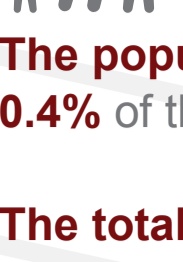


DIVERSE LATVIA



The population of Latvia is only **0.4%** of the total EU population.

The total land area of Latvia is **64,600 km²**. It is approximately 5 times smaller than Germany and 2 times larger than Belgium.

The flag of Latvia is one of the oldest flags in the world. 13th Century Livonian Order Chronicles reference the use of the red white red flag that we still use today.

The national coat of arms combines symbols of Latvian national statehood as well as symbols of ancient historical districts.

Latvia has over **1.2 million dainas (folk songs)** from over a thousand years ago. They define and distinguish unique Latvian culture.



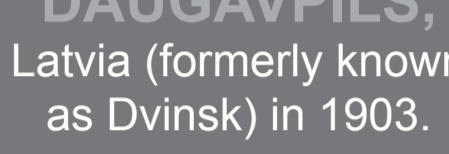
Latvia is **THE ONLY BALTIC COUNTRY WITH ITS OWN WINTER CIRCUS.**

The winter circus was built more than 100 years ago in 1888.

GENERAL FACTS ABOUT LATVIA



The historic centre of Riga, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, is widely recognized as having the finest collection of **ART NOUVEAU/ JUGENDSTIL** buildings in Europe.

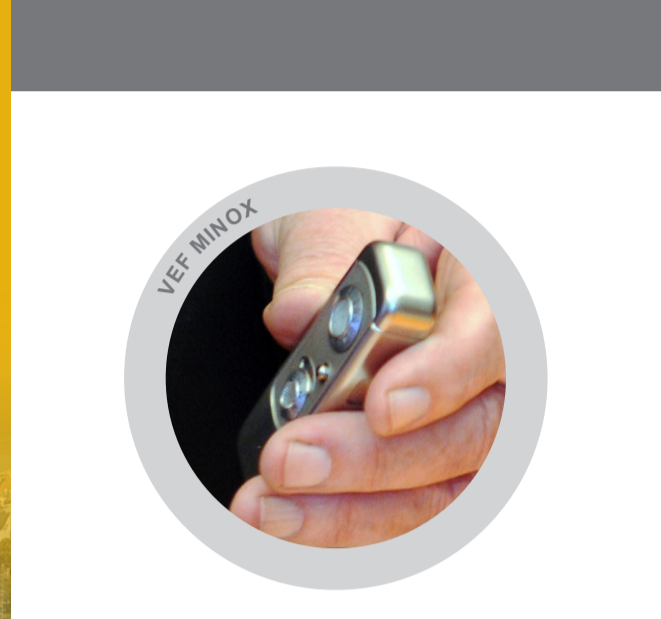


One of the world's best known artists, abstract expressionist **MARK ROTHKO**, was born in **DAUGAVPILS**, Latvia (formerly known as Dvinsk) in 1903.



The Riga Central Market (Centrāltirgus), also part of UNESCO's World Heritage designation, is **THE LARGEST MARKET AND BAZAAR IN THE BALTICS AND ONE OF THE LARGEST OPEN-AIR MARKETS IN EUROPE** (72.3 thousand m²).

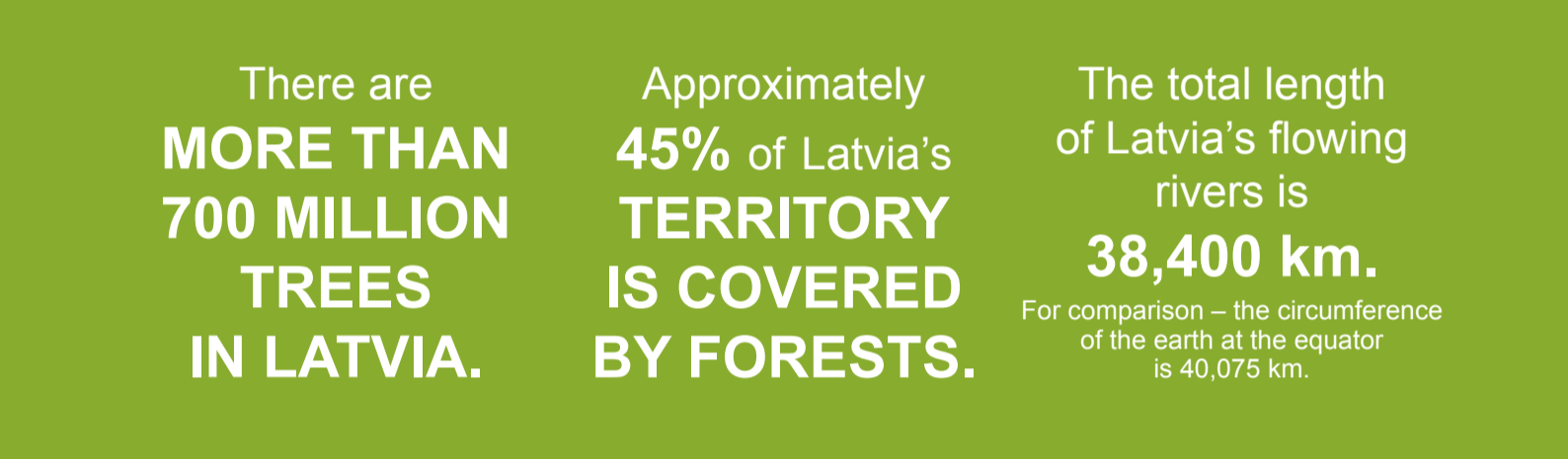
The main pavilions were completed in 1930 by reusing old World War 1 Zeppelin hangars.



The Latvian factory VEF (Valsts elektrotehniskā fabrika) manufactured **THE WORLD'S FIRST MINIATURE CAMERA – THE VEF MINOX** from 1937 to 1943.

The Minox was notorious as a spy camera and today is a popular collectible. It was invented by Baltic German Walter Zapp.

LATVIA AND ITS NATURAL RESOURCES

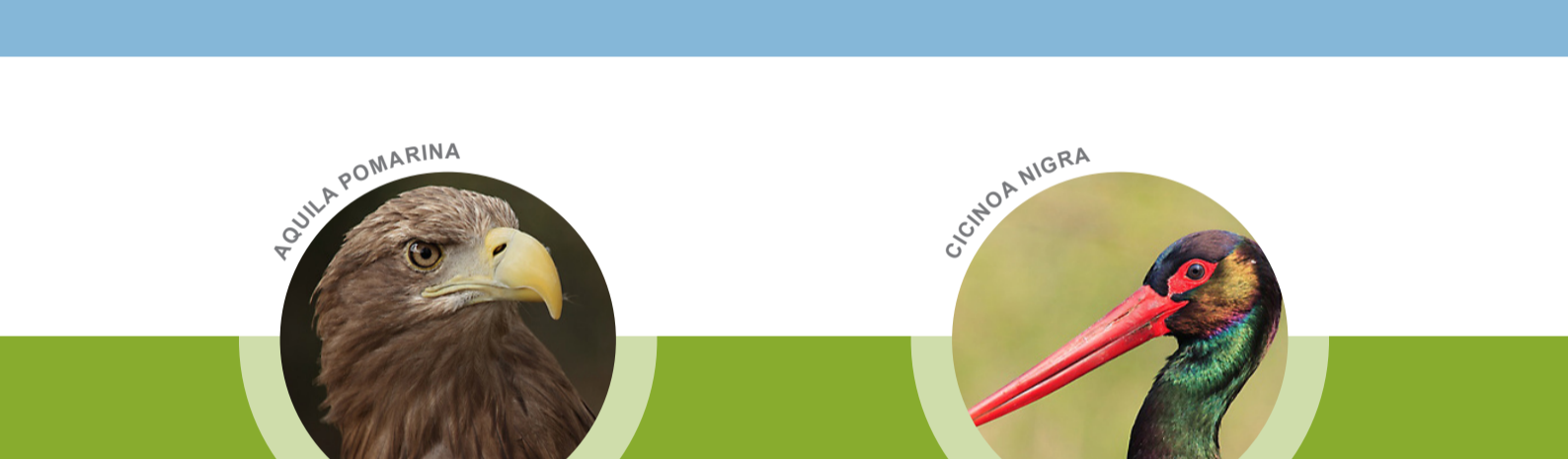


There are **MORE THAN 700 MILLION TREES** IN LATVIA.

Approximately **45% of Latvia's TERRITORY IS COVERED BY FORESTS.**

The total length of Latvia's flowing rivers is **38,400 km.**

For comparison – the circumference of the earth at the equator is 40,075 km.



Latvia ranks **4TH IN THE EU FOR FRESHWATER RESOURCES.** Latvia has **20,000 m³ OF FRESH WATER PER PERSON.**



AVIOLA POMARINA

95% of the world's **LESSER SPOTTED EAGLES** nest in Europe – **ABOUT 20% OF THEM IN LATVIA!**



CICONIA NIGRA

5% OF THE WORLD'S BLACK STORK POPULATION LIVES IN LATVIA.



MORICSALA NATURE RESERVE IS ONE OF THE OLDEST PROTECTED AREA IN THE EU founded over 100 years ago.



Latvia has fascinating Devonian red sandstone formations, **THE ONLY ONES FOUND ALONG THE BALTIC SEA...**

They are known as: Veczemju, Zivtiņa, Ēzurgas and Tūjas atsegumi (rocks).



THE WIDEST NATURAL WATERFALL IN EUROPE (249 meters wide), called Ventas rumba, is in the lovely city of Kuldīga.



The Sabile Wine Hill above the Abava River is **THE WORLD'S NORTHERNMOST OPEN-AIR VINEYARD***

* as stated in the Guinness World Record Book.

LATVIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN E-GOVERNMENT

3

We have **THE 3RD FASTEST INTERNET IN THE EU.**

[Akamai annual study]



At the same time we have **THE CHEAPEST FAST INTERNET IN THE EU.**

[Digital Agenda Scoreboard]

4

Latvia holds **4 OF THE EU IN THE USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS.**

[Digital Agenda Scoreboard]



We have **THE LARGEST MOBILE PHONE USERS IN THE EU.**

[Digital Agenda Scoreboard]

6

We have **THE 6TH FASTEST INTERNET IN THE WORLD.**

[Akamai annual study]



We have **THE LARGEST HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SUBSCRIBERS IN THE EU.**

[Digital Agenda Scoreboard]



RIGA – THE EU CAPITAL OF WIFI

Wifi spots in Riga and free WiFi network all over Latvia.

Connects You everywhere, for free – on taxis, trains, libraries and even on park bench.



Social network created in Latvia **WWW.DRAUGIEM.LV**

IS ~ 2 TIMES MORE POPULAR THAN FACEBOOK in Latvia.



Latvia has **ONE OF THE MOST TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT IN THE EU**

Online meetings of the Cabinet of Ministers and Saeima (Parliament).