



KURZEME

PLANNING REGION
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY 2030

KURZEME

VENTSPILS MUNICIPALITY

DUNDAGA MUNICIPALITY

ROJA MUNICIPALITY

ALSUNGA MUNICIPALITY

PĀVILOSTA MUNICIPALITY

TALSI MUNICIPALITY

MERSRAGS MUNICIPALITY

VENTSPILS CITY

GROBIŅA MUNICIPALITY

LIEPĀJA CITY

KULDĪGA MUNICIPALITY

BROCĒNI MUNICIPALITY

NĪCA MUNICIPALITY

AIZRUPE MUNICIPALITY

PRIEKULE MUNICIPALITY

DURBE MUNICIPALITY

SKRUNDA MUNICIPALITY

SALDUS MUNICIPALITY

RUCAVA MUNICIPALITY

VAINODE MUNICIPALITY



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Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
Republic of Latvia



Local Governments of Kurzeme Planning Region



Ventspils
Municipality

Ventspils
City

Alsunga
Municipality

Pāvilosta
Municipality

Aizpute
Municipality

Durbe
Municipality

Liepāja
City

Grobiņa
Municipality

Priekule
Municipality

Nīca
Municipality

Dundaga
Municipality

Roja
Municipality

Mērsrags
Municipality

Talsi
Municipality

Kuldīga
Municipality

Brocēni
Municipality

Skrunda
Municipality

Saldus
Municipality

Vaiņode
Municipality

Rucava
Municipality

Kurzeme is a unique region in the west of Latvia. It can be proud of the long and diverse coast of the Baltic Sea and important cultural and natural heritage. The widest waterfall in Europe – Ventas Rumba – is situated in the heart of Kurzeme. The landscape of the region keeps traces left not only by the Suiti and Livs, but also by the Vikings.

Historically, Kurzeme Region is known by its strong traditional economic sector (forestry, agriculture and fishery) and manufacturing industry. The development of technologies and creative industries also plays an increasing role. Ports are an important aspect in the development of the cities of national significance – Liepāja and Ventspils. Kurzeme has three regional development centres – Kuldīga, Saldus and Talsi, and each of them has its own special significance. Every year this region is visited by an increasing number of tourists, who want to visit Kurzeme, explore its special natural values, buy local craftsmen goods and farm products, enjoy the charm of the cities of Kurzeme during the city festivals and celebrations, and find peace on the beaches and nature trails.

The concept of sustainable development includes environmental, economic, social and governmental aspects. The Kurzeme Planning Region sustainable development strategy “Kurzeme 2030” is designed with the aim to balance these four aspects, to define the main directions of development, and to continue the work on the improvement of Kurzeme regional development and quality of life of the inhabitants. Implementation of the strategy will enhance cooperation both regionally and internationally, as well as it will promote investments in the development of education and technology.



Chairwoman of Kurzeme Planning Region Development Council

Inga Bērziņa





Activity and Functions of the Region

Kurzeme Planning Region is one of the five planning regions in Latvia. The executive board of Kurzeme Planning Region is the Administration. The task of the Administration is to represent the interests of local governments of Kurzeme at national level.

The most important functions of the Administration

- ✧ Regional development planning, coordination and monitoring, including drafting of the spatial development planning documents of Kurzeme Planning Region.
 - ✧ Bringing forward proposals for drafting of national and local development planning documents, coordination of drafting of the local development planning documents.
 - ✧ Providing resolutions on compliance of sustainable development strategies and development programmes of local governments with development planning documents of the planning region and requirements of laws and regulations.
 - ✧ Representation of the region's interests in ministries, commissions, committees and councils.
 - ✧ Coordination of cooperation between regional authorities, state and local government institutions.
 - ✧ Identification and preparation of regional projects for financing from various financial sources, implementation of the regional projects, and consulting municipalities on project preparation.
 - ✧ Drafting of Kurzeme Planning Region sector development documents.
 - ✧ Provision of relevant information accessibility for Kurzeme Planning Region municipalities, businesses and citizens.
 - ✧ Notification of Kurzeme Planning Region municipalities and entrepreneurs of opportunities to participate in projects and attract funding.
 - ✧ Entrepreneurship promotion.
 - ✧ Provision of public transport accessibility for inhabitants of the region.
- Along with performance of its core functions, the region is also involved in other initiatives regarding tourism, environmental protection, social and other spheres, as well as it implements the cultural programme of Kurzeme Planning Region by funding various cultural events in the region. In the 2007–2013 planning period Kurzeme Planning Region attracted almost eight million euros, which were invested in the development of the region.

General Information about the Region



Area

13 607 km²
21% of the total area of Latvia /CSB/



Population

279 961
13% of the population of Latvia /OCMA/



Number of local governments

20 local governments



Cities of national significance

Liepāja, Ventspils



Development centres of regional significance

Kuldīga, Saldus and Talsi



EU funding

1 291 EUR per capita in 2007–2013
The highest funding in Latvia /MEPRD/





Special Values of Kurzeme

Building areas and courtyards
17 434 ha / 1%

Other areas
53 836 ha / 4%

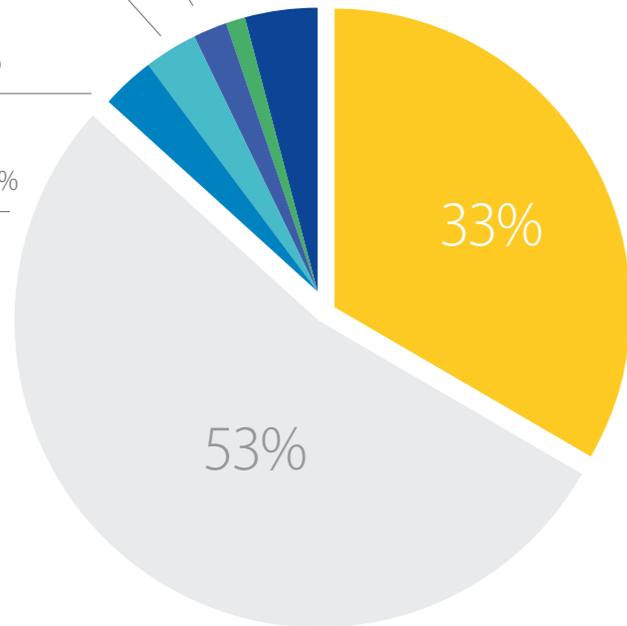
Road infrastructure
26 422 ha / 2%

Agricultural land
443 780 ha / 33%

Waters
46 866 ha / 3%

Swamps
37 036 ha / 3%

Forests
719 405 ha / 53%



Land use types
/SLS, 01.01.2014/

350 km long sea coast –
sandy beaches, cliffs, dunes,
ancient fishing villages

High biological and
landscape diversity

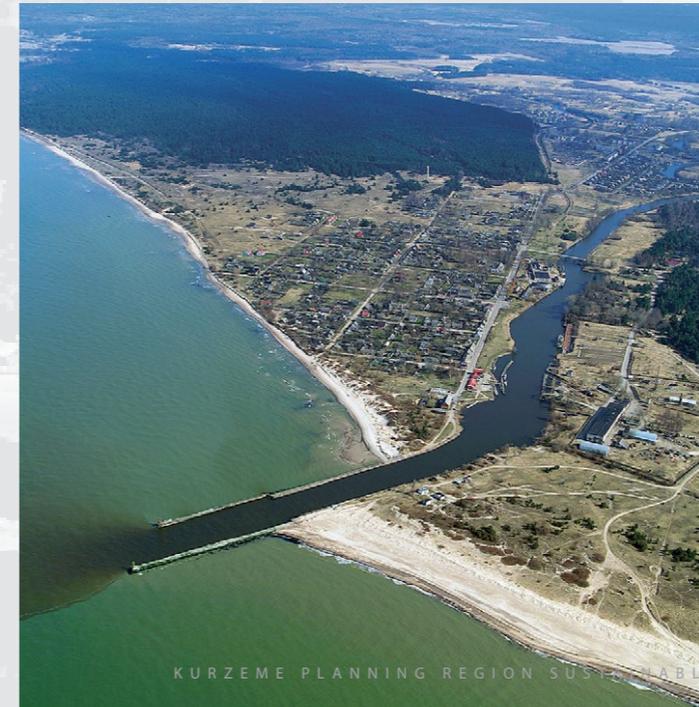
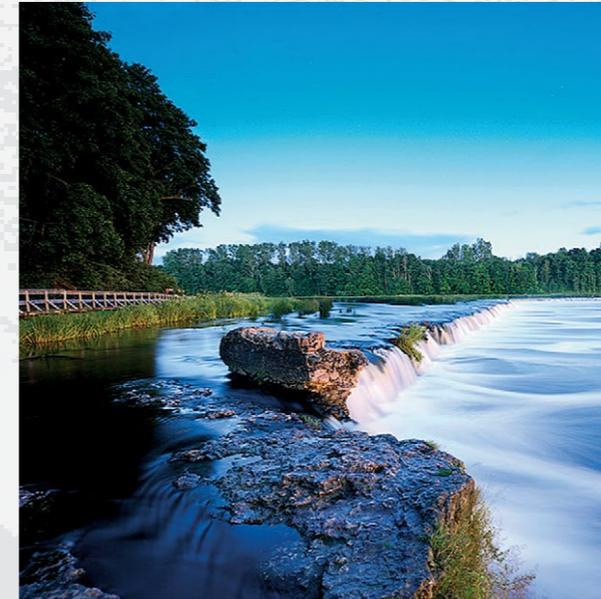
Abundant and high-quality
water resources

Rich cultural heritage

Trans-European transport
network (TEN-T) elements –
large ports, roads, railways,
airports

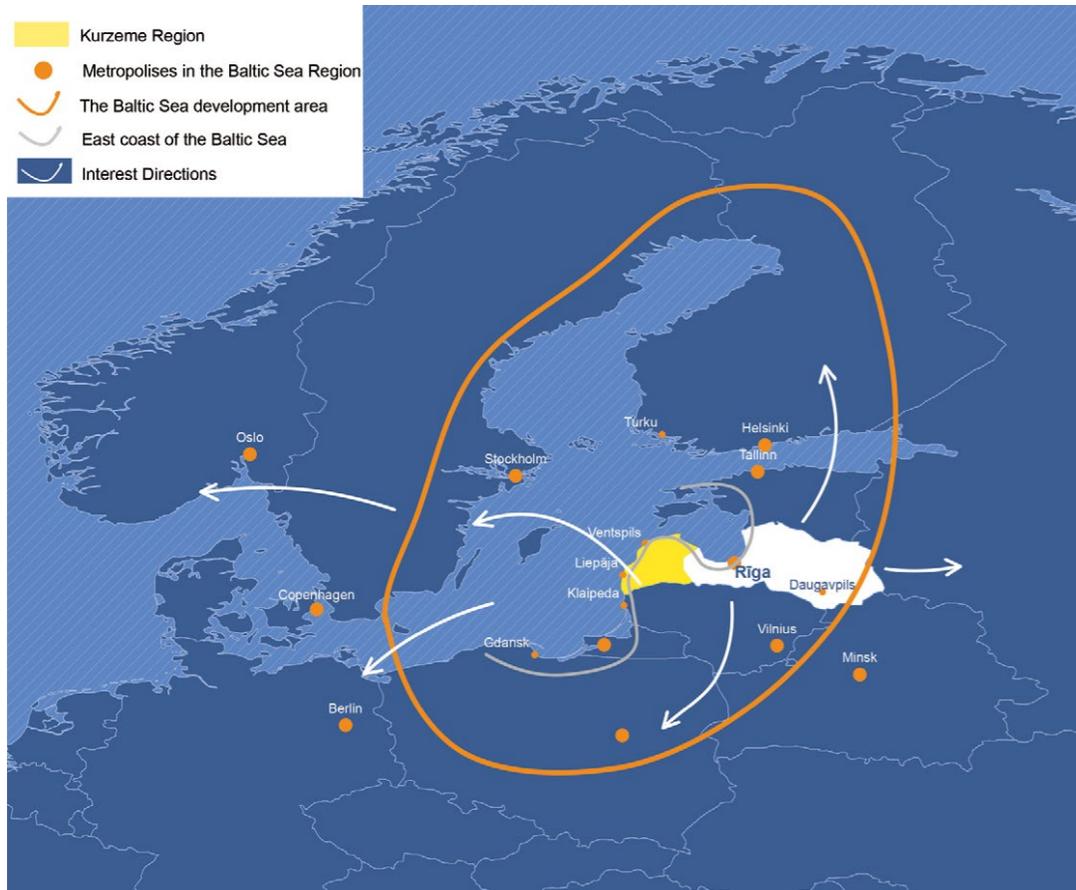
Small ports – yacht tourism,
fishing, freight transportation

The main sectors – transport
and logistics, wood
processing, metal
processing, agriculture, food
and clothing production,
fisheries, tourism





The Region's Role in Latvia and the Baltic Region



Kurzeme Region is an important area both for Latvia and for other countries. Two of the three major Latvian ports are located in Kurzeme – in the Baltic Sea region development centres Liepāja and Ventspils. Both cities of national significance are included in the TEN-T network. The 350 km long Baltic Sea coast is considered as a resource of international importance, which is unique in the Baltic Sea area. Kuldīga Old town and Venta Rapid (Ventas rumba) and the Grobiņa Archaeological Complex are included in the Latvian National Register of the UNESCO World Heritage List, while the Suiti cultural space is included in the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

Vision





Objectives and Priorities

Strategic objectives

Smart development – focused on **the change of thinking and behaviour**, which can be achieved by investments in education, science, creative industries, as well as by changing public environment and developing entrepreneurial thinking.

Attractive living environment – focused on **the change of living and working environments**, which can be achieved by purposeful changes in living and working environments and by focusing on location-oriented development.

Global connectedness and openness – focused on **openness and the use of global opportunities by the region, place and individuals**, which can be achieved by establishing cooperation-driven management.

Priorities

Knowledge – from formal education to skill-based lifelong education.

Initiative and responsibility – from profits at any cost to socially reasonable profit.

Supporting infrastructure – from infrastructure support in the sector to infrastructure support in a particular location.

“Vital” areas – from orientation to service to orientation to people/social orientation.

Employment – transition from a place at work to work in a particular place.

Energy resources and energy efficiency – from low resource processing to high resource processing, from energy consumption to energy saving – making more with fewer resources.

Cooperation and competitiveness – from competition to mutually beneficial cooperation.

Recognition – from local recognition to targeted local marketing.

Governance – from management to governance.

Economic Profile of Kurzeme Region

Natural resources

Available resources – clay, quartz sand, sand and gravel, limestone, peat, sapropel.

Potential resources – underground gas storage development and alternative energy development, oil extraction.

Development advantages

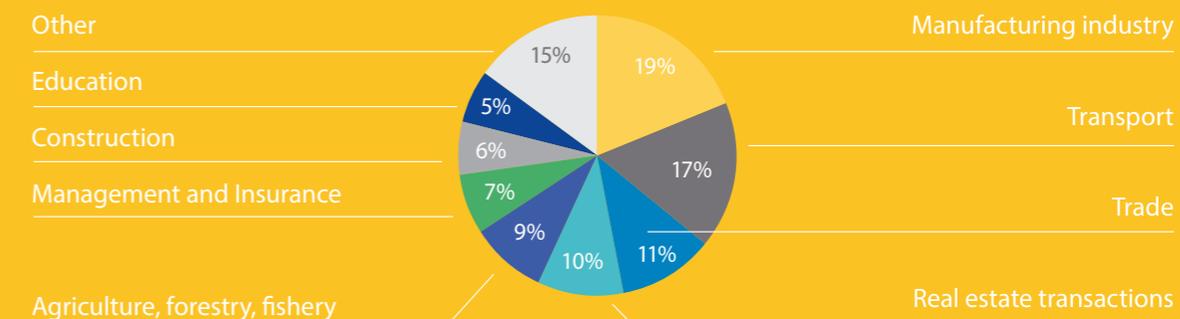
- ✦ Traditions in fishery, manufacture of clothes, tourism, fabricated metal production, forestry, food production, wholesale trade, as well as storage and transport operation traditions
- ✦ Advantages in natural resources and infrastructure
- ✦ Geopolitical position

- ✦ Potential for development of the natural, cultural and historical space. Urban environment, cultural and artistic activities – especially in Liepāja, significant ethnographic areas and protected natural areas

- ✦ Seacoast

Economic specialization development trends

- ✦ Investments in the development of technological competencies
- ✦ Development of creative resources for the purpose of increasing value added
- ✦ Cooperation among the government, business and science and research institutions
- ✦ Infrastructure development
- ✦ Use of marine resources



Total division of value added in Kurzeme Region /CSB, 2011/





Spatial Development Perspective

Residential facilities and development centres

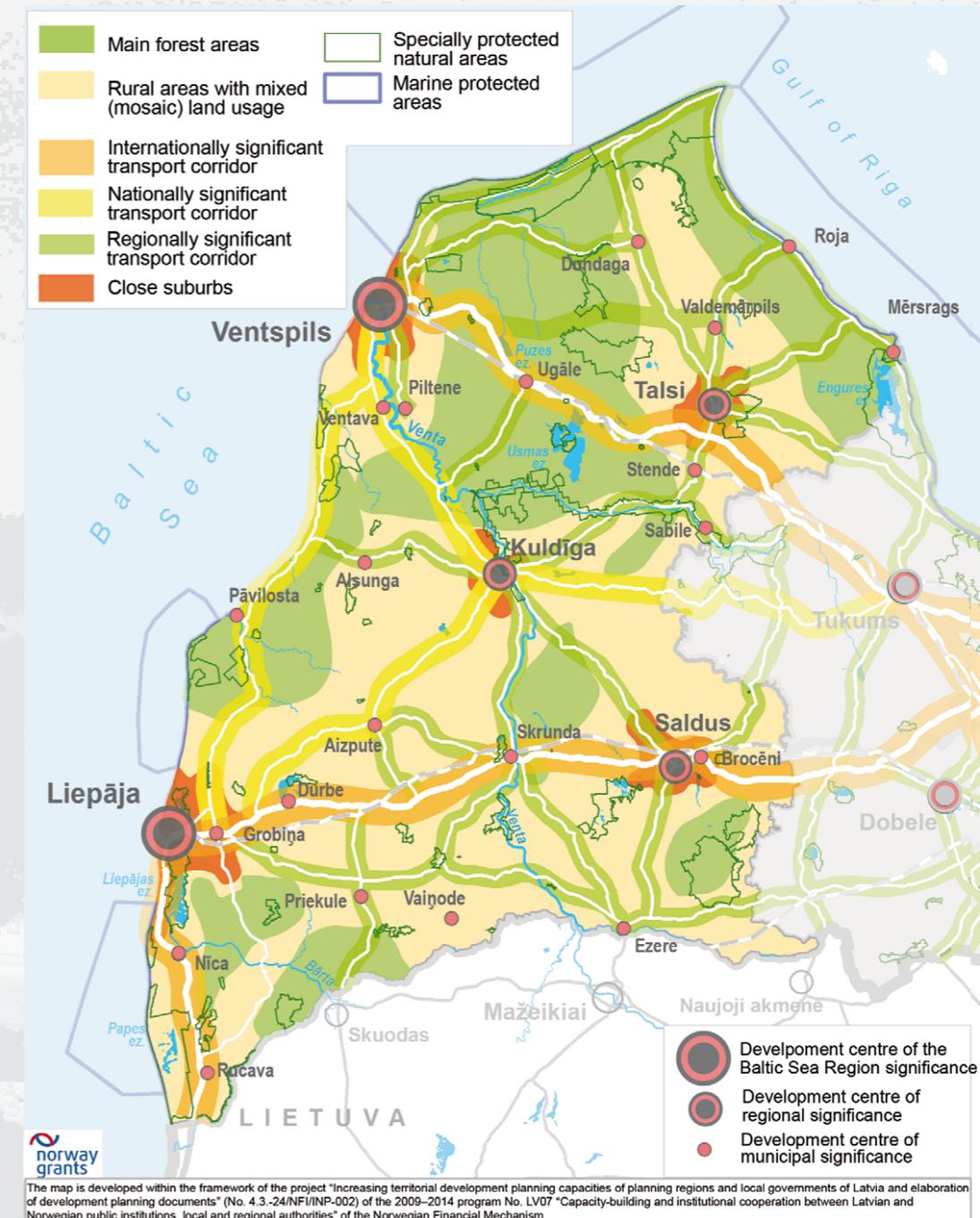
Approximately 280 000 inhabitants live in Kurzeme Region. The population density is 21 people/km² with explicit differences among the territories. The population is concentrated around the major cities (Liepāja, Ventspils, Kuldīga, Talsi, Saldus), creating residential locations with functional linkage.

Development centres in Kurzeme Planning Region:

- ✦ Development centres of the Baltic Sea region/national significance – Liepāja and Ventspils
- ✦ Development centres of regional significance – Kuldīga, Saldus, Talsi
- ✦ Development centres of municipal significance – Aizpute, Alsunga, Brocēni, Dundaga, Durbe, Ezere, Grobiņa, Mērsrags, Nīca, Pāvilosta, Piltene, Priekule, Roja, Rucava, Sabile, Skrunda, Stende, Ugāle, Vaiņode, Valdemārpils, Ventava
- ✦ Development centres of local significance – set in the municipality development planning documents

Natural and cultural area

- ✦ Rural/agricultural and forest areas, specific coastal area, frontier area and urban areas are typical for Kurzeme.
- ✦ A particular value is added by the cultural and historical areas that once were populated by the Suits, Livs and the Curonian Kings, as well as the cultural areas in Rucava, Bārta, Nīca and Abava. Kuldīga Old town and Venta Rapid (Ventas rumba) and the Grobiņa Archaeological Complex are included in the Latvian National Register of the UNESCO World Heritage List, while the Suiti cultural space is included in the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.
- ✦ 14% of Kurzeme Region is covered by specially protected natural areas (more than the average number elsewhere in Latvia). Slītere National Park is situated in the northern part of Kurzeme. Besides, there are various protected areas located in river valleys, near lakes, in forests, on the coast, and in the sea. Every year cultural and natural monuments attract many tourists to Kurzeme Region.



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/INP-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





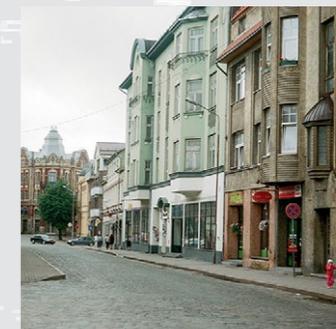
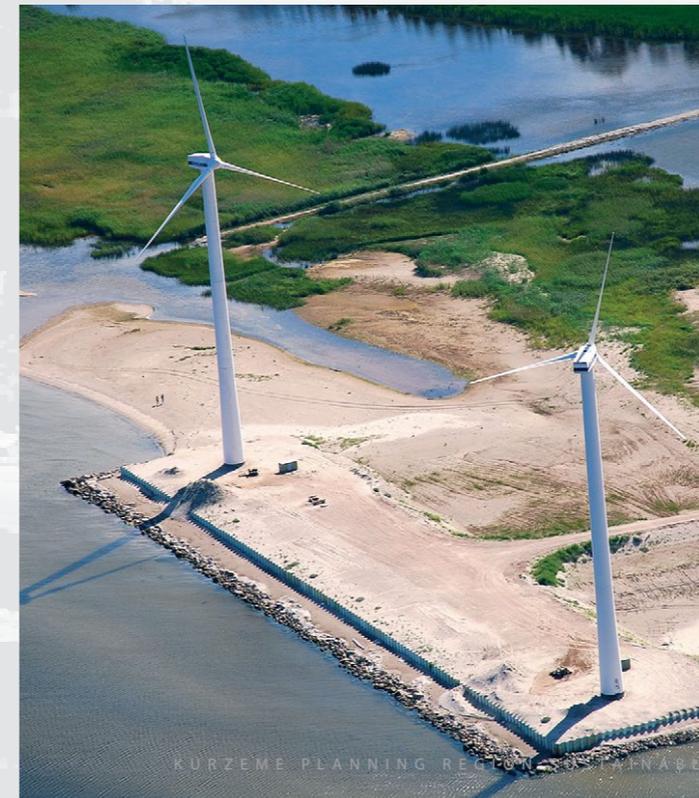
Accessibility of the locations and infrastructure

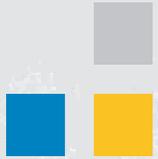
Kurzeme energy infrastructure:

- ✦ 110 kV and 330 kV power lines, construction of a new 330 kV power line is planned ("Kurzeme Ring")
- ✦ natural gas pipeline in the south of Kurzeme, construction of a new gas pipeline connected to Ventspils is planned
- ✦ oil product pipeline Polotsk–Ventspils
- ✦ potentially developed sectors – wind, solar, geothermal energy extraction, use of wood and waste recycling for energy extraction

Kurzeme transport infrastructure:

- ✦ multi-modal transport corridors – Riga–Liepāja (Southern corridor) and the Riga–Ventspils (Northern corridor) – with the state major road network, railways, two major ports and airports
- ✦ potential for rail passenger services by Northern and Southern corridors
- ✦ development of the Mid-Kurzeme Corridor (Tukums–Kuldīga)
- ✦ regional motor roads connecting cities of national significance and of regional significance
- ✦ small ports – Mērsrags, Roja, Pāvilosta
- ✦ passenger transportation in the region is provided by the public bus network and private transport
- ✦ construction of international cycling routes EuroVelo 10 and EuroVelo 13 is planned





Aizpute Municipality www.aizputesnovads.lv

Alsunga Municipality www.alsunga.lv

Brocēni Municipality www.broceni.lv

Dundaga Municipality www.dundaga.lv

Durbe Municipality www.durbe.lv

Grobiņa Municipality www.grobina.lv

Kuldīga Municipality www.kuldiga.lv

Liepāja City <http://varti.liepaja.lv/>

Nīca Municipality www.nica.lv

Mērsrags Municipality www.mersrags.lv

Pāvilosta Municipality www.pavilosta.lv

Priekule Municipality www.priekulesnovads.lv

Roja Municipality www.roja.lv

Rucava Municipality www.rucava.lv

Saldus Municipality www.saldus.lv

Skrunda Municipality www.skrundasnovads.lv

Talsi Municipality www.talsi.lv

Vaiņode Municipality www.vainode.lv

Ventspils Municipality www.ventspilsnd.lv

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KURZEMES
PLĀNOŠANAS
REĢIONS

