



SWEDISH CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE IN LATVIA



History of the SCCL

On June 30, 1933 a group of businessmen active in Riga founded the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Riga with the support of the Royal Swedish Legation. The Chamber had its office in Lielā Pils iela 23. For a long time the Chamber was chaired by Consul Willem Endel, a Dutch citizen, who had been very active in ensuring that Swedish companies received the commission to construct the Kegums Hydro Power Station, the biggest interwar project in the Baltic countries. The Chamber also played an important role in assisting with the functioning of the bilateral clearing agreement between Sweden and Latvia. After the Soviet annexation, the Chamber moved its activities to Sweden and was soon after dissolved.

After the reinstatement of Latvian independence, on June 19, 1996 the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Latvia was resurrected by joint efforts of a number of Swedish and Swedish - Latvian businessmen together with the support of the Swedish Embassy. The Chairpersons from 1996 onwards were Jānis Grīns (Korsnäs), Monty Åkesson (EY), Sven Åke Brink (Volvo Truck), Michael Johansson (Skanska - Rimi Real Estate), Gunnar Ljungdahl (SSE Riga), Thomas Hellström (DHL) and Kim Leandersson (Tele2 SSC). Initially the Chamber served the function of a networking platform for Swedish and Latvian business groups, but with time, the organization's ambitions grew to include business promotion. An important step taken has been the initiation of the Foreign Investors' Council in Latvia.



Kim Leandersson

Chairman of the Board of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Latvia
Head of Cognizant Riga Center

The relationship between Sweden and Latvia dates back many hundreds of years in time today being as strong as ever. All along, since the restoration of Latvia's independence in 1991, Sweden has been the largest contributor to investments in Latvia. Also, if you look around in Riga and the regions you will recognize numerous familiar Swedish companies and brands who have expanded their businesses in Latvia.

The core mission of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Latvia (SCCL) is to support companies with experience, connections and networks. However, SCCL is housing only Swedish companies looking to expand their business in Latvia. It stands largely for bilateral cooperation, for Latvian companies seeking opportunities to enter or expand in the Swedish market. Our activities suit both those interested in a specific topic of interest as well as those curious to build networks. The key for us is to help you find and connect with the people who, with their experience and expertise, can guide you forward.

We are also strong believers in such Swedish values as equality, environment and focus on the youth and education – belief strongly manifested also in our activities.

The Chamber is a strong advocate for an improved business and investment environment in Latvia. Join us and support our mission and values!





Key annual figures

100+
Members



35
events

1050
people engaged

About the SCCL

- an independent, non-profit member organization
- established on June 19, 1996
- one of the largest foreign chambers in Latvia with more than 100 members
- unites individuals and corporations representing Swedish and European companies
- member of Swedish Chambers International/SCI and Foreign Investors Council in Latvia /FICIL

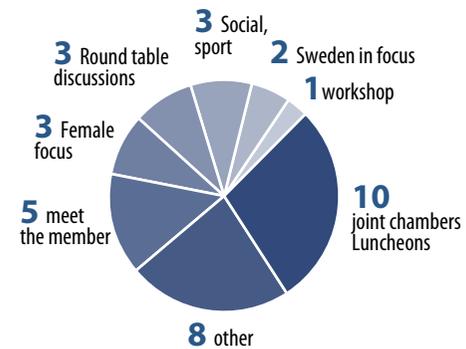
SCCL mission

- to strengthen cooperation between Sweden and Latvia
- to serve as a social and business network for Swedish and Latvian entrepreneurs
- to encourage and expand trade and investment between Sweden and Latvia
- to promote the interests of its Members by offering various seminars, briefings and meetings

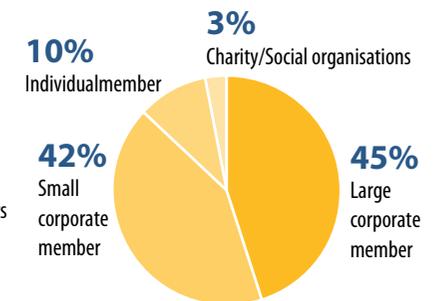
Activities organised by the SCCL

- Business oriented seminars, briefings, luncheons, breakfasts and presentations
- The Nordic Baltic Business Forum
- Female Focus business networking events
- Visits to Latvian regions
- Trade missions to Sweden
- Industry focused workshops
- Swedish events like the Crayfish party and Christmas dinner

Event Distribution by Type



SCCL Member Distribution by Membership Type



The benefits of SCCL membership

Membership incentives

Exclusive business network

Our members get direct access to decision-makers and stakeholders through speaker luncheons, breakfast meetings and seminars featuring locally, Swedish and internationally renowned speakers and top officials

Branding opportunities

The SCCL offers the possibility to host and/or sponsor events in cooperation with the Chamber. You can also use one of the many marketing tools that the Chamber offers to market your company to a unique and extensive Swedish - Latvian target group

Employee benefits

The SCCL offers all staff of member companies the opportunity to participate in a number of seminars, briefings, luncheons, breakfasts, presentations and social events. It is a great opportunity to thank your employees by offering them the chance to join our educational, as well as fun events

Business services and matchmaking

Members gain access to a contact list of Swedish and Latvian companies. In cooperation with our partners, we offer matchmaking and market analysis Incentives and offers All members are entitled to take advantage of discounted offers on products and services provided by our member companies

Lobbying opportunities

The Chamber acts in the interests of its members in relation to Latvian authorities both independently and in its capacity as a member of the Foreign Investors' Council in Latvia (FICIL)

International partnership

The SCCL in Latvia is a proud member of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Stockholm, therefore our members have the opportunity to attend events and meet members of 11 regional Chambers in Sweden, as well as the Swedish Chambers in Estonia and Lithuania

Become a member

Companies and individuals of all nationalities who have an interest in pursuing the objectives of the SCCL and who wish to participate in its activities can join. Being a Member is an effective way to establish new business contacts, build networks and stay informed about issues in Latvian-Swedish business environment.

APPLY HERE



Member testimonials



Kent Petersson

Former Managing Director Dinair Filton Latvia
Vice president OEM AAF Europe

"The membership and chamber's activities are very important and beneficial for our organisation. Continuous Corporate relationships and networking within the SCC community ensure great value to our air filtration business as we at Dinair / AAF are "Bringing clean air to Life".



Arvids Jēgers

Head of Tele2 Shared Service Center

Tele2 Shared Service Center is a Swedish company in its values and beliefs. Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Latvia for us is a place to meet likeminded organizations and individuals - a platform from which to share our opinions, discuss and develop cooperation and eventually contribute to making Latvia a better place for everyone. We are grateful to SCCL for fostering an environment that brings Swedish and Latvian cultures closer together.



Ivars Grunte

TGS Baltic, Managing Partner

We have developed a long standing partnership with the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Latvia. It is a place where businesses encounter chances for development, competition and knowledge enhancement. Their events provide a great opportunity for meeting like-minded people from different business sectors.



Ansis Mūrnieks

Manager Baltic states, Business Sweden – The Swedish Trade & Invest Council

"The SCCL is an important business and social networking platform for companies related to Sweden operating in Latvia."



Linda Freimane

Owner, B & More SIA

In 2018 I was elected to serve on the SCC board, after being a regular member for several years. The reason I decided to dedicate my time to engage more actively in SCC is that I see this organization as an excellent networking opportunity for any business in Latvia who have some Swedish connections, or who is interested in doing business with Sweden and Swedish companies. These past two years have given me even greater possibilities to meet and engage with interesting people who share their core values and ideas about how Latvia could and should develop. In my opinion SCC fills a very important place on the Latvian business arena, and I am very happy to be part of its valuable work.



Latvia – Heart of the New Nordics



H.E. Karin Höglund
Ambassador of Sweden to Latvia

I have the honor and pleasure of serving as Sweden's ambassador to Latvia since the autumn of 2020 and had the possibility of meeting many, if not all, of the SCCL's members at the Season Opening in September this year.

My mission is to deepen and broaden the already excellent bilateral relations existing between Sweden and Latvia since many years, especially from our most important common platform, the European Union.

Latvia and Sweden are like-minded in many fields, not least in trade related issues, being both strong advocates of free trade, multilateralism and a well-functioning inner market.

When we see that the global free trade system – which we have almost taken for granted for decades – is being seriously challenged by trade conflicts and increasing protectionism, it is more important than ever that countries such as Sweden and Latvia join forces to safeguard what is so essential for us – free trade.

Both of our countries are export-oriented and our companies – as reflected in the Chamber's membership – represent some of the most highly regarded and well-managed businesses. They all play a key role in strengthening our long-lasting trade relations as well as the investment ties between Sweden and Latvia. In addition, I believe the increasing focus of both Latvian and Swedish companies on innovation, sustainability, equality and diversity will contribute to the development of even better future-oriented solutions and the strengthening of global competitiveness. In this context, I am convinced that the SCCL is able to play a key role as a focal point for economic discussions and business support, as well as for social activities to extend business networks.

population



1.934 million

capital city



Riga

main trade partners



EU and Russia

currency



euro
(since 2014)

- **Other major cities:** Daugavpils, Liepāja, Jelgava, Jūrmala, Ventspils, Rēzekne, Valmiera, Jēkabpils
- **International memberships:** EU and NATO since 2004, WTO since 1998, OECD since 2016
- **Main languages:** Latvian, English, Russian, other languages including Swedish are widely spoken
- **Political system:** republic, parliamentary democracy





Why to invest in Latvia?

On the world map Latvia is located relatively close to Sweden. Latvia's skilled and multilingual labour force, abundant natural resources, and strategic location form a solid foundation for the country's economy and make Latvia the perfect place for Swedish companies to develop their business.

The attraction of a foreign investment has been one of our national priorities and is recognized as one of the key resources of economic growth. Latvia is a fully integrated member of all major economic and political structures – including European Union, NATO, WTO and OECD – advancing trade, peace and freedom in Europe and the world. Its position in the global market offers investors both opportunity and stability.

Among traditional sectors like woodworking, metalworking, transport and logistics, food processing, new sectors are appearing in the spotlight more and more. Some of the fastest growing hot industries to invest in Latvia are information technology, smart materials, biomedicine and specialized medical services. Locally embedded and globally connected, these industries transform the local economy, creating new, value-added products and services.

The volume of foreign investments in the country has increased over the years, reaching a high point in the end of 2019 - 16.0 billion euros. Sweden is by far the largest investor in Latvia (at nearly 15%), followed by Estonia (14%), Russia (10%), and the Netherlands (7%). Swedish investors choose to invest in finance and accounting activities, agricultural activities, wholesale and retail, manufacturing and real estate. Among Swedish investors successfully operating in Latvia are Artex, DinAir AB, LEAX, Lesjöfors, Trelleborg and others.

Swedish investors appreciate Nordic work ethic and Latvian high standards for quality and productivity. Latvian partners are easy accessible because of the developed communications, including high speed internet and, nevertheless, there are several flights per day between the countries and it takes only slightly more than 1 hour to fly from Stockholm to Riga. Establishing business in Latvia is easy and there are many options, where to locate your premises, as each year new A class offices are built for investor needs.

Although 2020 is a challenging year, Latvia has been recognized as a very good example fighting Covid-19. Latvia's success so far in the fight against Covid infection can be largely explained by the government's timely action - even before the rapid spread of the virus, declaring a state of emergency in the country and introducing the necessary restrictions. This largely ensured the maintenance of economic circulation. Most manufacturers and outlets were able to continue to operate with due care. Concerns have been expressed about human health and the economy has continued to work. Currently, the Ministry of Economics, in cooperation with LIAA and business organizations, is developing an economic growth plan to ensure growth after the Covid crisis. The plan has three parts: Stabilization, Reorientation and Growth.

Latvia has a lot to offer! In the World Bank's report Doing Business 2020 Latvia is recognized as 19th out of 190 countries for ease of Doing Business. For investor needs 0% CIT rate for the reinvested profit as well as five special economic zones, which offer tax rebates.

The best choice for successful investment in Latvia is to contact Investment and Development Agency of Latvia (LIAA) - your reliable partner. Already for many years LIAA has its representative office in Stockholm, serving investor and exporter needs.

Welcome to Latvia!



Kaspars Rožkalns

Director of Investment and Development Agency of Latvia

"Latvia and Sweden are closer than it looks. For centuries we have had economical and political ties, which have founded solid ground for successful businesses nowadays, based on our look-a-like thinking and attitude to responsibilities. Swedish investor trust to invest in Latvia has grown over the years and 2020 has proven that business closer to home is more easily to run and adapt to unexpected changes."

LIAA representative office

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Supporters



Strategic partners



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