa 209 422
Aeroflot 197 768
SmartLynx Airlines 94 525
Turkish Airlines 82 206
LOT Polish Airlines 50 865

Water Transport

On average about 70 thousand of cruise ship passengers and more than 500 thousand ferries are served in the port of Riga a year. In 2017, the ferry Tallink traffic will be provided every day, which means approximately 180 additional arrivals of ships during a year. The number of served cargo ships is almost 4 thousand a year and cargo turnover is more than 40 thousand tons. 59% of all handled cargo in the port is bulk cargo, while 23% – liquid cargo. Coal makes 35% of the cargo, 23% – oil products. The Free Port of Riga envisions that in 2017 Russia will continue to redirect handling energy resources through their ports, thus reducing the amount of cargo shipped via the port of Riga. Consequently, amount of coal handled in the port would drop about 18-19%, and oil products – about 20-21%. At the same time, amount of handled containerized cargo would rise around 2-3%. A study of the Free Port of Riga envisages that in 2017 Russia will continue to redirect handling energy resources through their ports, thus reducing the amount of cargo shipped via the port of Riga. Consequently, amount of coal handled in the port would drop about 18-19%, and oil products – about 20-21%. At the same time, amount of handled containerized cargo would rise around 2-3%.

Table: Number of ships entering the port

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of ships entering the port</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of passengers of cruise ships</td>
<td>83 091</td>
<td>66 968</td>
<td>59 520</td>
<td>69 164</td>
<td>68 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of passengers of ferries</td>
<td>731 935</td>
<td>770 697</td>
<td>677 025</td>
<td>457 079</td>
<td>63 956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: Cargo handled in the Port of Riga

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of ships served</td>
<td>3 956</td>
<td>3 850</td>
<td>3 797</td>
<td>3 587</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnover of ships (thousand tons)</td>
<td>36 051</td>
<td>35 466</td>
<td>41 080</td>
<td>40 055</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Land Transport

In 2015 146.8 million passengers were transported by trolley-buses, buses and trams in Riga public transport, but more than 10 million passengers – by microbuses. In 2015 16 million passengers were served in the Riga International Coach Terminal. Number of users of municipal paid parking lots reached 4.4 million.

Table: Riga public transport and parking lots

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of passengers in trams, trolley-buses, buses</td>
<td>141.3</td>
<td>150.1</td>
<td>150.5</td>
<td>146.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of passengers in microbuses</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of users of municipal paid parking lots</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of passengers in the Riga Coach Terminal</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The amount of loaded road cargo in Riga is more than 7.5 million tons, but unloaded cargo in Riga is more than 10.1 million tons. Over the last four years, the amount of loaded cargo has increased by 12%, but unloaded cargo – by 9%.

According to the data of the Central Statistical Bureau, by the end of 2015 in Riga 208 852 cars were registered (of which 169 017 personal property), 32 610 trucks and 1 694 buses. During the last four years the number of registered cars has increased by 10%, but trucks – by 13%.

The data of the state JSC Latvijas Valsts celi (Latvian State Roads) indicates that in 2015 the greatest traffic intensity in the main road network of Latvia was on the roads close to Riga. On average 40 thousand cars a day use the road in the direction to Jurmala, 36 thousand – in the direction to Sigulda, over 20 thousand – to Ogre, Kekava, Adazi and Incukalns directions. Inland road cargo transport (millions tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loaded in Riga</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unloaded in Riga</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4
8
12
0
4
8
12
\(\text{millions tons}\)
E-Commerce

In 2016, every second citizen of Riga had made a purchase on the Internet, and the last four years the share of such individuals has increased by slightly more than 10%. On the Internet citizens of Riga mainly purchased event tickets, clothes, household goods, as well as accommodation for trips. Mostly goods and services were purchased in the Latvian internet shops, but 48% of purchases were made in other European Union countries, and 41% – in the rest of the world. During the last four years explicitly – by 20% – has increased the share of individuals who purchase goods and services on the Internet outside the European Union.

Goods and services bought over the Internet by citizens of Riga in 2016 (top 10 purchases)

- Tickets for events (concerts, theatre, cinema, etc.)
- Clothes, sports goods
- Household goods (furniture, toys, etc.)
- Holiday accommodation (hotels, camp sites, etc.)
- Other travel arrangements (transport tickets, car hire, etc.)
- Electronic equipment (photo or video cameras, mobile phones, TV, stereo and DVD players)
- Food or groceries
- Computer hardware
- Telecommunication services (TV, broadband subscriptions, fixed line or mobile phone subscriptions etc.)
- Books, magazines, newspapers (including e-books)

Usage of Computers and the Internet among citizens of Riga

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Using computer regularly</td>
<td>74.5</td>
<td>77.0</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using the Internet regularly</td>
<td>74.9</td>
<td>76.8</td>
<td>81.7</td>
<td>82.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using the mobile phone for accessing the Internet</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>51.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Donna Kelley, Slavica Singer, Mike Herrington and the Global Entrepreneurship Research Association (GERA). Global Entrepreneurship Monitor


Law on the Safety of Goods and Services

Companies are required to ensure that goods and services comply with safety standards. The government monitors compliance and enforces penalties for non-compliance. The law also includes provisions for the inspection and testing of products to ensure they meet safety standards.

Competition Law

This law aims to promote fair competition in the market by preventing anti-competitive practices such as price-fixing, market-sharing, and other collusive behavior. It also establishes procedures for the investigation and prosecution of such practices. The law also protects consumers by ensuring that they are not exploited by companies.

Insolvency Law

The purpose of this law is to provide a framework for the resolution of financial difficulties by companies. It outlines the procedures for the appointment of an insolvency administrator, the winding-up of companies, and the protection of creditors and shareholders during insolvency.

Costs Law

This law regulates the costs and expenses incurred by companies and their employees. It covers areas such as payroll, benefits, and taxes. The law also provides for the establishment of a dispute resolution mechanism to handle disputes arising from the implementation of the law.

Labour Law

The Labour Law sets out the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees. It covers areas such as working conditions, wages, hours of work, and occupational safety. The law also establishes procedures for the resolution of labour disputes.

Commercial Law

Commercial Law regulates the activities of companies and their stakeholders. It covers areas such as company formation, governance, and contracts. The law aims to provide a framework for the protection of the interests of companies and their stakeholders.
Law on the Annual Financial Statements and Consolidated Financial Statements

The law defines the content of the annual statement, the procedures for preparation, audit (re- vision), approval, submission, and publication thereof, as well as the amount of information to be disclosed in the annual statement, reliefs and exemptions in distribution according to categories of companies, etc.

These and other normative acts applicable to commercial activities are available on the website www.likumi.lv.

STARTING A BUSINESS

The World Bank Doing Business 2017 study shows that Latvia stands in the high 22nd place in business start-up rating. In Latvia in total 4 procedures need to be undertaken for starting a business, and it takes on average 5 days.\(^1\)

### Summary of time, cost and procedures for starting a business in Latvia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Time to Complete</th>
<th>Associated Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Notarisation of documents to be submitted</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>26.06 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1) Registration application.</td>
<td></td>
<td>(by the public no- tary) or 7.11 EUR (by the official of the Register of Enterprises)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2) consent to the election to the management board and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3) Register of the shareholders must be notarized by a public notary or by an official of the Register of Enterprises or signed by secure electronic signature.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Open a bank account and receiving bank statement</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>10 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Institution: Bank</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Most banks do not levy a fee for opening a bank account, but a fee needs to be paid to obtain a bank statement on the payment of the share capital. For opening the bank account, the foundation agreement and the company charters need to be submitted, as well as the share capital needs to be paid.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### 3. Registration of the enterprise in the Register of Enterprises

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Time to Complete</th>
<th>Associated Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>the Register of Enterprises</td>
<td>1-3 days</td>
<td>If the share capital is more than 2 800 EUR – for registration within 3 days -7703 EUR; for registration within 1 day - 47703 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If the share capital is less than 2 800 EUR – for registration within 3 days -34.23 EUR; for registration within 1 day - 74.23 EUR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following company establishment documents must be submitted to the Company Register:

- Registration application (notarized or signed with a secure electronic signature);
- Foundation agreement;
- Company charter;
- Bank statement on the payment of the share capital;
- Register of the shareholders (notarized or signed with a secure electronic signature);
- Consent to the election to the management board (notarized or signed with a secure electronic signature);
- Notice of the management board on legal address;
- Consent of the owner of the property of the legal address (if the application is signed by the person who owns the legal address of the property, consent is not required);
- Document certifying payment of state duty;
- Document certifying payment of the publication fee.

For more information on the establishment and implementation of entrepreneurship in Latvia see:

- The Latvian Register of Enterprises: www.ur.gov.lv
- The State Revenue Service: www.vrd.gov.lv
- The Investment and Development Agency of Latvia: www.liaa.gov.lv
The system of taxes and fees in the Republic of Latvia is regulated by the Law on Taxes and Fees. In Latvia, the system of taxes and fees consists of state taxes, fees and local government fees and directly applicable taxes set in the European Union regulatory enactments. In accordance with the law, in Latvia there are the following state taxes and corresponding laws on taxation:

1) personal income tax – the Law on Personal Income Tax;
2) enterprise income tax – the Law on Enterprise Income Tax;
3) immovable property tax – the Law on Immoveable Property Tax;
4) value added tax – the Law on Value Added Tax;
5) excise duty – the Law on Excise Duties;
6) customs duty – the Customs Law and other customs procedures regulatory acts;
7) natural resources tax – the Natural Resources Tax Law;
8) lotteries and gambling tax – the Law on Lottery and Gambling Fee and Tax;
9) state social insurance mandatory contributions – the Law on State Social Insurance;
10) vehicle tax – the Law on the Vehicle Operation Tax and Company Car Tax;
11) electricity tax – the Electricity Tax Law;
12) micro-enterprise tax – the Micro-enterprise Tax Law;
13) vehicle operation tax – the Law on the Vehicle Operation Tax and Company Car Tax;
14) company car tax – the Law on the Vehicle Operation Tax and Company Car Tax;
15) subsidized electricity tax – the Subsidized Electricity Tax Law;
16) solidarity tax – the Solidarity Tax Law.

In addition to the state taxes and fees, each local government has the right to determine taxes and fees applicable in its administrative territory (fee for placing advertisements, posters and announcements in public places, fees related to construction, fee on local government infrastructure maintenance and development, etc.).

In World Bank Doing Business 2017 study, Latvia stands at 15th place in the ranking of 190 economies on the ease of paying taxes.82


84 Lursoft. Available: www.lursoft.lv/lursoft_statistika/?&id=210


Riga is the most active region in business in Latvia – here are 112 companies per 1 000 capita (average indicator in Latvia – 86). In 2016 6 305 new companies were registered in Riga and it makes up to 69 % of all new companies in Latvia.84 European Start-up Initiative survey carried out among Europe-based company founders shows that the Baltics is one of the most attractive regions for business establishment and Riga stands in 22nd place among the most attractive European cities for establishing a company.85 Increasing the number of new companies and support for small and medium-sizes enterprises is one of the priorities of the municipality in improvement of the business environment. For business start-up and its development wide and varied national and local support is available.

6-7% Share of Class A free office premises
5.1% Share of free retail premises in shopping centres
4.6% Share of free warehouse premises

Availability of office premises in Riga
Availability of retail premises in shopping centres in Riga
Availability of industrial premises in Riga

Share of Class B1 free office premises
6-7%
Share of Class B1 free office premises

Payment for rent of Class A office premises
13.0 – 16.0 EUR/m²
Payment for rent of retail premises
3.5 – 4.5 EUR/m²
Payment for warehouse rent
9.0 – 12.0 EUR/m²
30.0 – 55.0 EUR/m²

SUPPORT FOR STARTING AND DEVELOPING BUSINESS
Grant programme Atsperiens (Take-off)

Since 2019, the Riga City Council, in cooperation with Swedbank implements a grant programme Atsperiens aiming to promote the establishment of new, innovative enterprises and innovative development of existing enterprises in Riga administrative territory. Within the programme it is possible to receive co-financing of 80% for covering various expenses of new merchants – for purchasing specific technical equipment and licences, accounting and legal-consultant service fees, website development, specific employees’ training, creating marketing materials, costs of rent and improvements of premises, etc. The maximum grant available for one merchant is 15 000 EUR. The open call of the grant programme is organised twice a year – in spring and in autumn.

So far sixteen project calls have been organised, in total 1 575 business ideas were submitted and support was awarded to 139 companies receiving funding more than 152 million EUR. Within the programme such business ideas were supported as – manufacturing of wakeboard, longboard, snowboard and winter skis, manufacturing of bicycle locks uSkunk, robotic constructor SumoBoy, board game Mission to Mars 2049, kinetic data collecting Track.it, production of the heat accumulator, etc.

More information: www.attp.org, www.altum.lv,

Riga film fund

The Riga municipality co-financed programme Riga Film Fund aims to encourage shooting of foreign films in Riga and Latvia. Co-financing is planned for Latvian and foreign co-produced film projects whose shooting is planned in Riga or in Latvia, thus promoting foreign investment attraction, job creation, the development of the national film industry and promotion of Riga in the world. Since the 2010 under this programme several projects have been implemented in cooperation with film industry representatives of Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, Russia, Japan, India, Finland, and other countries.

More information: www.filmmija.lv

Industry exhibitions

To promote the development of priority sectors of Riga, the municipality regularly participates in major industry exhibitions at regional and international level.

Creative industries business incubator

The creative industries business incubator of the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia was established especially for creative industries businesses and it is planned that it will provide 50% co-financing for different services and grants, as well as 100% support for pre-incubation services. In the business incubator there will be available co-working premises where incubator members will be able to work and to meet with customers and partners, and also to use equipment available there, as well as to attend seminars and events meant for business incubator clients. For joining the Riga creative industries business incubator, applicants may apply who work in creative industries sectors: architecture, design, cinematography, performing arts, visual arts, music, publishing, television, radio and interactive media, advertising, computer games and interactive software, cultural heritage, culture education, recreation, entertainment and other cultural activities.


Other support instruments

For the starting and developing business in Latvia and Riga, varied state support is also available – the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia provides support for export promotion, the development financial institution ALTUM implements start-up and microcredit programmes, provides credit and export credit guarantees, support start-up company training, coordinates risk capital support, etc., the Rural Support Service implements rural development activities, also the Latvian Business Angel Network, the business incubator TechHub Riga, business accelerators, and other support is available.

INFORMATIVE SUPPORT

www.investeriga.lv

The Riga City Council City Development Department maintained website for informing existing and potential entrepreneurs and investors. There is available information on the municipality support for businesses, investment opportunities, as well as relevant information about the business environment in Riga.

www.rdpad.lv

The Riga City Council City Development Department is the leading Riga municipal authority in the field of strategic development planning, in ensuring the balanced development planning, and in facilitating economic competitiveness of the capital city. In the website there is available information about activities of the Department, provided services, implemented and planned projects, as well as the development planning of the city.

www.riga.lv

The Riga City Council informative portal, which in two languages (in Latvian and Russian) provides all the relevant information about activities in the city and work of the municipality on improving the urban environment and the quality of life.

www.liveriga.com

The Riga Tourism Development Bureau (founders – the Riga City Council, the airline company airBaltic, the Association of Hotels and Restaurants of Latvia and the Association of Latvian Travel Agents and Operators) maintained website, whose aim is to promote Riga’s tourism abroad using the city tourism brand LIVE RIGA. There is available tourism information in four languages (in Latvian, Russian, English, and German).

www.meetriga.com

The City of Riga and the Riga Tourism Development Bureau maintained website, whose main task is to promote and to strengthen Riga’s and Latvia’s status as the perfect venue for conferences, congresses and corporate events in Northern Europe, helping conferences, congresses and corporate event organizers to find the most suitable local service provider in the region.

BUSINESS SUPPORT AND COOPERATION INSTITUTIONS

www.liaa.gov.lv

The Investment and Development Agency of Latvia is the globally competitive organization that managed to attract dozens of million euro of direct foreign investments to Latvia, to conclude export transactions for several dozens of millions euro and to create hundreds of new job places, also managed to promote the development of industrial parks, establishment of new research laboratories, as well as to facilitate collaboration in the field of technology transfer. The Investment and Development Agency of Latvia provides wide range of services, starting with the information about starting a business, various state support programmes and fundraising, as well as provides support to entrepreneurs that want to start exporting and are searching for partners abroad.

www.altum.lv

ALTUM is a state owned development financial institution that in the form of financial instruments (with loans, guarantees, investments in risk capital funds, etc.) provides state aid to certain target groups. ALTUM formulates and implements state support programmes correcting market failures that cannot be resolved by private financial institutions and ensuring the availability of the financing in sectors that state has identified as eligible and important.

https://riga.techhub.com

The TechHub Riga supports new entrepreneurs of information technology industry, subsidizing job places and training, providing mentoring services, facilitating and organizing measures stimulating new contacts with industry experts and investors.

www.juc.lv

The Young Entrepreneurs Centre is a foundation whose aim is to promote the development of entrepreneurship in Latvia, providing professional advice to emerging entrepreneurs during the period of establishing a new business.

www.innovation.lv

The Latvian Technological Centre is an innovation and technology-driven business support structure – a business accelerator centre that supports on knowledge based business development and growth facilitating cooperation between research institutions and industry companies, as well as international cooperation of small and medium-sized companies.
The Latvia Technological Park is an association that aims to support technological and innovative business start-ups and development, with the cooperation of local and foreign organisations and institutions, ministries and local governments, universities, and enterprises, applying global experience to local conditions, as well as to activate recognition of science-intensive and market-oriented production at local and international scale, contributing to introducing innovative, technologically advanced products in the market.

www.lddk.lv

The Employers’ Confederation of Latvia (LDDK) is the largest employers’ representative organisation in Latvia – its members employ 45% of employees in Latvia. The mission of the Employers’ Confederation of Latvia is to establish an environment that supports entrepreneurship in Latvia, facilitating the competitiveness of companies and representing employers in the framework of social dialogue at the national, European Union and international level.

www.een.lv

The European Business Support Network is the largest network of business and innovation support contact-points providing practical information on specific issues to entrepreneurs of the European Union on European Union matters, with particular emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises.

www.chamber.lv

Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is an association that unites micro, small, medium-sized and large enterprises representing various economic sectors and regions across Latvia. Based on the number of its members, it is the largest non-governmental organisation of businessmen, which unites more than 1 600 members, including individual companies, industry associations, city business clubs, and other businessmen unions. The association represents the interests of entrepreneurs in state and regional institutions, as well as offers services to businessmen.

www.commercializationreactor.com

The Commercialisation Reactor was founded with the aim to create new, innovative businesses that are based on scientific and technological developments. The essence of the Commercialisation Reactor is to bring together entrepreneurs and founders of scientific innovations, creating new high-tech companies. For creation of new companies the start capital, advisory assistance and mentoring are available. Presentations of scientists on the latest technical and scientific developments that need commercialisation, as well as work in groups and individual meetings with scientists take place during organised events.

www.fablabriga.eu

The Fab Lab Riga is the company that offers new product development and prototype services using the latest technologies. The Fab Lab Riga offer future or existing operators full product development cycle, starting with a consultations on the idea development, continuing with the product design, elaboration of individual parts, the prototype manufacturing and, in some cases, the production of the first lot.

www.startin.lv

The Latvian Start-up Association is a non-governmental organisation that unites more than 50 start-up companies of Latvia, as well as about support and investments available for new entrepreneurs.

www.ficil.lv

The Foreign Investors’ Council in Latvia is a non-governmental organisation that brings together the largest companies from various countries and sectors that have made significant investments in Latvia, as well as thirteen countries’ Chambers of Commerce in Latvia.

www.ltp.lv

www.balti.lv

The Baltic Association – Transport and Logistics was established in order to unite the start-up projects with significant investments in Latvia, as well as to activate recognition of scientific innovations, creating new high-tech companies. For creation of new companies the start capital, advisory assistance and mentoring are available. Presentations of scientists on the latest technical and scientific developments that need commercialisation, as well as work in groups and individual meetings with scientists take place during organised events.

www.labsoflatvia.com

The Labs of Latvia is a platform created to unite the start-up community of Latvia. The Labs of Latvia aggregates and provides information on the start-up ecosystem of Latvia. The platform provides wide information about start-up companies of Latvia, as well as about support and investments available for new entrepreneurs.

www.eegloo.co

The Business Incubator Eegloo IT is meant for the start-up projects with global potential. For entrepreneurs Eegloo also offers premises, administrative support and advice.

www.riseba.lv

The Business Angels Network aims to extend and to develop the network of investors in Latvia and to support new and prospective projects. The association organises Investment Sessions, where investors and new entrepreneurs meet.

www.turiba.lv

The Business Incubator Eegloo IT is meant for the start-up projects with global potential. For entrepreneurs Eegloo also offers premises, administrative support and advice.
order to participate in development and adjustment of the transit policy in Latvia and in the European Union, to represent the interests of the industry in the political process and business interests in relations with state and local institutions, to create and to strengthen cooperation with institutions and organizations in countries where main shippers are operating, etc. The association represents common interests of transport and stevedore companies in business relations with the state, municipalities and their institutions.

www.latvijas-buvnieku-asociacija.lv

The Latvian Builders’ Association works to unite construction professionals for successful and sustainable development of the construction industry in Latvia and abroad. The aim of the association is to consolidate and to protect interests of its members in labour market of the construction industry, in economic matters and in relations between employers and employees, as well as in relations with customers.

www.design.lv

The Latvian Designers’ Society is a professional creative organisation that already since 1987 unites specialists of various design spheres. The aim of the society is to promote design development, to study and to preserve its values, to facilitate cooperation among all designers of Latvia, to identify and to defend their interests and rights, to educate and to inform the society about design sector.

www.bleea.lv

The Association of Electricians and Energy Engineers of Latvia unites both legal and natural persons that work in the industry. The aim of the association is to unite its members in order to promote the comprehensive development of the electrical power and energy engineering sector of Latvia according to the latest world standards and the common technical policy, to ensure successful work of its members in labour market of the electrical power and energy engineering sector and to protect their material and moral interests, and to promote the work of its members and to raise its prestige.

www.letera.lv

The Latvian Electrical Engineering and Electronics Industry Association unites companies, research and educational institutions whose work is related to the sectors of electronics and electrical engineering, optical equipment, information technologies and electronic communications equipment, defence equipment, aviation and space technologies, in order to define and defend jointly their interests, as well as to promote strengthening, development and promotion of the industry.

www.likta.lv

The Latvian Information and Communications Technology Association unites leading industry companies and organisations, as well as ICT professionals. The goal of the association is to foster growth of ICT sector in Latvia by promoting the development of information society and ICT education thus increasing the competitiveness of Latvia on a global scale. The association provides professional opinion to government institutions on legislation and other issues related to the industry, while also maintaining close relationships with other Latvian and international ICT associations.

www.latvianwood.lv

Latvian Forest Industry Federation aims to promote the development of the forest industry in Latvia, in cooperation with interested institutions, to build a sustainable, stable economic environment for development and raising competitiveness of the forest industry companies and to ensure international representation of interests of the forest industry of Latvia.

www.lpua.lv

The Association of Latvian Printing Companies and Materials, the production of printed products, trade of printing equipment and materials, vocational and continuing education of the industry. The aim of the association is to represent the common inter-

www.lpuf.lv

The Latvian Federation of Food Companies unites food companies and professional associations, represents manufacturers in national and non-governmental organisations, and defends interests of its members in elaboration of the national and international normative acts, as well as provides informative support for the members of the federation. The federation unites companies that make up to more than 60 % of all Latvian food market. It is represented by industry associations and several dozens of large, medium and small companies.

www.lanida.lv

The Latvia Real Estate Association is independent, voluntary non-governmental organization uniting real estate agents and assistants of agent. Among its members well known real estate companies can be found, who have proven themselves on the Latvian real estate market. The aim of the association is to contribute the improvement and development of its members’ knowledge and skills, to facilitate their professional activities.
www.lta.lv

The Latvian Traders’ Association unites more than 600 companies whose main business is trade, catering and services.

www.alta.net.lv

The Association of Latvian Travel Agents and Operators is the professional public organization that unites tourism agents and tour operators to coordinate work of travel agents and tour operators, defends their interests and represents tourism business of Latvia globally.

www.lvra.lv

The Association of Hotels and Restaurants of Latvia is an association that unites accommodation and public catering companies and its mission is to improve the quality of customer services, to improve Latvian hotel and restaurant market and to represent the hotel and restaurant business of Latvia globally.

www.masoc.lv

The Association of Mechanical Engineering and Metalworking Industries of Latvia unites entrepreneurs, professionals of the industry and other interested natural and legal persons to promote the development of the sector, to facilitate mutual cooperation and professional growth of industry experts. The mission of the association is to represent interests of its members and to implement common activities and projects that facilitate the competitiveness of the members and the development of the industry.

www.atci.lv

The Latvian Association of Light Industry Enterprises aims at promoting the development of industry companies by facilitating their entering new markets and participation in exhibitions, organising mutual cooperation and training for industry professionals, helping to establish contacts with entrepreneurs of other countries, defending interests of the industry companies in national and international institutions, as well as in the Textiles Committee of the European Union, regularly analysing changes of the textile and clothing export and import flow, as well as issuing permissions (licenses) to companies confirming that an exported product is produced in the Republic of Latvia.

www.lvra.lv

The Association of Hotels and Restaurants of Latvia is an association that unites accommodation and public catering companies and its mission is to improve the quality of customer services, to improve Latvian hotel and restaurant market and to represent the hotel and restaurant business of Latvia globally.

www.alta.net.lv

The Association of Latvian Travel Agents and Operators is the professional public organization that unites tourism agents and tour operators to coordinate work of travel agents and tour operators, defends their interests and represents tourism business of Latvia globally.

The cooperation and sharing experience with other cities is organized and coordinated by the Foreign Affairs Office of the Riga City Council, whose main task is to organise, to coordinate and to ensure the cooperation of the Riga municipality with foreign local governments and their organisations, as well as to develop and to coordinate the cooperation with other foreign international institutions participating in development of international projects and programmes within the areas of competence of the Riga municipality. Operational objective – to facilitate the acquisition of the best foreign experience in the management of the city, attracting foreign investments, tourism development and promotion of entrepreneurship, increasing efficiency of the Riga municipality and its institutions and ensuring the sustainable development of the city of Riga.

Riga has 29 sister cities on five continents. The contracts with the sister cities serve as a foundation for cooperation in the areas of culture, education, traffic organization and city development, as well as healthcare, tourism, investments, business and environment protection, and other areas. Besides, the Foreign Affairs Office of the Riga City Council ensures the cooperation of the Riga municipality with the international organisations and the cooperation networks where Riga is a member.
Membership of Riga in the international organisations and networks

The Baltic Metropoles Network BaltMet
The Union of the Baltic Cities UBC
The European Forum for Urban Security EFUS
The Modern Alliance of Hanseatic cities Städtebund DIE HANSE
The Network of Major European Cities EUROCITIES
The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas METREX
The Organization of World Heritage Cities OWHC
The European association of local authorities for the promotion of local sustainable energy policies Energy-Cities
The European Association for Hydrogen and fuel cells and Electro-mobility in European Regions (HyER)
The European folk culture and art festival Europeade
The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage TICCIH
The Association of historical cities the League of Historical Cities
The European Social Network ESN

State institutions

- www.mk.gov.lv: The Cabinet of Ministers, the State Chancellery
- www.liaa.gov.lv: The Investment and Development Agency of Latvia
- www.vid.gov.lv: The State Revenue Service of the Republic of Latvia
- www.bank.lv: The Bank Of Latvia
- www.csb.gov.lv: The Central Statistical Bureau
- www.likumi.lv: Normative acts of the Republic of Latvia

Riga municipality institutions

- www.riga.lv: The informative portal of the Riga City Council
- https://pasvaldiba.riga.lv: The Riga municipality
- www.ripad.lv: The Riga City Council City Development Department
- www.investieriga.lv: The Riga City Council City Development Department website for investors
- www.rpbv.lv: The Riga City Construction Board
- www.liveriga.lv: The Riga Tourism Development Bureau

Business and industry associations

- www.alta.net.lv: The Association of Latvian Travel Agents and Operators
- www.atci.lv: The Latvian Association of Light Industry Enterprises
- www.chamber.lv: The Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- www.ficil.lv: The Foreign Investors’ Council
- www.likta.lv: The Latvian Information and Communications Technology Association
- www.lpuf.lv: The Latvian Federation of Food Companies
- www.lta.lv: The Latvian Traders’ Association
- www.masoc.lv: The Association of Mechanical Engineering and Metalworking Industries of Latvia
- www.startin.lv: The Latvian Start-up Association
The Riga City Council City Development Department
Amatu street 4, Riga, LV- 1050, Latvia
www.rdpad.lv
pad@riga.lv
(+371) 67 012 947
@rdpad
RD Pilsetas attistības departaments