

Governance Development Options for the Riga Metropolitan Area

Diāna Orlovska

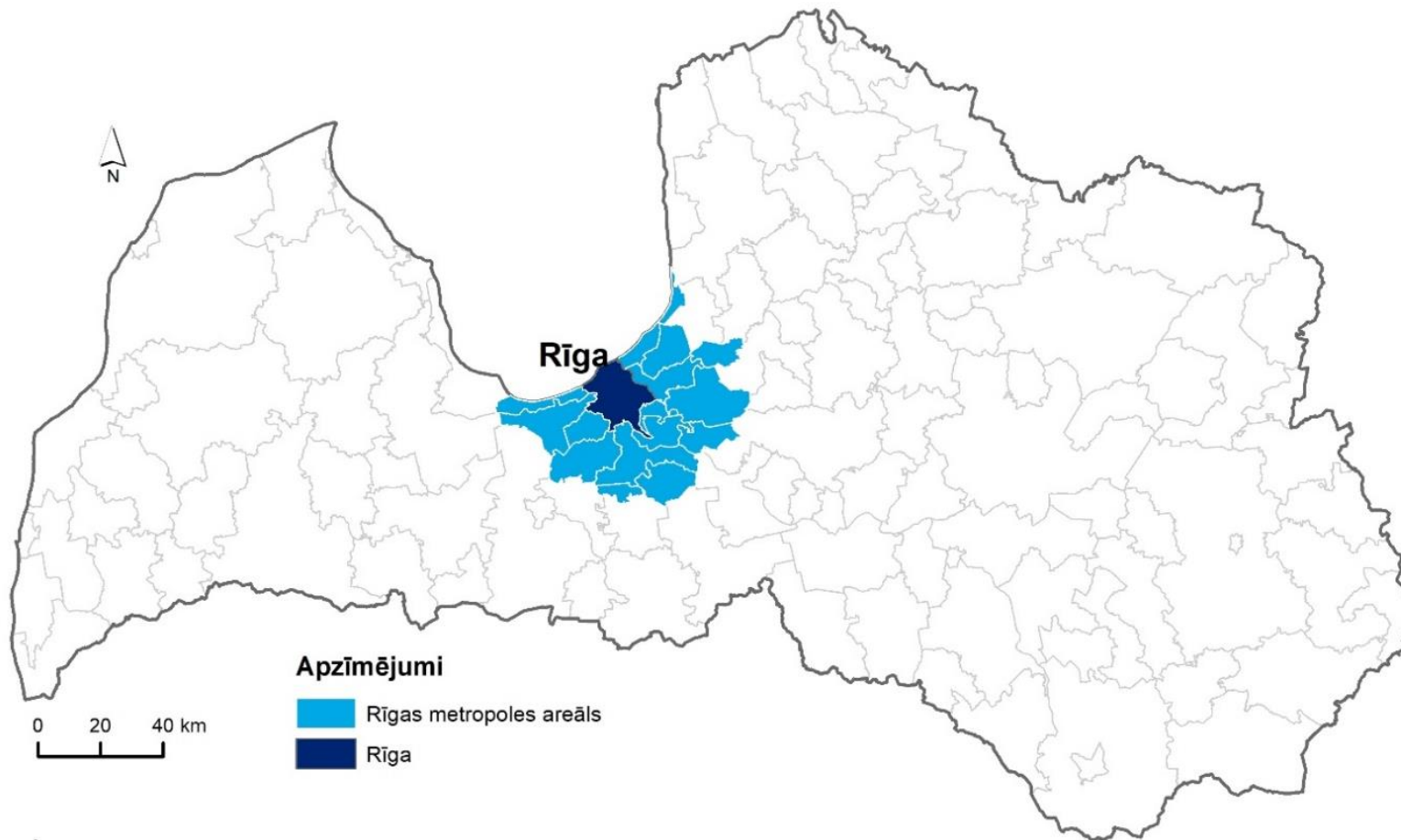
University of Latvia, MSc Student of Spatial Development Planning

13/06/2018

How could governance in the Riga metropolitan area be improved?

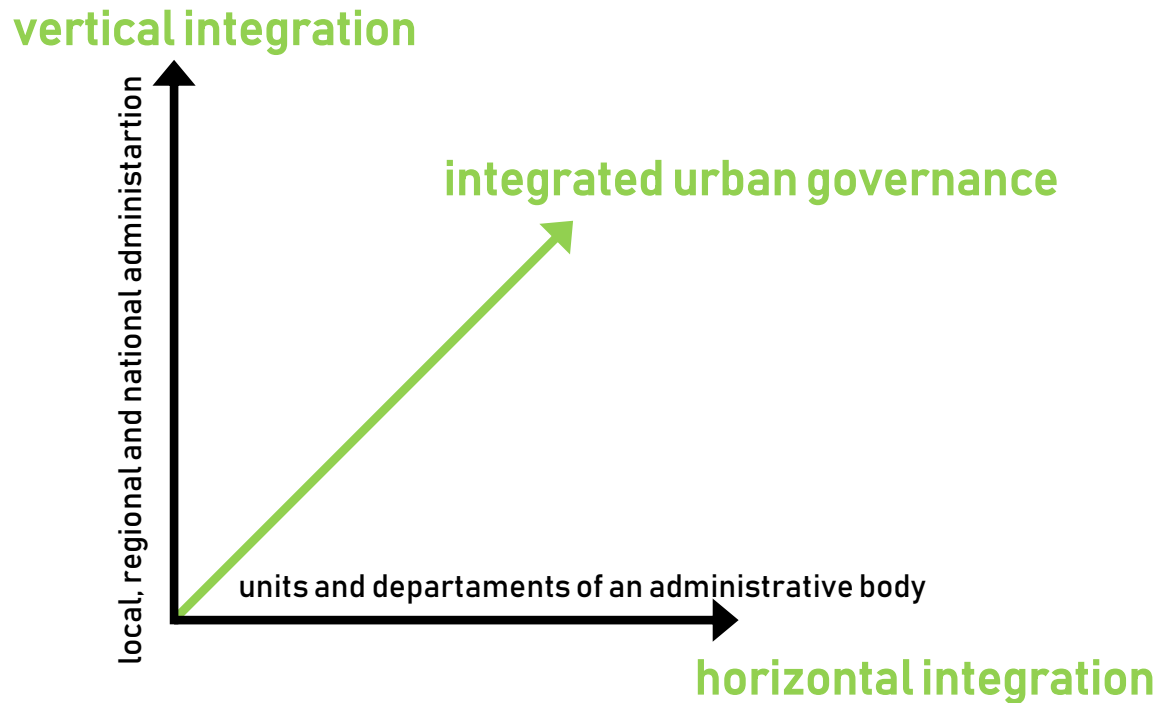
Metropolitan area – city + surrounding areas with strong functional ties

(Parr 2005; Rodriguez-Poze 2008; Klink, 2008, ESPON 2017)



Rīga
Jūrmala
Ķekavas novads
Salaspils novads
Olaines novads
Mārupes novads
Ādažu novads
Stopiņu novads
Babītes novads
Ikšķiles novads
Carnikavas novads
Garkalnes novads
Inčukalna novads
Ropažu novads
Saulkrastu novads
Baldones novads

Integrated Governance of Metropolitan Areas



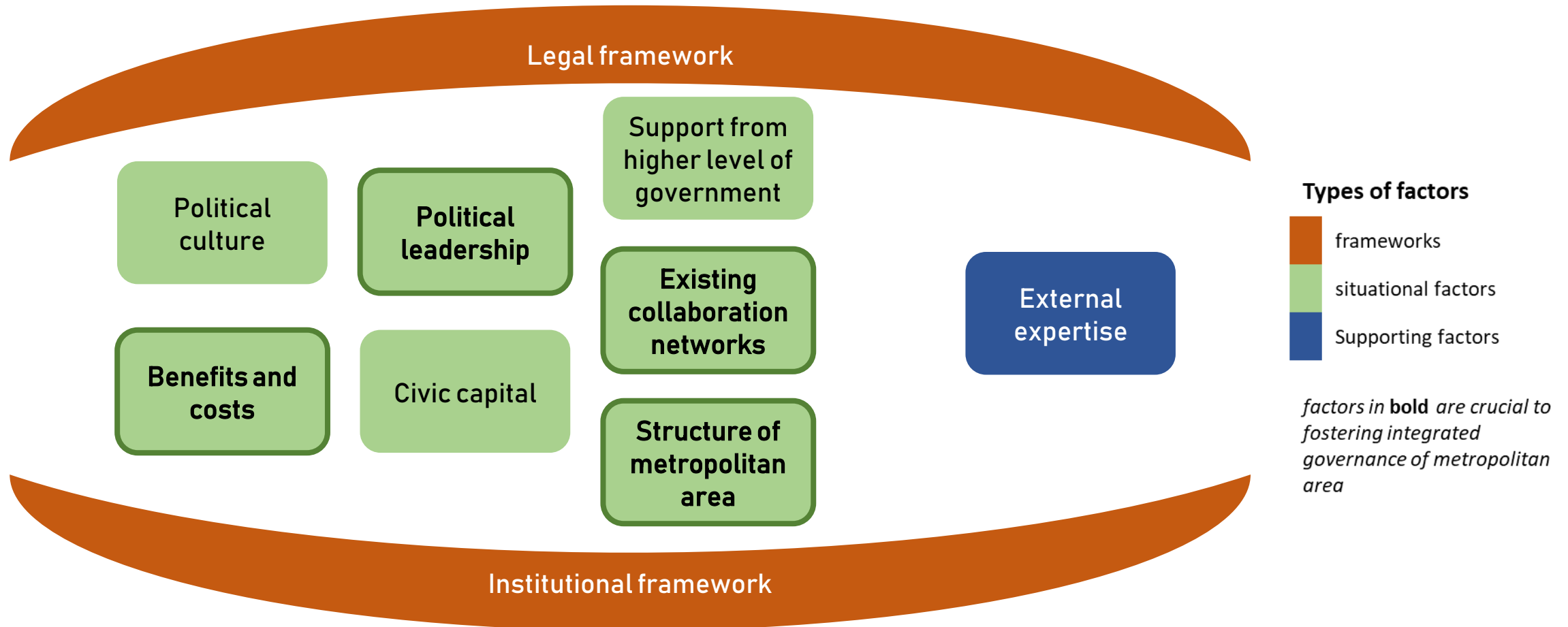
Most common fields of work of metropolitan governance bodies:

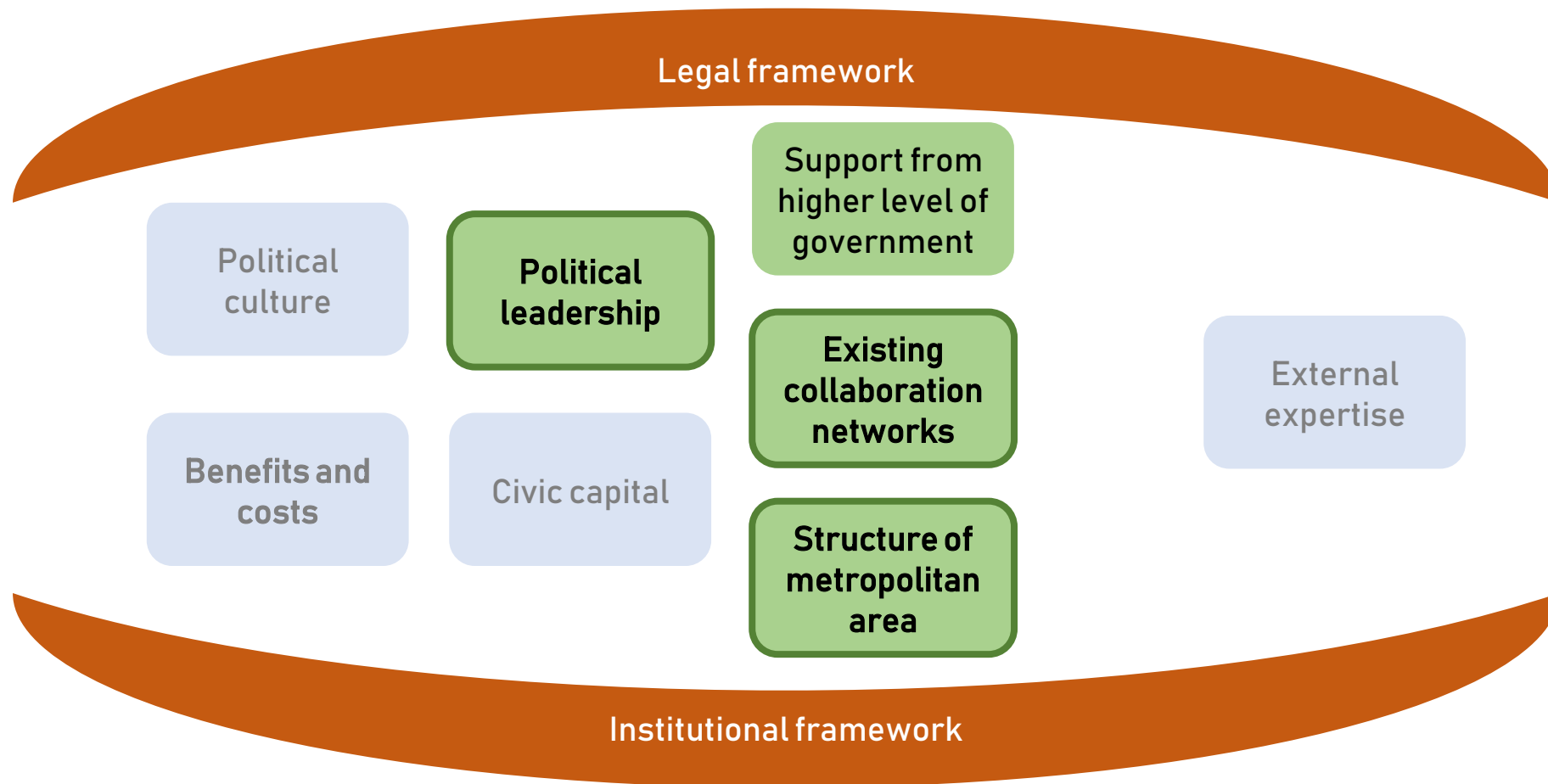
- (1) regional development;
- (2) transportation;
- (3) spatial planning

Also common: waste disposal, water provision, culture and leisure, tourism, sewerage, energy

Metropolitan areas with governance bodies perform better on several dimensions: spatial planning, economic development, satisfaction of citizens and environmental outcomes

Factors That Influence Metropolitan Governance





Methods & Materials:

mainly qualitative analysis → documents, legislature and other sources

- Interviews with municipality representatives (11 interviews in 8 municipalities)
- 4 expert interviews (VARAM, RPR, Pierīgas pašvaldību apvienība)
- + 2 expert interviews to finalize recommendations

Structure of
metropolitan
area

Legal
framework

Institutional
framework

Political
environment

Existing
collaborations

Support from
higher level of
government

Other
initiatives

Municipality	Population (2017)	% of population of Riga metropolitan area (2017)
Rīga	641 423	75,0%
Jūrmala	48 606	5,7%
Ķekavas novads	22 639	2,6%
Salaspils novads	22 291	2,6%
Olaines novads	19 487	2,3%
Mārupes novads	18 521	2,2%
Ādažu novads	10 735	1,3%
Stopiņu novads	10 293	1,2%
Babītes novads	10 119	1,2%
Ikšķiles novads	9405	1,1%
Carnikavas novads	8334	1,0%
Garkalnes novads	8121	0,9%
Inčukalna novads	7598	0,9%
Ropažu novads	6641	0,8%
Saulkrastu novads	5594	0,7%
Baldones novads	5373	0,6%
Total	855 180	100%

Structure of
metropolitan
area

Legal
framework

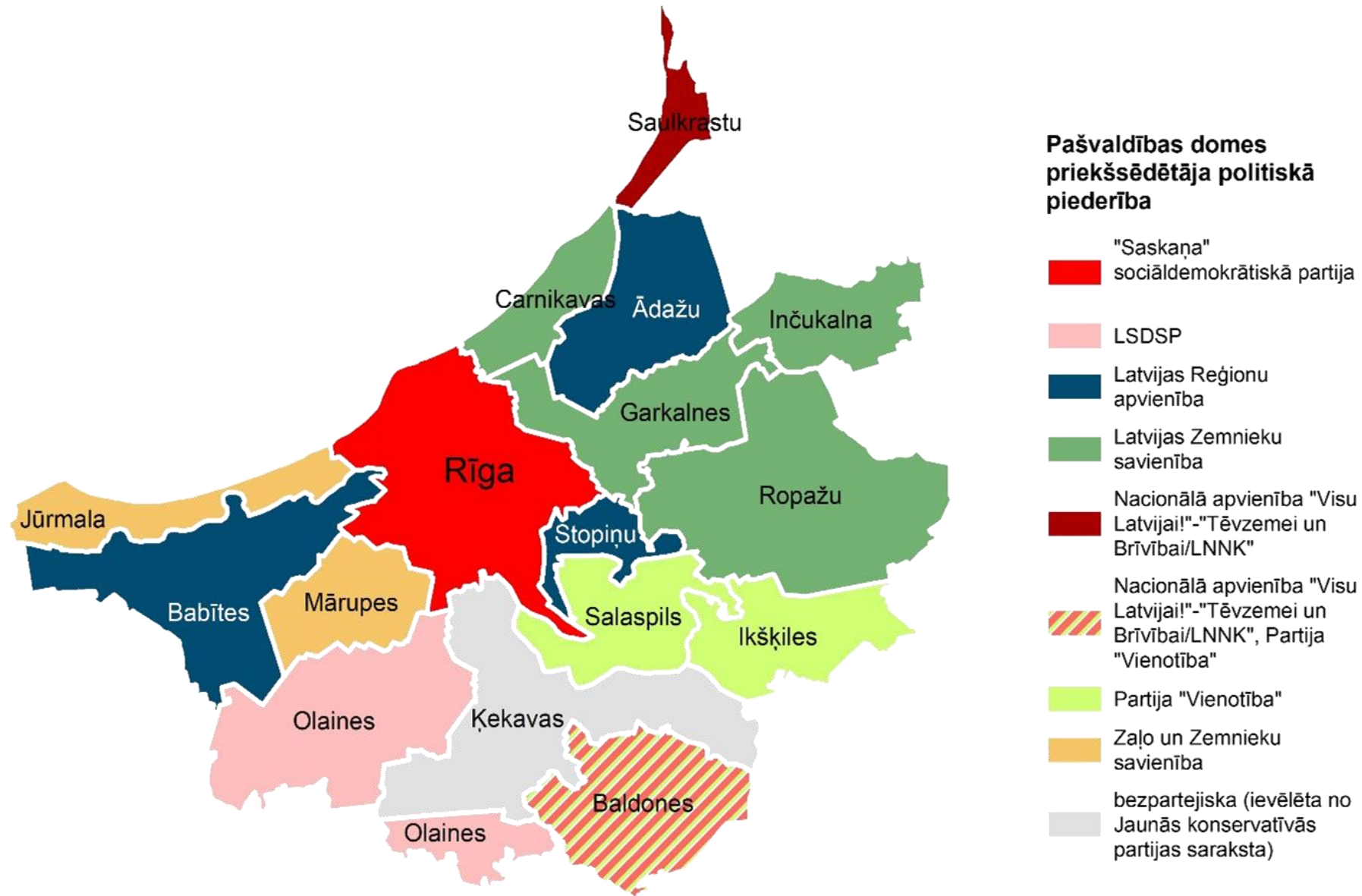
Institutional
framework

Political
environment

Existing
collaborations

Support from
higher level of
government

Other
initiatives



Association of Pierīga municipalities exists, but does not include Rīga, Jūrmala and Babīte municipality

Structure of
metropolitan
area

Legal
framework

Institutional
framework

Political
environment

Existing
collaborations

Support from
higher level of
government

Other
initiatives

Problems of RMA Governance

Currently the level of governance integration in the Riga metropolitan area is weak.

Main problems that hinder development of integrated governance mechanisms are:

- local municipalities lack motivation to engage in voluntary cooperation in fields crucial to metropolitan area development; competition between municipalities and other levels of government is widely present;
- cooperation exists mostly among municipalities of the area (novadi) – Riga is involved in collaborations that are determined by external of historical conditions;
- integrated solutions have been introduced in fields which have relatively low impact on development and growth of the metropolitan area (tourism, management of water bodies, leisure and culture etc.);
- there is a lack of coordinated actions aimed at enhancing RMA's international competitiveness;
- there is a lack of national government's involvement in solving the problems of RMA governance.

Main factors that influence governance in the RMA:

political environment (*subjective aspects*)

Riga's dominance (*objective aspects*)

Potential of Integrated Governance in the RMA

- Improved quality of life and environmental outcomes in the metropolitan area
- Special status for Riga as the national capital
- Improved coordination of Riga's and national development and focused actions to enhance RMA's competitiveness

Necessity:

- Involvement of central government in governance of the Riga metropolitan area

Recommendations

Top-down approach

Precondition: **political will** of national government

Support for
collaboration
projects for
local
municipalities

Imposing
collaboration of
municipalities in
certain fields

Decentralisation
of Riga's
government

Special law for
the capital city
region

Minister of
Special Affairs
for Governing
the Capital City
Region



Thank you!

Diāna Orlovska
diana.orlovska@gmail.com
+371 29174239