

Region of Latgale | Latvia



The region of Latgale lies in the southeast of Latvia, bordering Russia on the east, the Belarus on the southeast, and Lithuania on the south. As such, the region plays a significant role as a transport corridor. It comprises 19 counties and 2 national importance centres, with a population of some 304,224 spread over a 14,549 km² area (22.5% of the area of Latvia).

The building stock in Latgale, as in much of the country, contains many apartment buildings in need of renovation, many without insulation. Unfortunately, the necessary measures have not been implemented successfully in the past, but the issue has been receiving increased attention in recent years. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia, which has nominated the entire Region of Latgale as the primary area for various development activities. These include investments in energy efficiency. Through the EU-funded PassREg project, a number of building energy themed events addressing politicians and other key stakeholders have been held. Politicians from the municipality of Rezekne have also shown interest in Passive House, participating in study tours around Europe to gain knowledge about the standard. These activities have led to public discussions that have helped promote Passive House and the use of renewables throughout the region. Concretely, a Passive House pilot project located in Rezekne is in the works: the low energy refurbishment of a Soviet era school and its accompanying dormitories. This project will serve as a model for the numerous other, similarly built schools in the area. These two buildings will demonstrate a whole-building approach to energy efficiency in the form of the Passive House Standard for the first time in the local area. The main onsite energy source for the project is wood and the municipality aims to use onsite renewable sources as much as possible for heating energy supply.

The International Passive House Days, an open door event, has allowed a wide audience to experience this model Passive House project first hand. The buildings will have a great impact on the development of the Rezekne Region, not only improving the infrastructure of important public buildings but also setting an example for low energy design and construction.

