INTRODUCTION TO RIGA METROPOLITAN AREA
PLANNING APPROACH

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Beginning of region
Riga Region was established in 1996 in cooperation with Riga and Jurmala and Riga district (rajons), in order to create a common platform for development planning and coordinated actions.

In 1998, the public organization "Riga region development council" was officially registered with the voluntary association of 8 Riga district (rajons) local authorities.

Strategy
First “Riga Region Development Strategy 2000-2020”

Riga Planning Region
Founded 2006

Source: „Riga Region Development Strategy 2000-2020”
Approved 2000, Updated 2008
**Regional spatial plan**

**Riga - metropolitan functions** - administrative and economic center of the state, Riga region and district, center of science, culture, education, tourism, sports, trade, exhibitions and fairs, housing functions, work places

**Pieriga** - an area directly linked to Riga: the territories of Jurmala and Riga district local authorities

**Perspective – settlement structure**

Integrated view on **perspective functional areas, settlement structure, mobility solutions** and role of “sattelite” cities - regional development centers

Source: „Riga Planning Region Spatial Plan 2005-2025“
RELEVANT PLANNING DOCUMENTS (2010 - ...)

Main planning documents reflecting Riga metropolitan area development issues:

- Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia 2030;
- National Development Plan 2014-2020;
- Regional Policy Guidelines 2013-2019;
- Sustainable development strategies and development programmes of metropolitan area municipalities (Riga, Jurmala, regional centres, adjacent local authorities);
- Thematic sectoral policy planning documents related to major metropolitan area development issues – regional policy, mobility, education etc.
Defines metropolitan area
Strategy approved 2010

Defines Riga metropolitan area as a space of national interest

Clear aims
Co-ordinated development of the spatial structure of the area of Riga metropolis and co-ordination of the processes occurring therein should be attained by drawing up an integrated perspective for spatial development (thematic planning)

Source: “Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia 2030”
REGIONAL LEVEL STRATEGY

RPR Strategy 2030
Strategy approved 2015

Riga with metropolis is **main driving force** for development of Riga region and Latvia

Historically and also in the future **Riga metropolis will be in interaction** with city-wide spaces – Pieriga, surrounding rural areas and regional centres, Gulf of Riga and coastal areas

Integration of Riga and adjacent areas is essential and requires jointly coordinated development planning and cooperation

*Source: “RPR Sustainable Development Strategy 2030”*
Strategy 2030 - vision

Strategy approved 2014

Riga is a compact city. Riga is well-known for its distinctive atmosphere, architecture, cultural environment, city rhythm, and creative people. The city fits well within the international transport networks. A single economy of the area of the metropolis of Riga is the basis for the welfare of all the inhabitants of the area, as well as it greatly contributes to the development of the entire country.

Implementation

A precondition for the development of the agglomeration of the entire Riga — close and constructive cooperation of municipalities.

Riga till 2030 will strive for the achievement of good cooperation within the agglomeration.
LATVIA CONTEXT – PAST 20 YEARS

**Population change:** average – 18,8%

15 municipalities (from 119) with positive tendencies

**Maximum increase (+143 %) and decrease (-43 %)**

Dramatical change of spatial distribution of inhabitants and socio economic activities

Source: Social media, @ J_Hermanis. CSB data
Elaboration of Metropolitan Plan

Riga Planning Region as lead and coordinating institution

Title of the document “Riga Metropolitan Area Action Plan”

Thematic plan with integrated development solutions for Riga metropolitan area

Plan will be approved by the RPR Development Council

Goal (defined in national level strategy – Latvia 2030)

To achieve coherent development of Riga metropolitan area and coordination of ongoing processes by using integrated approach and complex solutions in order to coordinate the interests of state, Riga city, surrounding local governments and inhabitants

Indirect goal

Create qualitative dialogue among main metropolitan development actors during the process of elaboration and implementation of Metropolitan Plan
‘NEXT GENERATION’ PLANS (2021+)

Main planning documents potentially to be influenced by Riga metropolitan area planning process:

- Regional Policy Guidelines 2021+;
- National Development Plan 2021+;
- Thematic sectoral policy planning documents;
- Sustainable development strategies and development programmes of regions (Riga, Zemgale, Vidzeme);
- Sustainable development strategies and development programmes of metropolitan area municipalities (Riga, Jurmala, regional centres, adjacent local authorities).
**SHAPING COMMON UNDERSTANDING**

**Territory of metropolitan area** (defined in Latvia 2030, RPR Development programme)

Riga metropolitan area is formed by the city of Riga together with nearby cities of different size – Jurmala, Olaine, Jelgava, Baldone, Salaspils, Ogre, Sigulda and other local municipalities. Taking into account the arched location thereof and relatively convenient accessibility of Riga, strong functional links have emerged which are determined by the attractiveness of Riga as economical, financial and cultural centre and which are promoted by everyday commuting of inhabitants in the direction work-home.

**Riga functional space – creation of common understanding**

Riga un Pieriga ... Rigas agglomeration ... Riga metropolitan area ...

Riga metropolitan area territorial coverage must be reviewed and updated during elaboration process of Metropolitan Plan (!)
APPROACH –

Time – Territorial – Thematical FRAMEWORK

**Time framework**

- **Long-term strategic objectives** – common understanding and long-term vision (2030+)
- **Mid-term solutions** – issues to be addressed (2020+)
- **Short-term solutions** or immediate steps (‘acute needs’ of next 3 years)

**Territorial framework**

- Riga metropolis **CORE area** – Riga, adjacent and closest areas
- Riga metropolis **OUTER area** – Metropolitan centers and nearest territories
- Riga metropolis **DIRECT IMPACT area** – Direct functional areas of influence

**Thematical framework**

- Metropolitan area **governance**
- Regional and international **competitiveness**
- Settlement **structure**
- Transport and **mobility**
- Public **services**
- Natural **environment**
Territorial framework – metropolitan spaces

Riga metropolis **CORE area**
- Riga, adjacent and closest areas

Riga metropolis **OUTER area**
- Metropolitan centers and nearest territories

Riga metropolis **DIRECT IMPACT area**
- Direct functional areas of influence, mainly in the direction of major transport corridors

(!) The division of the Riga metropolitan area in **3 different spaces** is based on the characteristics of each of these spaces, taking into account such features as - **distance to the capital Riga**, **commuting intensity**, **trends in population changes**, **directions of traffic flows**, **availability of public services** and other specific features.
Specific characteristics of metropolitan spaces

Riga metropolis **CORE area**

Territorial coverage - **Riga, directly adjacent and nearest territories (max. 50 km around Riga)**;

**Extremely high commuting** (> 50% of working age people works in Riga);

**Population growth**;

A relatively high proportion of the population in the working age;

**Public transport** is organized in the **direction of Riga**;

Citizens mostly receive **daily services in Riga**;

**Low unemployment**;

A relatively high income level with a tendency to increase;

Large number of companies;

**Areas spatially and functionally divided** by main transport corridors;

Forests with relatively high anthropogenic loads, unavailability of waterfronts;

Large number of allotments (garden villages) and spatially incoherent villages;

**Relatively good availability and quality of services**;

**International tourism**;

Education and science concentration.
Riga metropolis **OUTER area**

Territorial coverage - **municipalities of Riga metropolis ‘centers circle’** - Tukums, Jelgava, Ogre, Sigulda and Limbazi municipalities and the nearest territories (**max. 75 km** around Riga);

**Significantly high commuting** (30-50% of working age people works in Riga);

**Population with slightly negative trend of change**;

**Public transport** is organized to the **centers of regional importance and Riga**;

Citizens mostly receive **daily services in regional centers and in Riga**;

The **role and potential of regional centers** significantly exceeds the development potential of surrounding areas;

A comparatively high concentration of labor, business and other types of economic and social activity, especially in and around the centers of regional significance;

**Limited availability and quality of services**, especially outside regional centers;
Riga metropolis \textbf{DIRECT IMPACT area}

Territorial coverage - \textbf{direct functional areas of influence} Riga, Zemgale and Vidzeme region, mainly in the direction of major transport corridors (\textbf{max. 100 km} around Riga);

\textbf{Visible commuting} (> 20\% of working age people works in Riga);

\textbf{Population mainly with negative trend of changes}, population ageing;

\textbf{Public transport} is organized to \textbf{regional centers};

Residents often receive \textbf{daily services in regional centers};

Relatively poorly developed public transport system and related infrastructure;

The state of local and regional roads of lower quality;

\textbf{Limited availability and quality of services}. 
RPR Development Council decision
08.12.2017. about elaboration of RPR thematic plan “Riga Metropolitan Area Action Plan”

Main stakeholders
Riga Planning Region
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
Riga City Council City Development Department
Jurmala and Jelgava cities
Other Local municipalities (especially Pieriga and regional centres)
Sectoral ministries (Transport, Education)
Thematically relevant NGO’s

RPR Collaboration platforms
“Riga Metropolitan Area Action Plan” elaboration Coordination group (interinstitutional)
RPR Development Planning Advisory Group (planning specialists from 30 municipalities)

Resources
Riga Planning Region capacity and budget
Support from main stakeholders and collaboration platforms
Projects thematically related to metropolitan area issues – NSB CoRe, SUMBA
ESPON support
ONE THEME - VARIETY OF APPROACHES
PALDIES !

THANK YOU !