

Latvia



Latvia regained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Situated on the Baltic coast, Latvia is a low-lying country with large forests that supply timber for construction and paper industries. The environment is rich in wildlife. Latvia also produces consumer goods, textiles and machine tools. The country attracts tourists from all over Europe.

Ethnically, the population is 59% Latvian and 29% Russian, and more than a third live in the capital Riga. Founded in 1201, Riga is the largest city in the three Baltic states with a population of 730 000. Its Freedom Statue is one of the highest monuments in Europe, at 43 meters.

The 100-seat unicameral Latvian Parliament, the *Saeima*, is elected by direct, popular vote every four years. The president is elected by the Parliament, also every four years.

Among the best-known Latvians are the expressionist painter Mark Rothko and the contemporary composer Peteris Vasks.

Characteristic specialties of Latvian cuisine are *speķapīrādziņi* (bacon pies) and a refreshing, cold sour cream soup.

Capital	Riga	GDP(2011)	27400 Millions \$
Language(s)	Lett	Car fleet in 2011	905 000
Currency	lats(Ls)	Length of the road network	59434 kms
Surface	65 000 km ²	Nber of vehicle for 1000 inhabitants	413
Population	2300000 inhabitants	Time zone	GMT + 2
Population density	33,9 inhabitants / km ²	Number of persons killed on the road in 2009	254

Automotive expertise in Latvia

Latvian Republics Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 369 of 28 November 1995 "The Regulations of the Traffic Bureau in order to set up the system of Third Party Liability Insurance for inland motor vehicle owners (further referred as MTPLI*) and to ensure its operation in the our country. In reality the formation of the MTPLI system started already in the beginning of 1995, when the institution of the Ministry of Finance "The Insurance Supervision Inspection" was asked to start the preliminary work for creating a TPLI system. The Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 214 "The Provisions on the Compulsory Third Part Liability Insurance for inland motor vehicle owners" dated 18 July 1995 were elaborated adopting the methods of Estonian Traffic Insurance Fund. In order to introduce the necessary changes and amendments that emerged during the elaboration of the MTPLI system, the Cabinet of Ministers on 6 August 1996 adopted new Regulations No.300 with the same title. The operation of the MTPLI system in Latvia was introduced on 1 September 1997, when the Law on the Third Party Liability Insurance for Inland Motor Vehicle Owners adopted in Saeima* of the Republic of Latvia on 25 March 1997 came into force in its entirety. The insurance of motor vehicle owners' third party liability and the payment of insurance indemnities to the persons suffered in the road traffic accidents begun on 1 September 1997. On 1 July 1998 Latvia became an official member state of the Green Card system. Essential changes in the operation of the MTPLI system were introduced when Latvia joined the EU. On 1 May 2004 the new Law on the Third Party Liability Insurance for Inland Motor Vehicle Owners (adopted in Saeima of the Republic of Latvia on 7 April 2004) came into force. This Law complied with the demands of the EU Directives: **MTPLI: Mandatory Third Person Liability Insurance Policy*, **TPLI: Mandatory Third Person Liability Insurance Policy*, **SAIEMA: Latvia unicameral parliament*

Latvian national association (STZELNA) was founded on October 16, 2001 in Riga, Latvija. STZELNA has participated in various legislative and regulatory developments of the consultation, such as Motor Third Party Liability Insurance Act and the Cabinet of Ministers draft rules and regulations affecting the transport and auto repair businesses. Latvian National Association of STZELNA has been developed: motor technical assessor (third level of a national standard), land transport technical expert (the fourth level of the standard) and statutory land transport technical expert standards. Passing the Adequate knowledge of Theoretical and Practical Exam STZELNA members receive a certificate of conformity.

Today STZELNA partners are: Latvian authorized car dealers association; LR Motor Insurers' Bureau; » Latvian Chamber of Crafts;

- » Car dealers;
- » Auto repair businesses.
- » Insurance companies
- » State and public organizations

STZELNA is organizing the certification and training (improvement of professional skill) of technical experts for inland motor vehicle owners.

Today the quality management system for experts in our country is:

"State Regulations on Technical Examination of Motor Vehicles and Certification of Technical Experts".

Professional Associations

STZELNA

*Latest update
20 June 2013*