

OBJECTIVES

This programme is funded by the government of Latvia together with international donors, including the government of Luxembourg, and is offered with a special focus on the Eastern and Southern Partnership, Central Asia, and Western Balkans, which are referred to jointly as the Neighbourhood Regions. The specific beneficiary countries covered will be set for each programme year by an agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the other donors, and the list of eligible countries will be posted on the web site of Riga Graduate School of Law (RGSL).

The objective of the programme is to provide a training that is useful with regard to the relations between on the one hand the international community and the European Union, and on the other hand the countries in the Neighbourhood Regions. It is also the intention to provide a knowledge transfer that is based on the experience of Latvia and the other donors in their international relations.

After the restoration of the independence in 1991, Latvia started on a path to closer integration with the European Union, setting membership as a final goal. One of the most important events on the road to the European Union was signing the

Association Agreement in 1995, and in 2004 Latvia became a full member of the European Union.

During more than 20 years, Latvia has accumulated a huge and unique experience and expertise in the field of European integration that can be valuable for countries wishing to expand their international relations.

This advanced programme will offer an excellent opportunity for the representatives of the various countries to learn from the experience of Latvia and the other donors. This programme will offer practical support to the efforts of the countries in the Neighbourhood Regions to engage in international relations, including association with the European Union.

Riga Graduate School of Law will provide programme supervision in cooperation with the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of the other donors.

Programme participants will benefit from additional support from partners that include the Latvian Institute of International Affairs, the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, the University of Latvia, and the European Institute for Public Administration.

SCOPE

The programme comprises the following elements:

- Training for public officials, as well as representatives of civil society and academia, from the Neighbourhood Regions
- Focus on the understanding of the legal, economic and political aspects of international relations, using an interdisciplinary approach that is based on both teaching and practical experience
- Awarding a special Certificate, beyond the scope of individual training courses, and to allow for later possible conversion, at the personal expense of the students, toward a full Master's degree

The course subjects have been selected so as to ensure both the diversity and integrity of the interdisciplinary approach, that has a focus on Law & Economics, with a consideration also of policy issues.

As a general principle, the programme seeks to identify fundamental principles and values in each of the fields included, so as to contribute to the common understanding of such principles and values, in addition to the more technical skills related to international negotiations, institutional cooperation and organisational structures, including the European Union.



APPLICATION

Applicants are required to supply the following:

- Motivational letter
- Description of present job function
- Curriculum vitae, which should include at least 2-3 years of professional experience
- Copies of university diplomas
- Recommendation letter from the current employer
- Confirmation of the ability to undertake studies in English

Applications should be submitted online and the deadline for submission is **19 January 2015**.

A selection committee will review all applications, and results will be announced by 2 February 2015.

Programme
Coordinator
Ulla Zumente –
Steele



The programme starts on 13 April 2015 and participants will be assisted in applying for a visa in Latvia for the purpose of attending the programme. Graduation is planned for Friday 3 July 2015.

Additional programme information will be posted on the RGSL web site (www.rgsl.lv) under the heading of the Advanced Programme, which will include the list of eligible countries.

Questions may be submitted to the contact e-mail address: advanced@rgsl.edu.lv.

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Latvian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs

**RIGA
GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF
LAW**



Advanced Programme in Law and Economics for the Eastern and Southern Partnership Central Asia and Western Balkans



STRUCTURE

Total programme duration is 12 weeks that is divided into 4 modules of 3 weeks. During each module, the participants will follow 3 courses, which normally cover 1 week each. During one or more of the modules, the teaching will include a study visit abroad.

During a normal week, in class teaching will cover 3 days, with 1 day set aside for excursions related to the subject matter of the course and 1 day set aside for special events, such as high profile guest speakers as well as cultural events, so as to ensure a comprehensive approach to the learning of both theory and practice.

During the in-class part of each teaching period, participants will have teaching for 6 hours per day, and the excursions and special events, together with class preparation, are calculated also to cover on average 6 hours per day. Thus the weekly workload is estimated at 30 hours, which leads to the award of 1.5 ECTS credits per course.

Excursions in Latvia are planned to include experience-sharing with institutions such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Parliament, the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and the Ombudsman. Study visits are planned to include the national and European institutions of Belgium and Luxembourg.

During the last teaching module, participants will be required to submit a programme report, which will be required to reflect the theory and practice of the topics addressed during the 12 week period. English language support is offered as an elective with 4 hours per week throughout most of the programme.



PARTICIPATION COSTS

With respect to the mandatory attendance of the course activities, the programme is offered free of any cost by the government of Latvia and the international donors, including the government of Luxembourg.

Cost coverage for the participants will include travel to Riga and accommodation during the 12 week period of the programme, as well as a modest per diem for living expenses in Riga. Travel and other costs will also be covered for study visits.

Participants are expected to contribute in the form of active participation and full dedication to the programme during the 12 weeks. This year, a select group of up to 25 participants, will be admitted to the programme.

Courses will be taught in an intensive format and active participation is expected during all programme elements, including the excursions and study visits. A final programme report will form the basis for a successful conclusion of the programme and reception of a certificate.

Participants will obtain 18 ECTS credits that may be recognised when continuing in the Masters programmes at RGSL and at other cooperating educational institutions.

COURSES

	Law	Economics	Policy
Period 1	Recent developments in European and international law	Economic development and international trade	International relations and economic diplomacy
Period 2	Fundamental rights and international trade	Budget planning and the rule of law	Negotiating association and free trade agreements
Period 3	Legal drafting and legal certainty	Taxation and legislative policy	National policy development and coordination
Period 4	International law and multicultural environments	Economic crisis management and the rule of law	European integration and civil society

Education and transfer of knowledge is an integral part of capacity building for sustainable development in any country. Latvia has acquired vast experience in the areas of political, social and economic transition during its 10 years membership in the EU. I see this program as a significant tool for sharing the accumulated know-how with our partners in Eastern Europe and Central Asia thus reiterating Latvia's full commitment to support transformation efforts in our partner countries.

Andris Piebalgs
European Commissioner for Development

LOCATION

The teaching will take place on the premises of the Riga Graduate School of Law, located in the elegant embassy quarter of central Riga, which is characterised by its Art Nouveau architecture.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is within a shorter walking distance of RGSL, and most of the many facilities offered by Riga may be reached on foot. Accommodation is planned in private apartments within the city.

The RGSL city campus, with the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga (SSE-Riga) as a close neighbour, offers a vibrant international environment, with students and teachers from around the world pursuing education that spans from undergraduate, through graduate and post-graduate programmes.

Teachers drawn from RGSL and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the international donors and participating partners, will each contribute their specialised perspectives on law and economics pertinent to European and international relations, with special focus on the countries covered by the programme.

