

4th CPG-15 meeting in Riga concise advice

Visas

If not an EU citizen, please check the Ministry of Foreign Affairs home page

<http://www.mfa.gov.lv/ru/consul-info/entry/>

Weather

Though the spring equinox on 20th March will definitely apply, the weather may be anything from a few degrees below zero with wet snow to a pleasant calm sunshine up to 10 degrees Celsius. There may be spots of ice on the pavement – slippery! The local weather forecast

<http://www.meteo.lv/en/laiks/?nid=638> is quite reliable. For a long-term forecast we suggest the Expert chart on <http://www.weatheronline.co.uk/cgi-bin/expertcharts?LANG=en&CONT=euro&MODELL=gfs&VAR=prec>

Time zone

UTC+3 (Eastern European summer time)

Currency

Latvia introduced the Euro on 1st January 2014. ATMs, currency exchanges and banks are widely available, including the airport.

Arrival



This map above is zoomable on-line

http://balticmaps.eu/?lang=lv&draw_hash=hpckfb¢erx=503806¢ery=6310327&zoom=4&layer=map&ls=o Hover over the red spots for place names.

There is one international **airport** in Riga (RIX). At taxi ride from the airport to the venue hotel is a approximately 10 euros.

Airport Bus No. 22 passes close to the meeting venue – get off at the stop *Nacionālā biblioteka* (National Library). The library building may remind you of a ski-slope. Tickets are sold by the driver and may be bought slightly cheaper from kiosks in the airport.

From the central **train** station or international **coach** station (which are located next to each other) you may reach the meeting venue on city buses No. 3, 4, 4Z, 8, 21, 32, 35, or 43 stopping by the kerb on Marijas street or 13 Janvāra street opposite the station and going South-West. Get off at the first stop *Nacionālā biblioteka* (National Library) after crossing the river. The hotel Radisson Daugava is clearly visible on the right when crossing the river.

Maps on-line

<http://www.balticmaps.eu/> is a Latvian on-line map service.

Public transport

Rīgas Satiksme <https://www.rigassatiksme.lv/en/>. Their vehicles are coloured blue with white.

Route plan on zoomable map <http://saraksti.rigassatiksme.lv/index.html#riga/map,page>

Taxi

Red Cab tel. 8383, Baltic Taxi, tel. 8500 and many others

Emergency calls

112 is the general emergency number. This is the Fire Brigade, they will also put you through to the other emergency services, or call them directly:

113 ambulance

110 police

Electric power

220 Volts 50 Hertz, European DIN (Schuko) sockets

Driving

On the right side of the road, headlights always on, speed limit 50/90 km/h (urban/rural), European style signs and rules.

Doctor

Left bank of river Daugava (where the meeting is held) - Stradina slimnīcas poliklinika (Stradina hospital), Liepājas street, tel. 67069280.

Right bank of river Daugava (where old town is) – Medicīnas sabiedrība ARS, Skolas street 5, tel. 67201008

Pharmacy

is called *aptieka* in Latvian

Tipping

for services, at your own discretion, up to 10%.

Sights, shopping

Old town and further - across the river opposite hotel Radisson Daugava.

Religion

Latvia is a secular country but most people associate with the Lutheran (protestant), Roman Catholic or Russian Orthodox belief.

Local language

Latvians generally speak Latvian and Russian, and you can very well get by with younger people in English. Many Latvian words are obvious, e.g. *autobuss*, *trolejbuss*, *tramvajs*, *telefons*, *radio*, *televīzija*, *frekvence*, *lifts*, *eskalators*, *bārs*, *restorāns*, *kafejnīca*.

Hello! = Sveiki!

yes = jā

Thank you! = Paldies!

no = nē

Please! = Lūdzu! (also used as *[you are] welcome*)

tasty = garšīgs

not tasty = negaršīgs

How much does it cost? – Cik tas maksā

like (verb) = patīk

Good morning = Labrīt!

don't like = nepatīk

Good afternoon = Labdien!

I = es

Good evening = Labvakar!

you = jūs

Good bye! = Uz redzēšanos!

we = mēs

Good night! = Ar labu nakti!

they - viņi

groceries = pārtika

drinks = dzērieni

Links

Riga airport <http://www.riga-airport.com/en>

Riga public transport <https://www.rigassatiksme.lv/en/>

Latvian passenger rail service <http://www.pv.lv/ru/>

Riga int'l coach station <http://www.autoosta.lv/?lang=en>

Latvian meteorological office – forecast <http://www.meteo.lv/en/laiks/?nid=638>

Latvia tourism official site <http://www.latvia.travel/en>

Riga council tourism site <http://www.liveriga.com/en/>

Telephone directory <http://www.1188.lv/>, www.zl.lv

Classifieds www.ss.lv