

LATVIA



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

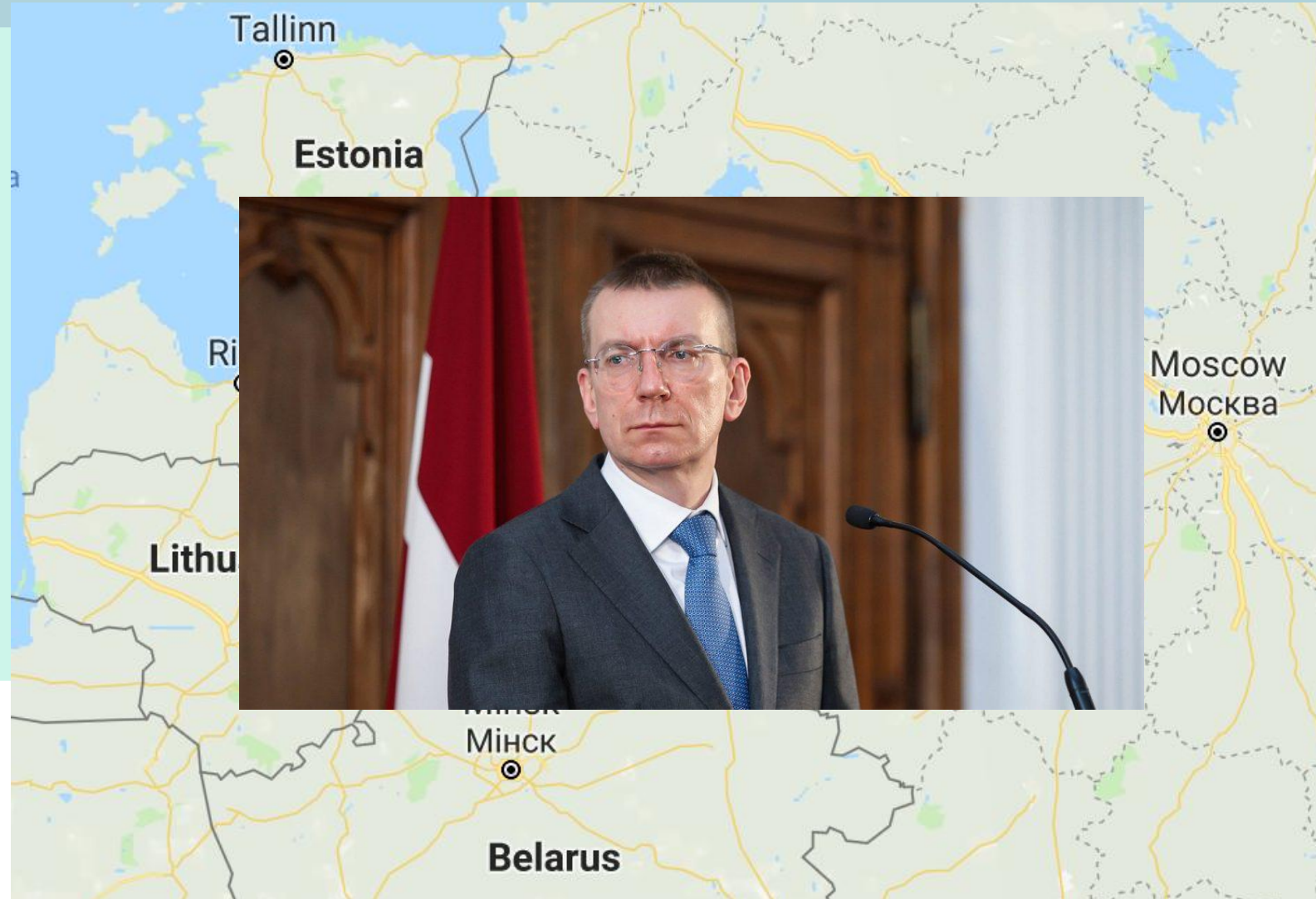
ERASMUS + PROJECT "LIFT OF DEMOCRACY"

Our city and its district - Daugavpils



Basic information

- **Republic of Latvia**
- **Declared – 18.11.1918**
- **Capital – Riga**
- **President – Edgars Rinkēvičs**
- **Currency – Euro**
- **Bordering countries – Lithuania, Belarus, Russia, Estonia**



Flag



Legend of our flag

A Latgalian leader was wounded in battle, and sheet on which he was laid on were stained by his blood with only the centre stripe of the sheet being left unstained

Natural symbols of Latvia

- White wagtail
- Two-spotted ladybug
- Chamomile
- Linden
- Oak
- Amber
- River Daugava



Language



Aa Āā Bb Cc Čč Dd Ee Ēē
Ff Gg Ģģ Hh Ii Īī Jj Kk Ķķ
Ll Ļļ Mm Nn Ņņ Oo Pp
Rr Ss Šš Tt Uu Ūū Vv Zz Žž

Phrases

Basic phrases:

- Hello! – **Sveiki!**
- My name is... – **Mani sauc...**
- How are you? – **Kā tev iet?**
- Thank you! – **Paldies!**
- I'm sorry - **Piedod**
- Bye! - **Atā!**

Just for fun:

- Narrow track railway – **Šaursliežu dzelzceļš**
- Bundle of small branches – **Žagaru saišķis**



National costume



Latvian National dishes



Stewed
sauerkraut(Štovēti
Kāposti)

Famous Latvians



**Latvian famous composer -
Raimonds Pauls**



**Opera singer - Elīna
Garanča**



**Latvian singer and winner of the
Eurovision Song Contest 2002-
Maria Naumova**



Dance star - Mikhail Baryshnikov



Biggest boy band - Prāta Vētra (Brain storm)



Bermudu Divstūris - Music group



BERMUDU DIVSTŪRIS – SARKANBALTSARKANAIS



Champion after champion - Aļona Ostapenko



Basketball fame – Kristaps Porziņģis



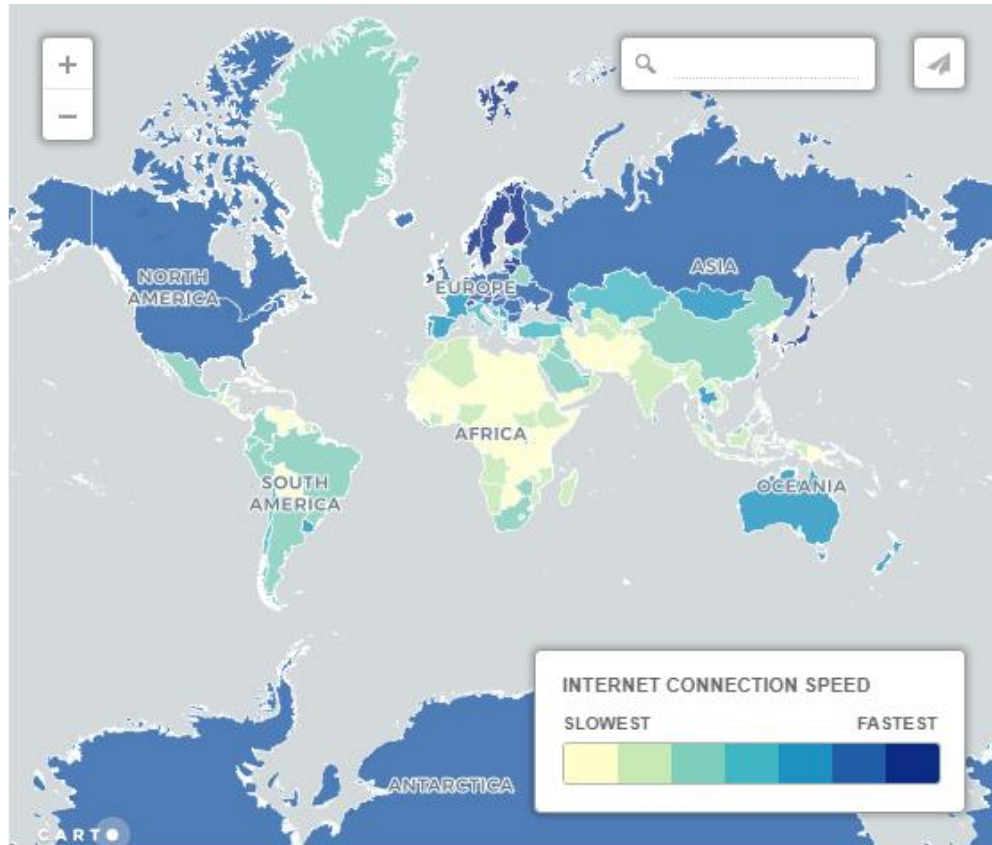
Winner of a boxing world title -Mairis Briedis



Tennis star - Anastasija Sevastova

Amazing things you probably didn't know about Latvia

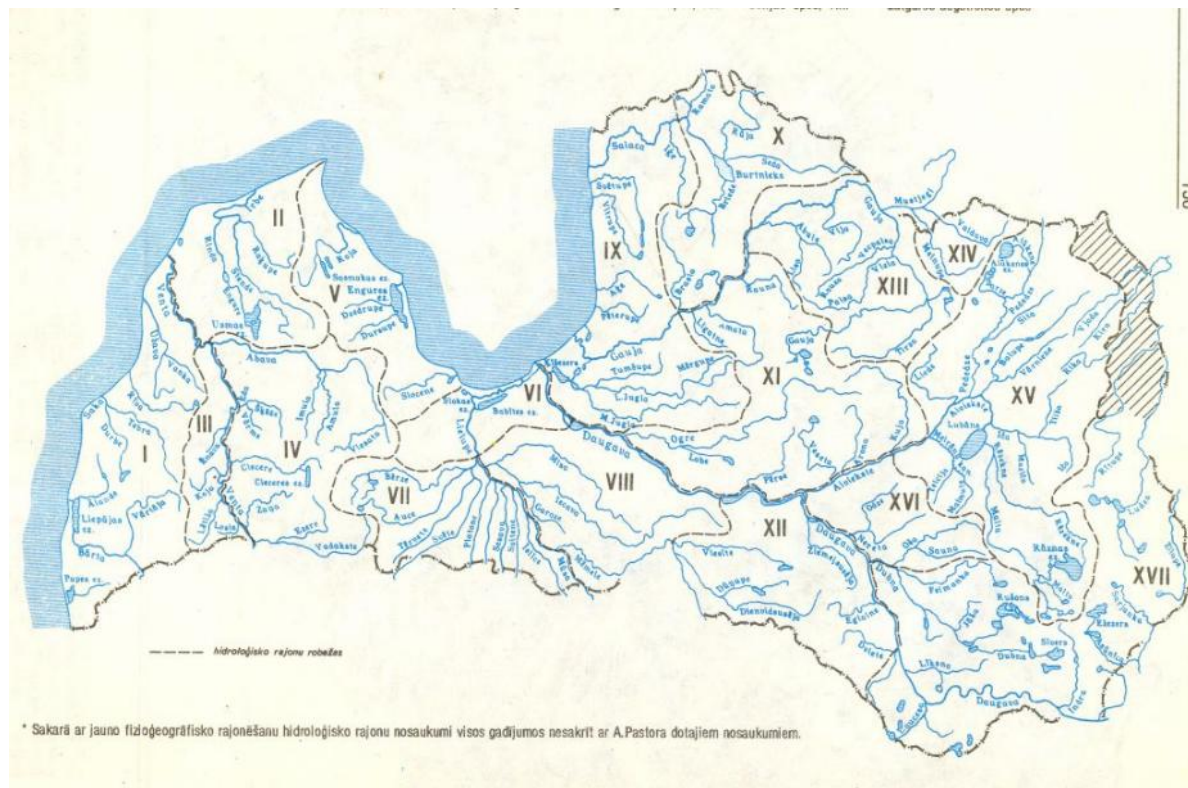
One of the fastest internet speeds in the world



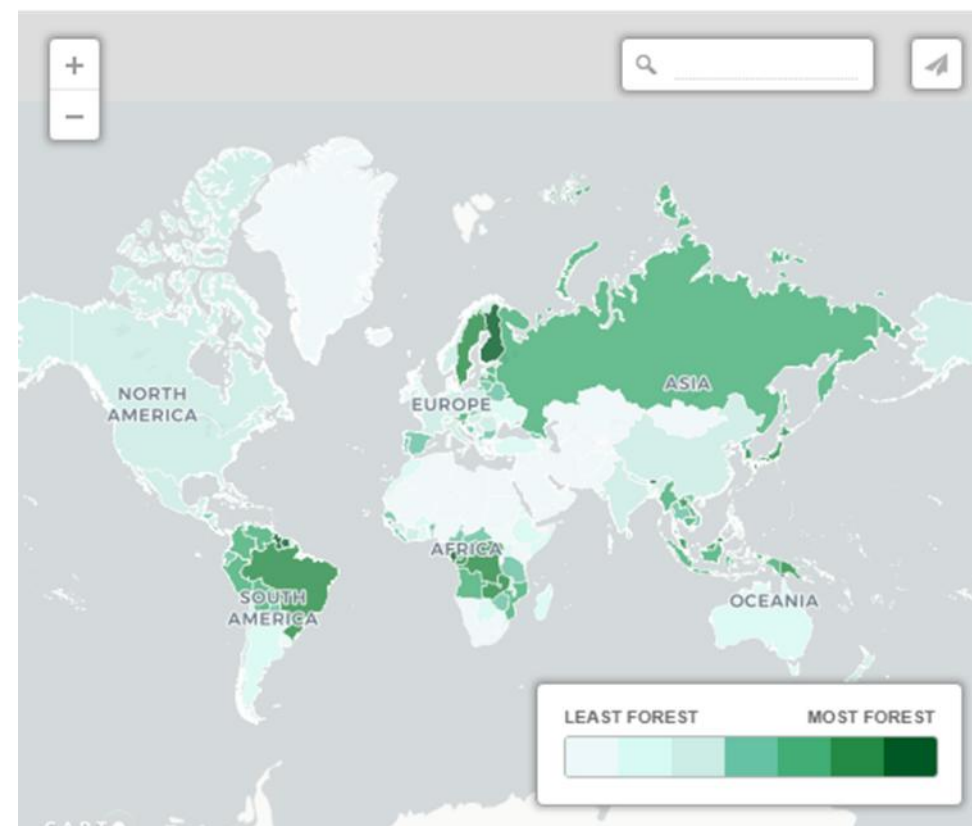
Around 20% of Latvia's territory is protected.



Latvia has 12,000 rivers and 3,000 small lakes



Around 54% of Latvia is forest, making it one of Europe's greenest countries



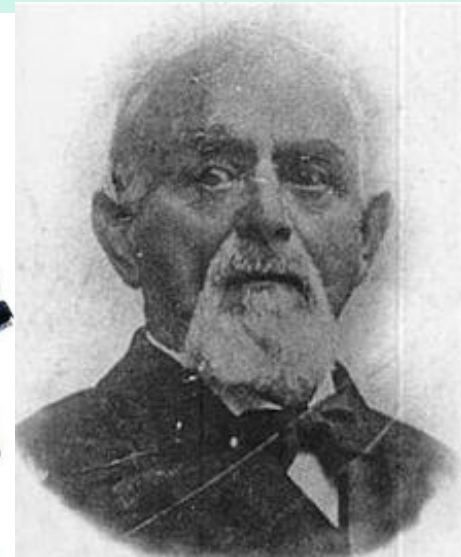
Latvia produces more female models per capital than almost any country in the world.



Latvia's current flag design has been in use since 1280. Only Denmark's has been around longer.

Uljana Semjonova – the first non-American woman to be inducted into the NBA Hall of Fame.

Jacob W. Davis (born in Riga) – made the first template for modern denim jeans.



Venta Rapid in Kuldīga is the widest waterfall in Europe.



According to some sources, the inspiration for Crocodile Dundee may have been Arvīds Blūmentāls (or Crocodile Harry).



Celebrations



Song and dance festival

- The Latvian Song Festival has been held since 1873, normally every five years
- The Latvian Song and Dance Festival is one of the largest and important choral and dancing events in Latvian culture.
- Approximately 40,000 performers altogether participate



Jāņi (Summer solstice)

- Night from June 23 to June 24.
- Wild flowers picked on summer solstice are believed to have healing powers.
- Homes are decorated and women weave wildflower crowns.
- Many traditions, including leaping over the bonfire.
- Sleeping is only allowed after sunrise.



Ziemas saulgrieži (Winter solstice)

- "Ziemassvētki" or Christmas in Latvia is a mix of ethnic, religious and modern traditions.
- Rīga is recognised as the birthplace of the first Christmas tree in 1510 by some accounts.
- Traditional dishes are served at Christmas (Christmas roast and gingerbread cookies)



Name days

- Marked in the calendar.
- Each day includes up to four names.
- May 22 – day to celebrate the names not included in it.
- Customary that anyone can join a name-day party without an invitation.



1 JANVĀRIS JANUARY JANUAR ЯНВАРЬ 2017							
Nedēļa WEEK WEEKS	Pirmdiena MONDAY MONDAY	Otrdiena TUESDAY TUESDAY	Trešdiena WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY	Ceturtdiena THURSDAY THURSDAY	Piektdiena FRIDAY FRIDAY	Sestdiena SATURDAY SATURDAY	Svētdiena SUNDAY SUNDAY
52							Laimonis Doliba Sandra 1
1	Indulis Indis Indis	2	Mārcis Mārcis Mārcis	3	Spēķis Iris Iris	4	5
2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
3	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
4	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
5	30	31					

Educational system

- **Start school at the age of 7.**
- **Grading scale – from 1(the lowest) to 10.**
- **In high school(10th to 12th grade), an average of 17 different subjects in total.**
- **Length of each class – 40 minutes.**
- **We learn English, German, Spanish, France and Russian as our foreign languages.**



Questions about Latvia for you

- **What is the capital of Latvia ?**
- **Name at least one Latvian national dish?**
- **What interesting fact about Latvia do you remember?**
- **When Latvians celebrate Jāņu diena (Summer solstice)?**
- **How to say “Thank you” in Latvian?**



10 Best Places to Visit in

Latvia

[10 Best places to visit on Latvia!](#)

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or State Education Development Agency Republic of Latvia (VIAA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority VIAA can be held responsible for them.