

## Multilevel implementation scheme for RIS3 in Riga Planning Region

Riga Planning Region is one of the project's "Smart Blue Regions" partners which is not directly responsible for RIS3 implementation in Latvia and it has its own Regional Development Strategy where the goals and fields of national RIS3 and EU Blue Growth agenda, are included.

Taking it into account, there is no clear and written paper on structure, responsibilities and actors involved in the implementation of RIS3 and Blue Growth in Riga Planning Region. Nevertheless there is informal division of responsibilities among national level ministries and other actors, including planning regions, business support organizations, as well as educational and research institutions.

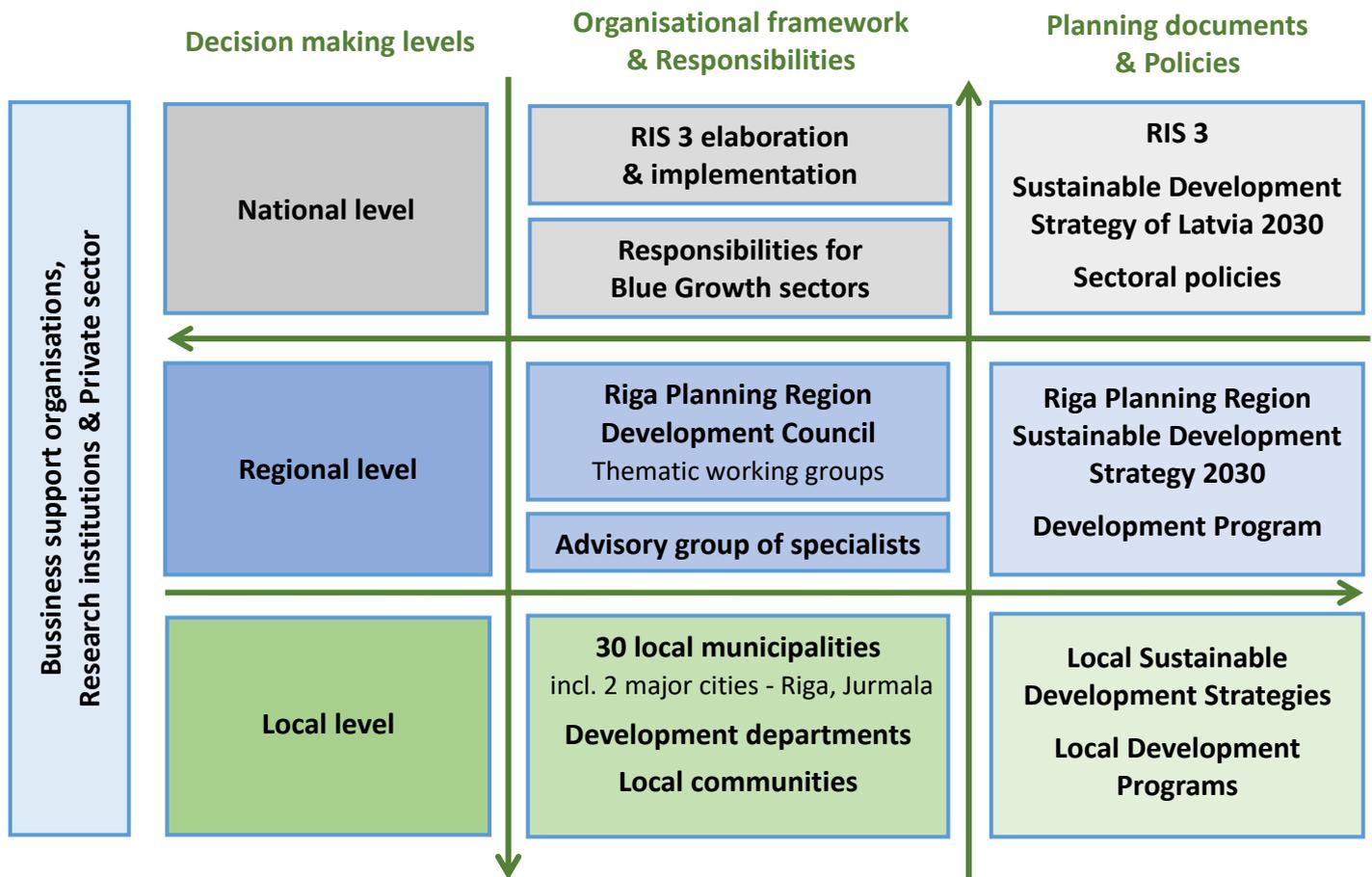
Responsibilities of **RIS3** elaboration and implementation at the national level are set as this - Ministry of Education and Science is responsible for the science part of the RIS3 and Ministry of Economics is responsible for the entrepreneurship and industry part of the RIS3.

Responsibilities of **Blue Growth** sectors are divided among such national level ministries:

- a) Ministry of Economics is responsible for the energy, technologies and tourism;
- b) Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for fisheries (aquaculture);
- c) Ministry of Transport is responsible for marine and maritime infrastructure and safety;
- d) Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development is responsible for environmental protection and maritime and coastal spatial planning;
- e) Ministry of Defence is responsible for the maritime security.

Planning regions, including Riga Planning Region, in Latvia are ment to be as a platforms for discussions about development topics and issues, that are actual for local governments. Concerning political level, RPR Development Council is an institution where representatives from all local municipalities are present and it is a platform of discussions and decision making at regional level. It holds meetings once a quarter and last two meetings where connected to the RIS3 issues, because discussions with the Minister of Education and Science and also Minister of Economics were the main point of the agendas of both meetings. RPR Development Council has established thematic working groups of politicians on education and entrepreneurship, so that issues of local governments could be gathered and discussed at regional level. On the other hand, RPR Administration has its own tools – cross border projects, that can be used to address issues that are important for the regional development. Advisory group of specialists from local governments has been established to discuss different actual issues among specialists from local governments and other experts that are invited to discuss these issues.

Business support organizations, as well as education institutions and research institutions (private or public) act on their own initiative, providing their own investments and expertise to foster some of the RIS3 or Blue Growth topics through discussion platforms, clusters, associations, privately funded projects or projects co-financed by European Union.



*Multilevel responsibilities - RIS3 and Blue Growth sectors*

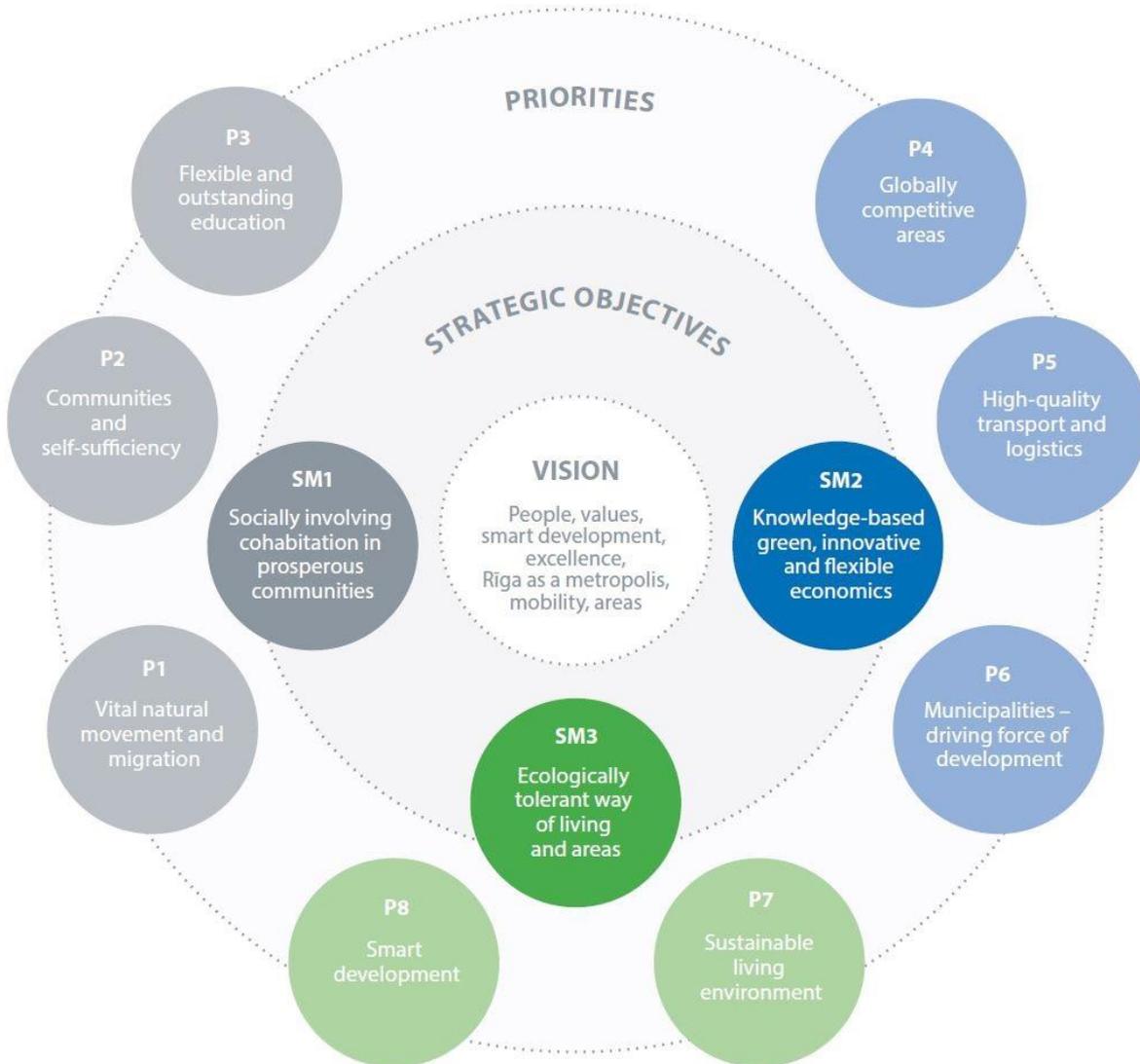
### Strategic development framework

In the **Regional Development Strategy** the main emphasis is put on the significance of the Riga Planning Region as the capital region with a decisive role in national politics, economy and cultural development. The 30 local governments of Riga Planning Region make up a diverse mosaic of administrative territories, each of which differ by their separate role.

Prosperity of Riga Region as a part of Europe is globally related to smart values of the global market, energy-saving solutions, qualitative physical living space and an integrated society. The overall aim of the Riga Region development is to become an attractive, open-minded, tolerant and competitive region within the global space.

The socio-economic, technological and scientific development of the region is defined by a development centre of national, international and European significance – the city of Riga along with its agglomeration.

**Areas of distinction** of Riga Region are knowledge-based technologies, smart development technology, biotechnologies, visual and acoustic art, quality of the urban living environment, as well as quality of rural areas, green areas and water areas.



### ***Riga Planning Region Sustainable Development Strategy 2030***

Taking into consideration the history of Riga, it is possible to say that in the future Riga as a metropolis will be linked with the areas surrounding it – the urban and green areas of the city's suburbs, the Gulf of Riga and its coasts. Each of the areas is characterised by a distinct value, a balance of nature and human activities, specialisation and sustainable use of resources.

Riga Planning Region **development prerequisites** within the context of the Baltic Sea Region are a green environment, creative industries, information technology development, and knowledge of foreign languages. This opens up opportunities for development of knowledge-intensive production facilities based on chemical technologies and health tourism. Currently, the advantageous geopolitical position in the middle of the Baltic Sea has been seldom used, which may form the basis for much wider tourism, logistics and transport development.

Respecting the concentric radial structure of Riga and its functionally related areas, the strategy is focused on the concentric areas of Riga, its suburbs and “green” rural sectors, as well as on radial areas of large rivers – the Daugava, Gauja, Lielupe, as well as of coastal and green corridor landscapes.

One of the Riga Planning Region Development Strategy **priorities** is “P8 Smart development”. It includes such directions of action as - elaboration and implementation of a regional specialization policy for smart development; detailed self-assessment of opportunities for specialization; enhancing business productivity; promotion of business development based on local resources (self-sufficiency); innovative, sustainable and safe (green) mobility; co-operation between Riga and adjacent municipalities.

**Actors** who work to reach the goals stated in the Regional Development Strategy are representing national, regional and local authorities. Strategy provides solutions that through joint cooperation of all decision making levels would facilitate the development of Riga Planning Region in accordance with the strategic settings defined in national and regional level planning documents and policies.

### Sea and coastal area as special value

The special value of the Riga region is the coast of the Riga Gulf of the Baltic Sea, which extends at a length of 185 km, as well as the internal water sources. Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia 2030 defines territories and areas with outstanding value and importance for sustainable development of the country, preservation of identity and which contain strategic resources significant for the development of the country. These territories are considered as the **spaces of national interest**, including coast of the Baltic Sea - one of the largest values of Latvia where the preservation of nature and cultural heritage should be balanced with promotion of economic development.

The development of the seacoast of Latvia as **diverse and multifunctional space** should be ensured, which concurrently is a qualitative living environment and the bank of public benefits with clean water and air, seaside, healthy ecosystems, special landscapes, and economically active space with various employment possibilities throughout the year. It promotes efficient integration of Latvia in the international space and its recognition in the world. It is necessary to promote small and medium entrepreneurship and improve traffic and tourism infrastructure on the seacoast, as well as ensure rational use of the seacoast territories, preserving the special natural and cultural values and diverse landscape.

In order to ensure **sustainable use** of the coast of the Baltic Sea, it is necessary to develop the environment favourable for the entrepreneurship that would ensure economic activity and employment possibilities along the entire seacoast, supporting it by balancing of the traditional and new type of economic activity.

One of the main precondition is to promote co-operation between local governments of the seacoast, planning regions, state administrative institutions and the society, providing good management of the seacoast. It is significant to **activate the co-operation** of the countries of the Baltic Sea Region in planning and implementation of the seacoast development and ensure co-ordinated planning of spatial development of the land part of the seacoast and the sea aquatorium.