

THE EUROPEAN FOOD PASSPORT PROJECT

SCHOOL PROFILE

COUNTRY: LV

Name of School: Rīgas 1. speciālā internātpamatskola
Riga Special Primary Boarding School No.1

Head teacher: Laila Lapina

Co-ordinator: Ainars Beitiks

Number of students: 163

Age of students: 7 yrs-21 yrs



Brief Description of School

Riga Special Primary Boarding School No.1, established in 1923, caters for 163 mentally handicapped pupils between the ages of 7 to 21. The pupils who attend the school all have special educational needs - mostly with mild, moderate and some pupils with severe learning difficulties. A number of children are with behavioural difficulties. When behaviour difficulties do arise, they are dealt with on an individual basis.

The school is located in the centre of Riga. It is part of the municipal school system of Riga and also part of the Latvian general education system.

Each person is cherished as an individual, whose ability, potential and needs are recognised and nurtured. The teachers, support staff provide a challenging, sensitive and caring environment, which fosters personal, social and academic development, independence and achievement.

The school offers broad and balanced curriculum relevant to our pupils needs.

SERVICES TO SCHOOL

A free school meal is available to all pupils.

Transport costs are covered.

Swimming is provided free of charge.

The use of one mini-bus.

CLINIC SERVICES

Pediatricist, psychiatrist, psychologist, speech therapist, social teacher, nurse, social workers.

Parents are welcome to visit school at any time. Cooperation between home and school increases the chances of success.

The emphasis for pupils is placed on developing independence and life skills, to develop skills which can be applied to work.



Riga, the capital of Latvia, was officially founded in 1201. By 1282 the city was granted admittance into the powerful Hanseatic trading league of predominantly German towns, allowing Riga to flourish. Since that time Riga has been a free town, part of the Polish-Lithuanian kingdom, part of the Swedish empire, part of the Russian empire and part of the USSR. This has always led to Riga being a cosmopolitan and ethnically diverse town, a fact reflected in today's population which comprises of only 45 percent Latvian people.

Riga is in fact the largest city of the Baltic states, despite a relatively small population of 800,000. It has a large Old Town (Vecriga), which stretches alongside the Daugava river, and boasts a number of historic monuments, the most striking of which are the Doms Cathedral and St. Peter's Church; whilst the area of Riga referred to locals simply as 'the centre' is famous for its Art Nouveau (Jugendstil) architecture. The Historic Centre of Riga as a whole is included on the UNESCO world heritage list.

Riga is also home to two of Latvia's largest academic institutions, the University of Latvia and Riga Technical University; it houses the Latvian parliament (Saeima); boasts the largest airport in the Baltics - Riga International Airport.

Over the centuries life may not have been easy for the people of Riga, but it must have been dynamic and interesting. The city's citizens realised that they lived in the established centre of the region, and they organised a very busy public and social life. Photo about Riga <http://www.citariga.lv/LV/?page=304>

Co-ordinator Ainārs Beitiks

