




# HIGHER EDUCATION IN LATVIA



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# Key Facts About Latvia

- One of the Baltic States, member of European Union, on the east coast of the Baltic Sea
- Capital – Riga
- 2,3 million inhabitants
- 64 589 sq.km or 24 937 sq.miles
- State language – Latvian
- Currency – Latvian lat (LVL) (1 LVL=1.42 EUR)
- Climate – warm in summer (20°C-30°C), cold in winter (-5°C, -25°C)
- National flag 

# Higher education structure

- **Academic programmes** leading to academic/scientific degrees:
  - **Bachelor** (academic degree, 3-4 years),
  - **Master** (academic degree, 1-2 years),
  - **Doctor** (scientific degree), 3-4 years.
- **1st level professional programmes (“college programmes”)** providing a professional qualification, access to the labour market and access to a related professional programme on Bachelor level;
- **2nd level professional programmes** providing the so-termed professional Bachelor and Master degree and a professional qualification, making graduates eligible for further academic studies, and, eventually, a Doctoral degree, or only a professional qualification providing access to labour market;
- **Long study programmes** in medicine, pharmacy, dentistry and veterinary medicine (5-10 years).

# Bologna process

The Latvian higher education system is part of the **Bologna process**, it follows the so-called **3-cycle system**:

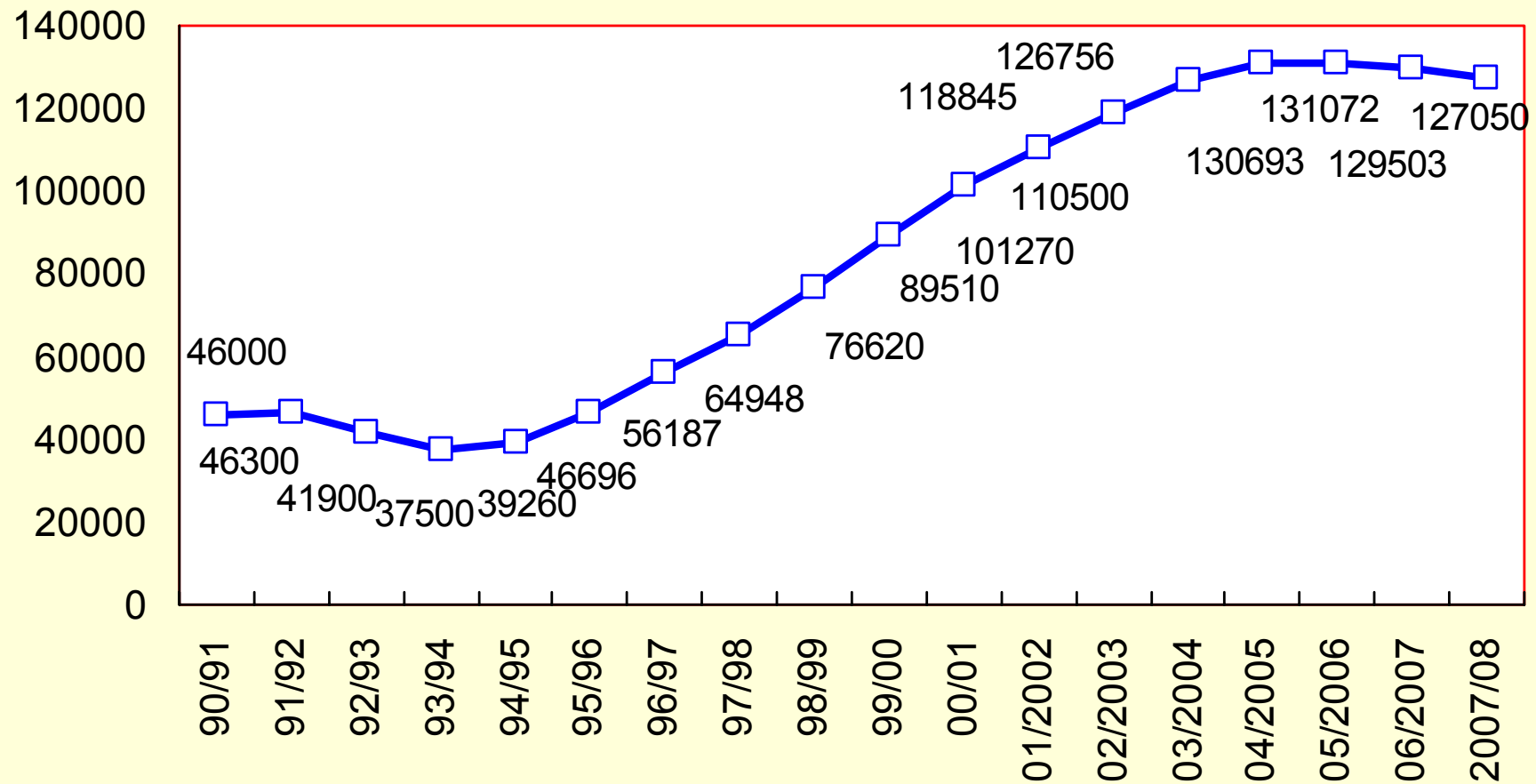
- 1) 1st cycle includes an academic or professional **Bachelor** degree,
- 2) the 2nd cycle includes an academic or professional **Master** degree
- 3) the 3rd cycle includes the **Doctoral** degree.

Academic credits in academic and professional programmes may be transferred in order to adjust one's education path to one's specific needs.

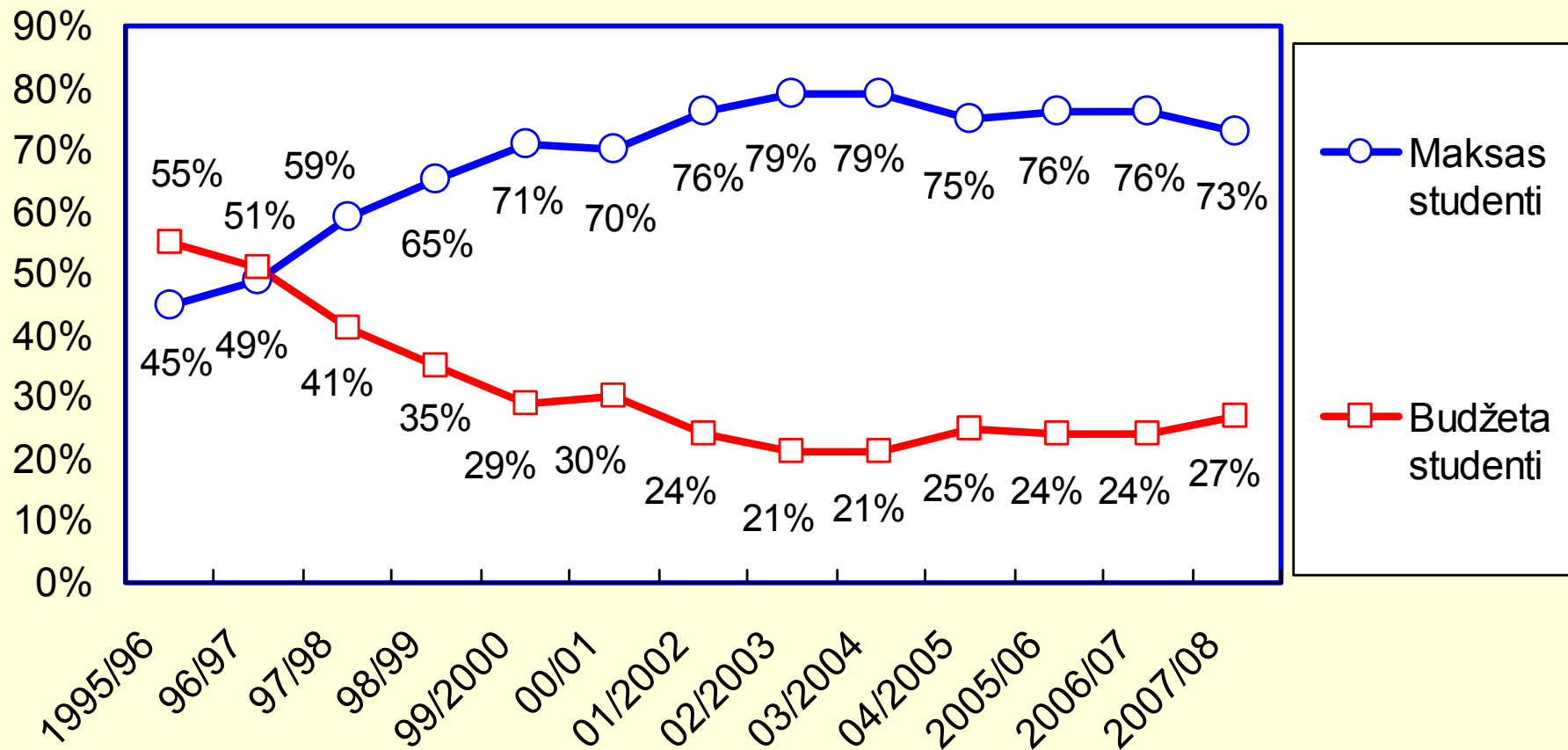
# Higher education institutions in Latvia in 2008

- **State institutions – 37**
  - 6 universities
  - 14 other state institutions of higher education
  - 17 state colleges
- **Private institutions – 23**
  - 13 higher education institutions established by legal bodies
  - 10 colleges established by legal bodies

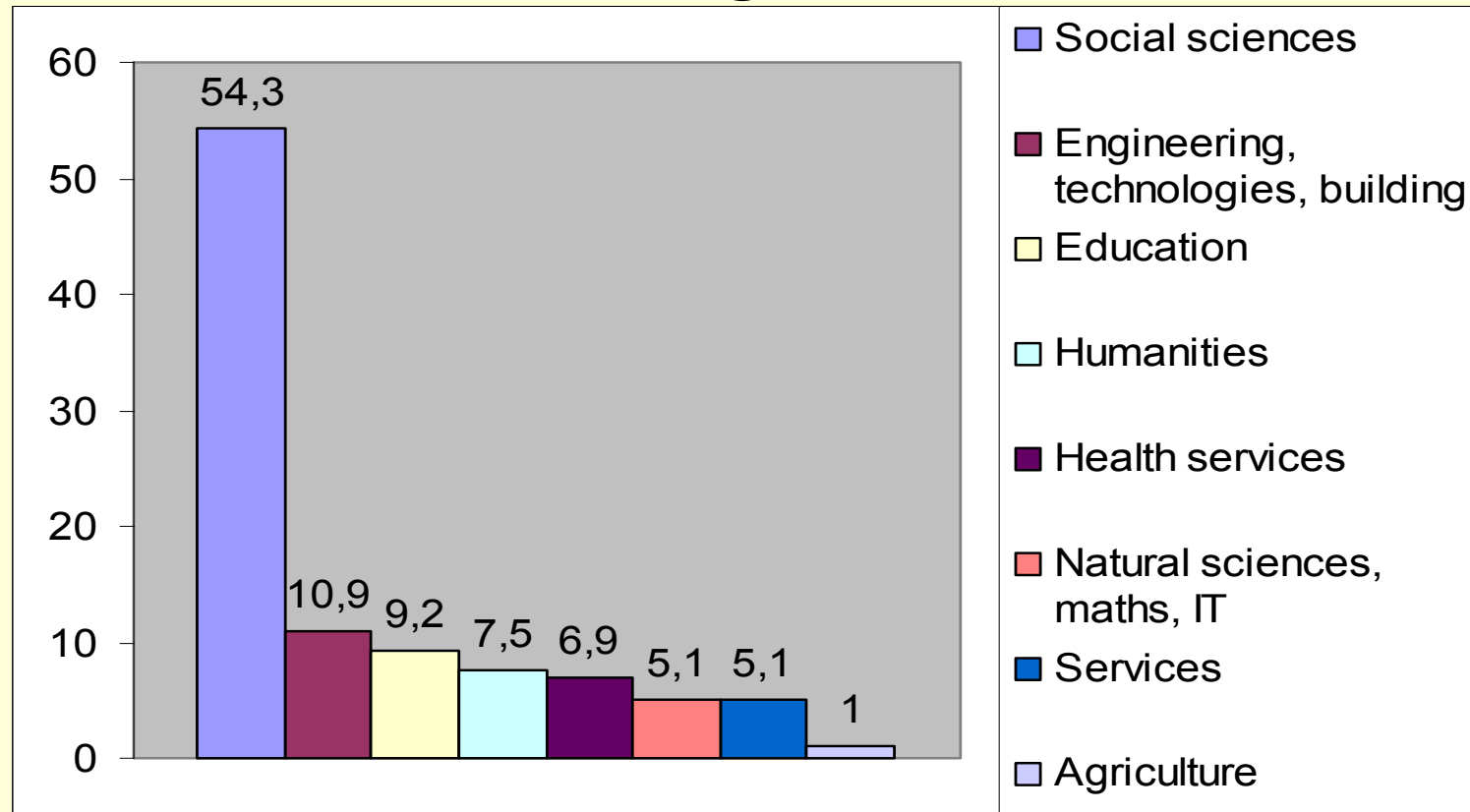
# Change of the number of students in Latvia from 1990/91 – 2007/08



# Proportion between state budget students and *fee-paying* students



# Percentage of students by subject groups



# International Cooperation

Main areas:

- Common **international projects**;
- **Bilateral agreements**;
- **Joint study programmes and courses**;
- **Student and staff exchange** (inviting guest lecturers, staff mobilities to HEIs abroad, student mobilities, student training in HEIs abroad, foreign students' studies in Latvia)
- **External support** in development of material basis and the structure of HEIs
- Organizing **common conferences, seminars** and other events.

# International cooperation programmes in education in Latvia

(Administered by APA and VIAA)

- Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus, Comenius, Grundtvig, Leonardo da Vinci, Study visits, Transversal, Eurydice)
- Tempus
- Erasmus Mundus
- Nordplus
- EEA grants (EEA / Norwegian Financial Mechanism)
- The European Language Label

# Bilateral agreements

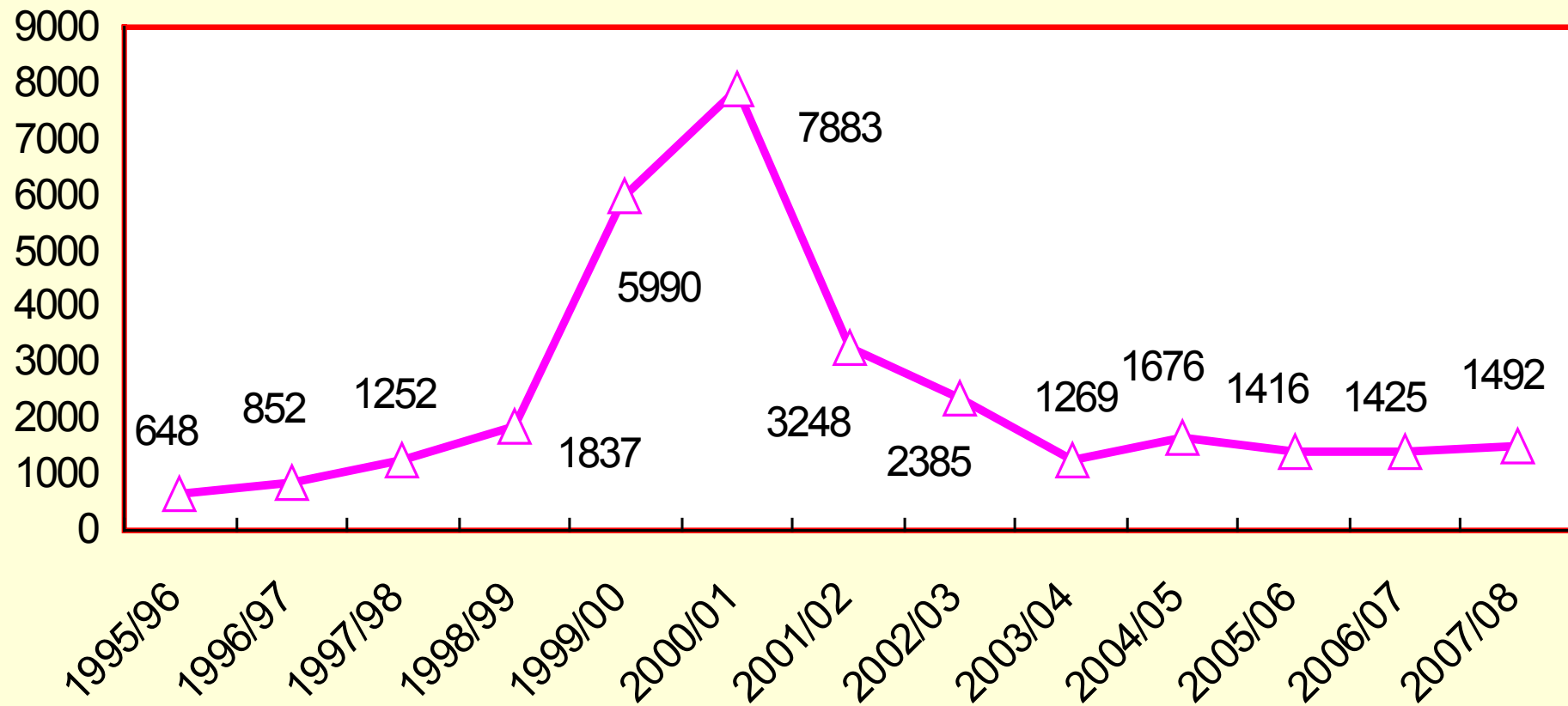
- Signed with:  
The Baltic States, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Flanders, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, USA;
- most of them provide support to student and staff exchange;
- implementation of further education programmes;
- cooperation in order to facilitate recognition of foreign diplomas and qualifications.

# External support for Latvian students abroad

The students from Latvia can receive foreign scholarships from:

- Nordic Council;
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD);
- Ministries of Education in Finland and Denmark;
- British Council;
- SOROS foundation.

# Number of foreign students in Latvia 1995./96.-2007./08.



# Students from other countries are studying in Latvia:

- **Medical Sciences** (Medicine and Dentistry)
- **Business Studies and Management Sciences** (Finance, Accounting, European Business Studies, Executive MBA, Tourism)
- **Engineering and Technology** (Civil Engineering, Mechanics, Telecommunications, Aviation Transport, Electronics, Marine Engineering)
- **Mathematics and Informatics** (Mathematical Modeling, Computer Science)

## Countries sending their students to Latvia

| <b>Country</b>                    | <b>Stud.</b> | <b>Country</b>                                                                                        | <b>Stud.</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Russia                            | 384          | Lebanon, Armenia, Hungary                                                                             | 14           |
| Lithuania                         | 332          | France                                                                                                | 11           |
| Germany                           | 92           | Turkey, India, Nigeria                                                                                | 10           |
| Estonia                           | 74           | Nepal                                                                                                 | 8            |
| Sri Lanka                         | 69           | Azerbaijan                                                                                            | 7            |
| Belarus, Ukraine                  | 56           | USA                                                                                                   | 6            |
| Georgia                           | 45           | Portugal, Cameroon                                                                                    | 5            |
| Great Britain, Kazakhstan, Sweden | 25           | Japan, Finland, Spain, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan                                                            | 4            |
| Syria, Norway                     | 24           | Czech Republic, China, Switzerland, Australia, Denmark                                                | 3            |
| Italy                             | 21           | Slovenia, Morocco, Canada, Turkmenistan, Brazil, Croatia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Bulgaria, Netherlands | 2            |
| Uzbekistan                        | 17           | Bangladesh, Cyprus, Mauritius, Kosovo, Austria                                                        | 1            |
| Poland, Pakistan                  | 16           |                                                                                                       |              |
| Israel                            | 15           | <b>Total: 55 countries</b>                                                                            | <b>1492</b>  |

# Study programmes in foreign languages 2007

- 16 higher education institutions offer study programmes in foreign languages;
- 70 programmes are offered, which include:
  - 21 Bachelor programmes,
  - 11 Professional Bachelor or professional qualification programmes,
  - 25 Master programmes,
  - 4 Professional Master programmes,
  - 6 Doctoral programmes,
  - 3 Medical Doctor and Dental Surgery programmes

# Admission requirements

**For Bachelor studies: General Certificate of Secondary Education / Certificate of Secondary Vocational Education (ISCED 3)**

**For Master studies: Bachelor's degree or equivalent degree**

**Not centralized, each higher education institution has its own admission board and criteria.**

## Why the number of foreign students in Latvia is not very high

- Latvia is not well known yet
- Administrative obstacles – visa and residence permit
- High competition to enter HEIs among Latvians – no need for foreign students
- Language problems

# Why should students go to Latvia?

- Studies in the heart of Baltic, in the centre of culture and history, easy to reach
- Study quality comparable to other EU countries, recognized diplomas in all Bologna countries
- Smaller institutions, often more personal, friendly; 4 HEIs established by international cooperation
- Lower cost of living
- Close to nature
- Long standing traditions in education fields and the scientific world
- Modernized laboratories, improved teacher training and curriculum
- Good results in international olympiades and competitions
- Not as expensive as other places
- Vibrant cultural activities

# Welcome to Latvia!



# Thank you for your attention! 😊

More information:

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Other sites:

**[www.izm.gov.lv](http://www.izm.gov.lv) (The Latvian Ministry of Education and Science)**

**[www.aiknc.lv](http://www.aiknc.lv) (Higher Education Quality Evaluation Centre)**

**[www.li.lv](http://www.li.lv) (the Latvian Institute)**