



Daugavpils is a city in Latvia, located on the banks of the Daugava River, near the border of Lithuania, Belarus and Russia. With a population of over 90 000, it is the second largest city in the country after the capital Riga. It is an industrial and educational centre, as well as an important cultural, sports and recreation centre. It is the city with multi-ethnic and multicultural environment. Daugavpils City Council is working actively to make the city an attractive place for living and doing business through implementing different projects, including international ones.

This informative brochure has been made within the framework of the project „Challenges of Regional Centres: Depopulation Control, Development – Best Practices” (DeCoDe) in the framework of the Measure “Networks of Towns” of Action 2 “Democratic Engagement and Civic Participation” of the European Union programme “Europe for Citizens”.

Disclaimer: The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Project „Challenges of Regional Centres: Depopulation Control, Development – Best Practices”

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE: 01/03/2018 – 01/02/2020

The project is aimed at creating a network of the largest cities after capitals, regional centers, which are significantly affected by depopulation in order to promote the exchange of good practices and to develop action plan of depopulation control for stronger local economic structures and raising citizens' awareness about mobility in the European cities.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

- LEAD PARTNER: DAUGAVPILS CITY COUNCIL
- KAUNAS CITY MUNICIPALITY, Lithuania
- LODZKIE REGION, Poland
- CITY ADMINISTRATION OF MAGDEBURG, Germany
- CEIPES, Palermo, Italy
- MUNICIPALITY OF VEJLE, Denmark
- ACTA CENTER, Oradea, Rumania
- ADIMAN, Casasimarro, Spain

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS:

- Promoting the European citizenship;
- Enhancing and expanding knowledge about depopulation process in European largest cities, regional centres and local municipalities;
- Developing depopulation control action plan;
- Organization of international meetings and conference on prevention measures of depopulation.

MUNICIPALITY SUPPORTS PEOPLE, WHO ARE PLANNING TO RETURN TO LATVIA, WITH PRACTICAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE IN SOLVING ISSUES

Anyone, who is planning to return to Daugavpils, but needs assistance in solving particular issues, can contact Daugavpils City Council, in order to get information on:

- housing opportunities;
- business and employment opportunities;
- services for families with children and educational opportunities;
- other issues of interest in the sphere of municipal services.

For more information visit: www.daugavpils.lv



Daugavpils City Council provides free Latvian language courses for residents of Daugavpils city, including reemigrant families. Schools offer state-funded support measures within one to three school years to complete compulsory primary education - to improve Latvian language skills and to study subjects such as “Latvian Language” or “Literature”, or “Latvian Language and Literature”, “Social Sciences”, “History of Latvia”, as well as subjects that are different in Latvia and the educational program previously acquired by the learner.

More information on izglitiba.daugavpils.lv

GRANT PROGRAMME “IMPULS”

The municipality offers young entrepreneurs to participate in a grant programme “Impuls”, where it is possible to get co-financing up to 7000 EUR for conducting commercial activities, as well as for purchasing fixed assets and other assets to implement their business idea.

- Overall, from 2014 to 2019
- 154 applications were submitted
 - 57 projects were supported
 - 92 new workplaces were created

Young entrepreneurs have an opportunity to receive municipal support for commercial activities in various sectors. By now, companies in more than 8 manufacturing and service industries, such as electronics, woodworking, sewing, advertising and printing, beauty care and recreation have been supported.

For more information apply to: attistiba@daugavpils.lv



THE MOST FAMILY-FRIENDLY MUNICIPALITY IN 2017 AND 2018

For two years in a row Daugavpils has been resting on its laurels after participating in the competition “Family-Friendly Municipality”, organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, and becoming the most family-friendly municipality in a group of nine cities in Latvia.

In the frames of the competition in 2017 Daugavpils municipality received a money award of EUR 10 000, which, together with the funding from the State Regional Development Agency that was received in the frames of the state budget-funded target programme “Family Support Projects Competition for Municipalities in Co-operation with NGO”, was spent on creating an educational playground in the territory of Latgale Zoo.



The prize of EUR 15,000, which was received in 2018, was used for complementing digital equipment of Family Digital Activity Hub at Latgale Central Library, including the purchase of an interactive “magic carpet”.



The city was ranked high in the competition due to the excellent balance between infrastructure and social support, as well as increasing in cooperation between Daugavpils Municipality and families.

DAUGAVPILS IS ART

Daugavpils is an important art, culture, education, tourism, sports and recreation centre. Every local citizen, every visitor of Daugavpils and each family with children are offered a wide, diverse and qualitative range of cultural and sporting events. Each year, the city offers new tourism services that make the city environment more attractive to its residents and visitors.
More information on: <https://www.visitdaugavpils.lv/>

DAUGAVPILS IS EDUCATION

The city has a favourable and motivating environment for acquiring knowledge and achieving goals at all levels of education, as well as infrastructure specially adapted and developed for children.
More information on: <http://www.izglitiba.daugavpils.lv/>

DAUGAVPILS IS NATURE

Children's playgrounds are available in each residential area. City parks, squares and water reservoirs are well-maintained so that everyone could feel comfortable there, being able to spend actively their free time with family and children in a high quality and safe environment.
More information on: <https://www.daugavpils.lv/pilseta/par-daugavpili/zala-daugavpils/>



DAUGAVPILS IS YOUTH

Daugavpils City Council organizes summer camps for children and youth. The purpose of the camps is to foster children's physical and intellectual development. Daugavpils Municipality annually implements summer employment activities for young people aged 13-19, where young people have an opportunity to get their first work experience in general education institutions, municipal institutions and business companies.
More information on: <http://www.jaunatne.daugavpils.lv>



DAUGAVPILS IS FAMILY

Pupils of general education institutions, who are declared in Daugavpils, can use public transport services free of charge in both trams and buses on all the routes, while students of vocational education institutions have access to certain discounts from the fare on the city route network. The cost of catering pupils in general education institutions is covered by the city budget.

In the case of a childbirth, the municipality provides one-time cash assistance payment to a family in addition to the state material support. Co-financing from the municipality is available for babysitting services for childcare providers. For certain social groups the municipality provides support for purchasing particular teaching aids, as well as offers a benefit to a first grade pupil. Different types of social support are available for families with a poor or low income family status, for families, which support or take care of a child with disabilities, as well as for large families after evaluating their financial situation.

More information on: <http://www.socd.lv/par-mums-sociala-palidziba>

Support for large families Latvian Honorary Family Card “3+ Family Card”

is a state support program for large families, which also serves as evidence certifying that there are three or more children under the age of eighteen in the family, as well as those under the age of 24 if they are acquiring general, vocational or higher education. Holders of this card have the opportunity to receive discounts using the services offered by public and private companies in Latvia and, of course, in Daugavpils.
You can apply for the card at www.godagimene.lv

Active associations in Daugavpils

Large Families Association “**Liēlas ģimēnes**”

The Association “Liēlas ģimēnes” organizes a variety of educational activities, health-enhancing measures, leisure activities, collaborates with many local organizations and companies that offer various discounts to members (by presenting a membership card).
www.lielasgimenes.lv
www.facebook.com/lielasgimenes/

Family Support Centre “**Plecu pie pleca**”

The Association promotes demographic development, the integration of individuals in society and the welfare of children in a family environment.
Contacts: +371 29477790

Child Development Centre “**Saules stariņi**”

The Centre offers over 21 training programmes to help moms and dads, grandmothers and grandparents bring up their babies in an atmosphere of love, warmth, and trust.
www.saulesstarini.lv/

Association “**Punktu brālība**”

The Association “Punktu brālība” supports people with visual impairments by improving their quality of life and leisure activities.
Contacts: +371 28600220

Daugavpils Autism Centre “**Mūsu Pasaule**”

The Centre assists to children and adults with autism spectrum disorders and their families.
www.facebook.com/musupasaule/

Parent Experience Exchange Club “**Laimīgi bērni un vecāki**”

The Association strengthens family traditions, raises parents' prestige in the community, and organizes educational and informational events to support children and the family.
www.laimigiberni.ucoz.lv/

FAMILY-FRIENDLY PLACES

Family Digital Activity Hub of Latgale Central Library

Digital Activity Hub is a place to explore the technologies of the 21st century. The hub offers interactive guided tour “Try the possibilities of Family Digital Activity Hub!”.

Contacts: +371 65449090
www.lcb.lv
22a Rīgas Street, Daugavpils

Daugavpils Fortress Culture and Information Centre

Guided tour for students “Discover Daugavpils Fortress” is a thematic tour that gives an opportunity to discover the fortress with a help of interactive exercises and assignments.

Contacts: +371 65424043; +371 28686331
cietoksnis@daugavpils.lv
5 Nikolaja Street, Daugavpils Fortress, Daugavpils

Daugavpils Mark Rothko Art Centre

Art Centre offers a special programme for pupils and youth that gives an opportunity to get acquainted with the exhibitions, learn the graphic art as well as become an artist by making a group photo on old Dvinsk's Streets.

Contacts: +371 65430250, +371 22471925
www.rothkocenter.com
3 Mihaila Street, Daugavpils

Latgale zoo

Children can watch the animals, stroke a furry rabbit, play with touching guinea-pigs, feed exotic fishes in the pond as well as book a thematic lesson, take part in attractive competitions and other activities.
Contacts: latgales.zoo@gmail.com

Daugavpils Innovation Centre

Easy science for children with the help of exhibits that allow to look at things from a different and unusual point of view, exciting and educational activities, unusual experiments, guided tours for school classes and families, entertaining and educational festive parties.
Contacts: daugavpils@gmail.com

Daugavpils Regional Studies and Art Museum

Children, pupil and young people are offered a variety of interactive programmes in the museum – “Following in the tracks of primitive men”, “Medieval knights and Dinaburg castle”, “What hides behind the thesaurus door”, “Let's become acquainted with the Latgalian ceramics” and others.

Contacts: +371 65424155
museum@daugavpils.lv
www.dnmm.lv
8 Rīgas Street, Daugavpils

Daugavpils Clay Art Centre

Attending the Clay Art Centre, young visitors can not only observe traditional Latgalian ceramics and pottery, but also take part in ceramic workshops.

Contacts: +371 65425302
museum@daugavpils.lv
www.dnmm.lv
8 18 Novembra Street, Daugavpils

Central Beach of Lielais Stropu Lake

Near a lake pontoon construction, which consists of the lake promenade, the 25-meter outdoor swimming pool with 4 lanes, jumping tower and children's swimming pool, there is a great beach with an open area for sports activities, a free beach volleyball court, a kids playground and an electric bike and go-cart rental service.

Address: 40 Stropu Street, Daugavpils

Esplanade Rest Park

Esplanade Rest Park is the first bike park in the Baltics covering an area of 4 hectares in the urban environment. This park includes a variety of areas – a skate-park, an asphalted cycling track, an adventure trail and a children's area.

Address: Esplanade, Daugavpils

