

FOUR FUTURE SCENARIOS FOR RĪGA AND RIGANS IN 2020

DEMOGRAPHY/IDEOLOGY¹

The main driving force are changes in the socio-demographic make-up of the Rīga population, organisation methods of various social groups and related ideological, moral and political positions taken by people as well as the way they communicate them and their world-views. Rīga is particularly open to the global processes, especially to migrations, and is unavoidably a multicultural place. Development is mainly influenced by factors such as demography, ideas and values. There is rapid growth and transformation of population. Most of the increase in population is due to immigration from other countries. The metropolis is diverse and multi-layered, even chaotic, and vibrant. Construction is dominated by the open-source approach. Public space and the outdoors are planned with great care. Public space, for that matter, is very open and multi-functional; it can host nearly all types of socialisation: recreation, entertainment, work, shopping, doing business or simply promenading. Both the newer and the older quarters develop in such a way that they can be used flexibly. For example, building of skateboard ramps and courts and playgrounds is actively encouraged. Public space is increasingly used for organising outdoor activities and events of various types during various times of the year. Rīga has a lot of greenery. It isn't confined to parks: the spaces around buildings and waterlines are greened, thus creating pleasant surroundings for families with children, pets, and so on. These outdoor spaces also need to be easily and safely accessible for pedestrians. The territory of Rīga is a lot bigger than in 2007.

People try out various opportunities of self-expression and growth. There is a maxim, "do many things, and be liked by many". Ethnic Latvians look for ways to protect their identity. Feeling that the global processes are out of their control, some people express their frustration in racist attitudes, decreased tolerance or by creating narrow groups of like-minded individuals and even areas in various parts of Rīga. A number of various social groups materialise their perceptions of history through constructing memorial places and monuments in the public space.

Because of the social and cultural diversity, decision-making and specific actions to be taken both in the public sector and sometimes in the private sector have to be harmonised with a whole range of existing traditions, values and subcultures. Another factor in the decision-making process are the results of comprehensive, highly analytical and speedily implemented social research projects (sometimes several alternative ones in relation to one decision), which consist chiefly of expositions of future scenarios while paying lesser amount of attention to past events. The research projects are carried out and presented by social lobbying groups, while the public administration commissions or carries out research when a very specific need arises. It is vital to choose relevant criteria for making decisions that affect future development, therefore these criteria attract important debate. In analytical work, the evaluative aspects are emphasised. It is realised that *ethical viability* should be as

¹ Partly relevant to Copenhagen and Amsterdam.

important or even precede *financial feasibility* during decision-making. Liberal arts, humanities, cultural studies, internationally oriented training, psychology, urban sociology are among priorities. Rīga has an internationally renowned university/college of social disciplines and humanities, attended by students from various countries.

A central EU institution/centre is located in Rīga. Rīga becomes part of the international activity-sharing network and provides services, e.g. to Turkey, Belarus, the Ukraine and the countries of Central Asia. Thus, Rīga often invites and houses international project managers of various specialisations. Also this is a place where project managers and creative individuals can reside (perhaps not for the entire year though) if they want to live in a big city and still avoid huge metropolises and hyperstress; Rīga can offer moderate climate, Nordic-style orderliness and relative peacefulness.

The international involvement and the multi-ethnic make-up of the population means that most of the people can use at least 2+1 languages (two as their basic ones and a third one also regularly used, e.g., at work or during leisure). At least a third of Rīgans use more than three languages. The local TV content is created not only in Latvian and Russian but also in English, Arabic, French, Spanish and possibly Swedish. The TV channels are mostly specialised (e.g., football; nature; English literature) and several of them are multilingual.

Rīga has become City Latvia, i.e., no less than 60 per cent of Latvian governmental and administrative functions are carried out here. A "Rīga Ministry" has been created, or there is special legislation that outlines the interactions between the municipal authority of Rīga and the Latvian government. Rīga follows a nearly independent policy in the sectors of internationalisation, culture and economics, which is reflected in its agreement with the national government comprising X (perhaps, 14) articles that may never be breached. The Rīga local elections are as important, or even more important, than the elections of the Latvian parliament. All of the nationally important commissions and committees include special representatives of Rīga. The main political rivalry and the taking of the roles of the ruling and the opposing forces is usually divided between the Rīga municipal authority and the Latvian parliament.

RESOURCES/DEMOGRAPHY²

This scenario emphasises the use of various resources (energy, space, environment, geography, climate, transport and so on) to achieve a certain standard of living for Rīgans, while the main driving force are changes in the sociodemographic profile. The development is expected to revolve around the demographic trends and availability of resources, and the manner they are utilised. Among the things considered important are: jobs, housing area per person (sq. m), new construction, types of construction and materials used, transport infrastructure and topology of housing areas. Energy consumption per capita and per household, efficiency of public transport. Creating of green areas and maintaining of cleanliness are important. While the total number and density of population continue to grow and the threat of a

² Typical of Helsinki.

significant climate change and creation of excess waste persist, the environmental considerations become central both for consumers and for industrialists. Zero-waste technology, new and renewable materials, waste treatment technology, efficient accounting and application ("*just in time and amount*") assisted by the use of IT systems (e.g.: electrical devices switch off if nobody is in the room – standard application), optimisation of transport flows (traffic intensity information and forecasts allow to choose the most appropriate route; switchable lanes and directivity of roads and streets as a function of traffic intensity; also results in energy savings) and application of energy-saving building materials.

Globally, the climate becomes warmer and also prone to quick changes, however drastic changes and a sharp rise in the sea level have not occurred yet. The capricious weather and further consequences, such as frequent flooding of the Daugava, stimulate the population to move to areas situated inland. Because of its moderate climate and relative environmental cleanliness, Latvia is still attractive as a potential residence for populations of countries where the climate is dryer and hotter. They tend to purchase homes, mostly flats in Rīga, where they spend some parts of the year. Healthcare and medicine pose no problems. The only significant threats are unpredictably mutated viral diseases and bacterial endemics that can very quickly spread, especially in a city.

Natural and mathematics-based social sciences, such as economics, management science, social psychology and quantitative sociology are supported. Universities and colleges have organised programmes for various age groups; it is common to see not only young students but also middle-aged and even senior students. The programmes, except for the graduating years of doctoral studies, are modular. Instead of a great number of departments, each university has only three or four: natural and life sciences; humanities and social sciences; management science. Both BA/BSc and MA/MSc programmes are "rainbowed": instead of one discipline, such as sociology, students pursue several domains, e.g., urban psychology and welfare policy.

Migration is purposely regulated and managed through the use of public policy and economic instruments. There is a special attention in terms of public policy toward specific social groups of Rigans (the disabled; young mothers; childless married couples, etc.). A significant amount of jobs is provided by the infrastructure sector (construction, planning, logistics, architecture, etc.).

There are robot servants used only by the upper classes. Robots, however, are widely used in manufacturing; the percentage of highly skilled workforce has grown and left an impact on the social stratification of Rigans.

The city's ideology in terms of public policy is focused on increasing the welfare among various classes and social groups. Mainly it is social engineering and planning for the infrastructure needs in areas such as the daily life, work, recreation and transport. The criterion of efficiency is the degree to which certain very specific social goals have been reached while ensuring an optimum use of resources. Population growth is moderate and its main source is people arriving from other regions of Latvia.

The various parts of the city have developed in a balanced way; within Rīga, there are practically no more territories that could be called degraded. They have been transformed into high-class residential and business areas and manufacturing sites, or hubs of creativity and entertainment. Rīga doesn't have particular ethnic quarters, however it is a multiethnic city dominated by people who are racially European. Ethnic Latvians tend to be in the city during the weekdays and to leave for the countryside during weekends. The urban entertainment and recreation venues are mostly used by non-Latvians, visitors and long-term migrant workers.

The demographic change and the increased life expectancy has warranted a redefining of age groups: one's youth may stretch out up to 45 to 50 years of age; "old age" is divided into more distinct stages or even completely redefined (85 years of age is considered an average). The young have embraced the global capitalism and become rather disinterested in politics; most of their aspirations are directed toward improving of their own standard of living, favouring of business and even opportunist attitudes. When one reaches their middle age, their familial roles tend to alter significantly; it is chiefly a matter of choice whether to continue in the role of a mother or father respectively; the main basis for creating a family is social partnership instead of marriage or blood relationship (e.g., a mother and her son may, and even typically do, live in separate households). The actual form of marriage also is an open choice. The increased life expectancy and low birth rates "stretch" the family along the axis of time and promotes replacement of more "horizontal" extended relationships (aunts, uncles, cousins) with more "vertical" relationships (great-grandchildren, great-grandparents). As a consequence, the character and availability of jobs is suited to the demand created by people of very varied age groups.

RESOURCES/TECHNOLOGY³

The key developmental considerations are: technological opportunities, introduction and economical use of new types of resources. The economy centres on IT, energy, and biotechnology as well as on financial and various other services interwoven with high technology. In the realms of education and research, the branches of life sciences, material science and mathematics are particularly promoted. Rīga is known for its highly developed, laboratory-based experimental research facilities and various institutes. A leading EU research institute operates in Rīga. Although most of the scientific exchanges are conveyed with the help of telecommunications, Rīga is also a favourite and regular host of seminars and scientific conferences.

Data processing and communications have become an integral and inalienable part of all aspects of people's daily lives. 95 per cent of homes are fully digitalised (use of sensors and integrated terminals). Integrated information processing and telecommunications solutions permeate the financial, military, healthcare, government and transport sectors. Data processing and communications vitally rely on demands for secure and reliable technology. Most of the IT equipment has become mobile and very compact, and there is no cable mess because of the ubiquitous wireless connectivity. If there are fixed connections/terminals, then those are related either to use in public space or to specialised types of utilisation (e.g., large-scale data processing and server functions). Printers, copiers and fax machines have become a

³ To a significant extent relevant for Warsaw.

rarity and are used only for rather specific needs (such as creating embossed printouts); they are embedded within other infocommunications devices or terminals. Information is almost always handled and used digitally (textual, audiovisual and 3D formats).

The financial institutions serve a wide assortment of functions while acting as 'one-stop shops': they not only manage people's personal finance and assets but also collect and retrieve information, fill in administrative paperwork and handle everyday legal, administrative, directory lookup and consultation services.

The urban development policies do not focus on group identities. Rīga's interests include attraction of scientific talent, and students from various countries are trained at the local schools and universities. The ideology of the city's public policy is rather conservative. Rīga is noticeably "inward-looking": external marketing and attraction of outsiders is done selectively.

The central areas have basically eliminated the need for private cars because public transportation can take you everywhere faster. There are dedicated lanes for public transport; the network of stops and stations has been expanded; the lines are planned in a way that minimises the need for the passengers to change; change facilities appear comfortable and up-to-date. The vehicles are low-floor and electric-powered thus guaranteeing elimination of noise, savings of energy and reduction of pollution. There are alternative means of transport as well. There are bicycle lanes and bicycle renting facilities throughout the city that allow to park the bike wherever your journey ends. The population of Rīga is 600,000. The ratio of the population of Rīga versus the population of Latvia has lowered. The numbers of economically and professionally active residents are down, but the retirement-age population is up both percentage-wise and in absolute numbers. Rīga is still the main centre of events in Latvia, however most of the active Rigans have chosen to live in its agglomeration. People's daily routines do not require them to travel to other parts of the city or suburbs. There is a road fee for motorists who wish to travel to the historical central area of Rīga or use the bridges of the Daugava. The river is used not just by recreational boats but also for carrying business passengers. One such line connects Andrejsala with Podraga Street.

People are conscious of the impact they make on the environment and of the potentially growing pollution generated by the city, therefore waste management issues receive appropriate attention. The entire city avails of the waste sorting principle at the point when waste is collected. There are nature-friendly facilities for composting, for handling large-size waste and for sorted waste in every district of the city. The large waste disposal plants near Rīga handle waste processing and produce renewable energy (biogas). Thus they are self-sufficient in terms of producing enough electricity for running the waste handling operations. The more advanced ones even sell their surplus energy to customers in Rīga. Saving and monitoring of resources is carried out in a very thorough manner. Whenever decisions of public importance are made, aspects of energy-efficiency and potential savings are carefully considered.

Social and professional activity is pervaded by use of technology, and management of people's behaviour is carried out by highly technologised means. There are no cubicles or separate offices at workplaces; there are only dedicated rooms for

presentation and workgroup needs. Many organisations do not have (do not find efficient) permanent offices, and this encourages the use of mobile and virtual offices; the organisations rent workspace for certain hours or days at libraries, cafes and from other businesses that 'are able to offer such services'. Another option comprises seminar facilities both within the city and outside it; meetings are held during the day, but in evenings they address a different sort of functions. Libraries may offer workspace for businesses, for information handling and even for research activity; they are basically digital archives serving their customers; "information parks" act as hubs creating and attracting groups of people and businesses that work with information, analysis and consultations.

Cafes have become multi-functional: during daytime they accommodate business activity by renting space and equipment for meetings, conferences, appointments as well as desks for individual professionals who need library or database access services. In evening they transform into multi-functional entertainment venues offering music, film, internet and happenings. There are also semi-private cafes/social clubs, which provide the function of more confined human networks.

It is quite expensive to live in Rīga because of the costs of environment-friendliness and application of energy-saving technology and materials. A lot of people feel additionally strained because of their financial debt, which prevents them from "relaxing and unwinding". The highly structured lifestyle and relative lack of social interaction have given rise to mental illness, in particular to schizophrenia and depression. Suicide rate is quite high. There is a new class of outcasts: "the formerly successful". Risk of outbreaks of viruses requires a lot of attention and practical healthcare procedures for boosting one's immune system; so does the spread of allergy-related illnesses. People experience mental ailments because of the urban stress and suffer from "microneuroses"; depression is common, as is behavioural addiction to "anti-depressant" self-therapy; new vocational diseases occur, mainly in connection with computer use. Another type of disorders is related to overuse of rejuvenation procedures (surgery, fitness, medication, food supplements and biologically active substances).

Global terrorism threat persists, and urban areas are considered the riskiest. In their daily lives, Rigans encounter frequent security procedures and various checks. People have to accept the limitation of civil liberties because they realise that the security of the entire community may be at risk. Identification technologies allow tracking virtually all individuals' behaviour on a nearly 24/7 basis, nearly everywhere.

TECHNOLOGY/IDEOLOGY

This scenario of development of Rīga is centred on a technological revolution and resulting use of technology that runs in parallel and interacts with a rapid diversification and transformation of ideas, world-views, values and underlying principles.

Rigans are offered an immense variety of services, which brings maximum convenience into their daily lives. There is tight competition in the markets of services and products, and businesses can differentiate themselves only by offering added value. Financial operations offer personalised solutions to their clients up to resolving

their household and child-minding problems. Some Rigans prefer quality free time to earning more money and spend it with their family or enjoying themselves. People working in traditionally formal areas now have flexible working hours. For businesses, their employees and their customers are always the priority. Technology development has fully equipped the people for teleworking from outside the city. Rīga retains the main role as a place where socialising takes place. Teleworking from one's home is very popular. Working hours and job-related tasks intermix and sometimes intervene with personal time and activities.

Many Rigans, apart from their "real reality" also enjoy the virtual reality at *secondlife.com*. The two realities are actively inhabited both by individuals and organisations, the latter doing so mostly for marketing purposes. Therefore, it becomes increasingly harder to distinguish between these two worlds. There appear certain complicated models of human relationships. Some people who have been frustrated with their real lives tend to succumb to the easy opportunities of *secondlife.com* and gradually withdraw from real-life activities.

Having good health is one of the main criteria and objectives of a successful person. Healthy lifestyle is encouraged by the rich infrastructure of Rīga. It is very common to see people engaging in sports and fitness-related activities. There's an advanced ferry port and yacht harbour. Many Rigans are fond of yachting and other types of leisure activity on the water.

The society is largely based on networking according to focused interests instead of the earlier localised communities (which continue to exist to a very limited extent and are a minority) as well as on rather rigid sociodemographic divisions. Due to the increase in the so-called multitasking, the daily life has become very complex. The people are presumably in greater control of their lives however unavoidably there come moments when they seek to put the blame on others. The perception of an increased control over the providers of consumer services and employers means that the people are more aware of the criteria of whether they like or dislike the jobs they have to do. This is also accompanied by a quest for self-realisation and human dignity against the background of a significant loss of honourable and dignified virtues in the society. Self-actualisation promotes an ever-increasing desire to compete and even brag, which changes the distinction of what is private and what is public. Intimacy is confined to feelings while behaviour seems to be exempt from it (e.g., sexual behaviour is not considered something intimate; demonstrating it isn't deemed unacceptable; by contrast, feelings and personal experiences are seen as deeply private). Since their employment status is so changeable, instead of pursuing a profession or a course of education, people have to relentlessly toil for their reputation and personal "brand" in all professional levels and areas (this, quite naturally, also includes training courses for personal "brand-building" according to various needs and situations). Technologisation means that recreation and work have become one and that focusing on just one of them at a particular moment is confined to a narrow range of professions and situations.

Education has been reformed and doesn't require meeting in person as often (both among students and professors) because of the comprehensive digitalisation: lectures are taped and books take the form of videos comprising interactive tasks. Lectures are some kind of exceptional and ritualistic thing (e.g., presented by guest lecturers).

Tête-à-tête contact is characteristic of small groups and seminars. Students can hand in their work in a variety of formats including audiovisual. Scheduled face-to-face meetings are interspersed with remote tutorials (computerised videotelephony). Students spend a large part of their training participating in project groups, both virtual and real ones. It is rare when professors actually *write* books or articles; a scientific bibliography now includes filmed presentations and discussions. Universities and colleges may organise consortiums where one lecturer has tenure with several of these establishments at once or perhaps with yet another body of intellectuals/educationalists, for instance, a PPP institution. Professors not doing any applied or consultation work are an exception. It is required to include representatives of universities and colleges into implementation, monitoring and evaluation committees of large public works projects.

Ideological battles and conflicts are sorted out with the help of technological innovations or reaching out to people. A vast amount of public debate is devoted to issues related to the use of technology. Migration of population is characteristic of certain strata, mainly of scientists, administrators and intellectuals. There is planning of migration and even strict although indirect control of it.

Political communicators favour internet-based and mobile technology in order to create improvised and rapidly changing virtual communities. Because of the disappearance of educational barriers for participating in the political debate, political communications are practically one and the same with marketing communications; the devices of political branding (issues, organisations, strategies, action plans) compete with communications of commercial nature on a full scale and in its entire meaning. Individual creators of 'networked news' as well as certain tightly knit groups (working in all types of media including video coverage and organising of political panel discussions) have fundamentally displaced the influence of the 'large' media, which, having been marginalised, concentrates on niche markets. Any issues may be offered as important to the society resulting in formation of all sorts of virtual entanglements and confrontations. Fragmentation of the society has helped the ideas of anarchism to firmly establish themselves among people. Everyone can quickly find a firm 'stance', but then again rapidly forget the old 'news' and 'issues' in the stream of information. Criticism and scepticism are common in the society and are even ascribed a high value (e.g., instead of "*the customer is always right*", the new paradigm is "*we like being criticised by you*"). Concurrently with focusing on various specific social issues, it is widely encouraged to take interest in societal processes and 'theories', some of which have even become more popular than management theories. The civic identity equals consumer identity: "*I vote by consuming certain products*". There is an increase in liberalism, knowledgeable and cosmopolitan thought paired also with readiness to take a firm stance including certain consumption-related behaviour. The chief ideological discussions have shifted their focus from the past and history (i.e., what happened, why it happened, what resulted from it) to the future and related predictions. Events and processes are meaningful in the sense of what they will result in and not in what they have resulted from. The general public considers history an amalgam of fiction, various scenarios and versions.

The wealthy class prefers homes that have zero impact on the environment: all of the energy needed is obtained from renewable resources, and household waste is recycled and reused. Socio-economic inequality has definitely increased because of varying levels of digital literacy ('knowledgeable and has access' versus 'lacks knowledge and

access') and the mass commercialisation generated by the media (popularity correlating with rent-seeking behaviour). People communicate their ideology by purchasing goods and services from corresponding brands. For the wealthy native Latvians in Rīga it is important to buy domestically produced food, including biologically pure products. It is one of the very few ways of expressing national loyalty and resisting the universal unification processes of globalisation.

Globalisation transforms Latvia into a mere name for a territory, while Rīga ceases to be the centre of a region and becomes part of a network of the world's cities where, basing on background of older architecture, culture and traditions, there is a lot of experimentation with ideas and technology. Rīga creates various widely applicable technologies that become successful around the planet; however there also arise heated debates regarding the social and moral consequences of implementing those technologies.

EVALUATION RESPONSE

The four imaginary scenarios of future development of Rīga were presented to a panel of experts of various fields (see the annexed listing), asking them to provide their opinion on the likeliness and appropriateness of each scenario and to deliberate various factors affecting the future of Rīga. The evaluation included grading of the scenarios on a 10-point scale (1 – worst; 10 – best).

LIKELINESS OF THE SCENARIOS

Scenario	Grading
Resources/Demography	6.6
Ideology/Technology	5.2
Resources/Technology	5.1
Ideology/Demography	4

Apparently, the Resources/Demography scenario was evaluated as the most likely and even very probable; the least likely, yet at the same time still quite probable, was the Ideology/Demography scenario.

The Resources/Technology scenario proved to be the most controversial among the panel; the least controversial: the "winning" Resources/Demography scenario. Analysing particular aspects of the scenarios, the most controversy arose specifically concerning the impact of technology.

APPROPRIATENESS OF THE SCENARIOS FOR RĪGA

Scenario	Grading
Resources/Demography	6.9
Resources/Technology	6.1
Ideology/Demography	5.2
Ideology/Technology	4.3

The Resources/Demography scenario was deemed the most appropriate for Rīga (very appropriate), while the Ideology/Technology scenario came out as the least appropriate. The grades of appropriateness of the scenarios are slightly higher than the likeliness grades, however the difference is minimal. It should be noted that the Ideology/Technology scenario, which was graded as quite likely, is also the least appropriate for Rīga, while the combination of resources and technology got a higher grade in appropriateness than in likeliness.

Looking at the two charts simultaneously, we can see that according to the experts the technology-related scenarios are the most controversial ones but the resource-related ones are the least controversial.

On weighting the various aspects separately, the highest weight in terms of likeliness was ascribed to resources followed by technology, demography and ideology. From the point of view of appropriateness the ranking was: resources, demography, technology, ideology.

The dimension of resources was considered the most likely and the most appropriate; ideology came out lowest, however not without a certain amount of controversy.

As evidenced below, this scene is somewhat contradicted by the expert evaluation of the impact of various change factors on the future of Rīga in which shifting ideology becomes important since changes in the society's values were considered the second most influential factor (after the population increase). Below is a list of the most influential factors that could affect the future of Rīga.

Changing factors	Average grade
Vast population increase (at least by 30 per cent)	8.77
Changes in the society's values	7.66
Immigrants from other countries (arriving in Rīga)	7.55
Impact of technological innovations on the mechanisms of the public sector	7.50
Fragmentation of the society	7.33
Changes in the ethnic make-up	7.00
Migration to Rīga from other parts of Latvia	6.77
Impact of technological innovations on people's everyday life and privacy	6.55
Advancing of creativity in business	6.44
The relative amount of contribution by Rīga to the national economy	5.88
Significant changes in the structure and organisation of the financial sector	5.66
Full computerisation of everyday life	5.60
Redefining of the paradigm of "family"	5.60

The experts ascribed the biggest potential of impact to demographic processes, such as size, migration and structure of the population and to social processes, leaving technology in the third place. A number of other factors were also mentioned.

Ecology and environmental consciousness of people; pollution/contamination; halting of the change in the use of energy resources; development of large culture-related buildings and promotion of arts and culture; revitalisation of various parts of Rīga (the port area, the Latgales administrative district and Bolderāja); abolishment of visas for travelling to/from the CIS incl. Russia and a general increase in tourism; soaring prices of real estate; increase or decrease of the importance of heavy industries (e.g., the port of Rīga);

Rīga's participation in the international activity-sharing network; global terrorism threats; changes in the age structure of the population.

When commenting on individual scenarios, the experts said the following about the **Ideology/Demography** scenario:

- The most utopian scenario. For this to come true, at least two existing generations have to leave the stage and their children should be brought up by someone or anyone else instead of the people currently living in Rīga and Latvia. It can be agreed that Rīga is transforming into Greater Rīga, reaching out until the Cēsis district, etc. The life in Rīga will become more and more stressful and unbearable; everyone with a proper level of education who earn their living in white-collar jobs will live elsewhere.
- On the whole, it sounds interesting, however I don't think it's likely that there will be Arabic or French television programmes created in Latvia, etc. Knowing and using 2+1 languages seems positive.
- Development is mainly influenced by factors such as demography, ideas and values. Rīga is open to global processes.
- It may be true that families will be disappearing as a form of household, however to me it is unacceptable.
- Who among the politicians is going to admit in such a wave of immigration? Where do the immigrants come from, the west or east? – this will depend on the economic development.
- Rīga should be promoted as a regional metropolis by attracting the headquarters of world-leading educational, scientific, business, political, cultural and arts institutions.
- If we discard latvianness, then such a "Baltic Babel" scenario is quite real, which could make Rīga exceed the confines of merely Baltic significance. However it will hardly be accepted by the entire population and politicians despite its advantages from the business point of view.
- Rīga will lack "greenness"; the public space will be filled with new construction, which decreases its openness and creates a sense of tension when moving around. Migrants from Russia will be the most numerous, if immigration and employment barriers are lowered. A leading EU institution will be here; I also agree on the idea of 2+1 languages and on the idea of "[Rīga is] 60 per cent [of Latvia]", and on Rīga transforming into Greater Rīga.

Evaluation of the **Ideology/Technology** scenario

- Too futuristic for Rīga in 2020.
- The most likely scenario because technology is indeed very rapidly developing.
- People will increasingly be technology-dependent. The younger generation will stop reading and writing by hand in 10 years time. Sharp marginalisation, based on social divisions and levels of education.
- This scenario contains a lot of positive aspects that are mentioned in the portrayals of other scenarios.
- The psychological risks should be mitigated, in order to make this scenario sustainable.
- This one is quite realistic, however only somewhere later in the future; too much influence is ascribed to "virtual reality" aspects. Working from home will spread quite quickly and will be accepted as a necessary and adequate solution in many situations.

Evaluation of **Resources/Demography**

- On the whole, a quite likely scenario.
- Planning of infrastructure seems utopian specifically because of corruption. The section on education is realistic. Life expectancy will not increase in the nearest future because for some 10 more years we will continue to see employee burnout and increase in drug use.
- I can hardly believe that Rīga will not have any areas in decline/dilapidation. Around 2020, the soviet-built concrete block houses (e.g., in Ķengarags) will start to fall apart in large numbers. However, the people living there, most of whom are immigrants or descendants of immigrants, may lack flexibility to adapt to changes.
- Positive about university education, modular courses, etc.
- Positive about the functions of banking institutions, optimisation of traffic directions and waste handling.
- Basing the growth only on the local resources is very risky because it can increase the risk of becoming an underdeveloped region. Adequate standard of living may not be reached.
- Appropriate for a small country and ecological system. The current state of our economy and patterns of thought will not allow this to come true earlier than after 3 or 4 decades.
- The total population will grow, however changes in its density will only appear due to population movements: there will be new clusters where people will choose to live and work in one and the same area (district, quarter) so that the need to commute is reduced. Extending of young age until 45 is okay, however it pertains to all of these scenarios, including to the one based on ecology and wireless technology. There won't be uniform development in the various districts of Rīga: the development-oriented areas are Mežaparks, the nearer areas of Pārdaugava, Skanstes Street, Rumbula, Andrejosta and Lucavsala. Other areas may encounter degradation.

Evaluation of **Resources/Technology**

- A very realistic scenario.
- Realistic, but in my opinion no earlier than around the year 2030.
- "The central areas have basically eliminated the need for private cars because public transportation can take you everywhere faster." It is very similar to what we are seeing now.
- You may want to add the impact of IT use on traffic organisation. Virtual offices as well as working and studying from home will reduce the use of transport and the public transportation will hence be less overcrowded. On the condition that local centres are created in Rīga, several databases, which are insufficiently interconnected at the moment (SRS, Customs, Population, Property, Mortgage registers) will become integrated with each other. Too futuristic; it can be envisioned only for 40 to 70 years from now. I don't think this is feasible for Warsaw.
- Science (engineering) will not progress significantly in Latvia because of the small number of scientists, lack of finance in the budget. The bicycle routes will not become popular because using a car is more convenient and people are lazy. The growth of salaries in Rīga will warrant a population increase to 900,000 in the year 2020. A number of new residential neighbourhoods will be constructed allowing "easy" living (see Motives). This scenario potentially has a great future, if only the description were substantiated with slightly different ideas.

Several experts noted that the scenarios did not outline the business/economy landscape of Rīga in 2020.⁴

The overall conclusion of the evaluation of the various proposed dimensions of the future of Rīga is that **the most unanimously singled out as significant and likely to have an impact are the demographical processes: migration, change in the numbers and structure of the Rīga population as well as related social transformations.** In the ideological dimension, the evaluation was that **a change in the values in the society can have a significant impact, also related to issues of national identity.** Technological development received controversial evaluations. On the one hand, the experts exercised caution and some of them said that the scenarios are too utopian to be realistic in 2020⁵, but on the other hand in a similar number of responses it was said that technology-driven changes are quite realistic. Moreover, a lot of comments were received regarding the technological aspects of development, such as traffic optimisation and working environment and organisation. The Ideology/Demography scenario elicited a lot of strong comments from the experts, however it did not receive ratings as one of the more appropriate or more likely scenarios. Possibly this scenario seemed the most interesting among the four presented to the experts.

⁴ The scenarios were from the very start presented as descriptions of the social environment, therefore the structure of economy was not expanded upon. Nevertheless, the need to correlate it with economy is relevant and ought to be treated in the future.

⁵ This requires to comment that the technological predictions included in the scenarios are overwhelmingly inferred from global trends as well as that the technological change during the last 15 years has indeed been the most rapid one. This may mean that the experts are sceptical about determining such a change specifically in Rīga.