



**Twelfth High-level Meeting of the Small Countries
Initiative (SCI): From Scarcity to Sustainability: Can
Small Nations Lead Workforce Innovations?**

**Riga, Latvia
4-5 June 2026**

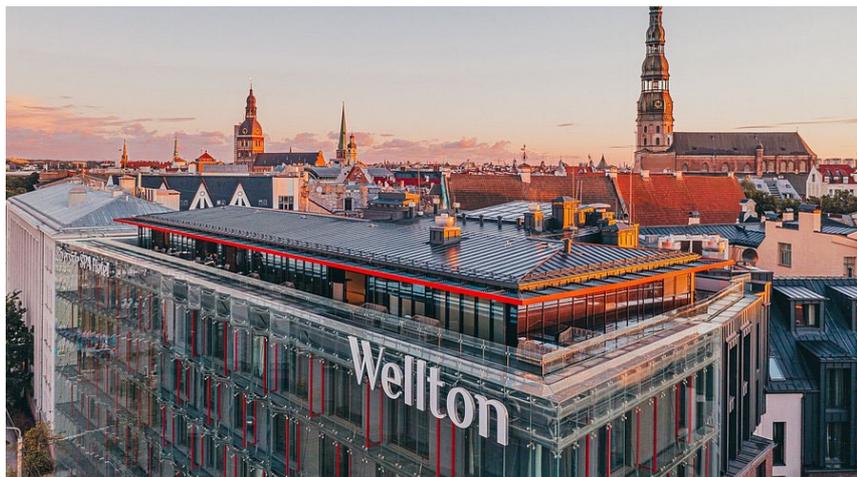
**11 March 2026
Original: English**

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

Dear Participant,

We are pleased to provide you with the following information regarding the practical arrangements for the above meeting.

1. Site of the meeting



Wellton Riverside SPA Hotel

Address: 11. novembra krastmala 33, Riga, LV-1050

Phone: +371 66777850

Web: <https://www.wellton.com/en/hotels/wellton-riverside-spa-hotel>

2. Working language

The meeting will be held in English only.

3. Meeting venue and services

The Twelfth High-level meeting of the Small Countries Initiative will take place at: **Panorama Hall in Wellton Riverside SPA Hotel on Thursday and Friday, 4 – 5 June 2026 starting at 09:00**. The meeting will end at 12:45 on Friday, 5 June 2026 and will be followed by light lunch. Afterwards, the interested participants might have an opportunity to participate in a cultural programme.

A bilateral meeting room will be available on 4 – 5 June. Participants are kindly invited to make a reservation request by writing to es@vm.gov.lv. Luggage storage and wi-fi are available.

IT services and support

Wireless internet access (WiFi) will be available throughout the meeting venue. Staff at the venue will be available to provide technical and IT support.

Name of the WiFi network at the venue: conference

- Password: riverside

Green printing

Latvia is said to be one of the greenest countries in the world not only in terms of the vast amount of land covered in forests and fields, but also in the way people work. During the meeting we want to prove this by working in a green and sustainable manner. All participants are invited to think carefully about whether they need to print documents, and to use their electronic devices instead. Printing facilities will be available at the venue, but participants are encouraged to use them as little as possible.

Persons with disabilities

The meeting premises are fully accessible to persons with disabilities and assistance will be provided if needed.

4. Working hours

The working hours of the Twelfth High-level Meeting of the Small Countries Initiative will be from **09:00 to 17:00** on **4 June 2026** (onsite registration and badges as of 08:00) and from **09:00 to 12:45** on **5 June 2026**.

5. Documentation

Documentation for the Twelfth High-level meeting of the Small Countries Initiative includes:

- Scope and Purpose
- Information Circular
- Provisional Programme
- Provisional List of Participants
- Statement to be adopted at the Twelfth High-level meeting

6. Registration

Please fill in the **REGISTRATION FORM** no later than **15 April 2026** using the following link: [REGISTRATION](#)

Folders and badges will be provided at the registration desk in front of the **Panorama Hall** at the **Wellton Riverside SPA Hotel** between 08:00 - 09:00 on 4 June 2026.

7. Accommodation and meals

Rooms¹ have been reserved at the **Wellton Riverside SPA Hotel** (unless other/private arrangements are in place). The Ministry of Health of Latvia will kindly cover the accommodations for the Heads of Delegations at **Wellton Riverside SPA Hotel**.

For stays longer than two nights, we will inform the hotels based on the information provided in your registration form. In this case, the hotels may contact you directly to request your credit card details.

Please note that we cannot guarantee your hotel booking unless you complete the registration form by the deadline indicated above. Rooms will be assigned upon the closure of the registration process and the rooming list finalized by the mid of April.

All other participants (for whom accommodation is not covered by the Ministry of Health of Latvia) are kindly invited to book their room at the Wellton Riverside SPA Hotel for a discount price (standard rooms) here: <https://www.wellton.com> using the promo-code “**SCI2026Riga**” (subject to availability).

Please settle your bill directly with the hotel for any other charges (for accompanying persons, laundry, room service, bar bills, telephone calls, any extras etc.).

All participants will be invited to two lunches and one dinner.

8. Transfer from Riga (RIX) International Airport to the hotel and vice versa

Riga International Airport (Latvian: RIX Rīgas lidosta) is the international airport of Riga, and the largest airport in the Baltic states.

Transfer from/to the RIX Airport will be arranged only to Ministers in accordance with the information entered on registration form.

For arrivals on 3 June and departures on 5 June from RIX Airport, the VIP Lounge will be booked and available for use by Ministers only. To avail of this option, full travel details (names, flight numbers, dates, and times) should be provided. Otherwise, the above-mentioned option cannot be organized.

Arrivals and departures to RIX: You can get to/from the city center by bus No. 22 or taxi. More information available here: <https://www.riga-airport.com/en/transport-0>.

¹ The reservations automatically include breakfast.

The bus stop for bus No. 22 to the city centre is located in the P1 car park in the middle between arrival exits E and C. More information about prices and timetables can be found here: <https://www.riga-airport.com/en/public-transport>

The easiest way to get to the hotel is through Bolt app. However, taxi services are also available at Riga airport 24 hours a day and are located just outside the arrivals area. The average fare from the airport to the hotel is € 20-35. The fare depends on time of the day and traffic. We suggest using Xtaxi company (cars are marked in orange and white) <https://www.xtaxi.lv/>.

Please note that for licensed taxi services purchase of pre-paid vouchers at the Airport (€ 33.50) is an option (please see: [Taxi service | RIX](#)).

Taxi ride to/from Riga Airport to the center of Riga takes an average of 20 minutes, the bus to the city center takes about 40 minutes.

Please note – although the Riga International Airport is actively working to ensure maximum safety and convenience for clients using taxi services, we advise to stay vigilant regarding unlikely but possible unfair pricing practices of taxi companies providing services at the Airport.

9. Visa policy of Latvia

Visas are not required for the citizens of the EU Member States when travelling to Latvia. Citizens of these countries can travel with their national ID card or passport. Citizens from other countries may require a visa. Further details on required visas are available at the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia: <https://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/applying-visa>.

10. Insurance

The organizers cannot accept liability for personal accidents or loss of or damage to the private property of participants and accompanying persons, either during or indirectly arising from attendance at the meeting. Participants should make their own arrangements with respect to health and travel insurance.

11. Hospitality

All delegates are cordially invited to join the Dinner on 4 June at 18:30 – location is to be confirmed, within walking distance from the Hotel.

12. Climate, time zone, currency, emergency contacts, water safety & power supply, language etc.

Climate: The average daily temperature in Riga during June ranges from 11°C to 20°C

Time zone: (GMT+2)

Currency: Euro, other currencies can be exchanged for euros at most banks and exchange offices located in the city centre and at the airport.

Emergency numbers: In cases of emergency, call 112

Water safety: tap water is potable

Plug types: In Latvia, power plugs and sockets (outlets) of type F are used. The power supply in Latvia is 220V AC at 50 Hz. An adaptor for the (European standard) round two-pin sockets may be required.

Language: Latvian is the official language of Latvia. English is widely spoken.

Ground floor: In Latvia the counting of the floors in multi-storey buildings is started from the 1st floor. In Latvia we have no “ground floor”.



13. About Riga

Riga is the capital of Latvia, officially founded in 1201, the city presents a mix of cultures and architectural styles developed throughout different historical periods.

Historic Centre of Riga is a World Heritage Site, which consists of numerous high quality medieval and Art Nouveau architecture, unparalleled 19th century wooden buildings.

Art Nouveau/Jugendstil centre with its perimetral blocks was created during renovation after 1812 fire that fully destroyed the suburbs of the city, restoring former streets and roads. This is why right angle street network is at times having an irregular shape. 19th century wooden architecture has managed to squeeze in between of tenements in some places.

Perimetral wall of multi-storey buildings often hides a different world - second and third line of buildings. One can also find old factories, workshops and warehouses behind these walls, sometimes discovering nice green yards, passages or partially public space.

The symbolism of the **river Daugava** in the history of Riga and Latvia is so important that it is known as the River of Destiny and Mother Daugava. Originally, it was the only transit route between East and West (“a road from the Vikings to the Greeks”), and Riga is a strategic and significant point along this way. It flows through Riga into the Gulf of Riga about 10 kilometres from the city centre. Because of its location and harbour, which rarely freezes, Riga has developed into a significant transportation hub.

Riga has always been a dynamic and innovative centre, and remains to this day a vibrant and lively city with a host of creative quarters to explore. It is therefore with good reason that Riga has been called the ‘city of inspiration’. Enjoy a leisurely walk around the Old Town – the historic centre of Riga – and its surroundings.

Useful information about Riga can be found on <https://www.liveriga.com/en/1-about-riga/>

14. Queries

We hope we have covered all the administrative issues you need to know in connection with the meeting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

WHO Regional Office for Europe, Country office in Riga, Latvia

- Laima Bauvare at bauvarel@who.int, mob.: 00371 29495523

Ministry of Health of Latvia, European Affairs and International Cooperation Department

- Kārlis Panteļejevs, at karlis.pantelejevs@vm.gov.lv, mob.: 00371 27889336



For more tourist-related information about Latvia, please visit: <https://www.latvia.travel/en>

We look forward to seeing you in Latvia!