



WAPES European Regional Conference

"Defending the Future: PES Collaboration with Defence and Security Sectors"

Riga, October 13th – 15th 2025

Practicalities



This WAPES event is organised in collaboration with our colleagues from the State Employment Agency Republic of Latvia.





Dates and venue

Monday October 13th, 2025

Welcome Cocktail

Place: TBD

Tuesday October 14th, 2025

WAPES European Conference

Place: Latvijas Nacionālā bibliotēka (National

Library of Latvia), Mūkusalas street 3, Zemgales suburb, Riga, LV-1423

Dinner

Place: TBD

Wednesday October 15th, 2025

WAPES European Conference

Place: Latvijas Nacionālā bibliotēka (National

Library of Latvia), Mūkusalas street 3, Zemgales suburb, Riga, LV-1423

Leisure activity

Place: Latvijas Nacionālā bibliotēka (National

Library of Latvia), Mūkusalas street 3, Zemgales suburb, Riga, LV-1423

Dinner

Place: TBD

Please note:

- ✓ Working language and interpretation
 - Working language of the conference will be English, interpretation will not be provided.
- ✓ Catering
 - Lunch and dinner will be provided to the participants registered for the Conference.

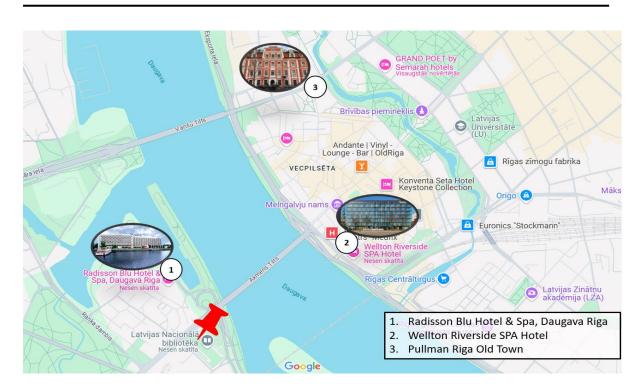




Location of the conference venue



Location of the hotels







Accommodation

A list of hotels is given here for your kind consideration.

1. Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Daugava Riga

Address: 24 Kugu Street

Link: https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-riga-daugava

The promo code is valid until 23rd September.

Online prices change daily, so the hotel offer a fixed price:

- 1. Standard Single for 1 person for 87.00 EUR per room per night
- 2. Standard Double for 1 person for 97.00 EUR per room per night

Reservations can be made via the website or by sending an email to the hotel.

Promo code - WAPES25

2. Wellton Riverside SPA Hotel

Address: 33, 11. Novembra krastmala, Riga, LV-1050, Latvia

Link: https://www.wellton.com/en/hotels/wellton-riverside-spa-hotel

The promo code is valid until 10th October.

Guests will receive an additional 10% discount when using the promo code.

The period of stay can be agreed in advance, for example: from 12.10.2025 to 17.10.2025.

Bookings must be made on the website.

Promo code - WAPES25

3. Pullman Riga Old Town

Address: Jekaba Iela 24, LV-1050 RIGA, Latvia

Link:

https://all.accor.com/hotel/9619/index.en.shtml?utm_campaign=seo+maps&utm_med_ium=seo+maps&utm_source=google+Maps

Online prices change daily, so the hotel offers a fixed price:

1. Superior Double for 1 person for 115.00 EUR per room per night

Promo code - WAPES25

To book, email: inga.gravite@accor.com with code: WAPES25





How to get to Latvia

Latvia is located in Northern Europe and is easily accessible by air, land, and sea. Here are general instructions for reaching Latvia depending on where you are coming from:

By Air (Most Convenient Option)

Latvia's main international gateway is **Riga International Airport (RIX)**. It offers direct flights from many European cities and some destinations outside Europe.

- **From Europe**: Direct flights to Riga are available from major cities such as London, Berlin, Paris, Amsterdam, Helsinki, Stockholm, Oslo, Rome, and many others.
- From North America: There are currently no direct flights to Latvia, but you can fly with one stop via major European hubs (e.g., Frankfurt, Amsterdam, or Helsinki).
- From Asia or Other Continents: Travel usually involves connecting flights via larger European airports such as Frankfurt, Istanbul, or Copenhagen.

Airlines commonly serving Latvia include **airBaltic** (Latvia's national airline), **Lufthansa**, **Finnair**, **Ryanair**, and **Wizz Air**.

By Bus

Long-distance buses are a reliable and budget-friendly option, especially from nearby countries.

- Operators: Look for services from companies such as Lux Express, Ecolines, and FlixBus.
- Routes connect Riga to cities like Tallinn, Vilnius, Warsaw, Berlin, and Prague.





How to get to the hotels

Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Daugava Riga (Kuģu iela 24)

From Riga International Airport (RIX):

- By Public Transport (Bus 22):
 - Take bus number 22 from the airport ("Lidosta Rīga") to the "Nacionālā bibliotēka" stop.
 - o The hotel is approximately **600 meters** from the bus stop.
- By Taxi or Ride-Hailing (Bolt):
 - o Estimated travel time: 15–25 minutes, depending on traffic.

From Riga International Bus Terminal (Autoosta):

- On Foot:
 - You can walk to the hotel in about 15–20 minutes.
 - Cross the river via the Stone Bridge (Akmens tilts).
- By Public Transport:
 - From the "Autoosta" stop, take tram number 1 or bus number 22 to "Nacionālā bibliotēka".
 - Walk 7 minutes to the hotel.
- By Taxi/Bolt:
 - Estimated travel time: 10 minutes, depending on traffic.

Wellton Riverside SPA Hotel (11. Novembra krastmala 33)

From Riga International Airport (RIX)

- By Public Transport (Bus 22):
 - Take bus number 22 from the airport (stop "Lidosta Rīga") to "Grēcinieku iela" stop.
 - The hotel is about 3-5 minutes' walk from the bus stop.
- By Taxi or Ride-Hailing (Bolt):
 - Estimated travel time: 15–20 minutes, depending on traffic.

From Riga International Bus Station (Autoosta)

- On Foot:
 - The hotel is just a 10-minute walk through Old Town along 11.
 Novembra krastmala.
- By Public Transport:
 - Not necessary unless you have heavy luggage—walking is faster.
 - o Alternatively, take tram 1 or bus 22 one stop to "Grēcinieku iela".
- By Taxi or Bolt:
 - Estimated travel time: 5 minutes, depending on traffic.





Pullman Riga Old Town (Jēkaba iela 24)

From Riga International Airport (RIX)

- By Public Transport (Bus 22):
 - Take bus number 22 from the airport ("Lidosta Rīga") to "11. novembra krastmala" stop (approx. 25–30 min).
 - From there, it's about 7–10 minutes' walk to the hotel through Old Town.
- By Taxi or Bolt:
 - o Estimated travel time: 15–20 minutes, depending on traffic.

From Riga International Bus Terminal (Autoosta)

- On Foot:
 - The hotel is about a 15-minute walk along 11. novembra krastmala and then up Jēkaba street.
- By Public Transport:
 - Take tram number 1 or bus number 22 from "Autoosta" to "11. novembra krastmala".
 - Walk 7–10 minutes to the hotel.
- By Taxi or Bolt:
 - o Estimated travel time: 5–8 minutes, depending on traffic.





How to Buy a Public Transport Ticket in Riga

If you are using public transport (buses, trams, or trolleybuses) in Riga, here's how you can buy a ticket:

1. Buy a Ticket via Mobile App (Recommended)

- Download the Rīgas Satiksme official app called "Riga Card" (Rīgas satiksmes koda biļete) or "Mobilly" (available on iOS and Android).
- Register and add your payment method.
- Select the type of ticket (e.g., single ride, 24-hour, 3-day).
- Activate the ticket before boarding.



2. Buy a Ticket from a Ticket Vending Machine

- Ticket machines are located at major stops and inside some vehicles.
- Follow the on-screen instructions (available in English).
- You can pay with cash or card.
- Keep the ticket and validate it after boarding (if required).



3. Buy a Ticket at a Narvesen or Other Kiosks

- Visit a Narvesen convenience store (many are near public transport stops).
- Ask for a "e-talons" (electronic ticket card).
- Choose the type of ticket: single ride, multiple rides, or time-based.
- The cashier will load the ticket onto your e-talons card.
- Validate the card when boarding by tapping it on the reader.







How to get from the hotel to the venue

Transportation from hotels to the venue will not be provided! Participants must make their own transportation to/from the venue to their chosen hotel.

Google Maps allows you to find different routes and directions for which public transport to take, but here are some suggested options:

From Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Daugava Riga



Approximately 9 minutes' walk.

From Wellton Riverside SPA Hotel



Approximately 15 minutes' walk across the bridge.



10 minutes by trolleybus 27 or trams 1, 5, 8, 10 from the stop "Grēcinieku iela" to the stop "Nacionālā bibliotēka".

Travel 1 stop.





From Pullman Riga Old Town



Approximately 25 minutes' walk.



It takes about 12 minutes to get to the stop.

Then take trolleybus 27 or trams 1, 5, 8, 10 from the stop "Grēcinieku iela" to the stop "Nacionālā bibliotēka".

Travel 1 stop.





Registration

To facilitate the organization of the meeting, we invite you to fill in the online registration form before July 25th, 2025.

Register here

This registration form is available in English.

Registration fees

There is no registration fee for Public Employment Services that are members of WAPES, as well as for invited collaboration partners.





Visa

Whether you need a visa to enter Latvia depends on your nationality.



You do not need a visa if you:

- Hold a passport from an EU/EEA country or Schengen Area
- Are from a country with a visa-free agreement with the Schengen Zone.

You can stay up to 90 days within a 180-day period without a visa.

X Visa Required

You need a visa if you are from a country without a visa-free agreement, such as:

- India
- China
- Most African and some Asian countries

You must apply for a **Schengen visa** before traveling.

How to Apply

- 1. Contact the Latvian Embassy or Consulate in your country.
- 2. Apply no earlier than 3 months before your trip.
- 3. You will need:
 - A valid passport
 - o Completed visa application form
 - o Photo
 - o Travel medical insurance
 - o Proof of accommodation (e.g. hotel or invitation letter)
 - o Invitation letter from the conference organizers (important!)
 - o Proof of sufficient financial means (e.g. bank statement)

Note:

- Processing time may take up to 15 days, so apply early.
- If there is no Latvian embassy in your country, contact the nearest Schengen country's embassy representing Latvia.





Cultural visit

A cultural visit will take place on Wednesday, October 15th, 2025, from 1:15 pm till 2:30 pm in The National Library of Latvia.

The leisure activity will take place on the second day right after lunch.

The National Library of Latvia offers guided tours of the library building, reading rooms and services.









About

Riga is located on the banks of the Daugava River, Riga is the capital of Latvia. It is known for its rich cultural life, diverse heritage and dynamic atmosphere that blends history with the present day.

The city's historic centre – Old Riga – is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to many of the capital's most notable landmarks. Within a compact area, it is possible to experience centuries of history through such sites as St. Peter's Church, the House of the Blackheads, and the Dome Cathedral. Alongside these, visitors will find museums, small galleries, and concert halls, which reflect Riga's vibrant cultural scene.

Beyond its historical core, Riga is a city of ideas and creativity. The Latvian National Museum of Art, the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia, and the Riga Art Space regularly host exhibitions that provide insight into the country's past and present. Contemporary culture is also visible in various public art installations, temporary exhibitions, and music events.

For those with limited time, even a short walk along the river or through one of Riga's central parks—such as Bastejkalns or Kronvalda Park—offers a chance to experience the city's atmosphere. Riga is also known for its green spaces and proximity to nature, which remain accessible even from the central districts.

From October 13 to 15, Riga typically experiences crisp autumn weather, with daytime temperatures around 10 to 13°C. Rain is possible, so a waterproof jacket or umbrella may be useful.

Sunrise is around 07:50 and sunset close to 18:20, offering just over 10 hours of daylight—enough to get a sense of the city's rhythm even during a short stay.

Whether through its historic charm, cultural offerings or seasonal ambience, Riga leaves a lasting impression even on a brief visit.

Time zone

Riga is in the Eastern European Time zone (UTC/GMT +2 hours).

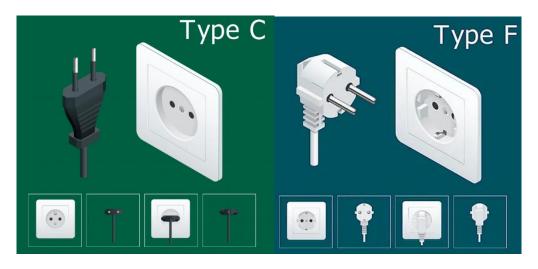




Electricity supply

The main voltage for electricity in Riga (and throughout Latvia) is 230 volts at a frequency of 50 Hz.

Type C and F electrical sockets are used.



Currency, banking, credit cards and ATMs

The official currency of Latvia is the euro (EUR). Exchange rates can be consulted on the Bank of Latvia's website at https://www.bank.lv.

The main means of payment are:

- International credit and debit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express) are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, shops, and other services, particularly in larger cities.
- Cash (euros only; other currencies must be exchanged at banks or exchange offices).

ATMs are available throughout Latvia, including in city centres, airports, and tourist areas, allowing for euro withdrawals with international cards. Some ATMs may charge a fee for foreign cards.

Latvia has a well-developed **banking system**, with local banks like Swedbank, SEB, and Citadele offering a variety of services. Most banks also provide **online and mobile banking**, allowing for easy access to accounts and payments.





Emergency number

- **112** The general emergency number for all services (police, fire, medical emergencies).
- 113 For medical emergencies (ambulance).
- 110 For police emergencies.
- 101 For fire emergencies.

These numbers are accessible from any phone, and calls to **112** are free of charge within Latvia. In case of an emergency, operators will assist in connecting you to the appropriate service.

Health services

The following health facilities are located near the venue

Closest hospitals:

Rīgas 1. slimnīca (Riga 1st Hospital)

Address: 5 Bruninieku Street, Centra District, Riga, LV-1001

Tel.: 67366323

Paula Stradiņa Klīniskā universitātes slimnīca (Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital)

Address: 13 Pilsonu Street, Zemgales suburb, Riga, LV-1002

Tel.: 67069280

Closest pharmacies:

BENU Aptieka (BENU Pharmacy)

Address: Uzvaras Boulevard 5-68, Zemgale suburb, Riga, LV-1048

4 minutes' walk from the venue (National Library of Latvia)

Mēness aptieka (Mēness Pharmacy)

Address: Mūkusalas Street 41B, Zemgale suburb, Riga, LV-1004

Location: Mūkusalas Business Centre

13 minutes' walk from the event venue (National Library of Latvia)

There are also other pharmacies close to the hotels.

If needed, one of the 24-hour pharmacies is Mēness Pharmacy, located at Mazā Nometņu Street 32, Zemgales suburb, Riga, LV-1002.





Persons of contact

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