



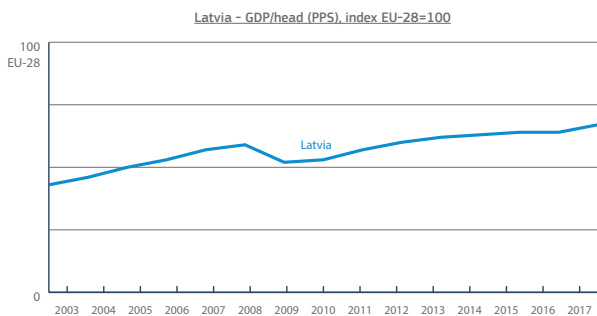
Latvia was among the 10 countries to accede to the European Union on 1 May 2004. For these Member States to catch up with the EU average in terms of growth and income, the EU invested massively via its Cohesion Policy and, since 2014, via the Investment Plan for Europe, the Juncker Plan. These investments have had very positive results on the ground, not only thanks to EU funding but also to the efforts of these Member States to reform and become attractive places for investors and for businesses to settle and thrive.



“The decision in 2004 to embrace 10 European countries was a great moment for our continent and a great moment in history. The accession of the Central and Eastern European countries, and the courage of their people in preparing for that accession, is what allowed us to reconcile our continent’s geography with its history. I remain an ardent fan of enlargement today.”

President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, 29 April 2019

Convergence: since 2003, Latvia’s GDP per capita has grown by **24** percentage points compared to the EU average



Growth: Latvia’s GDP per capita grew by **113%** over 2003-2017, which means wealth more than doubled during this period

Since the beginning of the Juncker Commission in 2014, the European Structural and Investment Funds and the Juncker Plan have supported **12,187** Latvian small and medium businesses.



€12.2 billion invested in Latvia over 2004-2020 under the European Structural and Investment Funds

€1 billion of additional investments mobilised in Latvia under the Juncker Plan since 2014

Since 2014, the EU has been providing structural funding equivalent to **65%** of all public investment in Latvia.

The EU invests the equivalent of **€2,815** per Estonian citizen in structural funding

The EU finances cohesion projects in Estonia to **85%** of their value


1.5 million people with access to better water networks


196,455 people with access to broadband

Key results of cohesion investments in the past decade


1,009 km of new or upgraded road

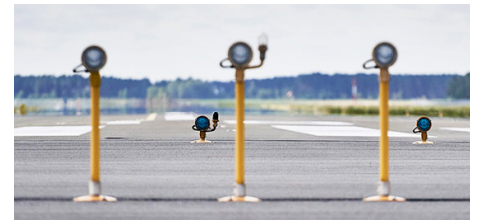

36 megawatts of additional capacity in renewable energy production



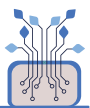
The EU is helping the University of Latvia build state-of-the-art research and study facilities in the new Torņakalns campus.



The EU financed the construction of new building for the Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital in Riga, improving the quality and accessibility of health care services in the country.



EU funds gave the Riga airport a makeover. It included runway renovation and new taxiways. This allows Riga to compete with airports in the region and beyond, and handle an ever-increasing number of flights.



BUILDING EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Latvia received €56.6 million under the EU research and innovation programme **Horizon 2020**. Within Horizon 2020, a programme called 'Spreading Excellence and Widening' is dedicated to capacity building in universities and research organisations. All Member States that joined the EU after 2004 can get financial support, create partnerships across Europe and build research centres under this programme. Latvia has received €12.6 million in this context.

Enlargement benefits all. By extending the Single Market, it opens new markets to companies in the EU and in the incoming countries. With higher income in these Member States thanks to EU investments, trade and investment opportunities increase everywhere in the EU. EU investments in these countries can contribute to jobs and growth in other Member States even more directly, when a company works as a contractor in an EU-funded project across the border.

For example, it is estimated that almost a third of the impact of Cohesion Policy on Germany's GDP comes from the funding programmes implemented in other Member States.

Finally, a larger Single Market is more attractive to investors worldwide: Foreign Direct Investment to the EU has more than doubled as a percentage of GDP since accession – from 15.2% of GDP in 2004 to 40.9% of GDP in 2017.