# State of the art: challenges regarding rare disciplines in Latvia

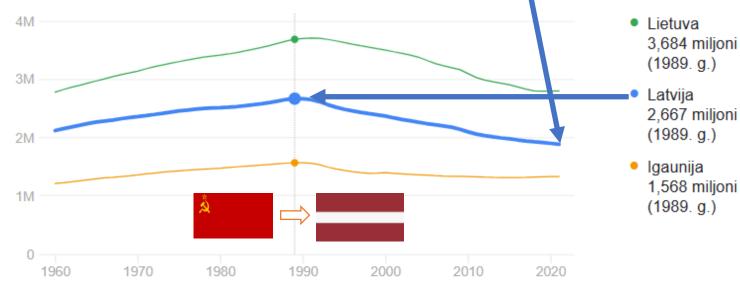
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senior researcher, Faculty of Education, Psychology and Arts, University of Latvia
research interests: educational management, quality of education



Denmark

## Context

### 1,884 millions inhabitants (2021)



- 30%
  inde
  ixembourg

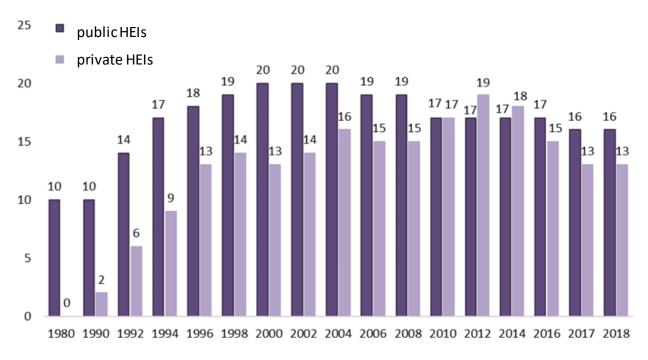
  Czechi

  Prague

   nega
  - 30% population loss during 30 years after regaining independence
  - negative birth saldo
  - negative net migration rate

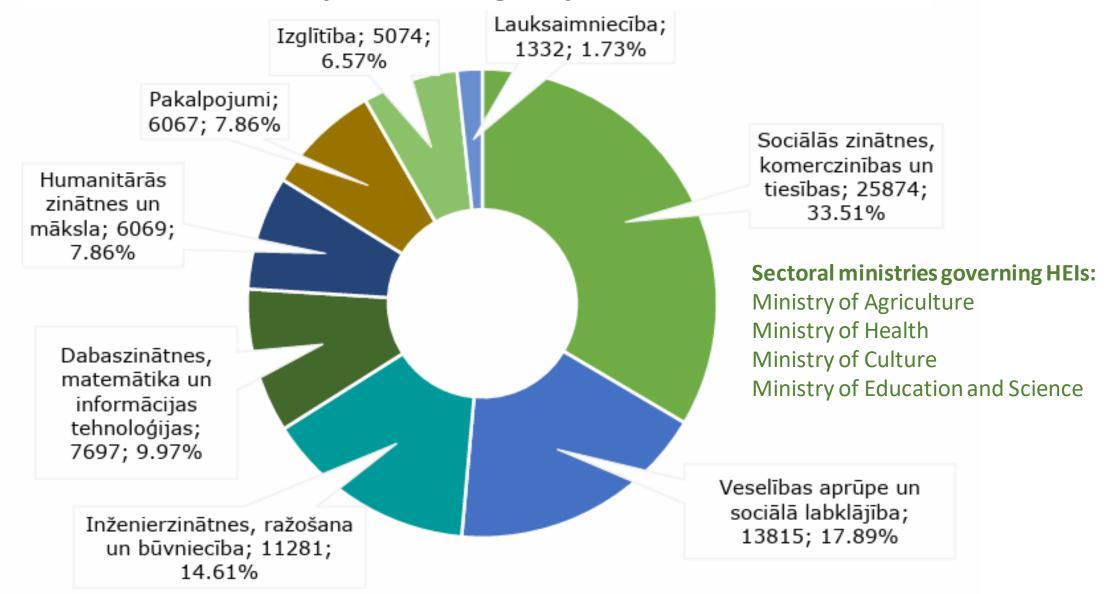
## Expansion of higher education sector after 1989

#### Number of HEIs in Latvia (1980-2018)



- transfer from elite higher education to mass higher education
- need to reeducate society (transfer from planning economy to market economy)
- studying social sciences much more popular than studying STEM
- Impact of social & economic changes upon society (first ensuring living, then marrying & child bearing)
- public funded higher education now purely in Latvian
  - Latvian 52%, Russian 34%, other 14% (1989)
  - Latvian 62.7%, Russian 24.5%, other 12.8% (2021 est.)
- secondary schools in Russian were common private higher education institutions established
  (accomodating students wishing to study in
  Russian, as well as students that can not study
  (competition) in public HEIs)
- Competition culture among HEIs fostered

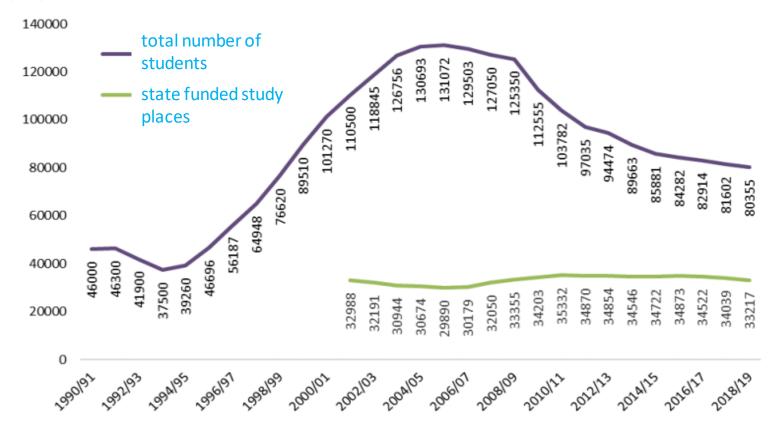
### Students by thematic groups of education



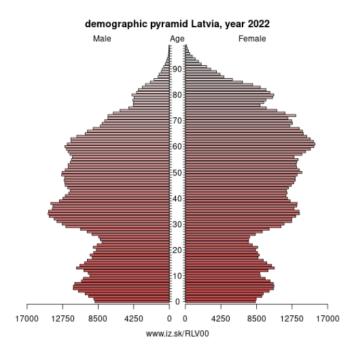
Source: Main statistical data on higher education in Latvia, 2023 - https://www.izm.gov.lv/lv/media/18744/download?attachment

in 2004: with more than 130 000 students on 2.2 million people living in Latvia, Latvia is in one of the leading positions in Europe in student numbers/inhabitants

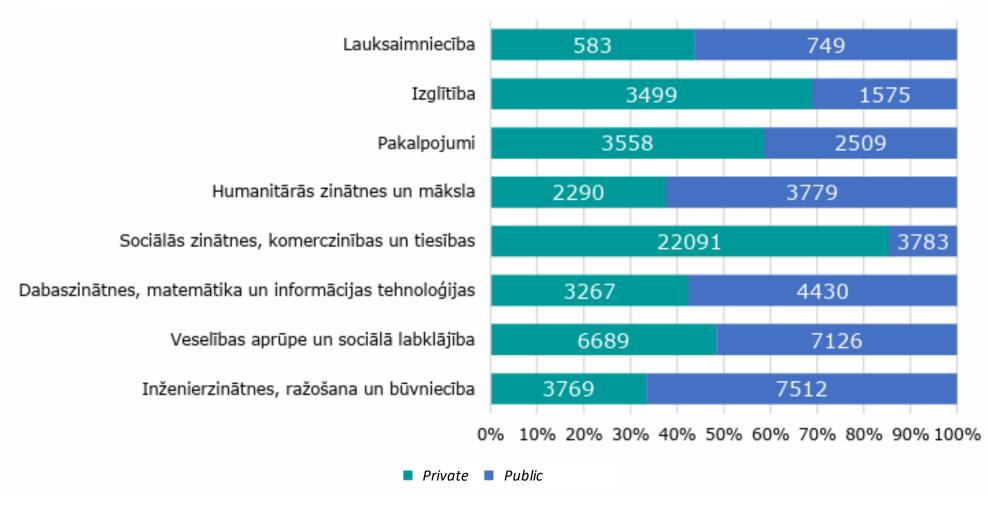
#### Dynamics of Student Numbers in Latvia 1990-2019



in 2021/2022 there are 77 000 students in Latvia. There are 15200 students at the largest - University of Latvia



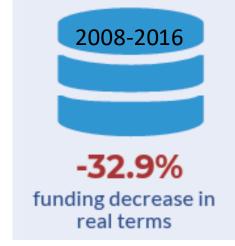
## Students by thematic groups of education and type of funding



Source: Main statistical data on higher education in Latvia, 2023 - https://www.izm.gov.lv/lv/media/18744/download?attachment

## Financial austerity for higher education

- 2008/2009 financial crisis
- Covid
- Energy crisis (after Covid-2021)
- RU-UKR war (refugees, sanctions on collaboration with Russia)





funding decrease despite economic growth



funding decrease higher than student numbers decline

EUA Public Funding Observatory 2019/20 -Country sheets: Latvia

## Managing austerity

### Approach to allocating public funding:

- annual block grant, with no restrictions to the allocation, but strings attached (output)
- HEIs may keep the surplus without any restrictions
- tuition fees
- managing real estate
- borrowing money

#### Table 4 Financial autonomy ranking

Rank	System	Score   Financial autonomy
1	Latvia	90%
2	England (UK)	89%
3	Scotland (UK)	80%
4	Estonia	77%
5	Luxembourg	75%
	Romania	75%
7	Flanders (BE)	74%
8	Switzerland	72%
9	Georgia	71%
10	Italy	70%
	Portugal	70%
12	Czechia	69%
	Denmark	69%
14	Slovakia	68%
15	Finland	67%
16	Netherlands	66%
	Slovenia	66%
18	Ireland	63%
19	Lithuania	61%
20	Iceland	60%
	Poland	60%
22	Austria	59%
23	Sweden	56%
24	Spain	55%
25	Wallonia-Brussels Federation (BE)	54%
26	Croatia	46%
27	Brandenburg (DE)	44%
	France	44%

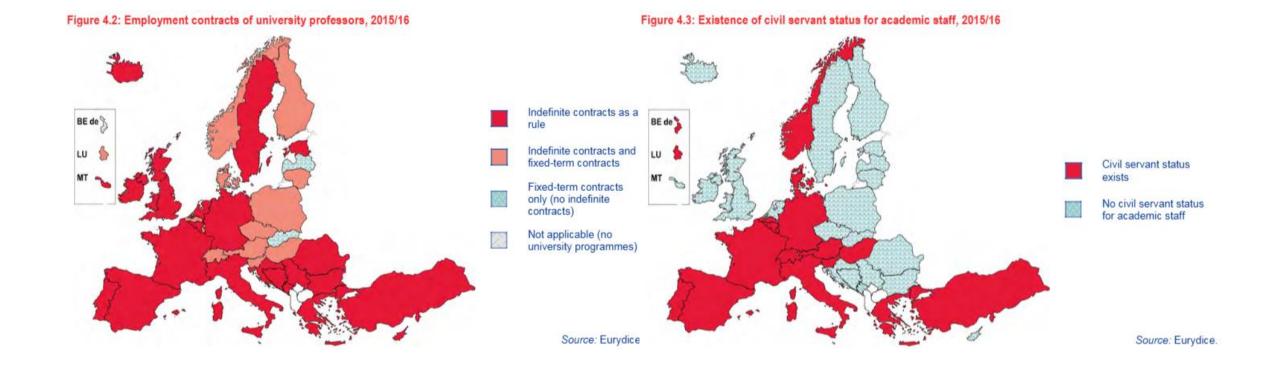
## Impetus for closing down disciplines

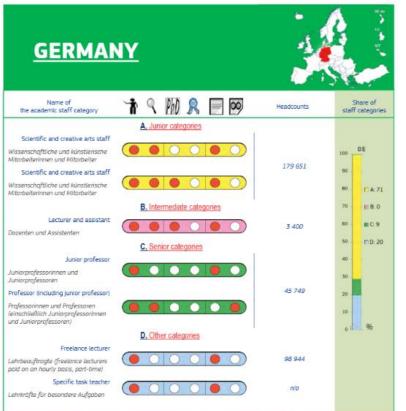
In combination with *Medium low academic autonomy* -> public funded study places funded to 70% only

- STEM are more heavily funded than humanities & social sciences
- specialization of HEIs (new typology research universities, applied universities, applied HEIs, HEIs of culture and arts)
- performance based funding -> institutional lump sum funding
- initiatives funded by ministry for eliminating redundant disciplines
- public HEI mergers from 20 at the highest point in 2004 to 10 public HEIs) in the nearest future

New HEI governance – boards deciding on funding and strategy of the HEIs, Senate decides only on academic issues

University of Latvia, one of the largest **public** HEIs, 20% of total student body of Latvia, 44% public funding, total institutional income - 117 millions, Humanities, Social Sciences & Natural Sciences+Medicine.





Scientific and creative arts staff ➤ Assistant / Lecturer ➤ Junior professor ➤ Professor

Teaching and research temporary staff Attaché temporaire d'enseignement et de recherche (ATER) B. Intermediate categories Tenured assistant professor, Tenured Maître de conférences, Assistant titulaire Associate assistant professor Maître de conférences associé Secondary school teachers in higher education 72 702 Enseignant du second degré C. Senior categories Associate university professor Professeur des universités associé University professor Professeur des universités (PU) D. Other categories 0 0 0 0 0 Source: Eurydice, statistics based on MENESR-DGRH, 2016 (reference year of data: academic year 2015/16). Source: Eurydice, statistics based on Statistisches Bundesamt, 2015 (reference year of data: 2015).

#### Typical career path:

**FRANCE** 

the academic staff category

PhD candidate with a doctoral contract

Doctorant contractuel assurant des

missions d'enselanement

and teaching assignments

PhD candidate with a doctoral contract and teaching assignments ► Teaching and research temporary staff ► Tenured assistant professor > University professor

† < M R ■ 9

A. Junior categories

Headcounts

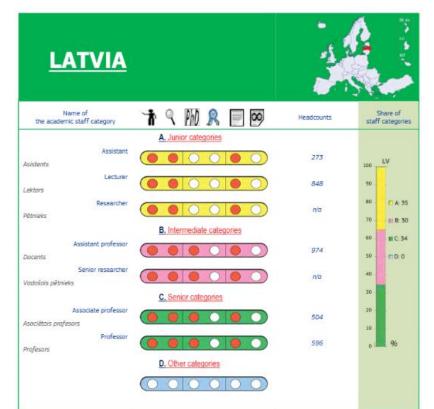
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Typical career path: Assistant ▶ Lecturer/researcher ▶ Assistant professor/Senior researcher ▶ Associate professor ▶ Professor

number of professors and associate professors in Latvia

Atrasti rezultāti: 1265 **Eksportēt (XLS)** 



Source: Eurydice, statistics based on IZM, 2016 (reference year of data: academic year 2015/16).

## <u>Potential data contributor?</u> State Education Information System of Latvia

https://www.viis.gov.lv/index.php/registri/

#### Izglītības programmas

Sākums 🕟 Izglītības programmas

Šajā reģistrā Jūs varat meklēt izglītības programmas.

○ Vispārējā izglītība ○ Profesionālā izglītība ● Augstākā izglītība ○ Profesionālās ievirzes	izglītība 🔘 Interešu izglītība
Izglītības iestāde	
lzglītības veids	~
Izglītības programmas joma	~
Izglītības programmas grupa	~
Studiju virziens	~
Īstenošanas vietas pašvaldība	~
Citi meklēšanas kritēriji	
Izglītības programmas nosaukums	
Izglītības programmas kods	
Īstenošanas valoda	~
Studiju realizēšanas veids	~
legūstamais grāds	~



## Study Direction in Latvia:

Language and Culture Studies, Mother Tongue and Language Programs

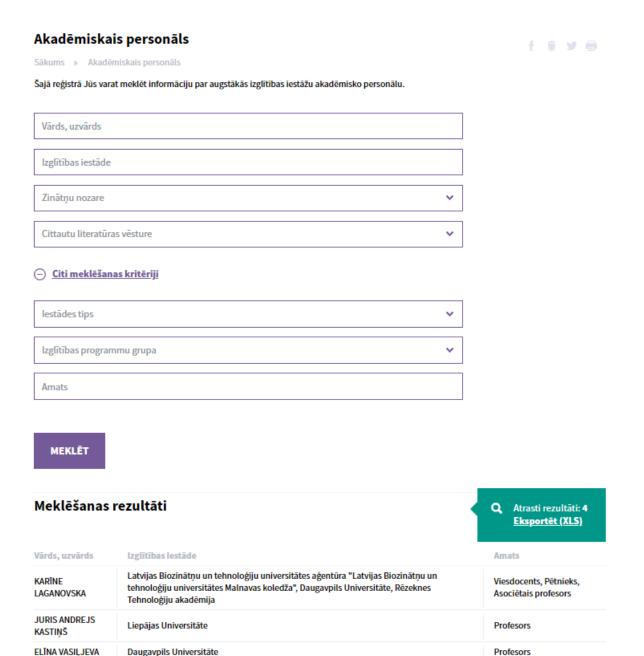
#### Meklēšanas rezultāti



Izglītības iestāde	lzglītības pakāpe	Izglītības programmas kods	Licences Nr./ID	Izglītības programmas nosaukums
Latvijas Universitāte	Augstākā izglītība	43222	LU22515	Somugru studijas
Latvijas Universitāte	Augstākā izglītība	43222	LU22523	Āzijas studijas
Latvijas Universitāte	Augstākā izglītība	45222	LU22533	Orientālistika
Latvijas Universitāte	Augstākā izglītība	43222	LU22530	Krievu filoloģija
Latvijas Universitāte	Augstākā izglītība	45222	LU22503	Krievu filoloģija
Latvijas Universitāte	Augstākā izglītība	43222	04047-18	Baltu filoloģija
Latvijas Universitāte	Augstākā izglītība	45222	04047-19	Baltu filoloģija
Latvijas Universitāte	Augstākā izglītība	43222	LU22514	Franču filoloģija
Latvijas Universitāte	Augstākā izglītība	45222	LU22531	Romāņu valodu un kultūru studijas
Latvijas Universitāte	Augstākā izglītība	43222	04047-20	Klasiskā filoloģija
Latvijas Universitāte	Augstākā izglītība	45222	04047-21	Klasiskā filoloģija
Latvijas Universitāte	Augstākā izglītība	43222	LU22513	Vācu filoloģija
Latvijas Universitāte	Augstākā izglītība	45222	LU22517	Vācu filoloģija
Latvijas Universitāte	Augstākā izglītība	43222	LU22529	Angļu filoloģija
Latvijas Universitāte	Augstākā izglītība	45222	LU22516	Angļu filoloģija
Latvijas Universitäte	Augstākā izglītība	45222	04047-42	Baltijas jūras reģiona studijas

# Academic personnel of Latvia:

Literature of foreign countries



Vadošais pētnieks

INGARS GUSĀNS

Rēzeknes Tehnoloģiju akadēmija

## Conclusions (in form of questions)

- What do rare disciplines mean for small countries like Latvia? *ensure* continuous functioning of the country by supplying the educated workforce..critical mass..academic inbreeding..
- How to identify rare disciplines in the country-specific context of Latvia? *small in absolute numbers, profesional/academic HE programs, non-tenured professorships, interdisciplinarity...*
- How to apply the knowledge gained from identifying rare disciplines?
   policy recommendations..

## Thank you!