

The WHO Country Office Latvia was established in 1991 in Riga to serve as a direct link between the Government of Latvia and WHO. The Country Office is the focal point for WHO activities in Latvia and the Country team consists of 2 staff members. After independence in 1991, Latvia initially moved to create a social health insurance type system. However, problems with decentralized planning and fragmented and inefficient financing led to this being gradually reversed, and ultimately the establishment in 2011 of a National Health Service type system. The main causes of death in Latvia are diseases of the circulatory system, malignant tumours and external causes.

## Latvia

Capital: Riga

Geographical size: 64.562 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 2.001.468 (2014)

Population as % of total EU population: 0,4 % (2014)

GDP: â,- 23.372 billion (2013)

Official EU language(s): Latvian

Political system: Parliamentary Republic

EU member country since: 1 May 2004

Seats in the European Parliament: 8

Currency: Eurozone member since 1 January 2014

Schengen area member? Yes, Schengen Area member since 21 December 2007

Presidency of the Council: Latvia holds the revolving presidency of the Council of the EU for the first time in 2015

Total population (2013)	2.050.000
Gross national income per capita (PPP international \$, 2013)	22.970
Life expectancy at birth m/f (years, 2012)	69/79
Probability of dying under five (per 1 000 live births, 0)	not available
Probability of dying between 15- and 60-years m/f (per 1 000 population, 2012)	224/85
Total expenditure on health per capita (Intl \$, 2012)	1.188
Total expenditure on health as % of GDP (2012)	6,0 %

<http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/member-countries/latvia/>

<http://www.who.int/countries/lva/en/>

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/latvia>

Ministry of Health: <https://www.vm.gov.lv/lv>