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UNIVERSITY
OF LATVIA

SIRM

Good practices of Latvia

Kick-off meeting in Rzeszów

Denize Ponomarjova

Project Manager at University of Latvia

denize.ponomarjova@lu.lv

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Republic of Latvia – CHARACTERIZATION

Population: 1,87 million (20230)

Capital city: Riga (614,618 thousand)

Total territory: 64,589 km²

Regions (4): Kurzeme, Zemgale, Vidzeme, Latgale

New business density: (new businesses per 1000 people, age 15-64): 6.9 (2020, WB)

90% of businesses is made of micro and small businesses

Economic growth: 2.0 % (2022)

Unemployment: 6.4 % (2023 Q1)



Latvia is one of the world's greenest countries - over 44% of its territory covered by forests



University of Latvia

- Founded in 1919
- **15 250** students, over 1000 academic and 1000 non-academic staff
- 13 faculties with more than **150 study programmes in natural, exact, social sciences and humanities.**
- 3 colleges and 7 regional branches
- 19 scientific institutes specialising in 50 research areas
 - In 2021, UL started implementation of the **182 projects** (out of them: 24 of EU structural funds, 12 Horizon2020 & ERA-NET, 18 Erasmus+)
 - 2004-2014: the UL participated in more than **350 EU and EEA / Norge/ INTERREG/ Erasmus+ funded projects.**

website: www.lu.lv

University of Latvia Academic Centre in Torņakalns – the most modern facilities of Northern Europe



University of Latvia support to Ukrainians



Support for students:

- Ukrainian students and researchers are provided with opportunity to continue their studies and research in UL and to receive state-funded scholarships and paid internships.
- All Ukrainian students are subject to a 100% reduction in tuition fees.
- Free of charge accommodation in UL student house.



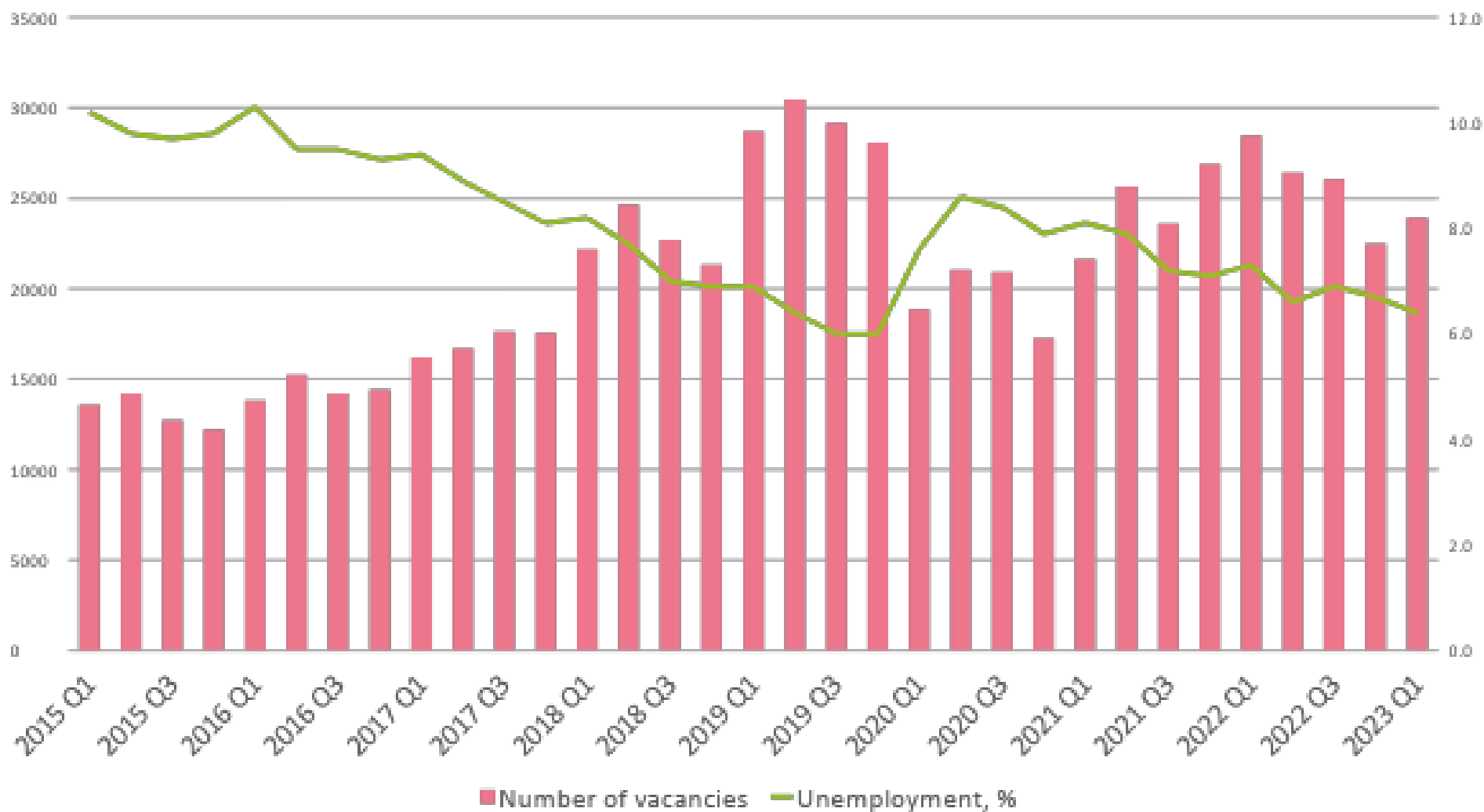
Support for academic staff:

- Opportunity to continue academic work and research
- Free of charge stay in UL student house (academic staff and their family members).

Other support measures – free of charge legal assistance, psychological counselling, various social events and activities, additional support from Funds collected at the UL charity concert.



Number of vacancies and unemployment level



Ukrainians in Latvia (1)

- ❑ Latvia has welcomed around 40 thousands of Ukrainians since February.
- ❑ Various support measures from government, NGOs, municipalities, businesses and individuals have been introduced to help Ukrainian civilians.
- ❑ Measures and initiatives such as grants, housing, medical aid, scholarship, language courses, work opportunities – are available.



Ukrainians in Latvia (2)

- ❑ 17 452 Ukrainians received financial allowance (amount of min wage) to start their work or self-employment activity in 2022
- ❑ Ukrainian refugees in Latvia mostly perform low-skilled jobs.
- ❑ The main obstacle to join labour market is language barrier.
- ❑ It is more difficult to find job for those Ukrainian refugees who are accommodated in the most remote parts of Latvia.
- ❑ e.g. in December 2022, the majority of job offers for Ukrainian civilians were in the following sectors (CSP, 2022):
 - IT /Telecommunications, Construction/Real Estate , Manufacturing, Transportation/Logistics, Agriculture/Environment, Services, Trade/Marketing, Food Industry/Catering.

The Social Mentor Support

by Society Integration Foundation (SIF)

- ❑ **Aim:** support for dealing with everyday situations, including employment opportunities. The assistance service is offered at individual level for 60 days (in English, Ukrainian, Russian languages). Ensured through different NGOs and local municipalities.
- ❑ **Timing:** 01.05.2022 – up to date
- ❑ **Stakeholders:** Ministry of Welfare, municipalities (43), NGOs (7)- "DOMUS", "Caritas Latvija", "Shelter "Safe House"", educational centre "FIBRA", the foundation "Ventspils High Technology Park", etc.
- ❑ **Results:** it is foreseen to support ~7 000 Ukraine people within 43 municipalities.
- ❑ **Resources needed:** 700 000 Eur budget financed by the European Social Fund (project "Promoting Diversity") (85% and state budget (15%)

Sociālā mentora atbalsts Ukrainas iedzīvotājiem

Sociālais mentors ir Latvijas iedzīvotājs – palīgs ikdienas situācijās, kurš runā angļu, ukraiņu vai krievu valodā.



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Kas ietilpst atbalstā?

- Izpratnes veidošana par dzīvi Latvijā.
- Praktiska palīdzība un risinājumu meklēšana.
- Palīdzība mājvietas, skolas un darba atrašanā.
- Pavadišana līdz iestādēm palīdzības saņemšanai.
- Emocionāls atbalsts.



Atbalsts pieejams **60 dienas.**

Lai saņemtu sociālā mentora atbalstu, jāvēršas pašvaldības sociālā dienestā.



REGULĀCIJUMS TAVĀ NĀKOTNĒ

The logo for Common Ground is a blue square containing the text "COMMON" in yellow, bold, uppercase letters, and "Ground" in yellow, lowercase letters below it.

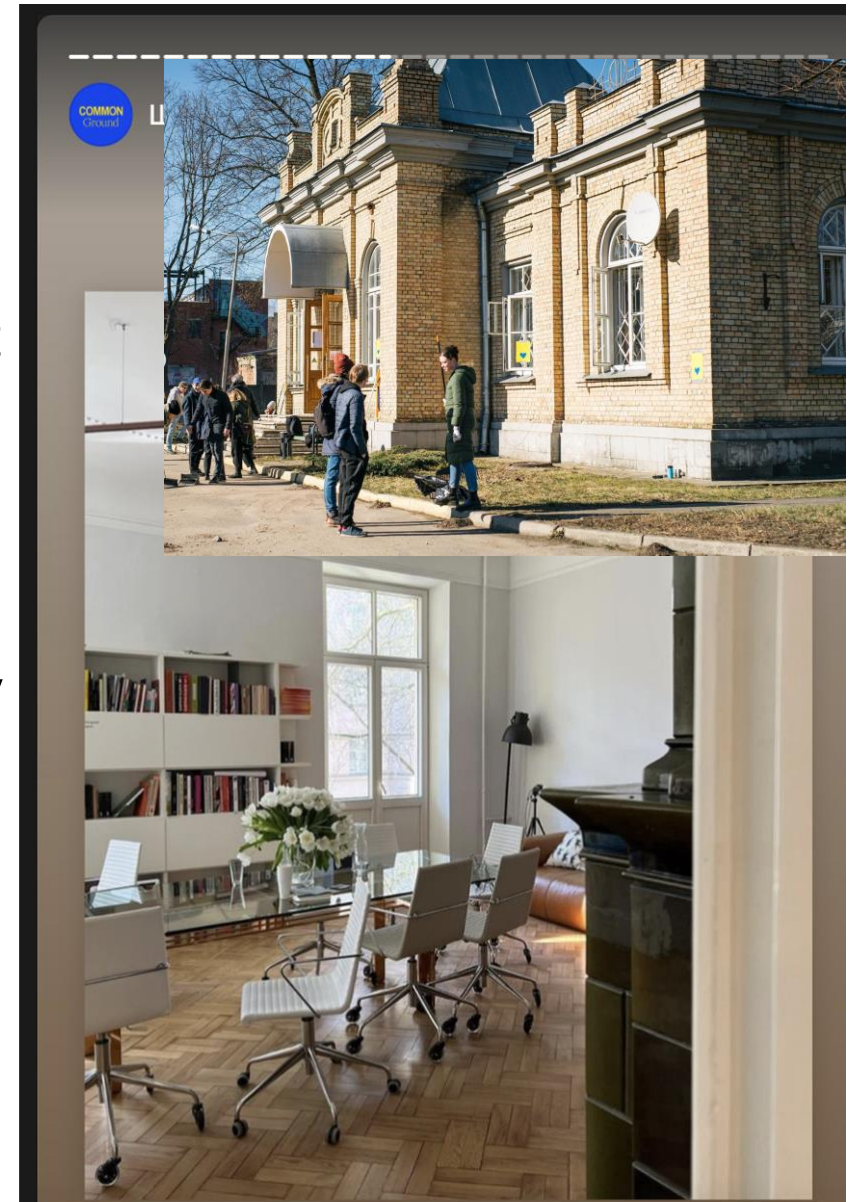
COMMON
Ground

Common Ground – a social initiative centre

- A private initiative established immediately after war started by the members of the Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art and "Hanzas perons" team together with like-minded partner institutions, caring individuals, artists, professionals, numerous volunteers.
- **Socialising and information exchange place and platform**
- Offers library, coworking space, playrooms for kids, quiet room.
- The centre offers a wide range of social events and recreational activities for children, youth and adults (including art classes, language lessons, mindful practices, etc.), livelihood programmes, **information about work opportunities**, as well as legal consultations and psychosocial support, the centre stands as a safe space for information exchange.

Common Ground – a social initiative centre

- **Timing:** 26.02.2022- present
- **Stakeholders:** Riga city council, organisation “Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem» (I want to help refugees), cafe “Borsch”, etc.
- **Results achieved:** more than social, cultural and recreational activities organised, more than 20,000 people visited the centre in 2022.
- **Resources needed:** space, 4 employed persons, 200 voluntary persons.
- **Financed** with private and company donations.
- From the historic premises of old train station moved to the old town in the premises of city council and where united with other organisations supporting Ukraine.



Examples of entrepreneurship



Borščs - garšīgi pie ukrainietēm

4,5 tūkst. atzīmes Patik · 5,2 tūkst. sekotāji



Examples of entrepreneurship - Beaytu salon "Rozā kājas" (Pink legs)

The image displays a Facebook page for 'Rozā Kājas' and a grid of eight video thumbnails. The Facebook page header features a circular logo with a stylized rose and the text 'Rozā Kājas'. Below the logo, the name 'Rozā Kājas' is written in bold, followed by '59 atzīmes Patik · 71 sekotāji'. The navigation bar includes 'Ziņas', 'Informācija', 'Mentions', 'Osvrti', 'Reels', 'Fotografije', and 'Vairāk'. The grid of thumbnails shows: 1) A foot with pink nail polish (154 views). 2) A close-up of a hand (130 views). 3) A white teacup on a shelf (64 views). 4) A storefront with a pink sign and flowers (457 views). 5) A person in pink gloves working on a foot (482 views). 6) A shelf with decorative plates (482 views). 7) A shelf with various pink and blue products (482 views). 8) A pair of blue jeans with a large tear (451 views).

Latvian language training for Ukrainian civilians – programme

- ❑ 120 hours of remote studies or face-to-face studies in one of the language centres located in every region of Latvia. Scholarship of max 150 EUR at the end of the course. Additional online learning sources for practice and learning at the SIRM web site. A state language proficiency certificate is given after successful passing of the end exam.
- ❑ **Owner:** Society Integration Foundation (SIF)
- ❑ **Timing:** 01.06. 2022 – 31.12.2023 (2 calls)
- ❑ During the first call, State Employment Agency together with 20 languages centres offered an opportunity Ukrainian civilians (17+) learn Latvian language (A1 and A2 level) free of charge.
- ❑ 2nd call, 30 organisations were financed to provide Latvian language learning courses.
- ❑ **Results:** In 2022, 3 507 persons applied for courses (2 249 successfully finished A1 level and 350 A2 level)
- ❑ **Resources:** over 700 thousands EUR in 2022 and 4 million EUR in 2023.

Thank you!

www.interregeurope.eu/SIRM