



# LATVIA – THE NEXT GREAT INVESTMENT DESTINATION



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## International companies choose LATVIA

### CHES24

**Chess24** is the world's most advanced online chess platform for chess players of all levels and provides the highest-quality chess content online. After opening ChessX in Riga, they are employing highly qualified IT specialists to develop new online chess coaching products.

### CABOT LATVIA

**Cabot Latvia** is responsible for providing financial, IT, purchasing and customer service support for Cabot Corporation, the leading global specialty chemicals and performance materials company. They recently hired additional ~80 FTEs since expanding their operations in Latvia and due to this fact, company will relocate to a larger A class office.

### Z7LABS

**Z7 laboratories** is startup from Russia developing a new factory for precise industrial machinery in Latvia. Company is deeply involved in optics, electronics and mechanics. As first product special purposes machines line for surface changes is being developed.

## Strong international presence

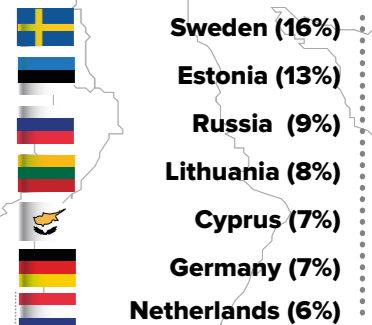


The best choice for successful investment in Latvia is to contact us – Investment and Development Agency of Latvia (LIAA) – your reliable partner with representative offices around the world.

## Latvia's economy at a glance

FDI stock in 2020 –  
**€16.7 bn**  
**56.8%**  
of GDP

The **largest** foreign investors in **2020**  
(% of the total FDI stock):



GDP growth in **2019** – **2.0%**  
for **2020** – **-3.6%**  
(the forecast by European Commission).

**80.6%** of GDP generated by service sectors (2020)

Exports equal to **60.3%** of GDP (2020)

In **2020** Latvian foreign trade turnover amounted to **€35.0 bn**, which was **5.1% less** higher than in 2019 (at current prices), while exports of by **3.5%**.

Source: Bank of Latvia, CSB.

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Ranks **19th** in the **Ease of Doing Business Report (2020)**

**#1** Best regulatory performance in time and cost to import documents (Doing Business report 2020)

Source: Doing business report 2019

**68%** (2020) of existing investors intend to increase their investments in Latvia

Source: FICIL Sentiment Index 2019

**0%** tax on reinvested profit



Vibrant startup ecosystem; strongest areas - **fintech**, **deeptech** and **drones**

## Qualified talent pool

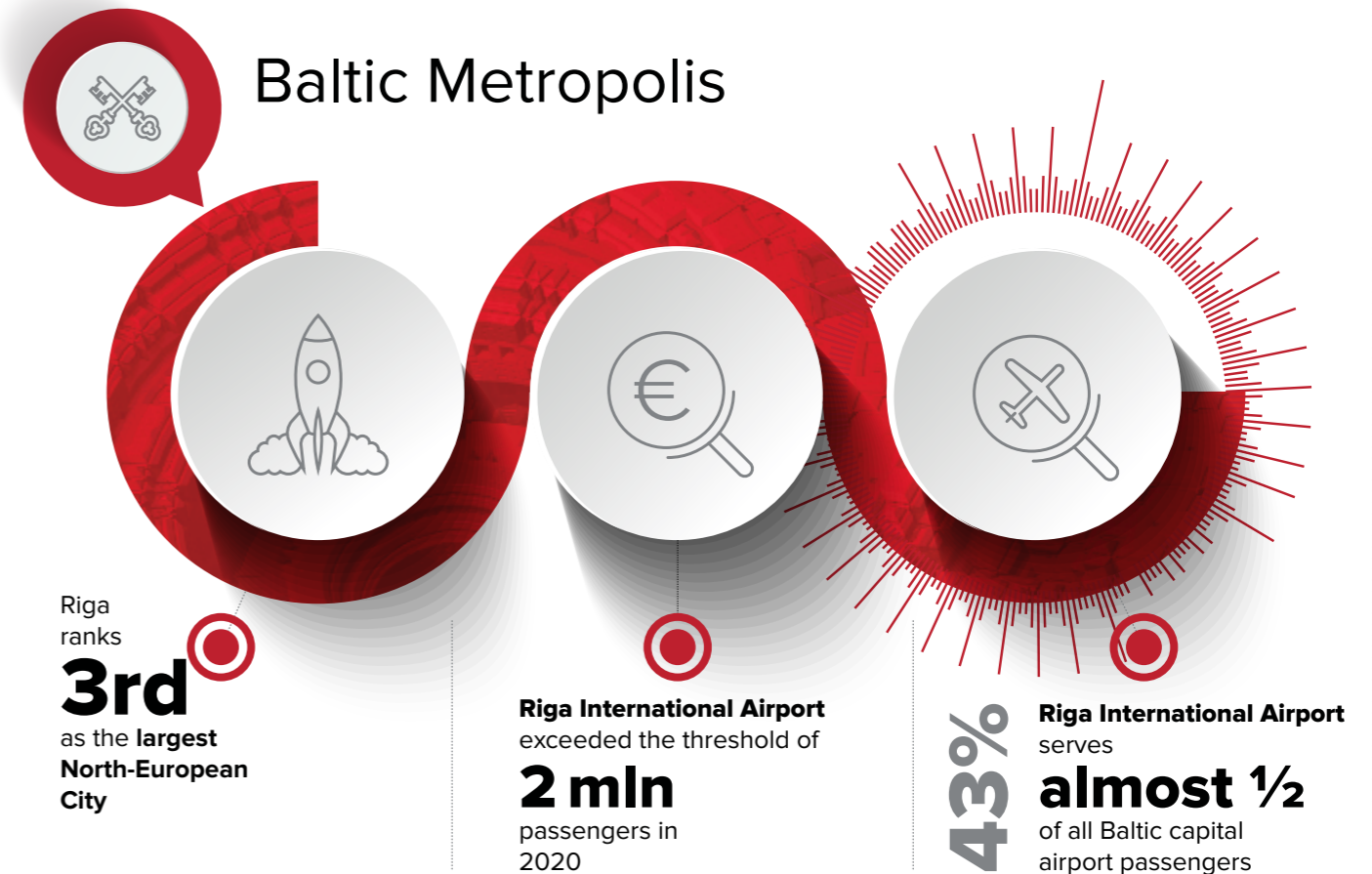


**62%** of people in the 25 – 34 year old age group know at least **two foreign languages**

High rates of **university attendance (81%**, gross enrolment ratio)

**13%** Large proportion of **international students**

Source: CSB Eurostat



Riga ranks **3rd** as the **largest North-European City**

**Riga International Airport** exceeded the threshold of **2 mln** passengers in 2020

**43%** **Riga International Airport** serves **almost 1/2** of all Baltic capital airport passengers

## Building a strong startup ecosystem

**Startup law** offers 3 support mechanisms: fixed social tax, waived personal income and 45% co-financing of highly qualified labour

**Startup visa** – 3-year family-friendly residence permit for all non-EU startup founders

**Acceleration funds** – EUR 15 million for pre-seed and seed investments, managed by 3 highly qualified funds: Buildit, Commercialization Reactor and Overkill



## Fostering innovation and enhancing its economic impact

- Available support for innovation development: **EUR 178 million**
- **Technology transfer grants** for public research institutions to turn academic research results into market-ready technologies and products
- **Innovation vouchers** for businesses to promote innovations and encourage cooperation between research and industry
- **13 Business Incubators** all over Latvia
- LIAA is becoming as “one-stop-shop” for all local and foreign startups and investors