Urbanisation of knowledge economy in the Baltic Region

Emils Rode, MBA, Senior expert
Live Baltic Campus project

Riga 24 April 2017
When we talk about Rail Baltica, we need to talk about the cities it connects.
“Cities, like dreams, are made of desires and fears, even if the thread of their discourse is secret, their rules are absurd, their perspectives deceitful, and everything conceals something else.”

— Italo Calvino

(c) Gustav Klutsis. Dynamic City
Baltic States’ populations are highly concentrated in the capital cities.

Tallinn, pop. 444,000: 34% of EE
Riga, pop. 705,000: 36% of LV
Vilnius, pop. 543,000: 19% of LT
Kaunas, pop. 250,000: 9% of LT
Economy lives in metropolitan areas.
However, there is a cycle of unemployment...
...and depopulation

...with a ‘doughnut’ pattern of suburbanisation
The Baltics are only ‘Moderate Innovators’
...with R&D expenditure below EU average
Regional Quality of living

...and a middling quality of living

Source: PBL
Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency
Regional Quality of Living

- **GOVERNANCE**
  - Government effectiveness
  - Political stability
  - Banks

- **PUBLIC SERVICES**
  - Energy security
  - Internet
  - Connectivity

- **EDUCATION**
  - Education quality
  - Education quantity

- **HEALTH**
  - Healthcare
  - Food safety
  - Life expectancy
  - Environmental quality

- **PURCHASING POWER AND EMPLOYMENT**
  - Employment
  - Cost of living
  - Housing affordability

- **HOUSING**
  - Housing quality
  - Housing environment

- **RECREATION**
  - Culture and Restaurants
  - Recreation

- **SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT**
  - Safety
  - Personal freedom
  - Social cohesion

- **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**
  - Climate
  - Natural hazards
  - Nature

9 indicators; 25 sub-indicators

Source: PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency
Innovation potential is hindered by lack of affordable connectivity.
...even though the Baltic cities do have affordable connections – of sorts
While relatively well-connected by air...
...Baltic capitals are more difficult to reach by road
...or, obviously, rail
Lack of accessibility limits the available options – in work and in leisure
The knowledge economy has urban base
The knowledge economy is connected: case of Amsterdam

Knowledge economy plays out in knowledge places – like the campus...
... the co-working space
... the coffee shop
The university + the city = Synergy

Source: Willem van Winden, City&University: a Symphony for Progress
A new lifestyle of knowledge workers: Multimodality = Flexibility

More options and combinations:

- air
- + rail
- + automobile
- + public transport
- + bicycle
- + walking.
A Continuous City enabled by Rail Baltica?

Tallinn, pop. 444,000
Riga, pop. 705,000
Vilnius, pop. 543,000
Kaunas, pop. 250,000
Sum pop. 1,942,000

vs. Warsaw, pop. 1,749,000
vs. Berlin, pop. 3,671,000

Data source:
ESPON TRACC, 2012:
Accessibility models of
TRACC TPG,
FOGIS, IGiPZ PAN, RRG.
How does digital connectedness blend with physical co-presence?
And what will this even mean in 2035?

Landscape + Cityscape + Mediascape + Trainscape = Traveller’s Experience

Personal contact is still the key – especially so in knowledge economy.
Serendipity of unplanned meetings at high speed.
More productive time in transit.

(c) Bialystok
What are the needs of the future ‘knowledge travellers’?
...and how to translate them into passenger experience design?

"Engineering and architecture are useless without service design. There is no point investing in the pure physicality and technicality of any public service infrastructure if the service aspect is not well thought through and well planned.

- Dr. Pansak, Chief advisor to the Prime Minister of Thailand

We can plan ‘for’ them...

PROJEKTA AKTIVITĀTES:

1. jaunas ielas būvniecība 680 metru garumā, savienojot Jelgavas un T. Hermanovska ielas un radot priekšnoteikumus arī LU attīstības plānu nodrošināšanai;
2. T. Hermanovska ielas tunelā izbūve zem dzelzceļa līnijas Rīga – Jelgava, nodrošinot Multimodālā transporta mezglā un LU kvartāla ciešu saskaņā ar Āgenskalna apkomi;
3. regionālās autoostas laukumu un ēku izbūve, paredzot, ka arī Torņakalna dzelzceļa stacijā tiek pārcelta, veidojot vienotu satiksmes mezglu. Multimodālajā transporta mezglā tiks integrēta arī “Rail Baltica” vietējā savienojuma “Rīgas centra – Lidosta” stacija;
4. stāvparka izveide, kas pirmajā kārtā paredz aptuveni 300 vietu izveidi vieglā automašīnu novietošanai.
...or plan ‘with’ them
An emerging infrastructure of Civilisation

Seamlessness and simplicity. Rail Baltica as leader in customer service. Train station as starting point of a smooth journey. Next step: lateral connections

(c) www.baltictravelservices.com
How can we bring this future closer?

By exploring, discussing, imagining together.

(c) Doors of Perception

By exploring, discussing, imagining together.
Save the date:
Livable City Forum Riga + Schmaeling Conference
‘Architecture of Knowledge Economy’
05 + 06 October 2017

Live Baltic Campus
www.livebalticcampus.eu

Emils Rode
emils.rode@gmail.com
“You take delight not in a city's seven or seventy wonders, but in the answer it gives to a question of yours.”

— Italo Calvino

(c) Ludolfs Liberts – a view of St Marco Square