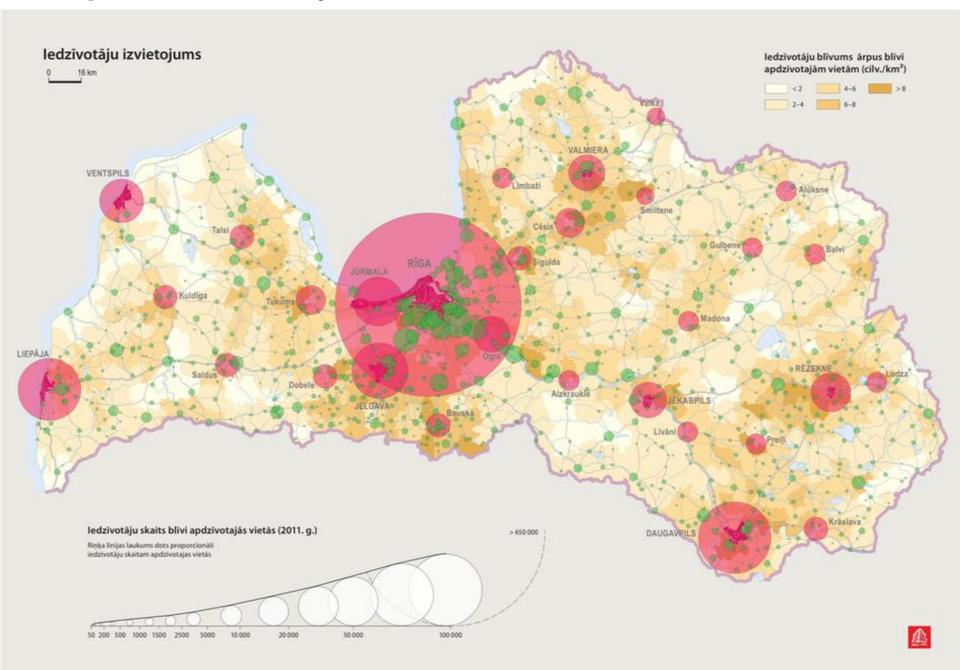
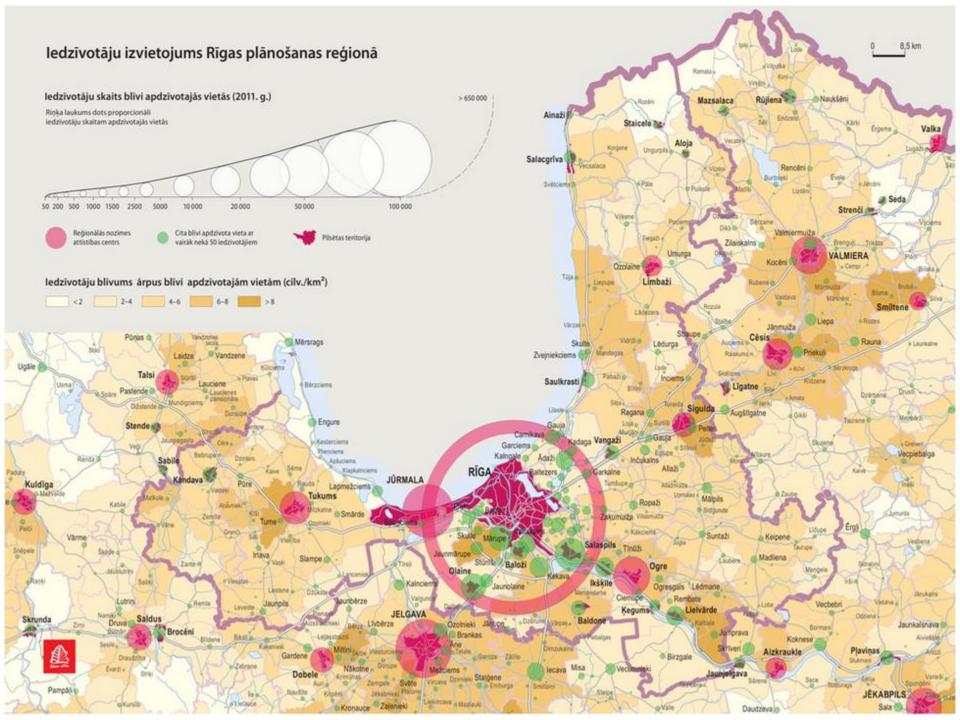


Population Change and its impact on disposition of School Network in Latvia

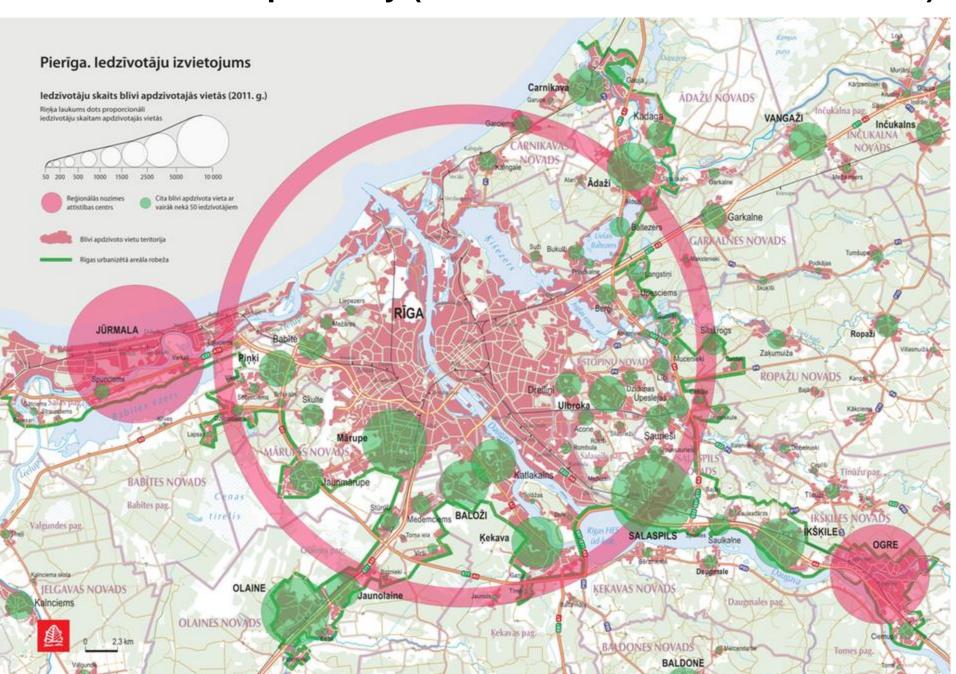


Population Density

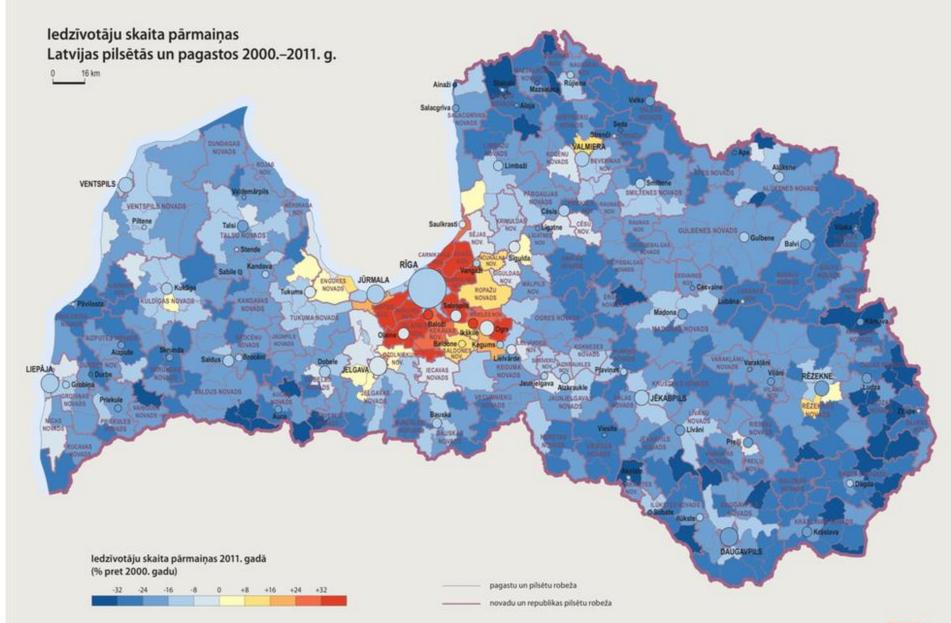




Urban Area of Capital City (43% of inhabitants & 60% of GDP)



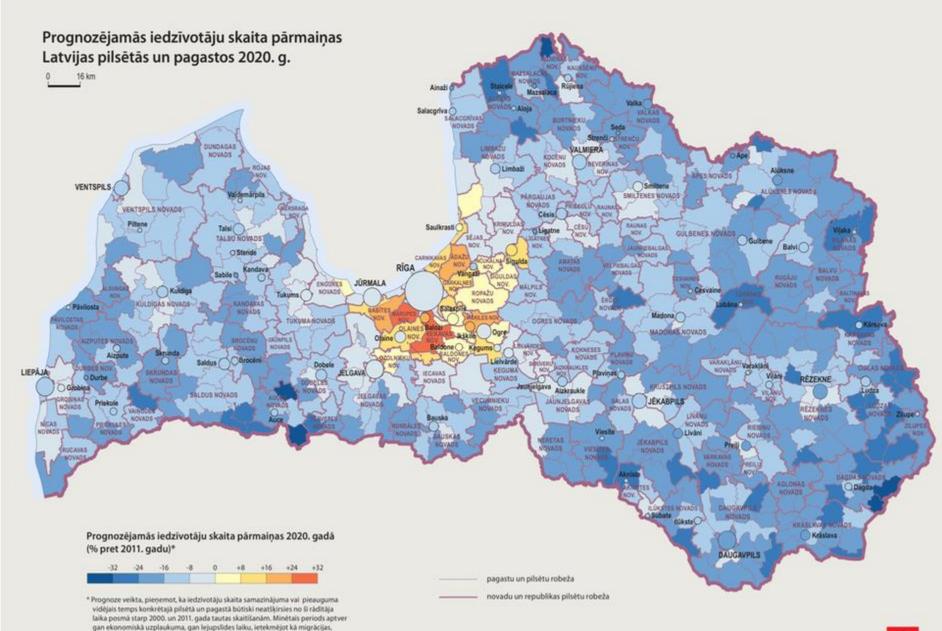
Population Change 2000-2011





Population Change Forecasts 2011-2020

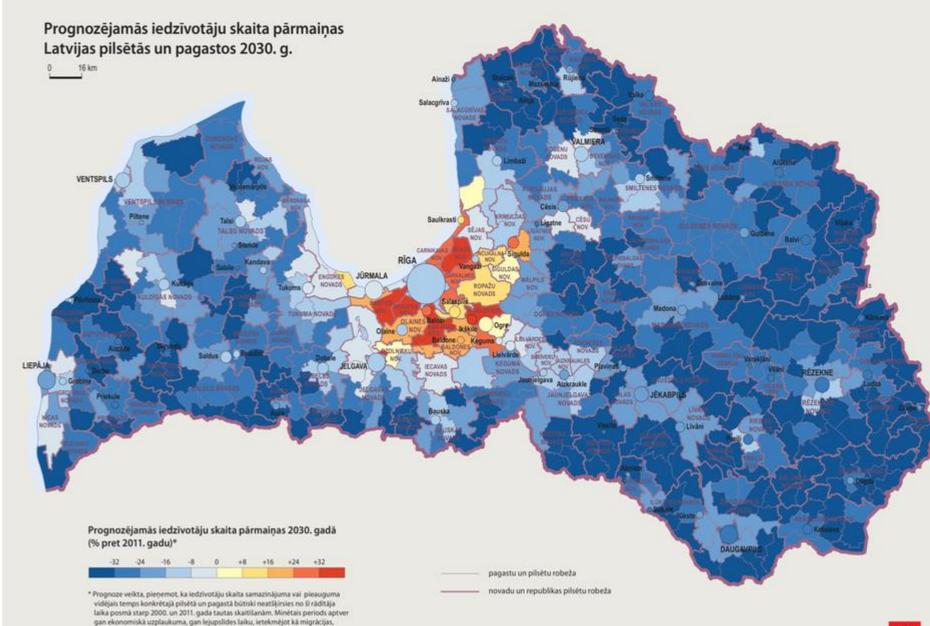
tá dzimstíbas svárstíbas valstí.





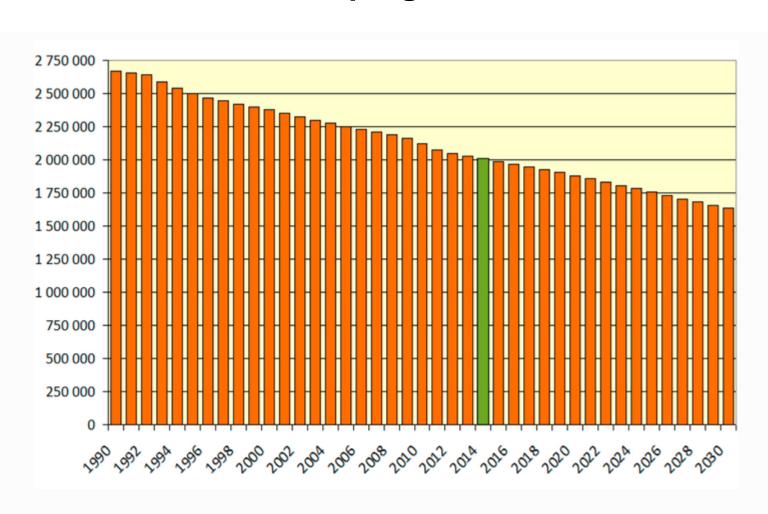
Population Change Forecasts 2011-2030

tā dzimstības svārstības valstī.





Dynamics of population size of Latvia since 1990 and prognosis until 2030



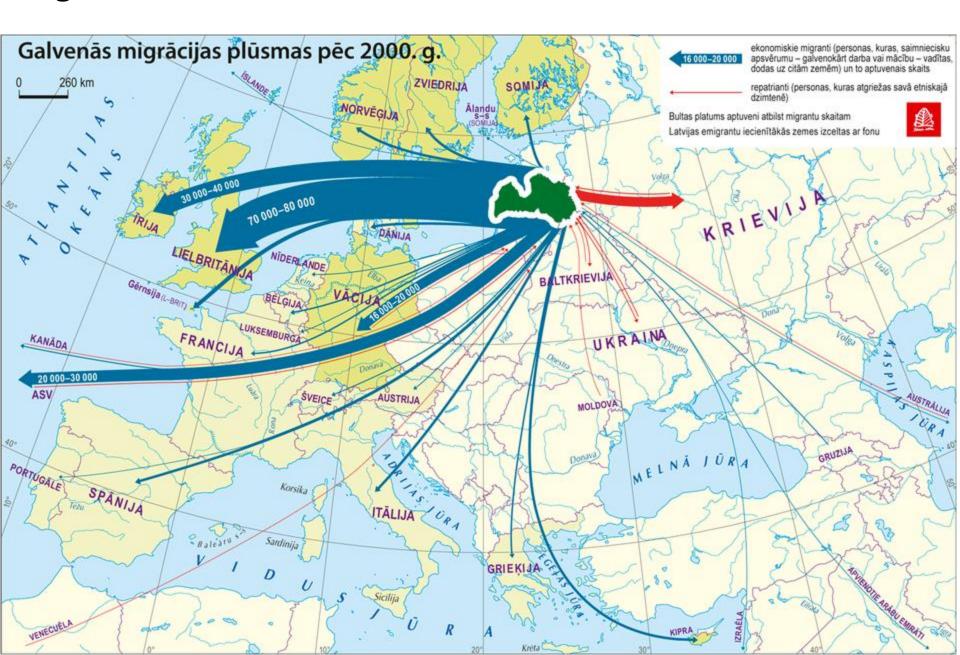
Facts about Demographic Situation of Latvia

Population of Latvia in the time period of 2000 - 2014 has decreased for 380 thousand (16%). This kind of reduction is the biggest since the restoration of independence of the Republic of Latvia.

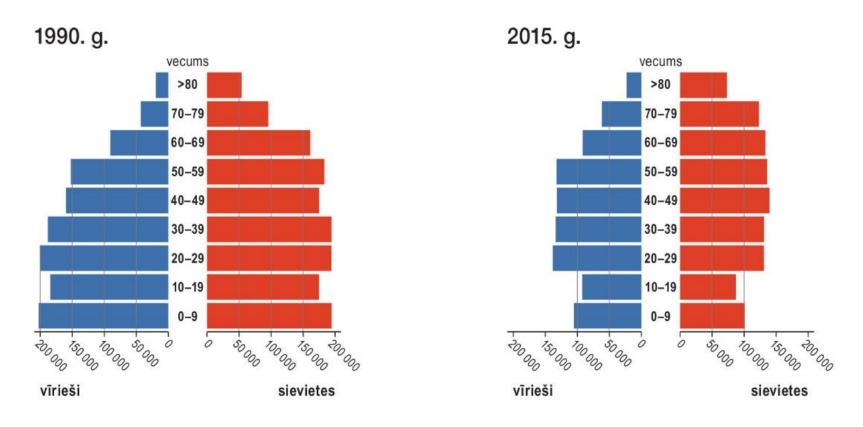
Almost two thirds of the number of population reduction is related with the net migration and that is the main factor which will affect population size reduction in Latvia in future. Population reduction will continue to happen until Latvia will not reach the average level of welfare in Europe (on 2013 Latvia had only 64% of Europe's average).

If relevant progress in the economic development of Latvia won't be achieved, the size of population could decrease for 20% more.

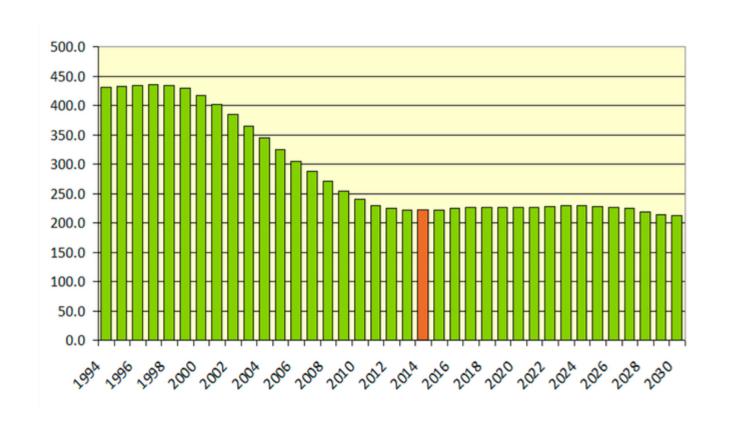
Migration Flows after 2000



Structure of the population according to age and sex ledzīvotāju dzimumvecumstruktūra



School-age children (7-18 years) population size dynamics since 1994 and prognosis until 2030, measured in thousands



The main Arguments of Comprehensive School Network optimization necessity

Since the middle of 90's the number of school-age children has decreased almost twice – from 433 thousand in 1995 down to 222 thousand in 2014. In result the fill of the school buildings is 50% and even less. That is common phenomenon also in the big cities, but especially in the schools of minorities.

Because of the unequal workload in almost half of the schools (48%) there are studying only 14% students of possible. That means that finances allocated for education are not used rationally, because per one student there are higher costs of maintenance of the hiring stuff and premises.

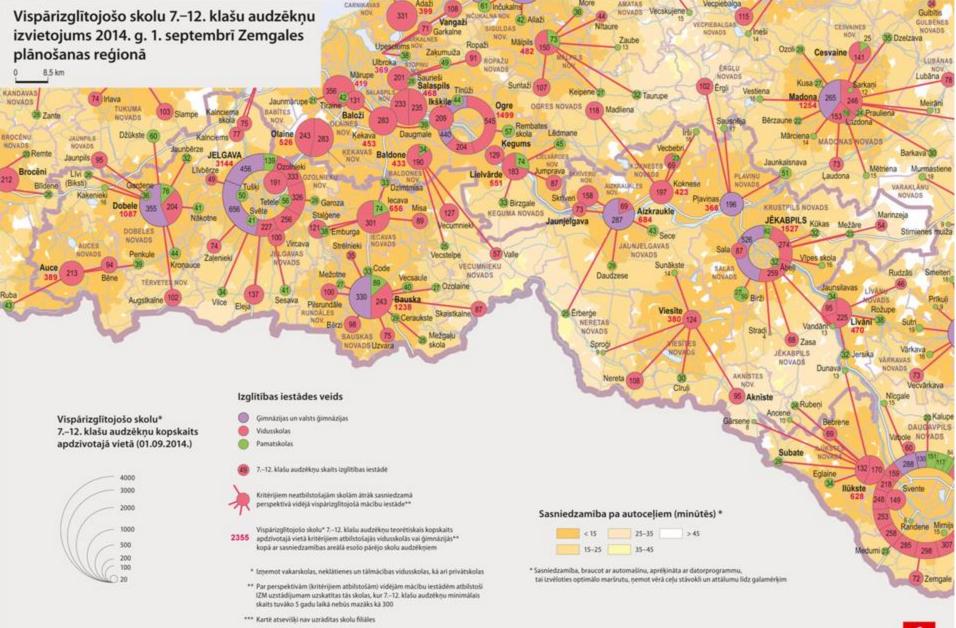
There is low efficiency of usage of potential of each teacher – the average workload for one teacher in Latvia is three times lower than the average in Europe (respectively 6 and 15 students for one teacher's workload).

Current school network is the main reason why there is an unequal teacher workload and from that as a result – inadequate low wages for teachers.

In schools with a low number of students it is difficult to organize modern learning process. It doesn't pay off to buy modern equipment and to attract teachers with higher qualification.

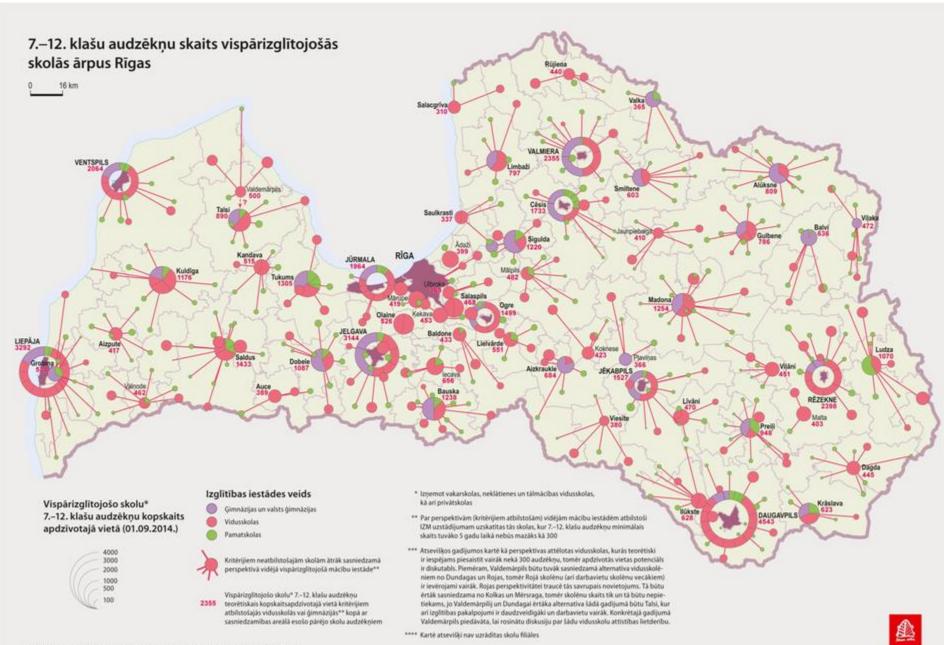
Qualitative education service must be ensured in places where children parents have an option to find a job. So far the policy to keep schools in the places, where the largest employers are Municipalities or other State authorities, haven't prevented the inhabitant outflow to more perspective regions or abroad. In many cases if a school is located in a region with high unemployment, parents have no other choice than to look for a job some place elsewhere and leave their children with their grandparents or other relatives. If parents are away most of the time, their children have a lack of attention, which can have an negative impact on their psyche.

Number of Students (Class 7-12) in Public Schools 2014

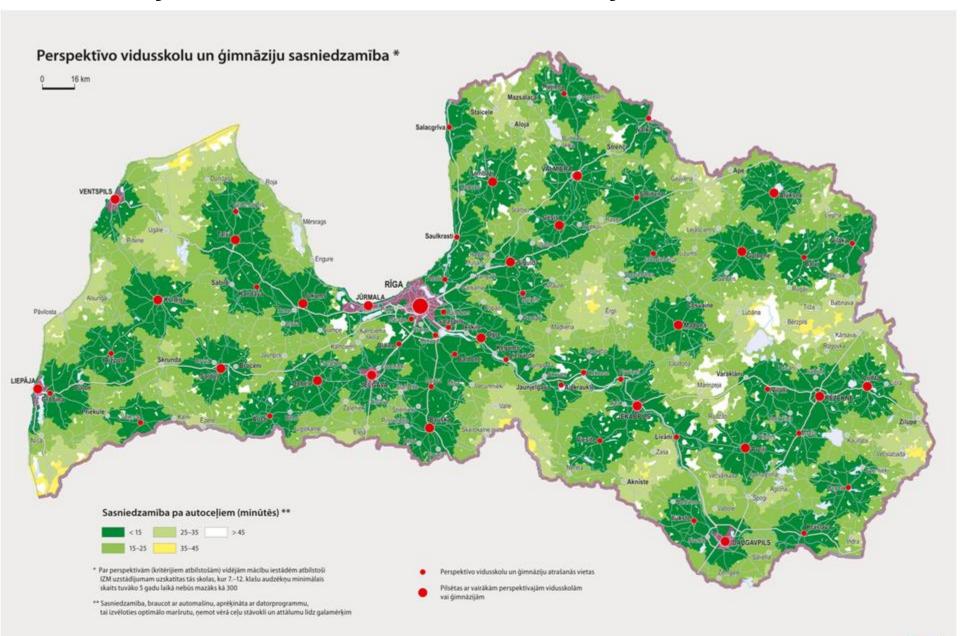




Optimization Proposal for Secondary School Network



Secondary School Network Accessibility





If in one school there is only a number of students that could easily fit in one bus, then, excepting schools with a particular specialization, there is no point of keeping school open, so spending money from Government or Municipalities budget, because bus maintenance is much cheaper. Also schools usually already have bought buses which are used for school's transport function. In most cases the drive from one little school to a bigger one is only 15-25 minutes. This fact proves that school optimization can't do much harm in the matter of school availability to children.

Conclusions about the network of education services

Active communication with society will play a significant role in the case of making successful school network reform. It is important to provide information which is objective, comprehensive and easy to understand, so that it would explain why these reforms are necessary and what are the benefits to society.

Rules made by Ministry of Education about the minimal number of students in schools and classes that are funded by Government, would be helpful for municipalities in order to make unpopular decisions.

Different interests of municipalities often is the main obstacle in the way of making rational decisions in Governmental interest referring to reforms of school network. In order to make a successful school reform it is necessary to have more involvance from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Regional Development.

Thank you!

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