



ERA PROGRESS IN LATVIA HIGHLIGHTS

This fact sheet provides a snapshot of Latvia's progress in implementing the European Research Area (ERA) over the past decade.



■ POLICY CONTEXT

Research and innovation policy in Latvia is predominantly developed, funded and implemented at the national level. The main policy-making function is divided between the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) and the Ministry of Economics (MoE). At implementation level, the main institutions are the Latvian Council of Science, which coordinates the implementation of research policy, and the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia (LIAA) that implements support programmes for entrepreneurship and innovation. Since 2021, the main responsibility of the Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3) implementation has been transferred from the MoES to the MoE. In 2022, a new Council for Innovation and Research Governance (IPPP) was established bringing together the ministers and directors of these four key organisations to ensure more streamlined R&I governance and monitoring of RIS3 implementation.

In terms of R&I policy, the National Development Plan 2021-2027 (NDP2027) is the highest medium-term planning document that also includes overarching national level targets for improving Latvian scientific excellence for the development of society, the economy and security. On a more operational level, the Guidelines for Science, Technology Development and Innovation 2021-2027 outline the medium-term objectives of research and innovation policy and the National Industrial Guidelines 2021-2027, which also cover RIS3, and address the angle of industrial and innovation policy angle.

The main recent policy developments that contribute to ERA priorities mostly relate to the adoption of the Latvian Recovery and Resilience Facility Plan (RRP). In the period 2022-2025, the Latvian RRP includes an investment of almost EUR 200 million in support to research and innovation that over six years will add around 0.1% of GDP to Latvia's annual R&I spending. This is considered an important boost to the R&I system and will support various reforms in the higher education sector such as aligning university courses with industrial needs and improving the attractiveness of research careers, and a top up investment in economic transition towards higher added value production.

Similarly, the European Union (EU) Cohesion Policy allocates another EUR 342 million to R&I for the period 2021-2027 for a range of research and innovation support measures with a particular emphasis on the green and digital transition and supporting EU-wide access to excellence.



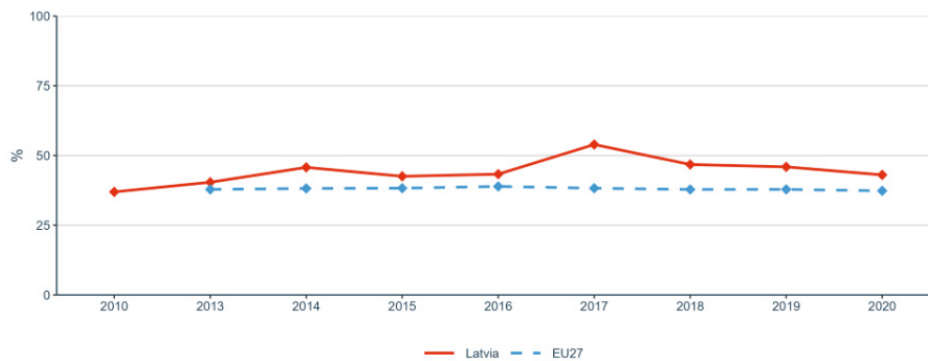
KEY TAKE-AWAYS LATVIA



- Over the last decade, Latvia's performance has been below the EU-27 average in most of the analysed indicators. The most notable lags are related to indicators on human resources in R&I and investment in R&I. Strong performance is observed in indicators related to gender equality and global engagement through international co-publications.
- Latvia has launched, implemented, and completed a set of comprehensive and systemic reforms that support excellence and competitiveness in the national R&I landscape.
- The EU Recovery and Resilience Facility Plan and the EU Cohesion Policy programme coupled with steadily increasing national investments in R&I help Latvia in strengthening its contribution to the ERA Policy Agenda.

CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD...

Sub-priority 1.3: Gender equality, equal opportunities for all and inclusiveness – Proportion (%) of women among doctoral graduates by narrow fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)



Sub-priority 2.1: Challenge-based ERA actions – Environmentally related government R&D budget as percentage of total government R&D



LEARN MORE

- [Download](#) the full ERA Monitoring Latvia Report 2023
- [Read](#) the 'Communication on A new ERA for Research and Innovation'
- [Consult](#) the background on New ERA, the EU Pact for R&I, the EU Policy Agenda and more