



Development Focus in Vidzeme Planning Region After the Reform

Laila Gercane
Head of Department
Development and Projects Department
laila.gercane@vidzeme.lv



come to
Vidzeme!
The most Latvian
The most beautiful
The most green

The cradle of
Latvian theatre,
Latvia national flag,
Latvian national song
celebration

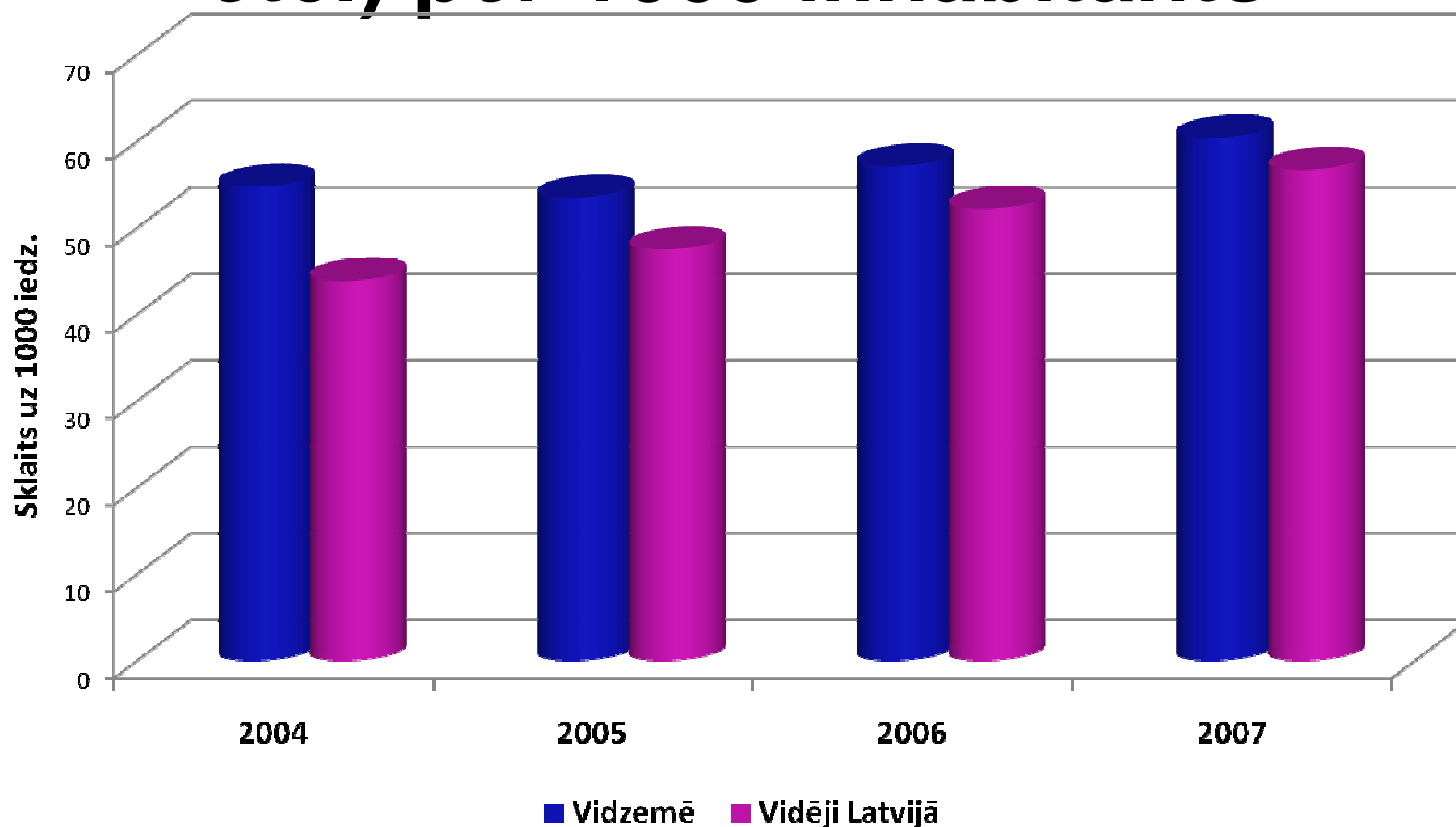


Vidzeme in nutshell

- **Territory:** 15 246 km² (23,6 % of the country)
- **Inhabitants:** 234 800 (10.5 % of the country)
- **Nationality:** 85 % Latvians
- **By sex:** 47,2% men and 52,8% women (12 women : 11 men)
- **Density:** 15 inhabitants per 1 km² (58 % rural)
- **Municipalities:** 26 (1 city + 25)

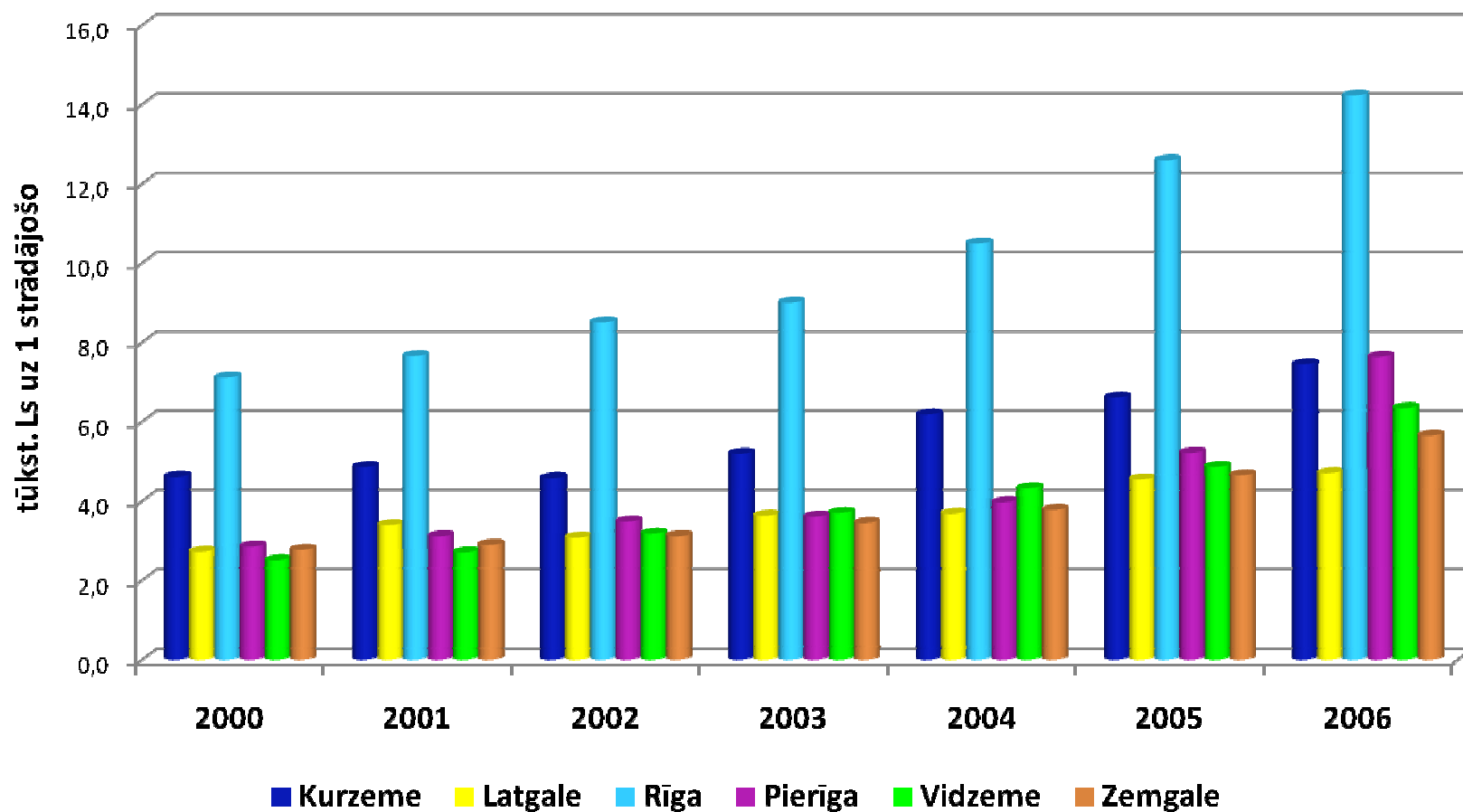


Economically active statistical units (enterprises, self-employed, farms etc.) per 1000 inhabitants





Added value per employed





Entrepreneurship

- Entrepreneurial activity higher than average
- Importance of rural entrepreneurship
- Added values increasing but still is rather low
- Challenges:
 - 1/3 covered by nature territory
 - distance from Riga
 - weak vocational training and knowledge transfer



FOOD

- Milk products
- Beer
- Bread and pastry-work
- Ecoproducts





FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE





WOOD PROCESING

- Indoor and outdoor furniture
- Houses (log & panel)
- Wooden elements, toys
- Traditional building & restoration





OTHER INDUSTRIES

- Tourism and recreation
- Glass fiber production
- Metal processing
- Trade
- Financial services





Administrative structure **before** Reform

Vidzeme region:

6 districts

125 local municipalities





Administrative Structure **after** Reform

Vidzeme region:

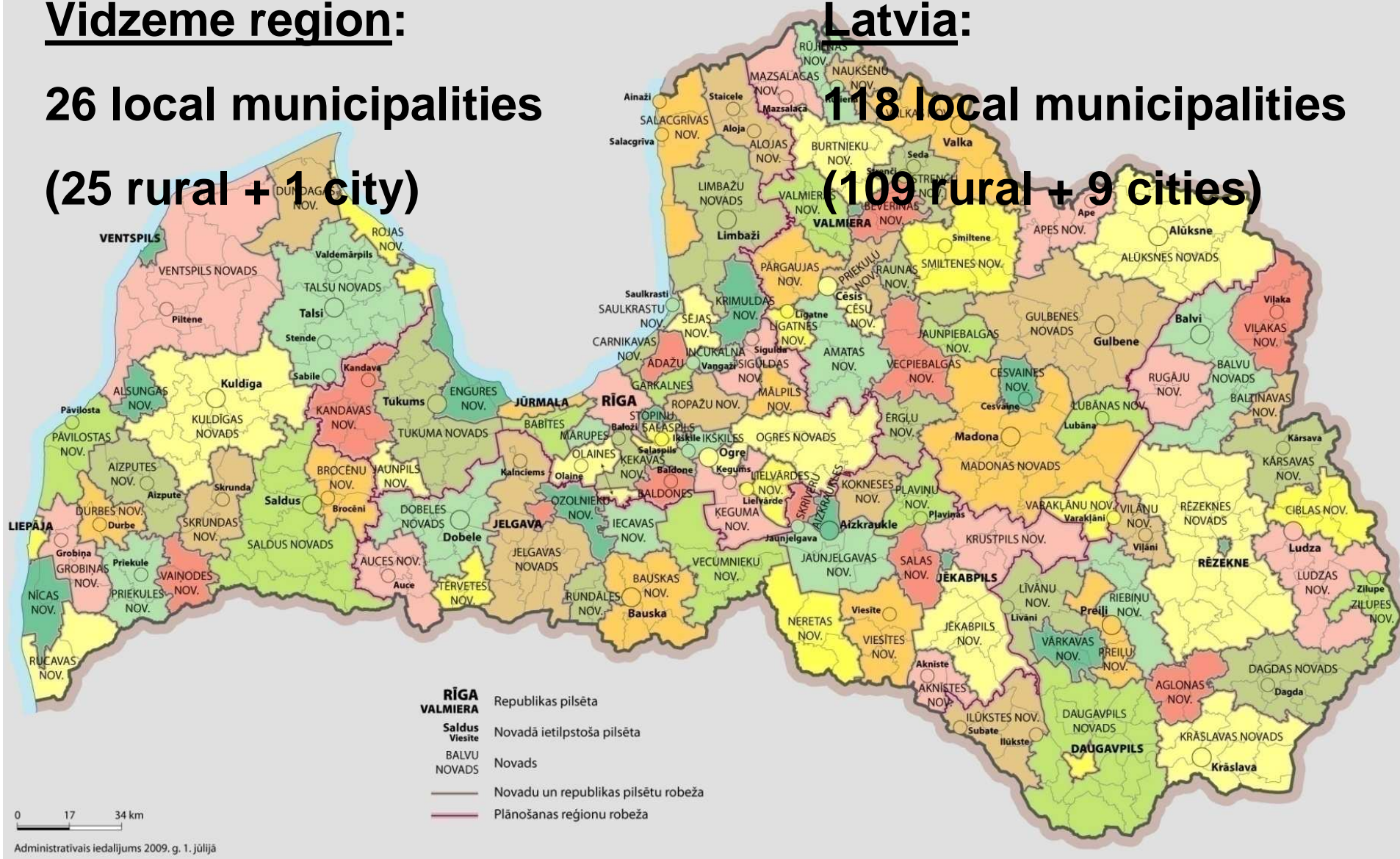
26 local municipalities

(25 rural + 1 city)

Latvia:

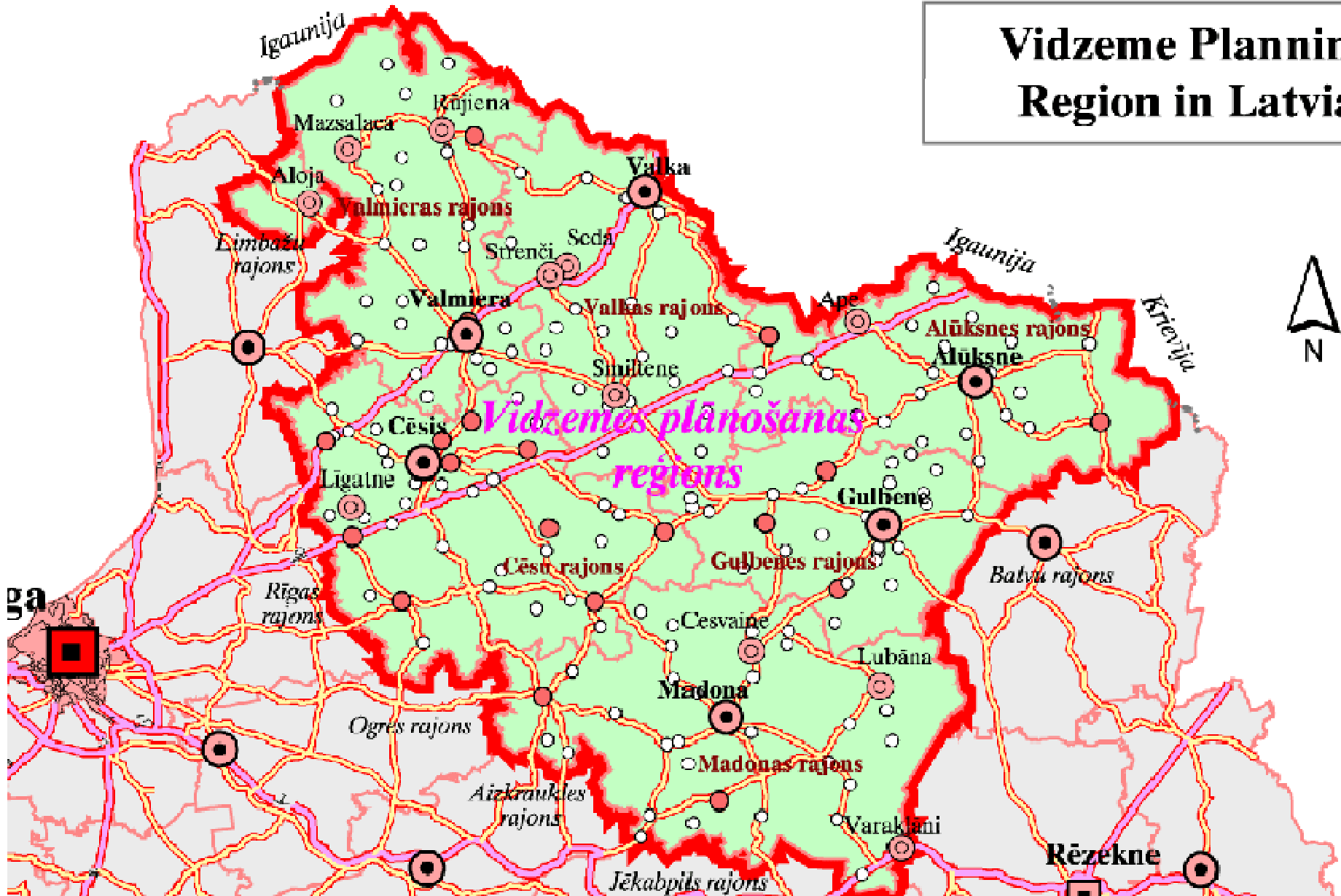
118 local municipalities

(109 rural + 9 cities)





Vidzeme Planning Region in Latvia





Current trends at local level Post Reform

The goals was

- Stronger/powerful municipalities
- Cost effectiveness of public governance
- More focussed development
- Concentration of local financial and human resources for development

Current reality

- ▶ Structural and functional weakness
- ▶ Reform costs
- ▶ Focus loosed in daily mess/surviving
- ▶ Lack of resources locally
- ▶ Centralisation



What does it mean for the Region – Challenges and Chances

- Weakness of governance of public resources
- Loosing human capital
- Lack of resources for development
- Excellent time for Innovation/innovative solutions
- Chance to establish good governance
- Regionalisation
- Local democracy & public involvement



Institution of Vidzeme Planning Region

- Vidzeme Planning Region is public body under control of Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government
- Decision-making body - Region Development Council (representatives of 26 municipalities of the region)
- Executive body - Administration of Vidzeme Planning Region



Functions of Planning Region

- Evaluation and coordination of territorial plans of local municipalities
- Planning and coordination of regional development
- Regional projects
- Coordination of cooperation between municipalities and state institutions
- Regional culture coordination
- Regional public transport management



Current projects of the Region I

1. Implementation of Quality Management System in Vidzeme Planning Region (ESF);
2. Development of Vidzeme Region Alternative Social Service System (ESF);
3. NEEBOR The Network of Eastern External Border Regions (InterregIVC);
4. Waterways Forward (InterregIVC) – development of small inland waterways;
5. Vidzeme Culture Programme (Latvia



Current projects of the Region II

5. **Trans in Form** (Baltic Sea Program) - Transforming rural regions by launching scenarios, new narratives and attractive urban design;
6. **Baltic Training Program** (Central Baltic Program) - Search for innovative solutions for internationalisation of vocational training and support of cross border entrepreneurship;
7. **BSRInnoReg** (Baltic Sea Region Program) - Strengthening Regional Innovation Governance through Transnational Cooperation



Further development agenda

Cross-

cutting

issues:

- Knowledge
- Environment
- Culture

Themes:

- Entrepreneurship development
- Innovation;
- Public transport management
- Landscape management
- Creative industries; Tourism; Crafts
- Food and wood industry;
- Knowledge society / life long learning;
- Region marketing;



Focus - reflection of Reform

- Capacity building at local and regional public administration
- Introduction of innovative governance solutions
- New citizenship / identity /new values
- Accessibility/inclusion of remoted areas
- Synergy, cooperation, concentration of knowledge and other means of development
- Revision /establishment of new development goals and priorities
- Stimulation bottom-up initiatives



Thank you for attention

www.vidzeme.lv