

# REPUBLIC OF LATVIA



# LATVIAN REGION MAP



# LATVIA CURRENCY AND PRESIDENT (LATS) (ANDRIS BERZINS)





1. **The coat of arms** combines symbols of Latvian national statehood
2. Three stars, the sea and the sun as well as symbols representing ancient historical districts: Kurzeme and Zemgale are depicted by a lion, Vidzeme and Latgale are depicted by the legendary winged silver creature with an eagle's head, a griffin.

# FOOD CULTURE



- Latvia's most popular national foods are usually considered to be caraway cheese, grey peas with bacon, bacon-filled pastries made from yeast dough and a special rye bread prepared according to ancient recipes.
- Caraway cheese is the most typical food of the *Jāņi* (summer solstice) celebrations.
- Beer is considered to be the most popular beverage in Latvia.

# FESTIVAL OF LATVIA



- The annual celebration of the summer solstice, known as *Jāņi* is generally viewed as the most important Latvian holiday.
- *Jāņi* is celebrated on June 23 and 24. These days of celebration mark the summer solstice with a colourful array of ancient traditions whose origins date back thousands of years.



# RIVER SCENE IN RIGA LATVIA

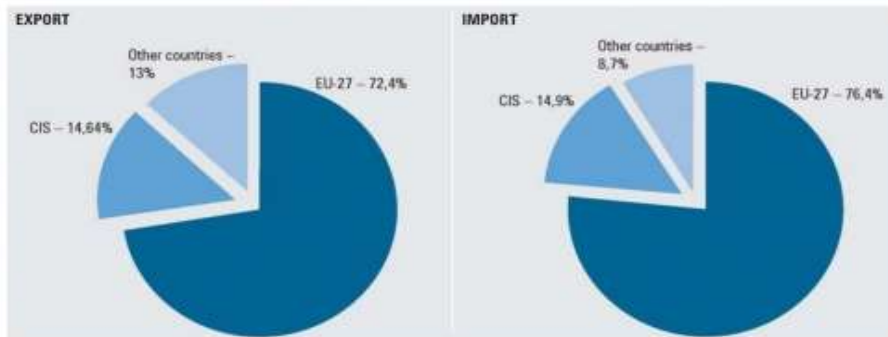


# EXTERNAL TRADE OF LATVIA



- Latvia's export of goods in 2011 showed the highest volumes in six years and one of the fastest export growth rates in the European Union (EU) for the second year in a row.
- Experts compare this to a fast sprint that will get even faster in 2012. \* Exports in 2011 totaled EUR 8,6 billion which compared to 2010, increased by 28,1% or EUR 1,88 billion.

Foreign trade by groups of states in 2011, %



Source: Central Statistics Bureau



# BIODIVERSITY



Approximately 27,700 species of flora and fauna have been registered in Latvia.

Common species of wildlife in Latvia include [deer](#), [wild boar](#), [moose](#), [lynx](#), [bear](#), [fox](#), [beaver](#) and [wolves](#).

[Non-marine molluscs of Latvia](#) include 159 species.

# ECONOMY OF LATVIA

- **Currency**<sup>1</sup> [Lat](#) (LVL) = 100 santims
- [Fiscal year](#) = Calendar year
- **Trade organisations** [EU](#), [WTO](#), [Nordic Investment Bank](#)
- The **economy of Latvia** is an open economy in [Northern Europe](#) and is part of the [European Union](#)'s (EU)
- [single market](#). [Latvia](#) is a member of the [World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#) since 1999,[\[7\]](#) and a member of the European Union since 2004.
- In 2011 Latvian GDP grew again by 5.5%[\[9\]](#) and thus Latvia was among the fastest growing economies in the [European Union](#). The [IMF/EU](#) program successfully concluded in December 2011.[\[10\]](#)

# CEPA

- The role of CEPA in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was that the wider ownership of the process, the greater the chances of the plan being accepted and implemented at national, state and local level.
- People were involved at state and sub state levels to increased awareness of biodiversity, empowerment through participation and local initiatives to implement local plans.

# COMMUNICATION

- IS LATVIA IMPLEMENTING A COMMUNICATION , EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS STRATEGY AND PROMOTING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONVENTION?
- A SPECIAL CEPA STRATEGY REGARDING CBD HAS NOT BEEN ELABORATED IN LATVIA .
- ISSUES ON COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION REGARDING THE BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION ARE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PLAN.

# PUBLIC AWARENESS

- **Is LATVIA undertaking any activities to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work on Communication, Education and Public Awareness as contained in the annex to decision VI/19?**
- **Yes , some activities are undertaken.**
- **Latvian Environmental Protection funds has special funding allocated to support public education and awareness building activities (e.g. campaigns,printed materials, summer camps, education materials etc.)**

# CEPA

- **Is Latvia strongly and effectively promoting biodiversity-related issues through the press, the various media and public relations and communications networks at national level?**
- **Yes , to a limited extent.**
- **Environment has established yearly award to journalists preparing materials for different media (press, TV, radio) on environment and nature protection.**