

# Areas of activity

Published: 11.02.2020.

## Attracting investment



LIAA is doing its best to attract foreign investment and help companies grow, encourages new businesses and facilitates plans of government and municipalities.

When it comes to attracting foreign investment, the main sectors are metalworking and mechanical engineering, transport and logistics, IT, life sciences, healthcare, woodworking, green technologies and food industry. The work is being done to develop other industries too.

### Polaris process

Polaris process is designed to attract foreign investment in a more efficient way. This is done by identifying target sectors, following the latest innovations in relevant industries, offering projects to foreign investors and coordinating cooperation between Latvian public authorities, municipalities, the private sector and scientific institutions.

As one of LIAA's goals is growing export volume, trade missions, national stands, export workshops, B2B events, as well as individual meetings are organised.

### Trade missions

Going abroad to make new contacts is a great opportunity to establish new partnerships and get to know potential markets. Trade missions might include business forums, workshops, round-table discussions, B2B events, attending fairs, visiting potential cooperation partners, as well as informal gatherings.

### National stands

Being part of stands at industry fairs is an opportunity to show off products and services made by entrepreneurs and helps making new contacts and finding cooperation partners.

### Export workshops

Workshops is where one can get updated on latest developments and trends in relevant markets.

### B2B

LIAA helps companies finding potential cooperation partners both over individual meetings and B2B events organised as part of trade missions, fairs or other events.

### Individual visits

Visiting potential partners is a great start for a new partnership. Visits are usually organised to countries where LIAA representative offices or Latvian embassies are located.

LIAA encourages development and competitiveness of tourism products and services and promotes Latvia as an attractive travel destination.

In 2016, LIAA was merged with the Latvian Tourism Development Agency thus adding a Tourism Department to LIAA.

### Network of LIAA representative offices [🔗](#)



LIAA Foreign representative offices help bridging Latvia and its entrepreneurs to the most crucial markets. The representative offices are based in Belarus (Minsk), China (Beijing, Shanghai and Ningbo), Denmark (Copenhagen), Finland (Helsinki), France (Paris), Germany (Berlin), Japan (Tokyo), Korea (South Korea), Netherlands (Amsterdam), Norway (Oslo), Russia (Moscow), Sweden (Stockholm), Ukraine (Kyiv), United Arab Emirates (Dubai), UK (London) and USA (Washington).

### Business Incubators [🔗](#)



LIAA Business Incubators help growing new businesses, as individuals and companies can join a pre-incubation (PINK) or incubation (INK) program.

PINK is a six-month-long free program for individuals with business ideas. Its participants can benefit from using coworking spaces, office equipment, consultations, training and mentor guidance to validate their ideas and their viability. When joining INK program, additional support for purchasing services, as well as grants are available.

Incubators are located in Bauska, Daugavpils, Jelgava, Jēkabpils, Jūrmala, Kuldīga, Liepāja, Madona, Ogre, Rēzekne, Sigulda, Talsi, Valmiera, Ventspils, and the Creative Industries Incubator is working in Riga. Incubators in Latvia are working since 2016.

### Technology transfer [🔗](#)



Turning the work of scientists into commercial success and encouraging innovation are some of LIAA's top priorities.

LIAA organises various training and networking workshops to educate on trends, protection and management of intellectual property, technology transfer, development of new products and technologies. Consultations and funding for development of new products and technology are also offered.

### Innovation motivation program [🔗](#)



Program consists of motivating and supporting activities for entrepreneurs such as technology conference "Deep Tech Atelier" Mini-MBA, masterclasses, networking workshops, hackathons, and competition "Idea cup", student enterprises, innovation and technology portal "Labs of Latvia".

## Supporting start-ups



LIAA stands for innovative ideas, supports turning ideas into products and businesses, and also raises awareness about Latvian start-up community abroad.

This means implementing Law on Aid for the Activities of Start-up Companies, supporting their participation at fairs, conferences and visits abroad. LIAA also organises informative and educational events in Latvia and abroad, gives a “start-up visa” for non-EU start-up founders who are willing to come and kick-off their ideas in Latvia.

## Enterprise Europe Network



Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) is active in more than 60 countries to help raise competitiveness of SMEs worldwide.

EEN, which is co-financed under a European Union’s programme, consults on EU legislation, international markets, finance and funding, assists in finding new partnerships, providing innovation and technology audits to help carry out technology transfer.

In Latvia, EEN started working on 29 February 2008 as part of LIAA.

<http://www.een.lv/>

## Events



Every year, LIAA organises workshops, masterclasses, business and tourism forums, as well as other events where latest trends are discussed, people are encouraged to start entrepreneurship and where LIAA tells about what it can offer. The most significant are:

Competition “Export and innovation award”

Competition for idea authors “Idea cup”

Innovation and technology festival “iNOVUSS” <https://www.inovuss.lv/>

Technology conference “Deep Tech Atelier” <https://deeptechatelier.liaa.gov.lv/>

## Labs of Latvia



Labs of Latvia is an innovation and technology portal where one can find the latest industry developments, experience stories, events, useful support and other tools.

<https://labsoflatvia.com/>

#### Data bases and online industry catalogues



The database of food and drink products made in Latvia [www.foodlatvia.com](http://www.foodlatvia.com) is a digital platform to find potential business partners and a tool to be used by producers to present their exportable products and foreign representatives to promote food and drink industry. [www.exim.lv](http://www.exim.lv) is a database of Latvian exporters. It also includes cooperation offers, information about events and market overviews.

#### Cooperation with professionals living abroad



Latvia maintains relationship with its citizens living abroad to facilitate export, tourism, foreign investment, and technology transfer.

As the Diaspora Law directs, LIAA gets involved in activities to engage professionals living abroad to update them on current developments in economy, among them business opportunities or cooperation in Latvia.

<https://www.liaa.gov.lv/en/about-us/areas-activity>