

IOI Workshop for NPMs: “Implementing a preventive mandate”

17 – 19 June 2015, Riga, Latvia

In the following please find some practical information to facilitate your travel arrangements.

1) Workshop venue

The Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia generously offered to host the Workshop at its premises: Baznicas Street 25, LV-1010 Riga, Latvia

2) Hotel information (early booking highly recommended!)

Please note that Latvia will hold the Presidency of the EU Council in the first half of 2015 (till July 2015). Hotels will therefore be booked out very quickly and an early booking is highly recommended!

The Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia was able to block a small number of rooms in the following hotels. Participants who wish to make reservations in one of these hotels are kindly asked to get in contact with:

- Ms Ruta Siliņa (Email: ruta.silina@tiesibsargs.lv / Phone: +371 6720 1416)
- Ms Laura Bagātā (Email: laura.bagata@tiesibsargs.lv / Phone: +371 6720 1414)

Hotel Radisson BLU Latvija



Address: Elizabetes Street 55, Riga, LV-1010

Web: <http://www.radissonblu.com/latvijahotel-riga>

Distance: about 400m from Ombudsman's Office

Radisson Blu Hotel Latvia features modern, comfortable rooms, which are all air-conditioned and provide free WiFi, minibar, Pay-TV and hair dryer. The hotel is famous for its trendy and stylish Skyline bar on 26th floor and the brand new and conceptually unique ESPA Riga Spa facilities. Special room rates for 140,00 EUR per room and night have been arranged for a very limited number of rooms. **Reservations should be made via the Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia (contacts see above).**

Monica Centrum Hotels



Address: Elizabetes Street 21, Riga, LV-1010
Web: <http://www.monika.centrumhotels.com/en>
Distance: about 1 km from the Ombudsman's Office

The 4-star Monika Centrum Hotels is set in the Neo-Gothic building from 1883 and located 500 m from the Old Town of Riga. Special room rates for 75,00 EUR per room and night (incl. breakfast) have been arranged for a very limited number of rooms. **Reservations should be made via the Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia (contacts see above).**

Hotel Edvards



Address: Dzirnavu Street, Riga, LV-1010
Web: <http://www.hoteledvards.lv>
Distance: about 400 m from the Ombudsman's Office

At Hotel Edvards is located in the very centre of Riga. The house, which was built in 1890 and has been restored with the intent of maintaining its architectural integrity, is located in a peaceful and private inner court yard. Special room rates for 65,00 EUR per room and night (incl. breakfast) have been arranged for a very limited number of rooms. **Reservations should be made via the Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia (contacts see above).**

Other hotels recommended by the Ombudsman's Office are the following. Please note that no special arrangements have been made with these hotels and participants are required to make reservations directly with the hotel - early booking highly recommended!

Hotel Radisson BLU Ridzene Hotel



Address: Reimersa Street 1, Riga, LV – 1050
Web: <http://www.radissonblu.com/ridzenehotel-riga>
Distance: 700 m from the Ombudsman's Office
Contact: info.ridzene.riga@radissonblu.com

Only steps away from Esplanade Park, this hotel is close to historic Old Town, and offers stylish, comfortable guest rooms that include such amenities as free high-speed, wireless Internet access, air conditioning and mini bar.

Radisson Blu Elizabete Hotel



Address: Elizabetes Street 73, Riga, LV-1050
Web: <http://www.radissonblu.com/elizabetehotel-riga>
Distance: about 700 m to the Ombudsman's Office
Contact: info.elizabete.riga@radissonblu.com

The Radisson Blu Elizabete Hotel features boutique styling and all the amenities of a top-tier hotel. Offering chic rooms and suites, this Riga hotel is perfect for exploring the heart of the city. It affords guests a fitness center with sauna, secure underground parking and free high-speed, wireless Internet access throughout the hotel.

Clarion Collection Hotel Valdemars



Address: K. Valdemara Street 23, Riga, LV-1010
Distance: 600 m from the Ombudsman's Office
Contact: cc.valdemars@choice.lv

Clarion Collection Hotel Valdemars is located in central Riga, just a few minutes' walk from the Old Town where you can stroll among cozy restaurants and cafés. Riga's main attractions such as the National Museum and Albertagatan, with its famous Art Nouveau buildings are also at a comfortable distance.

3) Catering

The Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia will provide training breakfast, afternoon coffee and lunch for all three days of the workshop. In addition to this, the Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia will invite participants to an official dinner on 18 June 2015.

4) Social program

As part of the social program, participants will be invited to join in excursion to the former State Security Committee (KGB) building in the afternoon of 17 June 2015. This is where, during the Soviet occupation, officials of this totalitarian regime used violent methods to commit genocide against the Latvian nation, organizing deportation to Siberia, torturing

and destroying people in the cellars, controlling the persecution and torture of countless people until 1991. When Riga was European Capital of Culture in 2014, the city saw an opportunity to grant the building new content. Historical events associated with the KGB's actions in the building are not forgotten, but at the same time a reflection on relationships formed between authority and people, culture and destiny became possible (for more see: <http://office.riga2014.org/en/2014/04/09/english-the-building-on-the-corner/>).

5) Ways to travel to Latvia

The easiest and the most comfortable way to get to Latvia is by plane, but there are other ways to travel to Latvia as well.

ECOLINE Busses: This union of several enterprises in order to offer more available and qualitative transport service. Ecoline busses provide trips to Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Ukraine. More information: <http://ecolines.net/en>.

Lux Express Busses: This is the biggest operator of international express coach routes in the Baltic region and offers the most frequent service within the Baltic countries and to St. Petersburg. Lux Express Group operates Lux Express, Lux Express Lounge, Lux Express Special and Simple Express coach services and offers visas, insurance and ferry tickets. Lux Express Group provide trips to Estonia, Lithuania, Russia, Poland, Belarus and Germany. More information: <http://www.luxexpress.eu/en>.

Riga International Coach Terminal: The biggest bus terminal in Latvia provide trips to Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Estonia, Italy, Russia, Great Britain, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, Hungary, Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, Ireland, Switzerland. More information: <http://www.autoosta.lv/?lang=en>.

All these busses stop at Riga International Coach Terminal which is placed just 1,7 km from Ombudsman's Office. Lux Express Bus also stop near Hotel Radisson BLU Latvija.

6) Visa requirements

All participants of the training are invited to arrange travel insurance. Information about visa requirements can be found in homepage of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia: <http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/consular-information/entry-into-latvia>. Useful information about flights and visa requirements can also be found on the website of Riga International Airport: <http://www.riga-airport.com/en>.

7) Airport transfer

Taxi: Riga International Airport is just 15 km distance from the city center and a taxi ride from the airport to Ombudsman's Office takes about 20 minutes (depending upon traffic) and costs approximately 13,00 to 15,00 EUR.

Bus: Bus Nr. 22 and Minibus Nr. 222 both depart from Riga International Airport every 15–20 minutes. A bus or minibus ride costs 2,00 EUR. Both transports have stops in the center of Riga, so all hotels and the Ombudsman's Office are within walking distance (around 5-10 minutes to go). For more details go to: <https://www.rigassatiksme.lv/en/>

Airport Express Shuttle: The Shuttle bus «Airport Express» departs every 30 minutes and serves the route connecting Riga International Airport with hotels in Riga City Centre and Riga International Coach Terminal. The journey from the airport to the city center takes approximately 20 minutes (depending on traffic). A one-way fare is costs 5,00 EUR.

8) Other relevant information

Weather conditions: In June daily temperature in Riga is around 20°C – 23 °C.

Electricity: 220V, frequency 50HZ
European plug with two circular metal pins.

Official language: Latvian
Russian and English is often spoken as well
German is spoken to some degree

Currency: Euro

Local time: GMT +2

Country Dialing Code: + 371

Weights and measures: Metric