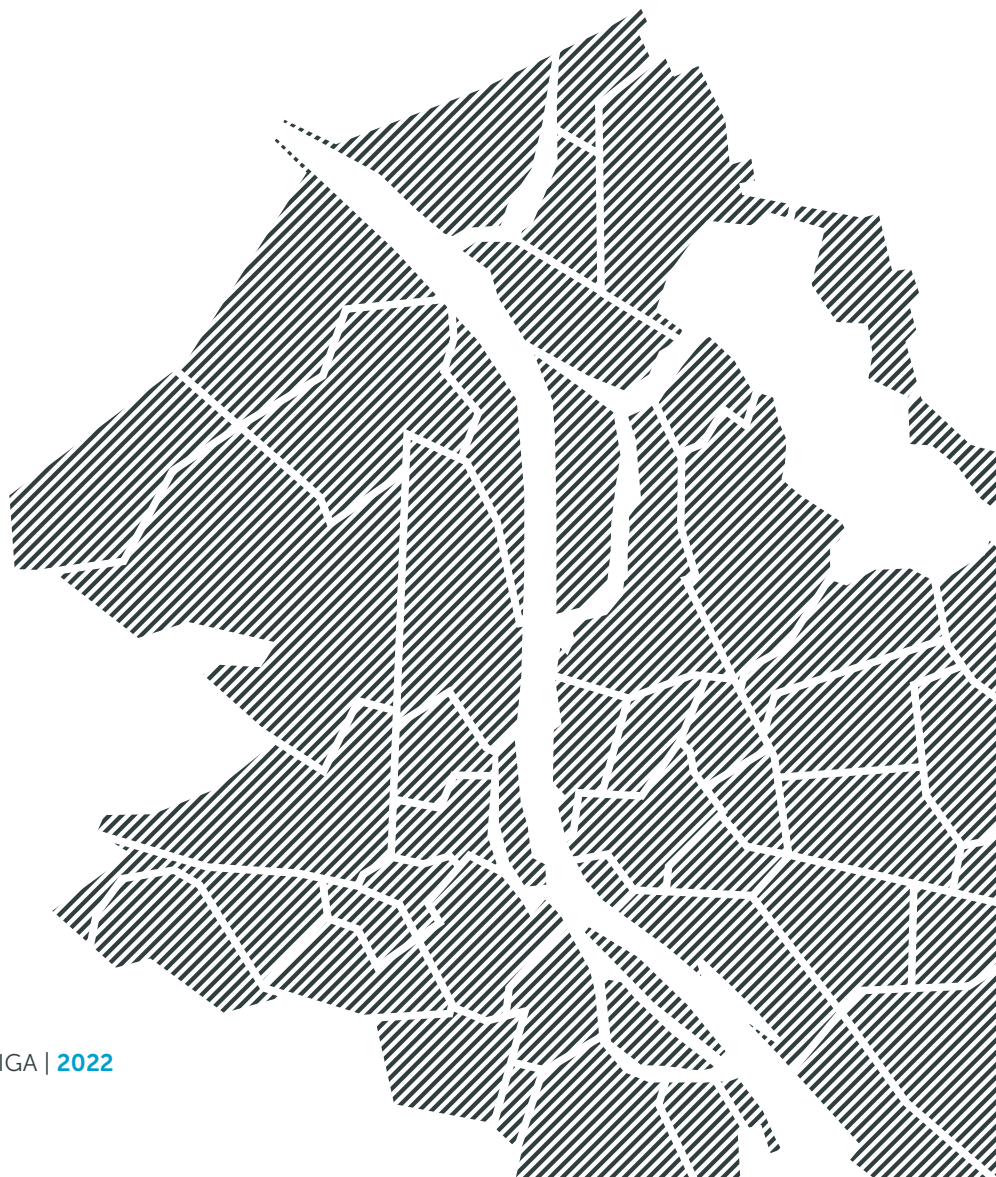


# RIGA

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
2022-2027

## INFORMATIVE BOOKLET





The Riga Development Programme 2022–2027 (DP2027) is a medium-term development planning document that defines priority issues that need to be addressed in the city of Riga. DP2027 coordinates the work of local government institutions in achieving the goals set out in the Riga Sustainable Development Strategy until 2030 (Strategy):

- ▲ A skilful, secure and active society
- ▲ An innovative, open and exportable economy
- ▲ A comfortable, safe and pleasant urban environment for citizens
- ▲ Riga – an internationally recognised, significant and competitive metropolis in Northern Europe

DP2027 identifies nine priorities or key development directions, that need to be addressed more intensively within the next six years. Each priority has a goal, targets and indicators, which together form a strategic part of the DP2027. In addition, an Action plan and Investment plan serve as tools to carry out the targets set out in each priority.

DP2027 also defines six horizontal themes, which are reflected in several priorities. They play a particular role in the implementation of the Strategy's development objectives:

- ▲ Urban competitiveness
- ▲ Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- ▲ Involvement and empowerment of local communities
- ▲ Cooperation and development of the Riga Metropolitan Area
- ▲ Inclusive society
- ▲ Digitalisation

## LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY



### URBAN ENVIRONMENT

a comfortable, safe and pleasant urban environment for citizens



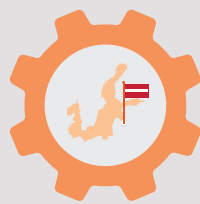
### SOCIETY

a skilful, secure and active society



### ECONOMY

an innovative, open and exportable economy



### RIGA

Riga – an internationally recognised, significant and competitive metropolis in Northern Europe

## PRIORITIES



Convenient and environmentally-friendly mobility



Modern and open city management



An urban environment that promotes quality of life



A healthy, socially inclusive and supportive city



Good environmental quality and a resilient urban ecosystem to mitigate climate change



A competitive city with an innovative economy



Accessible and high-quality education



A diverse and authentic cultural environment



Availability of diverse high-quality housing

## HORIZONTAL THEMES



Urban competitiveness



Climate change mitigation and adaptation



Involvement and empowerment of local communities



Cooperation and development of the Riga Metropolitan Area



Inclusive society



Digitalisation

# CONVENIENT AND ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY MOBILITY

Mobility in the city is not only a way of getting somewhere, but also a way of getting to know the city, improving human health and safety, ensuring freedom of movement for children and youth, as well as a type of recreation and work. The goal of the priority is to promote convenient, safe and environmentally-friendly mobility throughout Riga, using the existing transport network and improving it so that the focus is on people – whether residents of Riga, guests to the city, employees or employers.

To ensure a targeted move towards more convenient and environmentally-friendly mobility, it is necessary to invest more actively in infrastructure that not only improves social and economic aspects, but also reduces the negative impact on environment and climate. Attention in the mobility sector should be also paid to promoting cooperation with neighbouring municipalities and state institutions. In cooperation with competent state institutions, it is also necessary for local government to promote integration of the public transport system within the Riga Metropolitan Area in order to develop united route planning and accessibility of public transport. Introduction of the rail infrastructure project "Rail Baltica" in the city will strengthen the importance of railway, not only at an international, but also at regional and local levels. The task of the municipality is to use the opportunities provided by the project, both by improving sustainable mobility in the city and promoting the competitiveness of Riga.

Since 2018, the municipality has been cooperating with Danish architect and urban planning office Gehl Architects. In cooperation with municipality specialists, Riga Mobility Vision for 2050 has been developed. The identified actions are integrated into DP2027 in order to ensure targeted activity towards more convenient and environmentally-friendly mobility.

## GOAL

To promote climate and citizen-friendly mobility by ensuring the availability of diverse modes of mobility and creating the necessary infrastructure.

**By 2027 Riga will witness:**

- ▼ an increased share of cyclists by at least half
- ▼ at least 5% fewer cars crossing the city border
- ▼ a higher share of public transport users
- ▼ a 20% reduction in CO2 emissions from transport



**Public Transport**



**Convenient and Safe Mobility**



**Hierarchy of Mobility**



**Cooperation in the Riga Metropolitan Area**



**Balanced Mobility**

# AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT THAT PROMOTES QUALITY OF LIFE

This priority reflects the diversity of its stakeholders – development of a beneficial public outdoor space requires a cross-sectoral view, as well as a common coordinating framework for targeted and mutually reinforcing activities. Attention is also drawn to the involvement and participation of residents in order to promote an environment that fosters the formation of neighbourhood identities and social innovations. Preservation of the cultural and historical heritage and landscape, as well as the introduction of vivid contemporary features, are essential elements in the development of neighbourhood identities. High-quality green infrastructure, which creates an attractive environment (pleasant microclimate, less noise, and air pollution), is an important part of the urban environment. It promotes the use of the public outdoor space and prolongs the time residents choose to spend there.

To obtain a comfortable and multifunctional public outdoor space, attention will be focused both on the variety of amenities (especially in neighbourhood centres) and on the connectivity of public outdoor space, creating a convenient urban network for residents. Efforts will be made to develop cohesive and pedestrian-accessible neighbourhoods with fewer of the physical and emotional barriers created by main roads. Public outdoor space is meant for everyday activities and recreation. It is a space to meet, get acquainted and spend free time. Therefore, it is important to think about its revitalisation by continuing the implementation of summer street experiments, cultural events, and festive decoration. The priority also relates to the safety features of the urban environment.

## GOAL

To create a high-quality, safe, accessible, easily perceivable, integrated and well-designed urban network that incorporates nature and where people are willing to spend time. To achieve a gradual increase in the number of residents and visitors who spend time in the urban environment, with public outdoor spaces becoming multifunctional and beneficial places for social activities.



**Neighbourhood Centres**



**Connectivity**



**Green Infrastructure**



**Urban Governance Model**



**Waterfronts**



**Safe Urban Environment**



**Cultural and Historical Heritage**

# GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND A RESILIENT URBAN ECOSYSTEM TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change permeates DP2027 as a horizontal theme, but this priority addresses it from the perspective of interaction between elements in the urban ecosystem – both man-made and natural environments. It is essential both to improve the quality of the environment and address challenges of climate change. However, the pursuit of climate neutrality must not impair the quality of the environment in the city. It is necessary to reduce water, air and noise pollution, polluted and potentially polluted areas, promote biodiversity, preserve and develop nature values, as well as integrate green infrastructure into the spatial structure of the city's natural areas. It is important to adapt city infrastructure to natural phenomena such as heavy and prolonged rainfall, wind surge, heat waves and dust pollution, which have a significant impact on people's well-being and their daily routines. Also, utility networks should be modernised and restored to promote the quality of the environment and prudent use of natural resources. The territorial coverage of utilities and connections should be increased in order to significantly reduce areas with decentralised utilities. The municipality will support the development and implementation of new, innovative, climate change mitigating technologies, solutions and services in the city's daily processes. It is essential for the municipality to organise its work in a way that sets an example of how to develop environmentally-friendly waste systems. In doing so, it encourages citizens and entrepreneurs to change their habits and adapt them to the principles of sustainable management.

## GOAL

To create a high-quality environment that has a positive impact on people's health, well-being and willingness to be physically, socially and economically active. To create and maintain a pleasant, diverse and climate change resilient environment in which nature-based solutions contribute to the quality of the environment, adaptation to climate change and its mitigation.



**Environmental Quality Monitoring and Public Information System**



**Utilities**



**Environmental Quality**



**Waste Management**



**Mitigation of Flood and Erosion Risks**



**Climate Change Mitigation**

# ACCESSIBLE AND HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION



The focus of this priority is on competitive, socially-minded and accessible education. The emphasis will be put on high-quality, inclusive and evenly distributed and accessible education for all learners with a particular focus on even territorial coverage in the pre-school sector.

It is essential to develop an individualised, differentiated and inclusive approach in education so that it is accessible in every aspect, not just territorially. The priority draws attention to the increasingly important role of digital technologies in the educational process and highlights the need to increase teachers' digital competences, and to supplement educational technologies to achieve the digital growth of students. To ensure the formation of multi-faceted individuals, diverse and accessible content of interest and vocational education is essential. It is also important to learn throughout life, developing skills in various fields and thus addressing challenges in a rapidly changing world. The principle of lifelong learning is therefore enshrined in the priority: from the first steps in pre-school to the labour market.

Over the next six years, Riga will advance towards a evenly distributed and accessible education system, which will implement competence-based content, i.e. developing general or transversal skills and values-based habits. Access to pre-school education services will be also expanded and the involvement of youth in urban activities will be encouraged. Efforts will be made to improve the support system, qualifications and status of teachers, which would make it possible to ensure a sufficient number of teachers in all municipal educational institutions.

## GOAL

To provide high-quality, competence-based, inclusive and evenly distributed and accessible education that meets the needs of future society. To provide education that develops the talents and abilities of all students, as well as creates a safe and supportive setting for further educational opportunities.



**Competence-based Approach**



**Non-formal Education**



**Professional Competence of Educators**



**Interest-related and Vocational Education**



**Youth Engagement**



**Infrastructure of Educational Institutions**



**Inclusive Education**

# AVAILABILITY OF DIVERSE HIGH-QUALITY HOUSING

One of the main tasks of the municipality in the coming years is to carry out a qualitative and sustainable renovation of housing stock (integrated renovation), increase the availability of new housing (reconstruction or new buildings) and achieve stabilisation on the rental housing market, significantly expanding possibilities for residents to retain permanent housing and facilitating the relocation of specialists, families and entrepreneurs to the capital.

When renovating outdated housing stock, it is important to ensure adaptation to climate change, improve environmental health indicators, introduce extensive physical accessibility solutions, as well as significantly increase the quality of the living environment. In addition to physical environment planning, it is necessary to develop a targeted and effective social support mechanism for housing affordability. According to the market situation, the instruments chosen should ensure reduction of or compensation for housing costs in supported households, as well as retention of housing for households in difficulty. It is necessary to promote access to high-quality and affordable housing and to reduce depopulation of the city.

In order to achieve these aims, the Housing Competence Centre will be established to develop a housing policy and oversee its uniform implementation.

## GOAL

To develop and implement local housing policies based on open and equal conditions, which reflect the objectives defined in the national planning documents to ensure that good quality housing stock is available to the general public that needs support to secure stability and fundamental rights, regardless of the ownership status of the residential space. By 2027, no fewer than 1,400 apartment buildings should be renovated in an integrated manner as part of implementation of the housing programme.



**Housing Programme and Housing Competence Centre**



**Renovation of Existing Housing Stock**



**Social, Economic and Physical Accessibility of Housing**



**New Housing Stock**



# MODERN AND OPEN CITY MANAGEMENT



This priority aims to create a modern, accessible and customer-oriented public administration that offers fast and convenient services and whose employees are professional in decision-making and interested in solving a wide range of issues.

City administration will be approximated to the public, both from the point of view of territorial availability of services and consideration of city residents (neighbourhood coordinators, neighbourhood centres for residents). Attention will be drawn to ensuring that information on the work of the local government is accessible, up to date and easy to understand. Riga municipality will not only inform the public, but also encourage its participation in development and implementation of important projects and strategic plans. Before making important decisions, the municipality will consult with all relevant stakeholder groups, incl. organisations promoting business. Youth participation will be encouraged in a systematic manner by improving infrastructure, the competence of stakeholders and institutional cooperation, as well as by offering innovative solutions and diverse forms of support.

The capacity of security services (municipal police, rescue services) will be improved, considering both local (social heterogeneity of the territory, polarisation of society) and global challenges (multicultural environment, climate change, pandemic threats). Cooperation between the municipality and local communities, neighbouring municipalities, regional and state institutions, as well as with international partners will be promoted.

## GOAL

To ensure that Riga municipality has transparent, fair, citizen-oriented administration, implemented by responsible, growth-oriented and proactive employees. To offer convenient and accessible services without unnecessary bureaucracy. To issue local government decisions based on data and discussion with target groups. To ensure that 70% of the population in 2027 is satisfied with the work of the municipality.



**Municipal Services, incl. e-services**



**Availability of Communication, Information and Data**



**Work of Local Authorities and Publicly-owned Enterprises**



**NGOs and Citizen Participation**



**Employee Competences and Working Conditions**



**Cooperation with Partners in the Riga Metropolitan Area, Public and International Organisations**



**Investment and Real Estate Management**



**Security Sector**

# A HEALTHY, SOCIALY INCLUSIVE AND SUPPORTIVE CITY

Health is defined as a state of full physical, mental and social well-being. In the field of health, particular attention is paid to innovations and knowledge exchange, as well as health diplomacy in cooperation with other sectors of the municipality, which have an impact on the quality of life, social and economic activity, education, cultural environment, recreation and common well-being of society. Equal health services and health promotion activities implemented by different sectors must be provided to all citizens within the limits of available resources, in other words, with a 'health in all policies' approach.

Individual support for the development of skills, safety and preservation of economic activity will be offered to both clients of social services and their relatives. Social assistance and social services will be provided in a timely manner, minimising bureaucratic requirements, using the digital environment and providing advice for as long as the situation requires. Riga will offer innovative and modern social services, provided by local authorities, as well as non-governmental and private service providers. Competent and motivated specialists, experienced and customer-oriented service providers will be at the core of the social field. The cost of services will be regularly reviewed in line with socio-economic changes.

The aim of the Riga city integration policy is to create the preconditions for active and diverse participation and cooperation of communities in various areas of life, in order for them to develop their social, cultural and civic resources, build relationships based on mutual understanding and respect and increase quality of life in a modern, inclusive and multicultural urban environment.

## GOAL

To make Riga a city where healthy and socially secure residents create a foundation for the competitiveness of the city. To improve access to health care. To promote public health, so that by 2027 Riga residents are living longer, healthier lives, premature deaths are prevented and adequate support is provided to everyone in a timely manner in situations where individuals alone or with the help of family members cannot cope with difficulties. For working-age residents – to ensure opportunities to maintain economic activity even when there is a need to care for family. To build Riga as a city where residents have motivation and opportunities to implement a physically active lifestyle throughout their lives.



**Social Care and Rehabilitation**



**Social Services Administration System**



**Tackling and Alleviating Social Problems**



**Access to Healthcare**



**Human Resources in the Social Sector**



**Inter-institutional Health Policy**



**Technological Literacy in the Social Sector**



**Interaction of Population Groups and Prevention of Social Exclusion**



**Access to Social Assistance**



**Access to Sports**



**Integration in the Labour Market**

# A COMPETITIVE CITY WITH AN INNOVATIVE ECONOMY

The competitiveness of the city in the international arena is a determining factor for the overall growth of the country. Riga is already a knowledge and innovation centre of Latvia and contributes to the promotion of international excellence. About 80% of all students of the country study in the city, and this is a prerequisite for creating innovative, knowledge-based products and services. Riga is the largest city in the Baltic States – together with the municipalities of Riga Metropolitan Area, the population is approximately one million. Rail Baltica will open up an international economic corridor, which will encourage competition between the region's large cities and make them more efficient, citizen and business-friendly.

Over the next six years, Riga will continue to exploit existing scientific potential in the city, promoting a knowledge and innovation-based economy in line with the national smart specialisation strategy, with a particular emphasis on information and communication technologies and biomedical industries. The city will also strengthen the service export sector, the development of which will be facilitated by the investment and talent acquisition tools at the disposal of the municipality. The city's image will promote it as a Baltic science and innovation centre as well as a city of culture, encouraging the attraction of students, a highly qualified workforce, investment and tourists.

Riga will continue to use the potential of the port, as well as co-operate and support the development of new, sustainable port activities. This will make a significant contribution to the growth of the city and national economy, and promote productive, high value-added production in the city.

International connectivity is essential for strengthening the city's competitiveness, which will be significantly improved with the development of Rail Baltica. Therefore, in the coming years, investments will be made in Riga Passenger Port integration into city infrastructure, supporting its development into the Baltic multimodal transport hub.

## GOAL

To make Riga a nationally and internationally oriented science, education and innovation centre by creating a supportive environment for innovation. To make more use of the city's economic potential by ensuring excellent integration into national and international mobility networks, developing cooperation in the Riga Metropolitan Area, achieving more efficient use of brownfields, improving the image of the city and promoting investment, talent acquisition and tourism. To achieve an alignment of GDP per capita compared to that of neighbouring metropolitan cities.



**International Multimodal Transport Nodes**



**Tourism and Hospitality Services**



**Main Streets**



**Competitive Business Environment**



**Cooperation Ecosystems, Smart City**



**Effective Use of Brownfields**



**Image of the City**

# A DIVERSE AND AUTHENTIC CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT



In the vision of this priority, culture is a tool both for creating and strengthening the international image of the city, incl. the development of tourism and the urban economy, and for improving social life and meaningful leisure in neighbourhoods, building a cohesive and cooperative society, revitalising public space and developing communities.

In the coming years, the city will improve its support programmes for professional arts and culture by stimulating contemporary art, as well as activities of private and non-governmental galleries, museums, festivals and other institutions, thus also enriching diversity of arts and culture in the city.

In order to strengthen a sense of belonging within communities, care and responsibility for the environment as well as to promote the cohesion of different social groups, new ways to address integration and remigration through the culture will be sought. The range of available targeted programmes will be improved, promoting the emergence of new cultural projects and developments of public interest.

The city will preserve traditional culture as a value to be proud of internationally and ensure the improvement of new infrastructure and event planning. This will be implemented by creating an environment that integrates the continuation of traditional culture in the context of the 21st century, promoting interdisciplinary cultural synergies and the preservation of intangible and tangible cultural heritage.

The Riga Central Library network will develop as an important cultural, lifelong learning and public communication centre with a tolerant, neutral, safe and inclusive environment. It will promote learning, give the public access to information and provide diverse, reliable and digital resources, enabling citizens to improve their quality of life and boost their growth. In the coming years, the role of cultural centres will also be significantly increased due to a review of range of services, the development of cooperation with community groups and use as places of gathering, as well as for education and creative activities of local communities.

## GOAL

To develop Riga as a cultural metropolis of Northern Europe by supporting high-quality cultural and artistic activities. To promote the participation of Riga residents in cultural creation and the cultural contribution to each person's growth, ensuring cultural accessibility throughout the city for different population groups and improving cultural services. To create a contemporary cultural environment that strengthens the identity of the city and its neighbourhoods, activates social life, and fosters diverse communities. To increase mutual trust within the population by using culture as a tool.



**Diverse Cultural and Community Initiatives in Neighbourhoods**



**Network of Public Libraries**



**Professional Arts and Culture**



**Internationally Competitive Cultural Programmes and Institutions**



**Citizen Participation in the Cultural Process**

# TOP 10



Introduction of a low emission zone



Revitalisation of historically contaminated water bodies



Development of Rail Baltica-related infrastructure



Establishment of new pre-school institutions



Reconstruction and renovation of bridges



Developing libraries as sites of community knowledge, art and cultural centres and meeting places



Development of cycling infrastructure



Reconstruction and renovation of health institutions



Establishment of a housing programme and a Housing Competence Centre



Renovation of markets

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