Riga as Regional Center, its role and interregional activities

RIGA CITY COUNCIL
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE
IGORS GRAURS
Tel.: +371 6 7012906
Fax: +371 6 7012872
E-mail: igors.graurs@riga.lv

Riga,
26 November 2007
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

RIGA OVERALL

Distances from Riga to various European cities:

- Vilnius: 215 km
- Tallinn: 280 km
- Helsinki: 360 km
- Minsk: 410 km
- Stockholm: 440 km
- Warszawa: 560 km
- Copenhagen: 720 km
- Moscow: 830 km
- Berlin: 840 km
- Prague: 970 km
Riga – the capital of Latvia

Riga - the geographical centre of the Baltic States

Latvia - the crossroads between East and West

722 485 inhabitants (2007)

Territory: 304 sq.km

Climate: Maritime
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

- German (West) interest [12 – 15 century]
- Russian (East) interest [18 - 20 century]
- Swedish (North) interest [17 century]
- Polish (South) interest [16 century]

Map showing the historical influence of different European countries on Riga.
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

1000 Kilometers

Baltic Palette region
Baltic state cooperation
Baltic Metropolis (11 Baltic sea Cities)
passing through Baltic Corridor
Directions of interests
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

Strategic Transnational position
East-West Multimodal Link – Latvian Gateway
Extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries
Possibilities for providing logistics services and distribution warehouses in Latvia
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

Riga city agglomeration covers 6984 km²
The population number is 1,148,003
(in Riga city – 727,6 thsds)
Riga planning region and Riga statistical region in Latvia

Legend
- border of Riga planning region
- border of Riga statistical region
- places, where borders of Riga planning and Riga statistical regions are overlapping

In the basis of the map the administrative division of the Republic of Latvia is shown on the January 1, 2004.
Inhabitants of Riga

- The largest city in the Baltic States
- A multinational city
- Latvian is the official State language
- Russian, English and German are widely spoken

Cultural life

- Latvian National Opera
- more than 33 different museums
- Philharmonic
- Cirkus
- 6 professional theatres
- well-preserved authentic folklore and craftsmanship traditions
### International comparison

**Number of population in the capitals of the Baltic and Nordic countries (at the end of 2004), thousd.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reykjavik</td>
<td>113,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tallinn</td>
<td>396,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copenhagen</td>
<td>502,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oslo</td>
<td>529,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilnius</td>
<td>553,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helsinki</td>
<td>559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riga*</td>
<td>722,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockholm</td>
<td>765</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Year 2007

(according to: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia)
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

RCC participation in EU programs and projects
(total budget M, EUR)

2003 year (7 projects) 2007 year (54 projects)

228

Total budget of projects with the participation of RCC

- 150 MEUR
- 41 MEUR
- 37 MEUR

- EC Initiatives
- EU Structural Funds
- Cohesian Fund
RCC participation in EU programs and projects

- Different Riga City Council structures together with state organizations participated in 54 INTERREG projects
- 22 projects already closed
- 15 new projects started in this year:

BaltMet Inno - promotes the innovativeness and competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region by developing innovation environments of the Baltic metropolises for the success of the whole region.
RCC participation in EU programs and projects

*BaltMet Invest* - The Project "Joint action of Baltic metropolises towards the development of coordinated investment approach in the Baltic Sea Region"

*Hanse Passage* - The regions of the Hanse Passage partnership face similar problems: how to adapt regional policies, how to boost economically their regions. At the same time they are extremely willing to identify the most effective ways and best practices that will help them one the one hand address their own deficits, and on the other, benefit from the changing conditions of the growing EU.

*E-Pipelines* - The objective of E-Pipelines project is to ensure that all the municipalities participating in the project have compatible operational project pipelines, thus facilitating cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region and providing that the public authorities are gaining a mean to enhance development through access to the experiences of others.
RCC participation in EU programs and projects

*Teico-Net* – supporting Technology Oriented Small and Medium Enterprises (TO-SMEs) increasing the awareness of authorities representing those regions involved in the project, and exchanging regional experiences in the field of SME support policy.

*LogOn Baltic* - present solutions to improve the interplay between logistics and spatial planning thus strengthening SMEs. The main activities take place in selected sub-regions of the Baltic Sea Region
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

Roads to Riga

- 2 – 3 hours flight from the major European cities
- Airport located 7 km from the centre of Riga
- Ferry traffic from Sweden and Germany
- Via Baltica road
- Rail from Russia
Riga harbor

- Riga harbor is situated in the estuary of the largest Latvian river the Daugava.
- The terminals of the harbor are located along the riverbanks, channels and artificial aquatories.
- The intensive reconstruction of the Riga harbor continuously expands, including widening and deepening of the navigation channel, building new terminals, dredging aquatories of existing ones.
- One of the most important sources of income.
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

Cargo turnover in Riga Harbor (Thousand tons)

Number of passengers in Riga harbor (thousand)
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

Passenger traffic at the Airport Riga (thousands passengers)

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 (planned) 2010 (estimated)

- 574
- 623
- 633
- 712
- 1060
- 1878
- 2495
- 3300
- 5000
• problems of crossing the River Daugava
  all existing bridges are located in the centre

• narrow streets
• growing number of vehicles
• lack of parking places
Riga Planning:
Before – all stands in the centre of Riga
Main traffic to the Centre
Currently – decentralization:
1. New administrative centre of Riga
2. Science and Technology park of Riga
3. Multifunctional business and living areas
Different New Transport infrastructure projects
Riga’s Biorhythm

Emotional Culture and recreational centre

Intellectual Science and Educational centre

Infrastructure and communications

Physical Region geography centre

Dominion Authority centre
Main projects in new development ace:
– New administrative centre of Riga City;
– Research Technical park;
– Different infrastructure projects.
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

New administrative centre of Riga City
New administrative centre of Riga City

- Mainly inspired from the positive example from Vilnius City;
- Departments and other structural units of Riga City Council located dispersedly;
- Building costs just for RCC building accounts 44.7 millions LVL (63.6 millions EUR)
- Some state institutions announced the interest to take part in the project;
- Planned as a new administrative centre of Riga City including RCC building, state institution offices, new congress centre, shopping malls, hotels etc.
- Trilateral co-operation between municipality, state and private sector needed to realise the project needed.
- Final decision planned to make still in this year.
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

Research Technical park
Research Technical park

- Prior directions of science
- Instruction of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia Nr.412, 06/06/2006:
  - Biomedicine and pharmacy, Energetics, Informatics, electronic technologies, Latvian studies, Material science, Medicine, Environment
- Prior directions of science: Informatics
- Most popular areas of STP in the world:
  
  **Explorative institutes**
  - Institute of Electronics and Computer Science
  - Latvian University institute of Mathematics and Informatics

  **Education**
  - RTU Faculty of Computer science and IT
  - LU Faculty of Physics and Mathematics, Computer Science
  - Private higher education schools

  **Private companies**
Research Technical park

• In future building space ~ 190’000 m2, more than 16’600 people, Territory 30 ha:
  – Physical Energy Institute
  – Polymere Mechanics Institute
  – Institute of Electronics and Computer science
  – Institute of Transport and telecommunication
  – Enterprises
  – Companies like Dati Exigen Group, SAF Technics etc.
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

Perspective transport scheme of Riga 2025
• Northen Passage:
  – Whole transport organization of Riga City in a bad condition – more significant in recent years;
  – New Riga City development plan for years 2006 – 2018 puts the salvation of transport problems on a high level;
  – Riga – Transit Hub between East/West;
  – Planned as one of main future transport arteries for Riga City crossing the city entirely from northern border till southern border;
  – Investments needed – about 1 billion EUR (0.7 millions LVL).
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

Southern Bridge:

- Start of the project - Year 2002;
- Realization of the project – Year 2012;
- Current amount of the project – 120 Millions EUR
• Southern Bridge:
  – 1st stage – 2,5 km (Years 2004 – 2008);
  – 2nd stage – 1 km (Years 2008 – 2010);
  – 3rd stage – 4,5 km (Years 2010 – 2012);
Riga Public Lighting project:

The aim of the project: **TO ENFORCE THE MAINTANACE, EXTENSION AND REHABILITATION PROJECT OF RIGA STREET LIGHTNING NETWORK**

Self governmental Agency of Riga “Rigas Gaisma” maintaining:
- 43109 light points (total electricity power is 8000 kW);
- 26805 poles;
- 1722.5 km of cables and air-wire lines;
- 46 electronic public clocks in Riga.

There are worked out Technical and Maintenance programme which includes:
- Set up of the Data base;
- Full technical renovation of the system;
- Development and implementation new Maintenance system.
• Low Floor-Tram
  – Idea planning stage;
  – Proposed costs ~ 1 billion EUR;
  – Years 2002 – 2003:
    • In cooperation with the French company “Systra” worked out the pre-feasibility project;
  – Start of the project Years ?????
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

New and perspective tram ways in Riga
• Bikeway in Riga:
  – Currently 1 fully developed bikeway:
    • Vanšu Bridge – Imanta (connection to Jurmala);
  – In Planning 2 bikeways:
    • Skanstes street – Jaunciema street;
    • Old Riga – Rumbula.
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

Current situation
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

Skanstes street – Jaunciema street
North direction

Old Riga – Rumbula
South direction
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

Bikeway network in Riga

Veloceliņu tīkls Rīgā, 2025 - 2030.g.

Velotransports programs attīstības cīņā viņš:
- velotransports infrastruktūra;
- velozīmītās un veļainformatīcijas sistēma;
- velotransports pārvaldeņa un informācijas sistēma.

Velotransports titla kritēriji:
- precīzība svarīgākām būvainībām virziens;
- satiksmes drošība;
- iespējamības tīkla un tā saistītās mašīnas;
- maršrutu sākotnējais tīklupurs;
- psikoloģijas;
- satiksmes sistēmas pārstrukturēšana;
- tehniskā iespēja, iespējams vērtē esošo apstākļus.

Principālie veloceliņu risinājumi:
- Atsevišķa veloceliņa (nozīmesiet sākām), kas plūst ar veloceliņa pārstrukturēšanu mašīnu;
- Vienvirziena veloceliņa, kurā veloceliņa pārstrukturēšanu veicno satiksmes intensīviem mērķiem;
- Veloceliņu uz ietves, ja plūst mašīnu, kura nepiemēroja veloceliņu, iespēja ir transportēšanas satiksmes ir intensīva. Tā vietā ir nodrošināta veloceliņu pārstrukturēšana no tīkla, ka veloceliņu jāatrodas uz ietves.
RIGA – THE FASTEST GROWING CAPITAL IN EU

Park and Ride

Apzīmējumi

Sabiedriskā transporta savienojotie maršrutu

Savienojas ar lietotāju 1500 autom.

Autonovietnes “Park and Ride”

Sabiedriski izmantotu stāvvielu nodrošinājuma sistēma

1. Stāvvielu nodrošinājuma plk. sabiedriski izmantotajiem objektiem nepieciešams 30% no normatīvo saistībām leņķiem;
2. Stāvvietas liet savienojumu nodrošinājumā;
3. Autorautomašu projekta darbības laikā stāvvielu platības normālo ierobežošanas atkarībā no lietotāja

Pērtēļ Rīgas

1. Stāvvielu nodrošinājuma plk. sabiedriski izmantotajiem objektiem stāvvielu maršrutu paredzēšana;
2. Stāvvieta liet savienojumu nodrošinājumā;
3. Stāvvieta liet savienojumu nodrošinājumā;
4. Stāvvieta liet savienojumu nodrošinājumā;
Contemporary Art Museum
The new commercial center
Concert Hall
National Library
National Library
by Gunnar Birkerts
National Library
by Gunnar Birkerts
The winning entry of the competition for the best design of the new concert hall.
"SZK - Sīlis, Zābers un Kļava"
“SZK - Sīlis, Zābers un Kļava”
The new
Museum of Contemporary Art
Rem Koolhas
The new city development and The Museum of Contemporary Art by OMA office (Rem Koolhas)
Thank you!

RIGA CITY COUNCIL
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE
IGORS GRAURS
Tel.: +371 6 7012906
Fax: +371 6 7012872
E-mail: igors.graurs@riga.lv