



# **IT Faculty Collaboration with Business and Industry: Ventspils experience**

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# Introduction

The role of IT faculties of universities in modern business and industry will be the subject of intensive discussions for at least several next years due to the following reasons:

- the high level of importance
- the large amount of interested institutions and participants



# Introduction

At present time there are the following institutions which are involved into discussions:

1. Universities
2. Municipalities
3. State
4. Business



## Introduction

The question is important for universities and faculties for their development strategy, for possibility to attract necessary additional financial, human and technical resources for development.



## Introduction

The question is important for business and industry because of need for good prepared labour force and possibility to receive access to university intellectual potential and new ideas, which can be implemented in new products and services.



# Introduction

The question is important for the municipalities, local government, state and society because of the new challenges, related with globalisation, necessity to ensure development of knowledge-based economy, support innovative business, ensure the international competitiveness.



# Introduction

1. Organizational structure
2. Administration
3. Finances
4. Personnel
5. Material resources
6. Main operations
7. Marketing



## Introduction

A lot of questions are not common for universities as academic institutions, and this is the main reason, why the exchange of experience between IT faculties is necessary for success in collaboration with business and industry.





## Introduction

This question was considered at ECCS 2006 and here we would like to add the previous consideration with the description of experience of Ventspils University College.



# Plan of Report

- 1. The general description of Ventspils**
- 2. Ventspils High Technology Park**
- 3. IT Faculty of Ventspils University College**
- 4. Model of collaboration with Industry**
- 5. Organizational aspects of collaboration**
- 6. Engineering Research Centre activities**
- 7. Financial results**



# 1. The general description of Ventspils





# HISTORY OF VENTSPILS

CASTLE OF THE LIVONIAN ORDER (1290)  
VENTSPILS – ONE OF THE OLDEST CITIES IN LATVIA



DUKE'S JACOB GOVERNANCE  
(1642 – 1682)  
VENTSPILS - THE MAIN PORT,  
SHIPBUILDING AND TRADE  
CENTRE OF  
THE DUTCHY OF COURLAND



19TH CENTURY  
RUSSIA'S DECISION TO BUILD A MODERN PORT  
NAVAL ACADEMY OF VENTSPILS (1870)  
MOSCOW-VENTSPILS-RIBINSK RAILWAY LINE (1897-1904)



MIDDLE OF 20TH CENTURY  
VENTSPILS - THE SOVIET UNION'S  
LARGEST EXPORT CENTRE OF OIL,  
PHOSPHATES AND CHEMICALS





# VENTSPILS TODAY

## ONE OF THE MOST DYNAMIC CITIES A CITY FOR BUSINESS AND RECREATION



AREA – 55.4 km<sup>2</sup>

NUMBER OF INHABITANTS – 43 693  
(~2% of total inhabitants of Latvia)

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE COMPANIES – 964

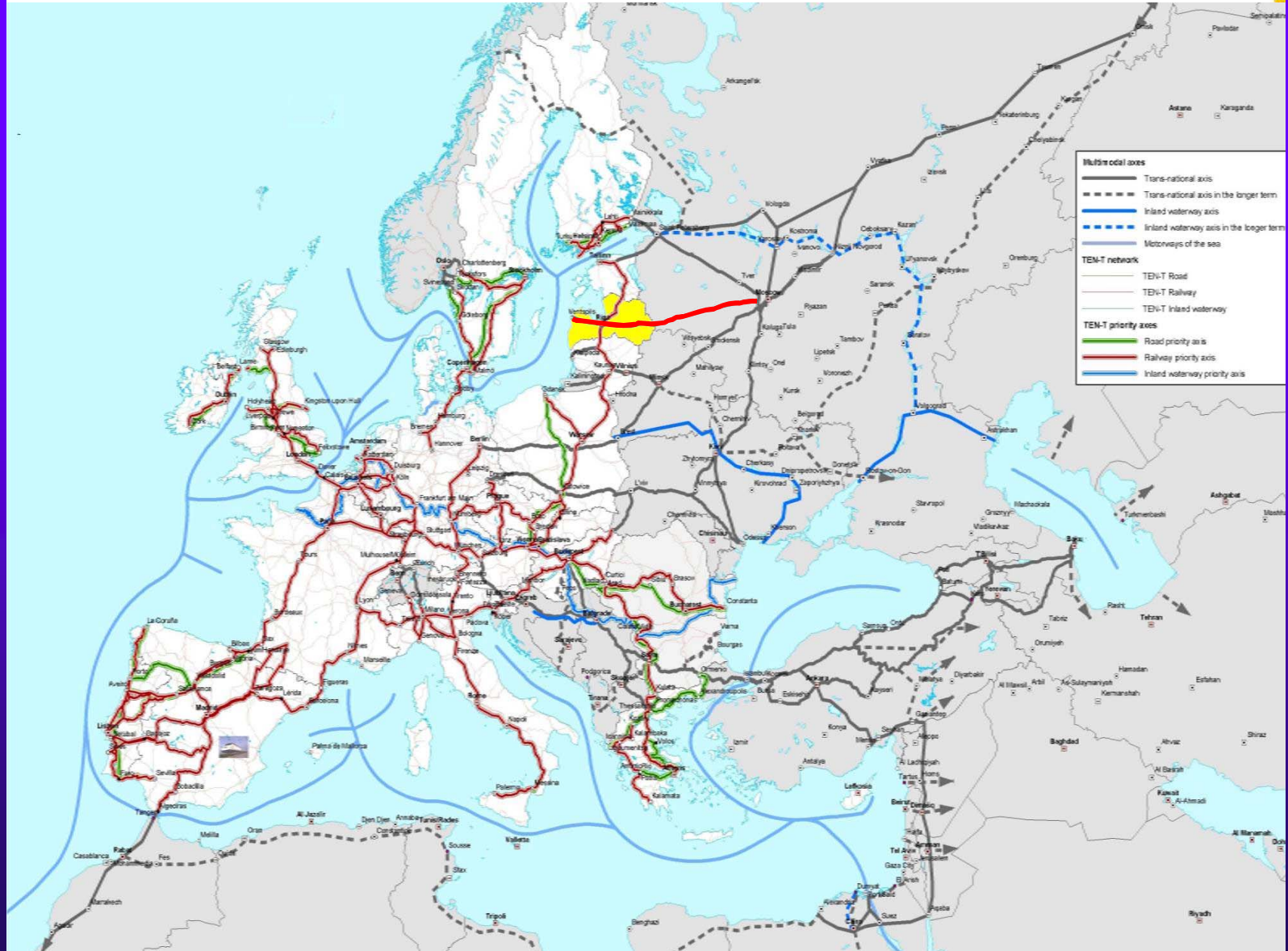
GDP PER INHABITANT – 7 758 EUR  
(In Latvia: 4 566 EUR)

AVERAGE MONTHLY GROSS WAGES AND  
SALARIES – 541.43 EUR  
(In Latvia: 487.33 EUR)

UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL – 4 %  
(In Latvia: 5.8 %)



# Pan-European Transportation Networks



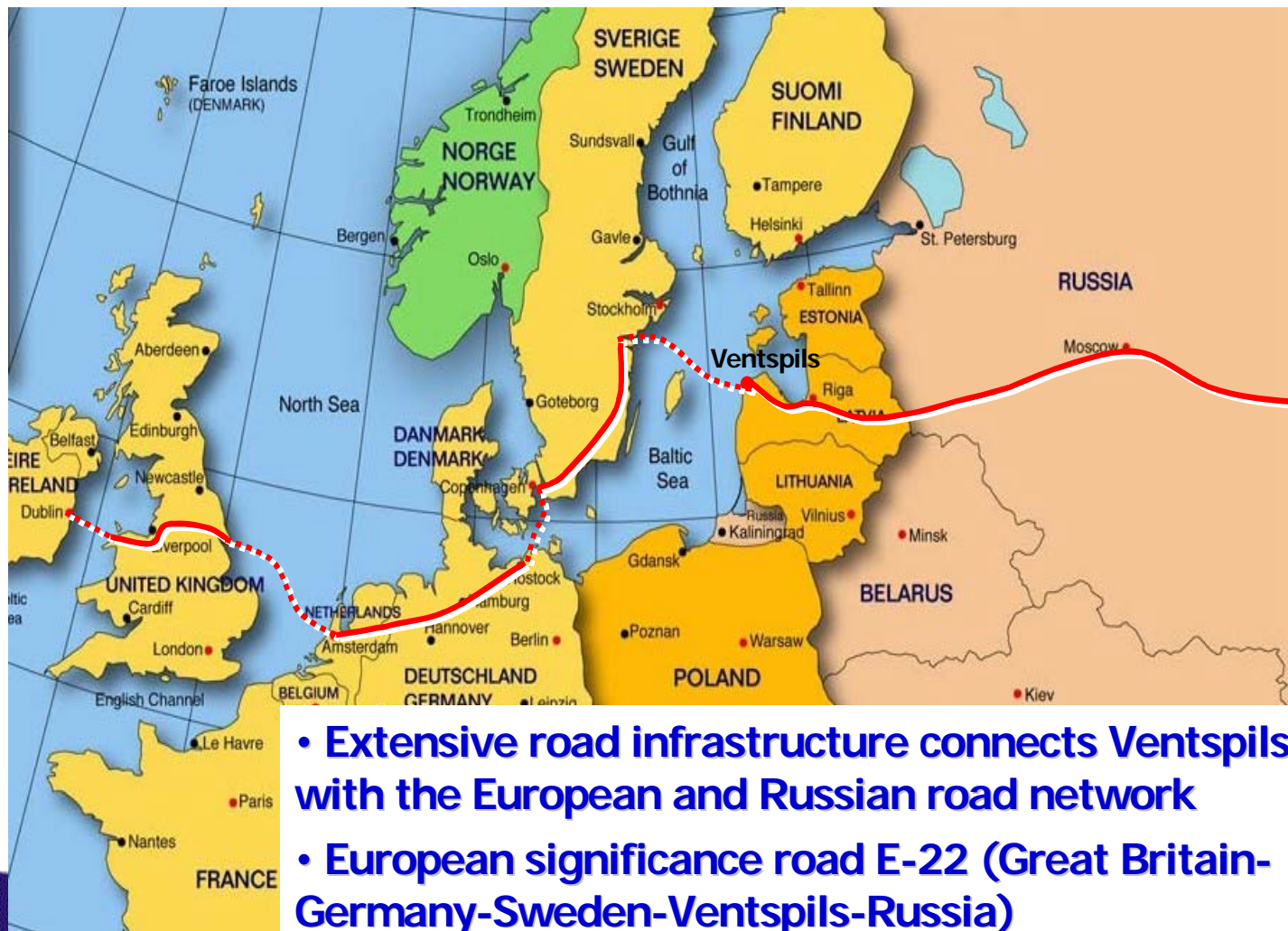


# Ventspils: well connected over water

**Strategy of Scandlines: Ventspils - the major hub port at the east coast of the Baltic Sea**



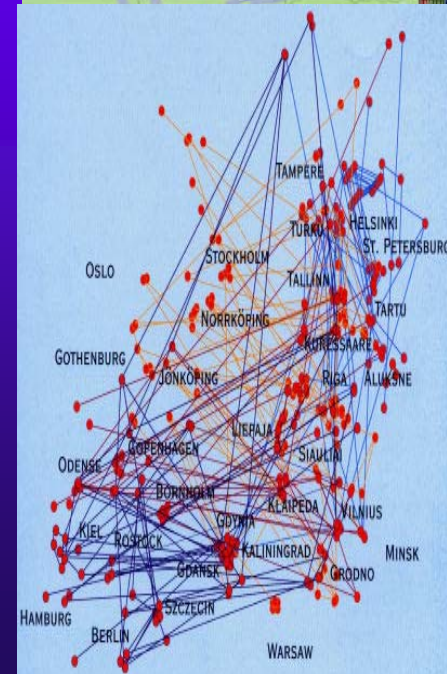
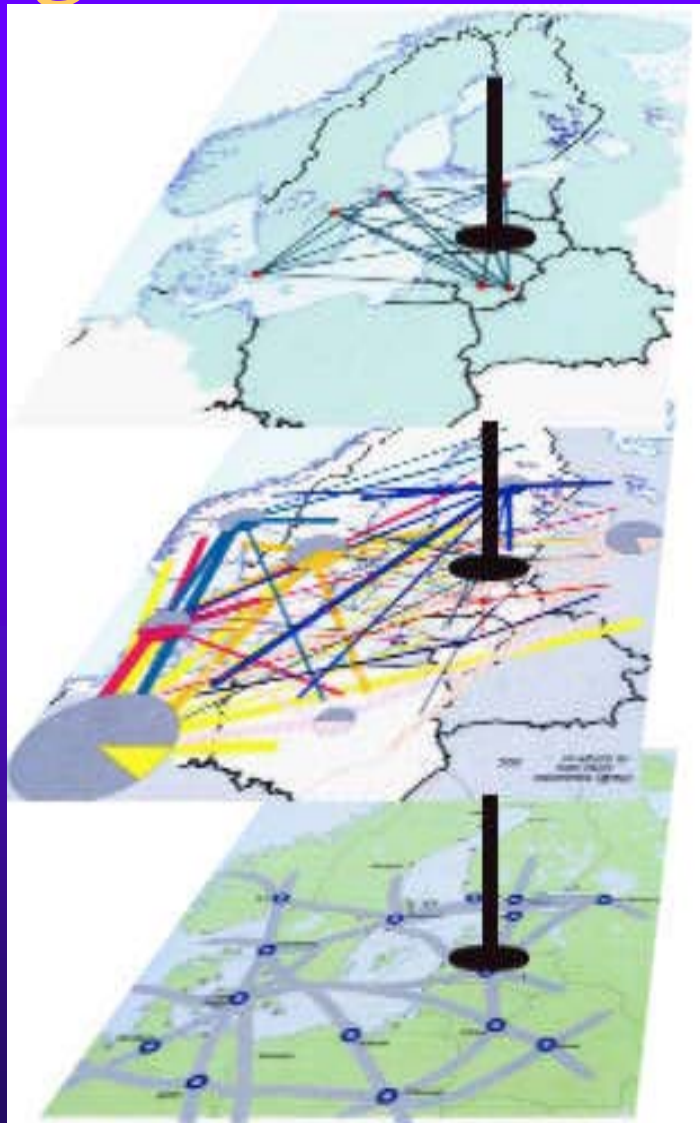
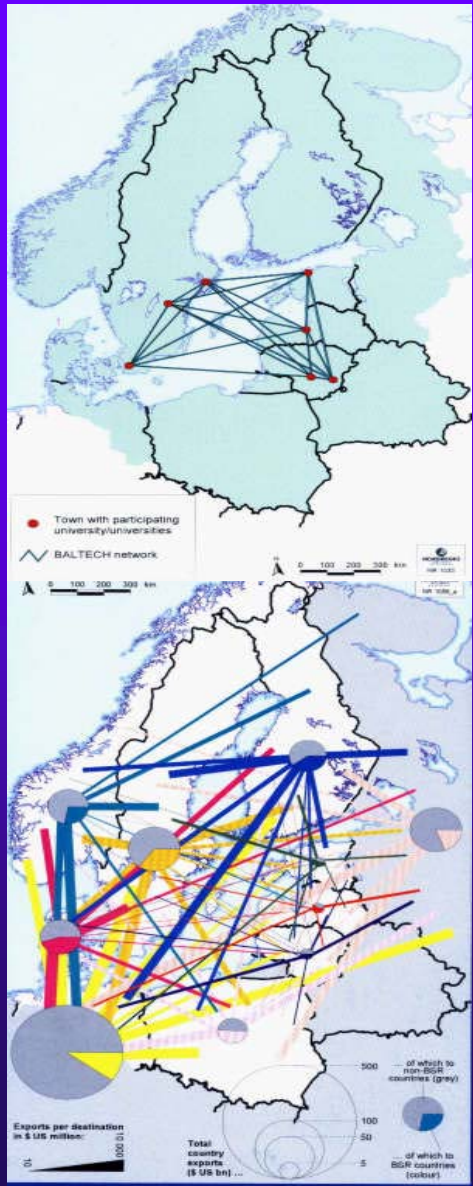
# Ventspils: well connected over land







# Networking as success factor





# **Main Goals of Regional Economic Development**

- 1. Develop seven main kinds of international collaboration networks**
- 2. Develop collaboration between networks**
- 3. Orientation on sectors with high added value**



## 2. Ventspils High Technology Park

**In order to reach goal No.3**  
Free Port's industrial/manufacturing area development

**Free Port of Ventspils:**  
More than 1200 ha available for  
further development





# Ventspils High Technology park

The aim of Ventspils High Technology park:

to promote hi-tech development in Ventspils (electronics, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, industrial automation)

- Premises for production and offices
- Direct access to optical cable
- Clustering of Hi-Tech companies in one area
- Business support
- Cooperation with educational institutions
- Fostering of new and innovative companies connected with Hi-Tech, IT, telecommunications





## Ventspils High Technology park

First tenants of the park:

- SIEMENS
- Ventspils Electronics Fabrics
- Inspecta
- Ventspils Engineering and Research Center

# SIEMENS





## Ventspils Business Incubator

- Ventspils city council together with Ventspils University College and Ventspils High Technology park has established Ventspils Business Incubator

- The main task of Ventspils Business Incubator:

to foster establishment of new and innovative companies connected with Hi-Tech, IT and telecommunications in Ventspils

- The services of the incubator to newly established companies are available for time period of 3 years.

Services of Ventspils Business Incubator:

- premises for offices
- office equipment like computers, tables, chairs
- preparation of Business plans, EU fund applications
- attraction of clients, partners
- business consultations in accounting, marketing etc.





# 3. IT Faculty of Ventspils University College

## Ventspils University College



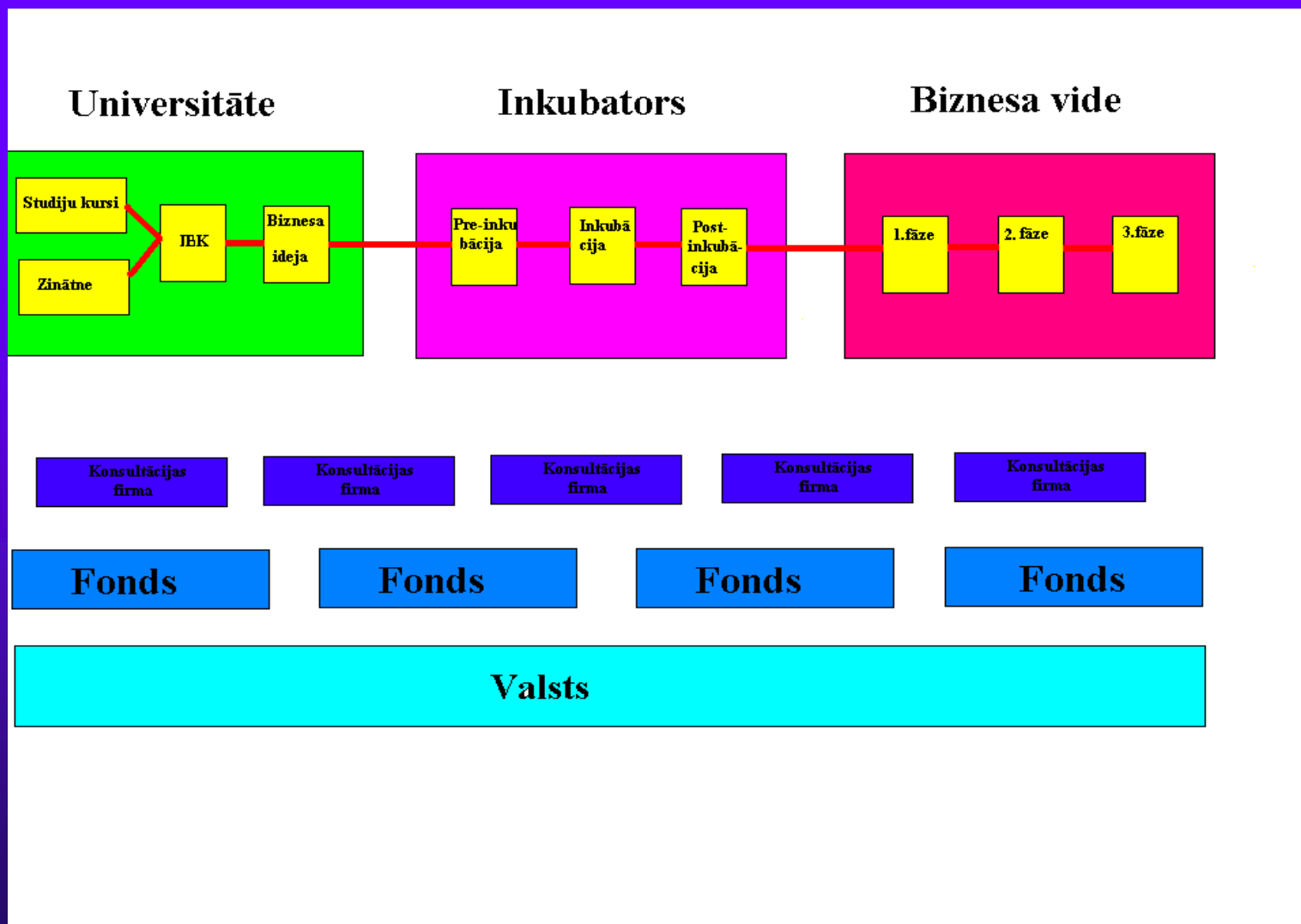


## **Year 2005**

- 1. IT Faculty of Ventspils University College**
- 2. Engineering Research Centre**
- 3. High Technology Park**
- 4. Business Incubator**
- 5. Ventspils International Radioastronomy Centre**
- 6. Technology Transfer Centre**



# 4. Model of collaboration with Industry





## **5. Organizational aspect of collaboration**

- 1. The correct sequence of activities, started from municipality.**
- 2. Participation in National Development Plan (model of polycentric development of state).**
- 3. Support from state and Ministry of Education and Science.**
- 4. Elimination of “Irish factor”.**
- 5. Acceptance of “Swedish model”.**
- 6. Principle “Do not start too early”.**



## 6. Engineering Research Centre tasks

The tasks of the Centre are:

- ◆ to develop new products for Latvian and foreign companies involved in ICT and electronics;
- ◆ to promote new or existing products, and to bring them into production;
- ◆ to perform applied research in ICT, mathematic modelling, electronics and related areas;
- ◆ to perform research in applied information technologies and prepare masters and doctors degree specialists;
- ◆ to participate in the realisation of bachelors, masters and doctors degree studying programmes in IT, physics, mathematics and IT fields.

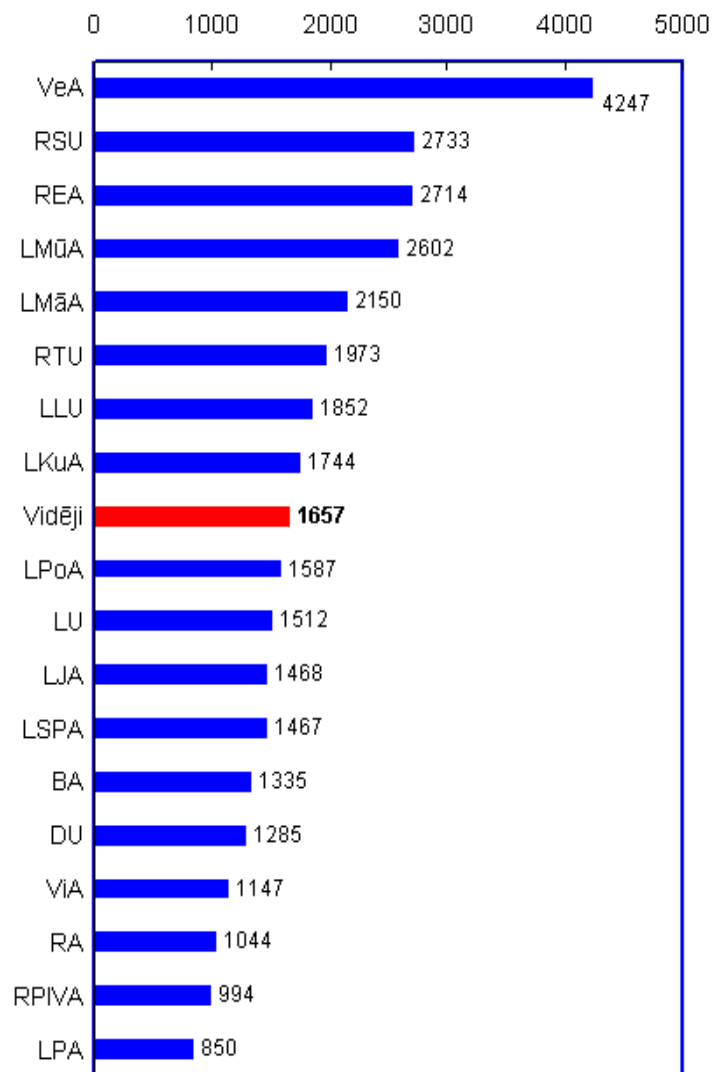


## **6. Engineering Research Centre departments**

- 1. Telecommunications**
- 2. Applied Electronics and Blue  
Tooth**
- 3. CAD/CAM**
- 4. Mathematical Modelling**



## 7. Financial results





Thank you for your attention!

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## Livonian Order castle & museums

