

# Covenant of Mayors. From political commitment to implementation



**BRIGA**

Inete Ielite  
Riga Energy Agency Management Board Member,  
Riga City,  
Latvia

**"Sardegna CO2.0 and Covenant of Mayors"**  
Monday, 13 June 2011, Cagliari



# Riga – heart of the Baltics

## Latvia:

- Latvia - the crossroads and gateway between East and West
- Geographical centre of the Baltic States

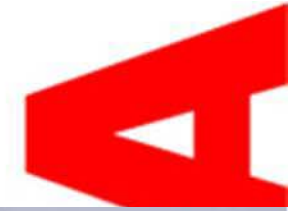
## Riga:

- **713 016** inhabitants in the city (~30% of the national population);
- **1 098 500** people in Riga agglomeration;
- Total area of the city - 304,2 km<sup>2</sup>;
- The density of the population– **2321** inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>





# THE MAIN CHALLENGES



The calm skyline of Riga's Historical Centre

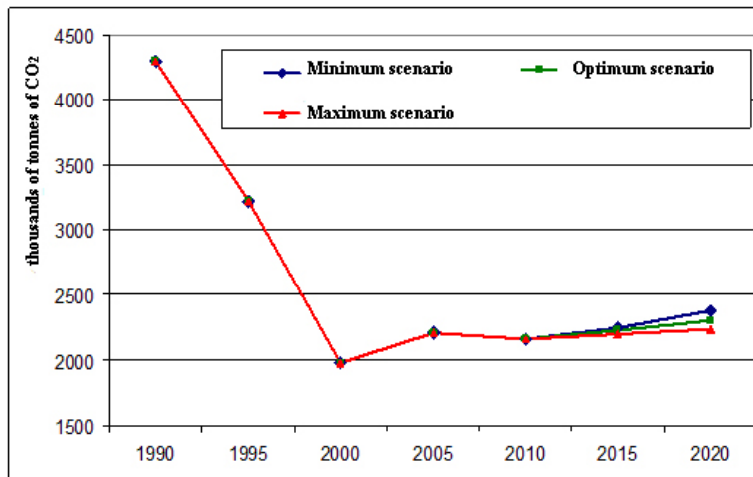
- The historical centre of Riga – UNESCO World Heritage site
- Buildings of the XX century – apartment buildings in need of refurbishment – 6000 or 12 mill. m<sup>2</sup>
- Public buildings ~ 400
- ▣ Average energy consumption in Riga (data from Concept Paper of the Development of Riga Heating Supply 2006-2016 – **231 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>**)
- ▣ State targets for apartment buildings by the year 2020– **150 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>**
- ▣ Riga has to decrease consumption in the existing construction by **40-60%**, reaching the result of **70-150 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>** in the refurbished buildings



- ▣ Centralised heating – 72%
- ▣ Highly effective cogeneration - >90

## RIGA CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITMENTS 20-20-20

- Current situation:  
3.21 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per capita 2010
- Emission reduction 1990 – 2010:  
1,988 thousand tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>  
corresponding to 46%





# RIGA CITY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Educated and skilful society
- Creative city based on European values
- Economic growth based on international cooperation
- Life in the city with high quality neighbourhood
- High quality culture life



**RIGA**



RĪGAS DOME

# RIGA CITY TAKING ACTION

- Engaging scientists –  
setting up the Advisory Board
- Building up the administrative capacity –  
creating Riga Energy Agency
- Involving inhabitants –  
framework agreement, partnerships,  
consultation
- Enlarging international cooperation –  
projects, networks, associations
- Setting up the appropriate policies locally –  
long term strategy and action plans
- Taking responsibilities –  
joining commitments along with other local  
authorities in Europe and the world

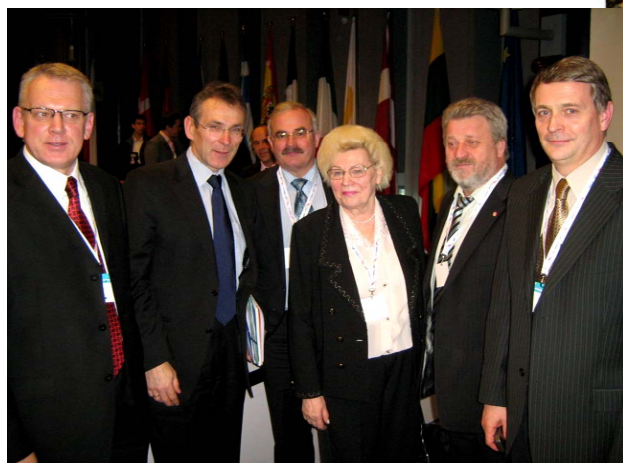
**RIGA**



## COVENANT OF MAYORS. HISTORY



2009, Riga City Council and Mr Janis Birks, Mayor, at the first international conference on the implementation of the Covenant of Mayors



2009, EC, Brussels. (From the left) Mr Almers Ludviks, Vice-Mayor, Riga, Mr Andris Piebalgs, EU Energy Commissioner, Dr. sc.ing. Maija Rubina, Director, REA, mayors of Latvia's cities

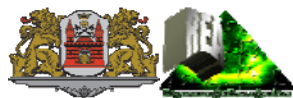


2010, Mr Nils Usakovs, Mayor of Riga, takes the commitment to the implementation – engaging politicians, stakeholders and inhabitants, developing SEAP, organizing the month long Energy Days

# **INTERREG IV A Central Baltic programme project “Covenant of Mayors in Central Baltic Capitals”**

**<http://www.projectcombat.eu>**

**The cities of Stockholm, Helsinki, Riga and Tallinn have joined forces in a collaboration project to combat climate change and improve their efforts to improve energy efficiency. In the project, the partnering capitals supported each other in the development of Sustainable Energy Action Plans and to increase public awareness on energy efficiency**



**EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND  
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE**



## COVENANT OF MAYORS IN RIGA

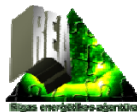
**At the local level -**  
close cooperation with EC  
Representation and European Parliament  
Information Office; cooperation with the  
EU presidencies embassies and EU  
countries embassies;

**At the regional level -**  
with Helsinki, Stockholm and Tallinn, but  
also other Baltic Sea Region cities and  
networks in the projects, their follow up  
activities and through regular cooperation  
activities;

**European networking and level -**  
with the Commissioner's Cabinet, DG  
Energy, CoMO, EACI and Energy Cities,  
Eurocities and other networks



• **International dissemination of Riga experience** – the EU neighbouring countries, other cities and regions of the world



## RIGA CITY ENGAGEMENT IN 20-20-20

**Organisation** - the Mayor, the elected representatives, Riga Energy Agency, the stakeholders, all the relevant departments and city co-owned companies;

**Strategy** - all sectoral policies are reviewed and included in the SEAP;

**Participation** - all the actors – departments, inhabitants, businesses, universities, energy producers – involved and have a role;

**Finance** - the local budget, the national instruments, the EU funding considered and applied, innovative mechanisms, banks are becoming interested, engaging in the development of the new financial framework;

**Evaluation** - the yearly report with established indicators and compared with the national figures;

**Additional measures** - developing national legal instruments, proposing policies and programmes.



EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND  
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

## NB!

Energy efficiency is not just about putting better insulation on the walls of a building, placing solar panels on its roof, etc.

### Holistic approach is essential:

- by bringing together different aspects of energy efficient **urban planning** down to **details of construction** and finding out how to make energy efficient houses more **attractive** and **desirable** for citizens;
- by involving various **stakeholders** actively participating.





## LESSONS LEARNT

### Dare to learn by doing!

**Personal engagement** - from Mayors to the youngest inhabitant!

**Transfer of knowledge and technologies is a key form the success** – allocations for advice; translation and adaptation of the outputs of the EU funded projects; training of experts; short study visits!

**Smaller municipalities are as capable as larger municipalities to design and implement energy efficiency measures!**



**Grazie mille a tutti! Benvenuti a R--A!**



**RIGA**

Additional information:

- Riga City <http://www.riga.lv>
- Riga Energy Agency <http://www.rea.riga.lv>
- Riga City Sustainable Energy Action Plan [http://www.rea.riga.lv/files/RIGA\\_SEAP\\_2010-2020\\_EN.pdf](http://www.rea.riga.lv/files/RIGA_SEAP_2010-2020_EN.pdf)