

“Ventspils City Setting-up a Balanced Innovation Eco-system”

KEP seminar “Yes, local governments innovate!”

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Latvian ICT Sector



ICT Export
annual growth
30%



Number of ICT
companies
growing by
~10%
each year



ICT Industry
as one of
government
priorities



Ventspils – a Regional Centre of Transport and Connectivity

- ✓ Ventspils is a part of the European [TEN-T](#) transport core network, serving as a strategic transit network between the West and the East
- ✓ Connected to the international telecommunication network through two underwater optical cables and four major above-ground optical lines
- ✓ All major parts of Ventspils have optical cables' connection with a total length of 48 km

VENTSPILS: FACTS & FIGURES

Location: Northwestern part of Latvia, Kurzeme region

Total area: 55.4 sq.m.

Population: 38.9k

Core directions: Port and transport, Tourism and health resorts, Manufacturing, ICT sector

Number of ICT companies: 67 (2016)





Ventspils City Integrated Territorial Investment: Step-by-Step Approach

Ventspils ICT Development Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020

- ✓ Adopted in 2014, with an overarching objective to turn Ventspils into a European level hub for smart technologies
- ✓ By implementing the strategy Ventspils aims to turn ICT into one of the fastest growing and most export-capable sectors with potential to attract new labour force

**VISION: VENTSPILS – THE SMART CHOICE FOR LIVING,
EDUCATION, SCIENCE, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ICT**

VENTSPILS ICT STRATEGY STAKEHOLDERS	PRIMARY			
	MUNICIPALITY – VENTSPILS CITY COUNCIL	LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ICT COMPANIES	EDUCATION & RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS	INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES PROVIDERS
	SECONDARY			
	INFORMATION SOCIETY AND RESIDENTS			





Innovative Instruments and Regional Approaches of Ventspils City (1)

VENTSPILS DIGITAL CENTRE (ESTABLISHED IN 2003)

A public institution of Ventspils City municipality, which aims at:

- ✓ Facilitating the involvement of Ventspils municipality, residents and entrepreneurs in the information society and e-Government
- ✓ Forming, supporting, and developing the infrastructure of ICT
- ✓ Promoting correlation between education, science and production
- ✓ Developing a single united ICT infrastructure for all Latvian municipalities

Besides, in 2016 the VDC launched a municipality-funded ICT pilot project program for innovative ICT solutions in Ventspils

Until October 2017, 9 projects for 152k EUR in total have been supported

VENTSPILS DIGITAL CENTRE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- ✓ A wide range of ICT related after-school activities for students from 1st to 12th grade
- ✓ 40 study groups, 670 participants, and 17 themes in 2017/2018 academic year, such as the maintenance of software and data, basic 3D computer graphics, robotics, drone school, digital engineering laboratory, etc.

VENTSPILS ICT CHALLENGE

- ✓ A competition launched in 2016 for students from 1st to 12th grade to test their information technology skills
- ✓ 275 teams from 140 educational institutions in 2016
- ✓ In autumn 2017, the competition is being held at Baltic level
- ✓ Affiliates: The Information Technology Foundation for Education (HITSA) (Estonia) and Young computer User's school of Kaunas Technical College (INPUT) (Lithuania)





Innovative Instruments and Regional Approaches of Ventspils City (2): Industry-Based Vocational and Higher Education and Science

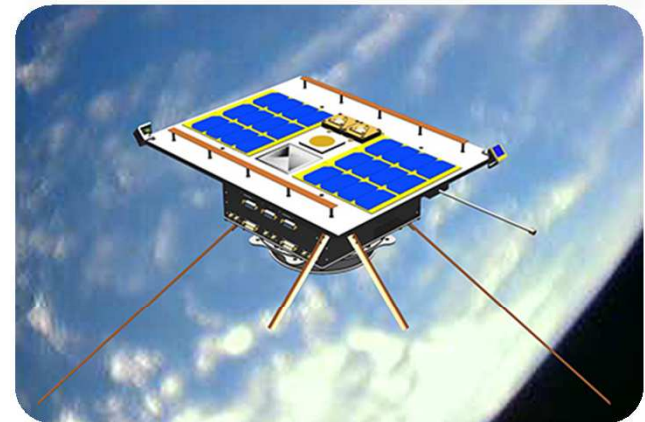
NORTH KURZEME PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION COMPETENCE CENTRE VENTSPILS TECHNICAL SCHOOL

- ✓ Secondary or post-secondary vocational education
- ✓ Provides qualifications of computer systems technician, as well as in electronics, mechatronics
- ✓ In perspective – development of qualifications of programming technician and in multi-media design
- ✓ Planned investment for ICT programmes via EU funding activities – 1.1m EUR
- ✓ Cooperation agreements (training, student internships) with leading businesses in Ventspils
- ✓ Leading partner in ICT programme development – Microsoft Latvia



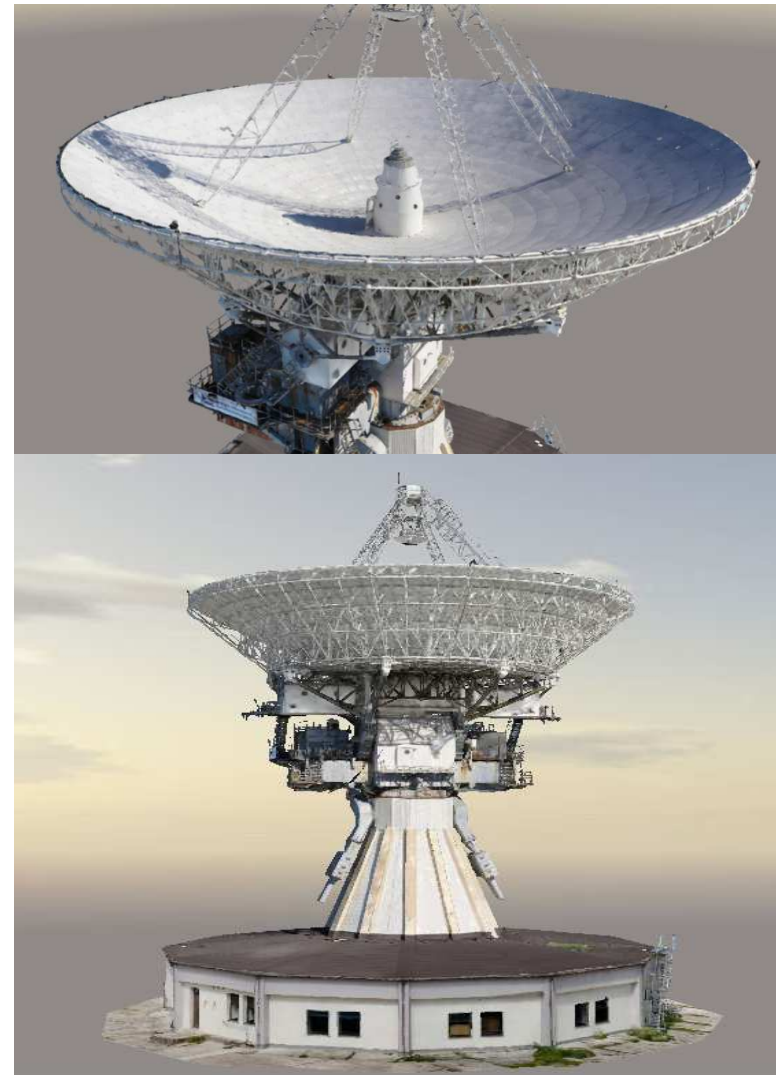
VENTSPILS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

- ✓ Founded in 1997 as a self-governing state university college and scientific institution. Its basic activity is to carry out scientific research and to implement academic and professional study programmes
- ✓ 3 study faculties with nearly 900 students, including over 250 students in the faculty of IT and electronics
- ✓ The IT Faculty offers 5 STEM study programs in the IT, computer engineering, electronics, telecommunication, computer management and computer science course
- ✓ Internationally recognised for its achievements in STEM: on 23 June 2017, via a carrier rocket from India the first-ever Latvian satellite Venta-1 made by VUC and Bremen University was fired into outer space



VENTSPILS INTERNATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY CENTRE

- ✓ Located in Irbene, the former Soviet Army campus, and is under the management of the Engineering Research Centre of Ventspils University College
- ✓ For scientific purposes there is a 32-m fully reversible parabolic antenna RT-32, the largest in Northern Europe and the eighth largest in the world, as well as a 16-m m antenna RT-16
- ✓ The whole Irbene facility complex works as a single mechanism according to e-VLBI international standard, and measurements are made in real time by streaming data to a joint data processing server





Ventspils City Innovative Instruments and Regional Approaches (3): Support Institutions for Transferring Knowledge into Action

Ventspils High Technology Park

✓ Encourages businesses, education, research and learning centres to develop their operation in Technology Park by using the opportunities provided by the development projects as well as by suggesting their own initiatives, ideas and new projects

Ventspils Business Support Centre

✓ Founded in September 2017 and complies with the ICT Development Strategy aiming to consult businesses currently located in Ventspils, as well as to attract dynamic technology companies that have great ambition for development, and to stimulate creation of new ones



SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CENTRE AND THE ADJACENT INFRASTRUCTURE (COMPLETION IN 2019)

Science centre (4519 sq.m.)

- ✓ 93 interactive stands in fields of physics, chemistry, geography, math, technology
- ✓ Revitalisation of a degraded urban territory
- ✓ Adopted practices of science centres in Europe, Asia and U.S.

Innovation centre (1986 sq.m.)

- ✓ Rental premises for young entrepreneurs, business incubator with particular support for ICT companies
- ✓ Creation of new jobs

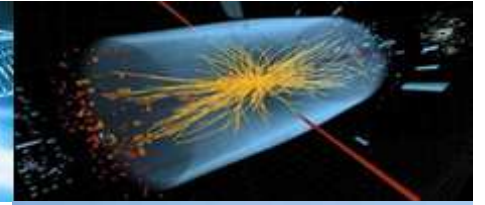




Ventspils City Innovative Instruments and Regional Approaches (4): Good Practice – HansaMatrix Ventspils in Cooperation with the City

- ✓ In 2005, started in Ventspils as Ventspils Electronics Factory
- ✓ Amongst the leading Nordic and Baltic electronic system development and manufacturing companies
- ✓ Ventspils factory produces router components, drones and other gadgets
- ✓ To satisfy the company's demand for skilled labour-force, the IT Faculty of Ventspils University College created a study department of engineering science, and Ventspils Technical School – a programme for electronic technicians
- ✓ In February 2017, HansaMatrix Ventspils opened new assembly line with a capacity for 60k components per hour
- ✓ Over 20 electronic engineers will be needed within the following two years





Thank you!

