



# RIGA

**PLANNING REGION  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGY 2030**



# RIGA REGION

KANDAĻA MUNICIPALITY

ENGURE MUNICIPALITY

TUKUMS MUNICIPALITY

JŪRMALA CITY

BABĪTE MUNICIPALITY

MĀRUPE MUNICIPALITY

OLAINĒ MUNICIPALITY

ĶĒKAVA MUNICIPALITY

BALDONE MUNICIPALITY

SĀLSPĪLS MUNICIPALITY

CARNIKAVA MUNICIPALITY

RĪGA CITY

GARKALNE MUNICIPALITY

STOPIŅI MUNICIPALITY

SAULKRASTI MUNICIPALITY

SĀLACGRĪVAS MUNICIPALITY

LIMBAŽI MUNICIPALITY

ĀDAŽI MUNICIPALITY

INCUKALNS MUNICIPALITY

SEJA MUNICIPALITY

ALOJA MUNICIPALITY

KRIMULDA MUNICIPALITY

SIGULDA MUNICIPALITY

ROPAŽI MUNICIPALITY

MĀLPĪLS MUNICIPALITY

IKŠKĪLE MUNICIPALITY

OGRE MUNICIPALITY

ĶĒGUMS MUNICIPALITY

LIELVĀRDE MUNICIPALITY

The booklet is financed by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism programme 2009–2014 No. LV 07 "Capacity-building and Institutional Cooperation between Latvian and Norwegian Public Institutions, Local and Regional Authorities" project No. 4.3–24/NFI/INP–002 "Increasing territorial development planning capacities of planning regions and local governments of Latvia and elaboration of development planning documents"



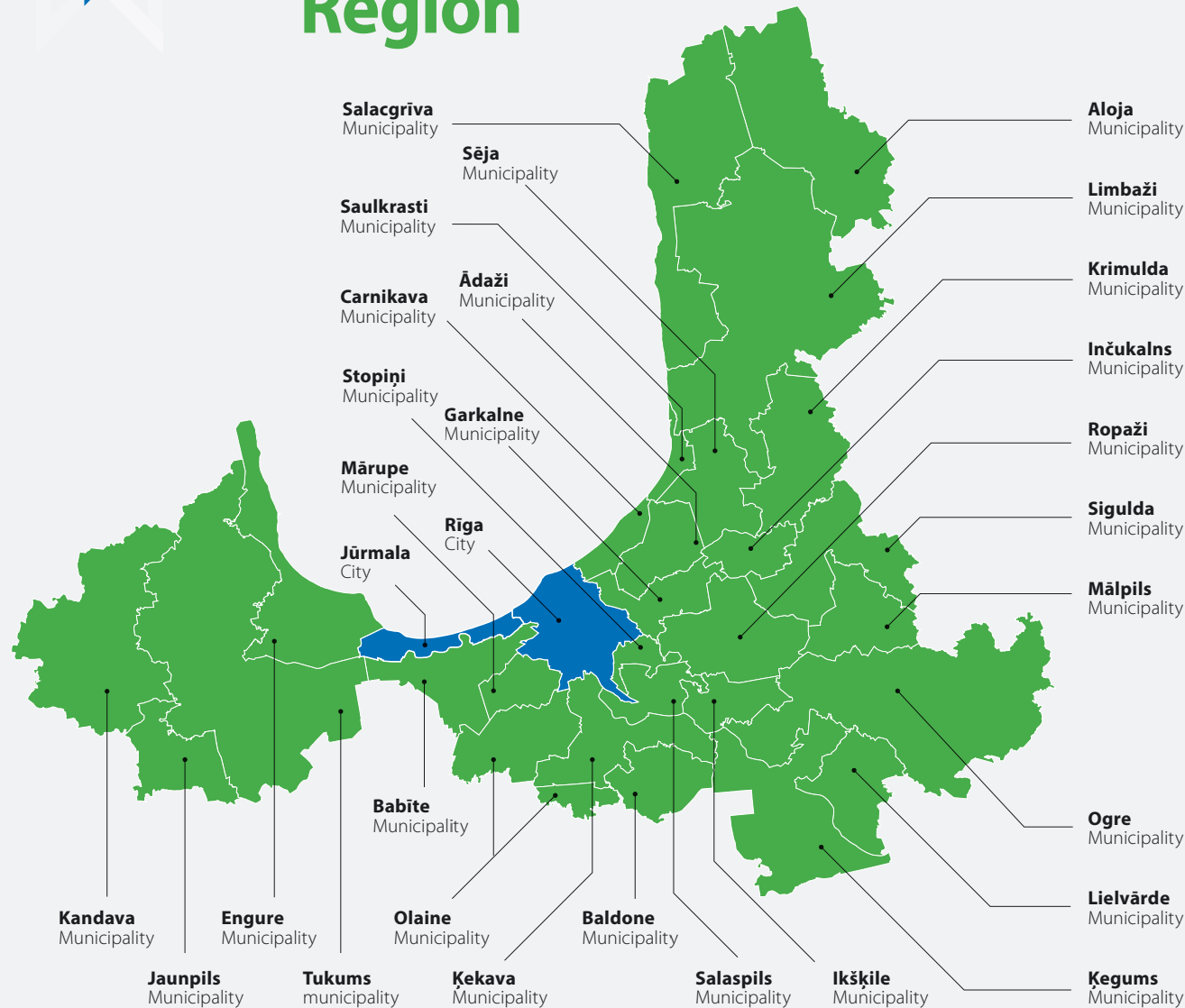




# Local Governments of Riga Planning Region



Latvia



Within the coming decades we will view Riga Planning Region as a territory of collaboration between local governments and the state according to the ideas and ideals mentioned in Riga Planning Region Sustainable Development Strategy 2030. It includes a characterisation of the main long-term goals of the collaboration and it offers solutions for reaching these goals.

In the development strategy the main emphasis is put on the significance of the Riga Planning Region as the capital region with a decisive role in national politics, economy and cultural development. The 30 local governments of Riga Planning Region make up a diverse mosaic of administrative territories, each of which differ by their separate role. The city of Riga, together with range of the adjacent territories, is a pronounced metropolis area, which exceeds the administrative borders of the planning region and the effects, which can be felt across the whole of Latvia.

Prosperity of Riga Region as a part of Europe is globally related to smart values of the global market, energy-saving solutions, qualitative physical living space and an integrated society. The overall aim of the Riga Region development is to become an attractive, open-minded, tolerant and competitive region within the global space.



Chairman of Riga Planning Region Development Council

*Dagnis Straubergs*





# Activity and Functions of the Region

The regional level of governance ensures a connection between the national and local level of governance through the function of coordination. In this way the region is capable of covering the issues, which exceed the borders of one local government, and in the same time it defines the demand for territorial solutions of national level.

## Governance

The administration established by the Riga Planning Region (RPR) Development Council ensures the execution of the decisions taken by the Development Council, as well as organises the activity of the Development Council. The task of the regional administration is to ensure regional development planning, coordination, collaboration between local governments and other national governmental institutions.

## Planning and supervision

Regional competency within the framework of territorial development planning is set out in the Regional Development Law, following which the main development directions, aims and priorities of the planning region must be defined, as well as coordination and monitoring of the development planning process must be carried out.

## Projects

The region develops and implements projects within the framework of regional development supporting measures. Also, the projects realised by RPR is one way of advancing the implementation of the activities and reaching the results set out in the regional planning documents.

## Entrepreneurship and investments

The Riga Regional Entrepreneurship Centre operates within the region, the activities of which are aimed towards implementing entrepreneurship promotion and support measures, as well as providing support for efficient acquisition of EU funds.

## Public transportation

Regional competency in the branch of public transportation is defined in the Law on Public Transportation Services, following which proposals on necessary changes in the route network must be prepared.

## Culture

Regions can delegate administrative tasks, which are within the competency of the direct governance institution. Up to this moment, the Ministry of Culture is the only direct state government institution, which has delegated execution of tasks in the cultural field to RPR through an agreement.

Prospectively, it is possible to extend the activities (functions) of the planning region in such fields as social services, education, youth, tourism, and energetics. The prerequisite for the implementation of these is the delegation with following funding from institutions of direct national governance.

# General Information about the Region



## Area

**10 438 km<sup>2</sup>**  
16.2% of the total area  
of Latvia  
/TAPIS, 2015/



## Population

**1 089 960**  
50.5% of the total  
population of Latvia  
/PMLP, 2015/



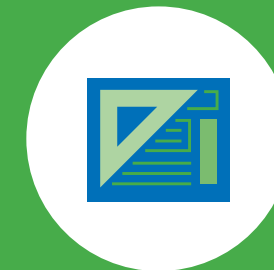
## Number of local governments

**30** local governments



## Cities of national significance

**Rīga,  
Jūrmala**



## Development centres of regional significance

**Tukums, Ogre,  
Sigulda, Limbaži**



## GDP

**14 480 EUR**  
per 1 inhabitant  
/CSP, 2012/

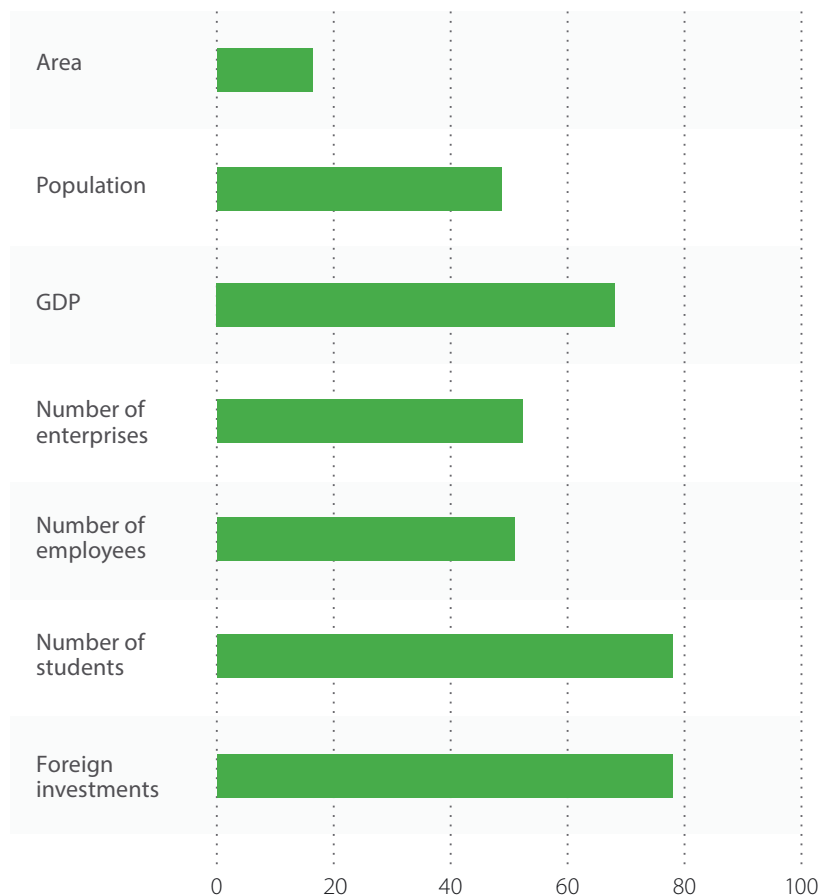






# Special Values of Riga Region

Riga Planning Region proportion in Latvia (%)



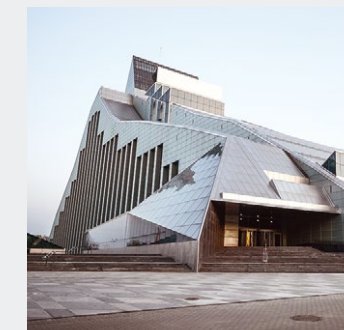
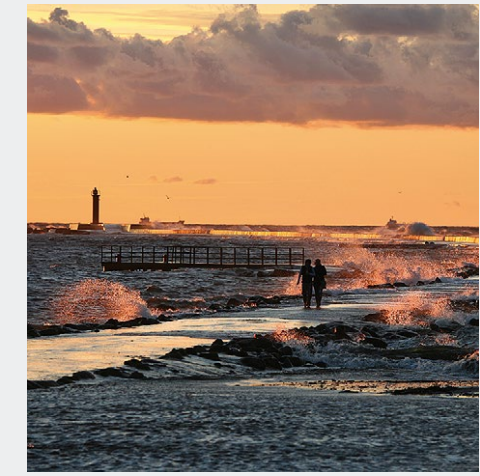
Riga Planning Region is the capital region of Latvia. Its location in the centre of the Baltic states, bordering with European and Eastern cultures, has formed Riga Region as a bridge between different countries and their population.

The region is characterised by the dynamic capital city Riga, wherein impacts of various nations have integrated naturally. Other cities and towns of the region are also significant – Jūrmala, Limbaži, Tukums, Ogre and Sigulda, as well as the rural environment that has not been industrially impacted. The special value of the region is the coast of the Riga Gulf of the Baltic Sea, which extends at a length of 185 km, as well as the internal water sources.

The socio-economic, technological and scientific development of the region is defined by a development centre of national, international and European significance – the city of Riga along with its agglomeration. The functional space of the region noticeably surpasses the borders of the region, which also includes the territories of the surrounding regions in the economic and spatial population distribution structure.

The strategically important location of the region, high population retention and relatively high market capacity form the economic potential of the region and promote national growth. Riga agglomeration holds the most significant cultural, educational, scientific, sports, healthcare, and transport infrastructure objects of the state.

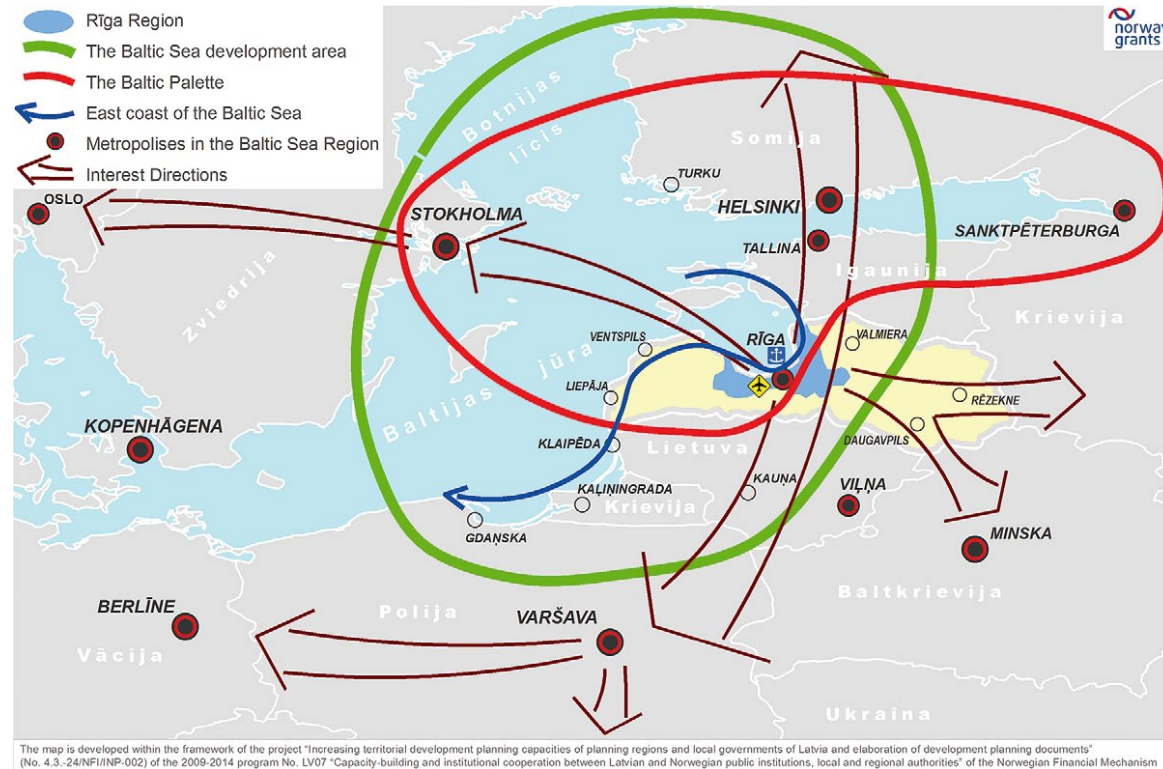
# Riga Region







# The Region's Role in Latvia and the Baltic Region



Areas and directions of cooperation in the international interests of the Riga region

Riga Planning Region has a special and potentially increasable role on the international scale, primarily in the Baltic Sea Region. A big driving force for development of not only the Riga Planning Region but also the whole of Latvia can be found in the potential of Rīga as an international metropolis, and this aspect should be taken into account more frequently in the future. In the network of metropolises – VASAB, Baltic Palette, Via Hanseatica, Via Baltica and Rail Baltica – it is possible to serve as excellent platforms designed for development of accessible infrastructure and tourism, as well as regional marketing.

## Vision

### People

Population in the region is stable. A relatively low birth rate is compensated by reemigration and a positive migration balance. In the region, most of the population of working age have higher or vocational education, and almost all of the population are involved in lifelong learning processes. The governance increases the number of various humane facilities, loosens legal capacity, labour-intensiveness and cohesion of communities for the purpose of achieving common objectives. Within the average term, the region will become an attractive area for skilled workers required on the market, as well as for immigrants.

### Values

The role of the place and its vicinities has increased in regard to awareness and activity. The region's residents are aware of their belonging to both the local and the regional cohabitation and behave responsibly towards it, as well as feel safe due to interconnection and peer benevolence towards ethnic and cultural diversity.

### Smart development

It is flexible – based on knowledge, willingness to change, activity, and respect to the place and global processes. Wisdom is manifested in action, which is focused on self-sufficiency and balance of the location in energy production and consumption. The distance from home to the workplace is constantly decreasing, along with the frequency of the use of vehicles. The region as a whole and each place forms a system of green areas and green elements.

### Distinctions

Areas of distinction of Riga Region are knowledge-based technologies, smart development technology, biotechnologies, visual and acoustic art, quality of the urban living environment, as well as quality of rural areas, green areas and water areas.

### Rīga as a metropolis

City of Rīga is a national and multicultural metropolis of Northern Europe – the driving force of Latvia and the region. Within the time of one generation, the role of Rīga has increased: Rīga has become a powerful organising force that enhances prosperity and activity in the region, Latvia and the Baltic States. It is developing as the most dynamically visible and united centre in the Baltics. Rīga stands out in the Baltic Sea region and the world owing to its distinctions in several fields. The region with its centre in Rīga is both the Eurasian and north-south and east-west connection and logistics hub, as well as the place of business and cultural synergies.

### Mobility

The region is still developing a common transport system, whose core consists of all kinds of public transport networks that ensure geographically regular accessibility within the time conforming to the daily mobility requirements, in which the region is a unified working and living space.

### Areas

Taking into consideration the history of Rīga, it is possible to say that in the future Rīga as a metropolis will be linked with the areas surrounding it – the urban and green areas of the city's suburbs, the Gulf of Riga and its coasts. Each of the areas is characterised by a distinct value, a balance of nature and human activities, specialisation and sustainable use of resources.

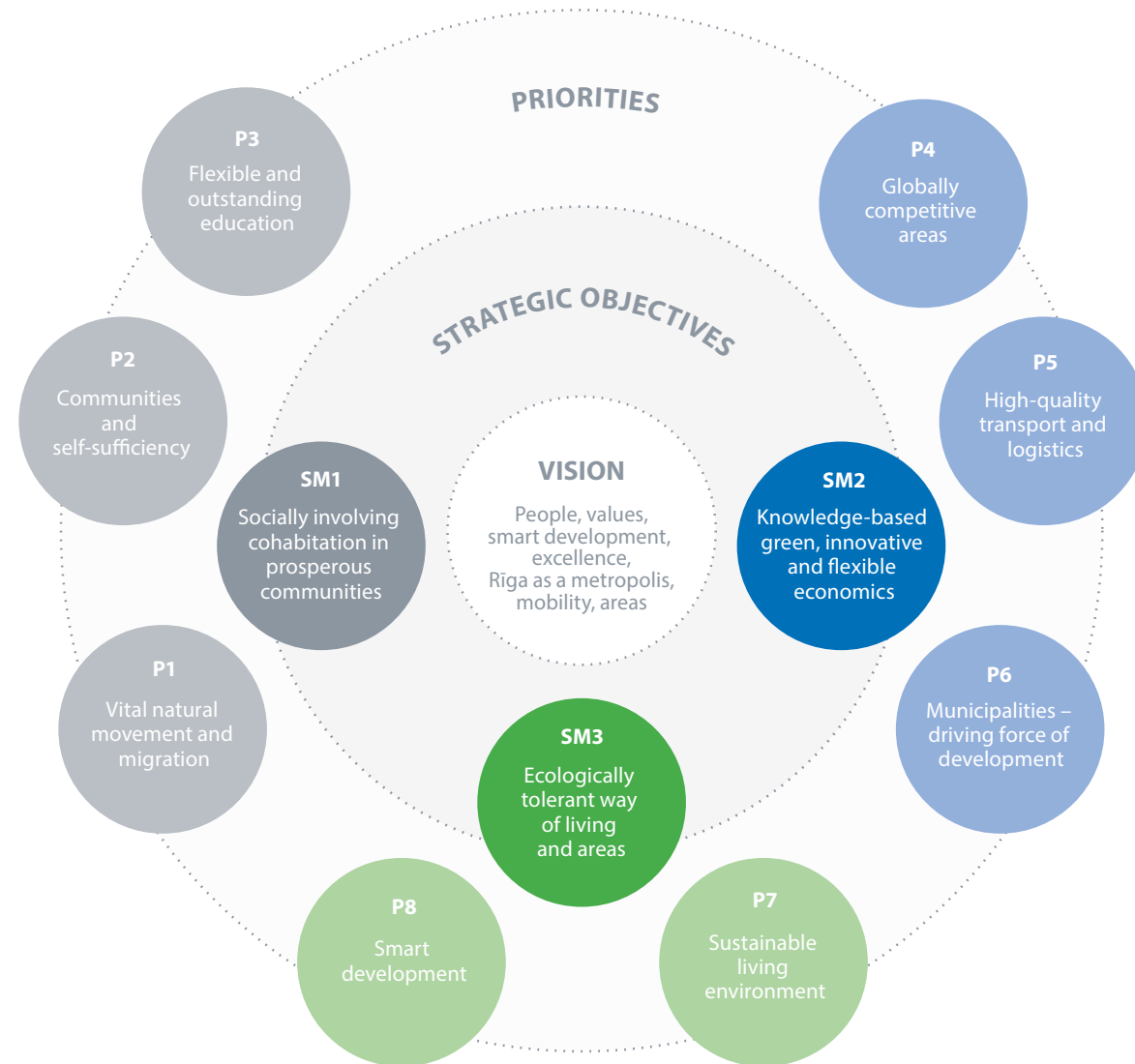
The aspects conforming to the vision – the desired future status of Riga Region in planning and actions – shall be consistently included in three strategically important subjects: **QUALITY, SMART DEVELOPMENT** and **ROLE** of City RĪGA.







# Objectives and Priorities



# Economic Profile of Riga Region

Thanks to City Rīga, the Riga Region produces more than 2/3 of the Latvian economic value. The economic structure of the region is modern and sufficiently diversified. Radially concentrated **traffic infrastructure connected with logistics nodes** (ports, airports, railway stations) forms the basis of the economic networks. **Knowledge-based business services** (finances, programming, consulting), **cultural services, production** in different spheres (pharmacy, biochemistry, wood processing), and **transport services** are part of the global economic mainstream and demonstrate gradual growth.

A great potential is concentrated in the capital in order to make sure that investment and new approaches to business (48% of Latvian companies), education (82% of the number of students in universities and colleges) and research (90% of institutions) connection create major qualitative changes.

Riga Planning Region development prerequisites within the context of the Baltic Sea Region are a green environment, creative industries, information technology development, and knowledge of foreign languages. This opens up opportunities for development of knowledge-intensive production facilities based on chemical technologies and health tourism. Currently, the advantageous geopolitical position in the middle of the Baltic Sea has been seldom used, which may form the basis for much wider tourism, logistics and transport development. Riga Region as an area of development of the capital shall be considered in a much broader context, including at least the entire Baltic Sea Region.







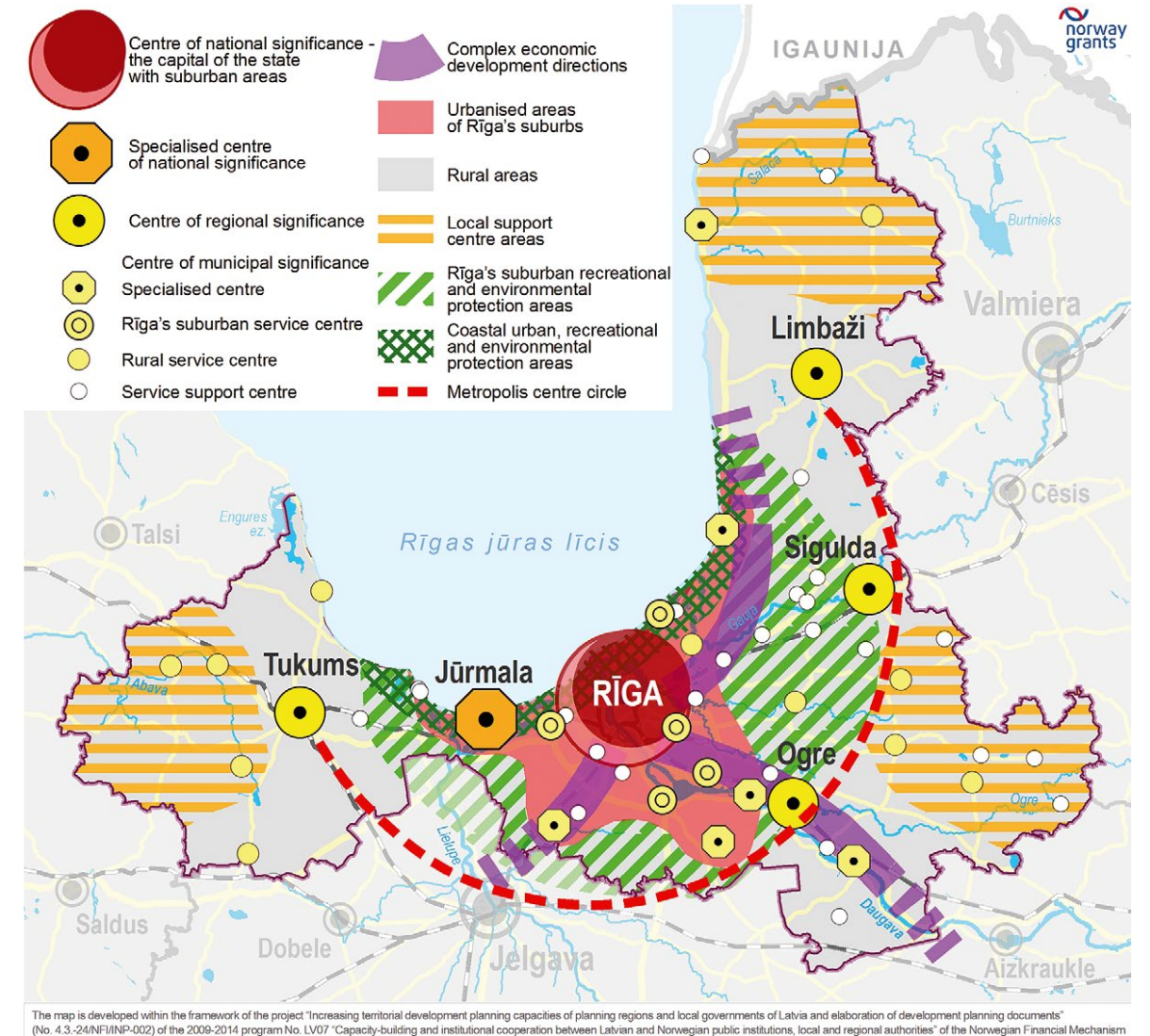
# Spatial Development Perspective

Implementation of the RPR Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 is provided by the guidelines for spatial development planning, which covers a number of thematic directions: **spatial structure of the distribution of population, traffic infrastructure, and spatial structure of natural areas.**

The basic elements of the spatial structure of the distribution of population have been taken over and developed in the strategy, paying special attention to the importance of Rīga and rural areas in the planning of the distribution of population. Respecting the idea of polycentrism and increasing role of a place in social planning, as well as taking into account Rīga's particular international scale in Latvia and the region, the strategy emphasises the ensemble of relationships between the centre and remote areas in different spatial scales. Distribution of the population is viewed as an organising element of the spatial structure.

Integration of Rīga and areas of its suburbs is essential in the regional scale, forming an administratively and economically fragmented but functionally unified space that requires jointly coordinated development planning and cooperation. The suburbs of Rīga cover areas directly adjacent to the city and the closely surrounding municipalities. The status of populated areas of the city's suburbs is subordinate to functions. A significant part of Rīga suburbs is closely connected with the city with regard to functions and the population structure. This area of the suburbs is called the urbanised space of the suburbs of Rīga.

# Spatial Structure of the Distribution of Population



Spatial Structure of the Distribution of Population







# Spatial Development Perspective

The transport and mobility structure forms a single functional system with the distribution of population, ensuring the complementarity of its spatial structure. Communication between the centre and remote areas are primarily determined by mobility opportunities. Respecting the opportunities that are available for reaching service/development centres from any place, the mobility shall differ in different places. This will hasten the spatial structure and development process, as well as it will enhance the territorial specificities. Particular attention will be paid to the (external) international accessibility of Rīga as a metropolis, mutual (internal) accessibility of the centres of regional significance, and accessibility of the surrounding areas.

In the international context, fast connections to major metropolises in Europe are essential for Rīga. Through integrated development of connections of the Rail Baltica railway, the international airport "Rīga" and the Wester-Eastern railway, it is possible to establish the basis of the development of Rīga as a European and Eurasian mobility area. This would provide to the Latvian residents with quick access to different regions of the world. Rīga port shall become an international focal point not only with regard to the sector of shipment of goods but also in the field of passenger transportation. In the regional context, the link between Rīga and areas of Rīga suburbs has the most important role.

Fast regional connections should be mainly secured by rail and the main state roads. It can be predicted that rail transportation, electric transport and water transport connections, and Park & Ride, integrated into a uniform transport system, will have a great significance in the areas of suburbs of Rīga. In rural areas traffic organisation centres will be established providing fast traffic to the capital from the rural areas.

# Transport Infrastructure



Traffic infrastructure spatial structure





# Spatial Development Perspective

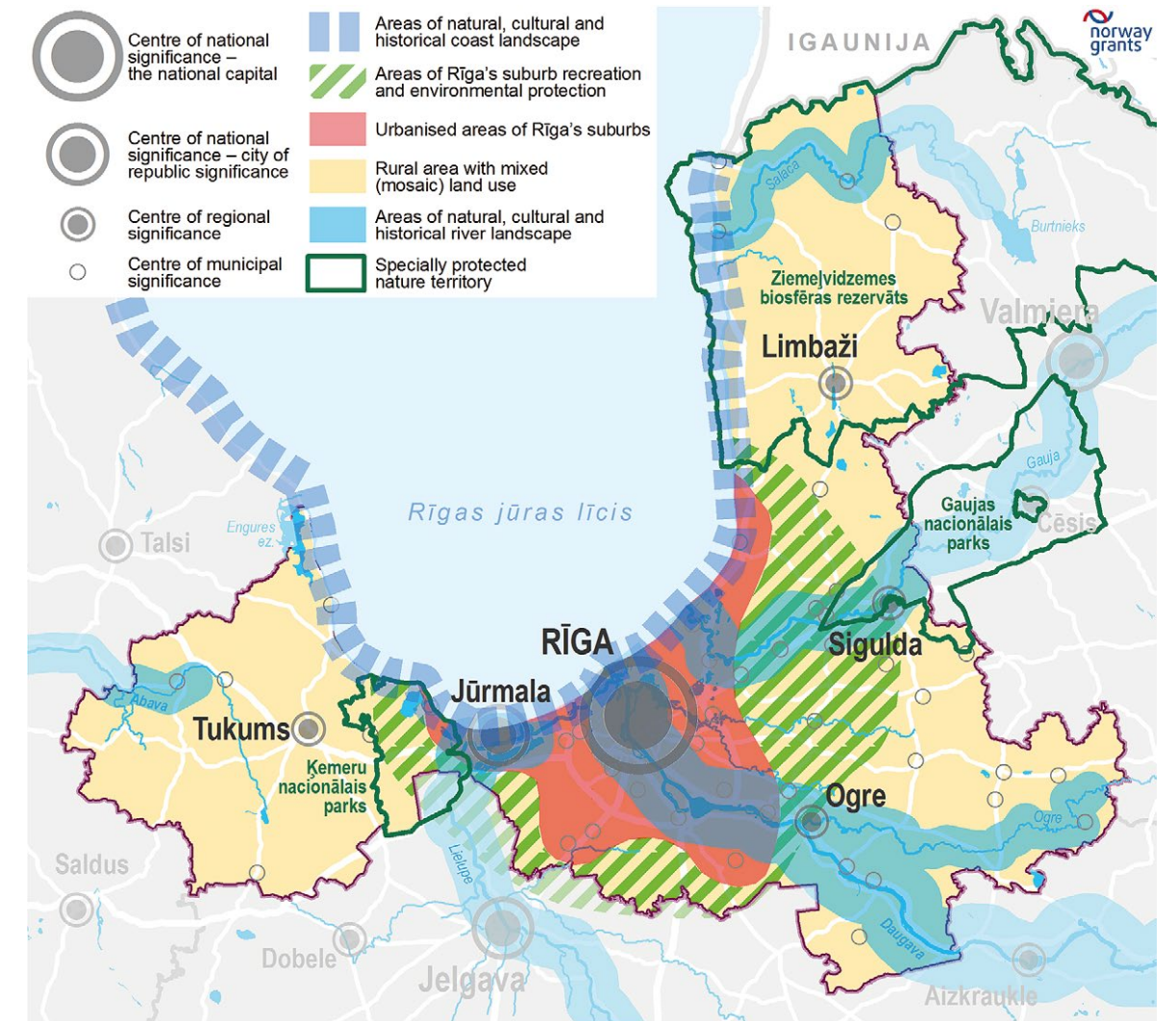
Natural areas are considered as components of an integrated living space that serves as an environment and resource necessary for living; it is a component of cultural space, which is based on economic, ethical and aesthetic motives of human actions. Nature in its diversity creates diverse landscapes, giving the place its unique identity.

Respecting the concentric radial structure of Rīga and its functionally related areas, the strategy is focused on the concentric areas of Rīga, its suburbs and “green” rural sectors, as well as on radial areas of large rivers – the Daugava, Gauja, Lielupe, as well as of coastal and green corridor landscapes. The green centre of City Rīga is a concept that includes natural areas in the city centre with all their diversity from greeneries to parks and wood parks, city waters, recreational areas, house yards, allotments, limited areas – embankments, bicycle and pedestrian paths.

The green corridors between Rīga and areas of its suburbs have a great significance, which form interconnected vacant areas maintaining natural diversity. Such areas should be designed providing their connection, preservation and renewal. Suburban areas have a recreational potential – forests that cover the city ensuring ecological balance and offer an alternative to the urban living and working environment.

Rural areas are characterised by diverse land usage, providing opportunities for agribusiness, forestry, agricultural holdings throughout all their functional diversity. The strategy provides diverse, moderate, environmentally responsible actions, which form environmental solutions appropriate to the scale and specifics of the location.

# Spatial Structure of Natural Areas



The map is developed within the framework of the project "Increasing territorial development planning capacities of planning regions and local governments of Latvia and elaboration of development planning documents" (No. 4.3.-24/NFI/MNP-002) of the 2009-2014 program No. LV07 "Capacity-building and institutional cooperation between Latvian and Norwegian public institutions, local and regional authorities" of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism

Spatial structure of natural and rural areas. The most important historical, cultural and landscape areas





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**Jūrmala City** [www.jurmala.lv](http://www.jurmala.lv)  
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