

PROMOTER

Status-quo Assessment Report

Rezekne City Municipality (PP2) Date 28/02/2024 Revision N°2

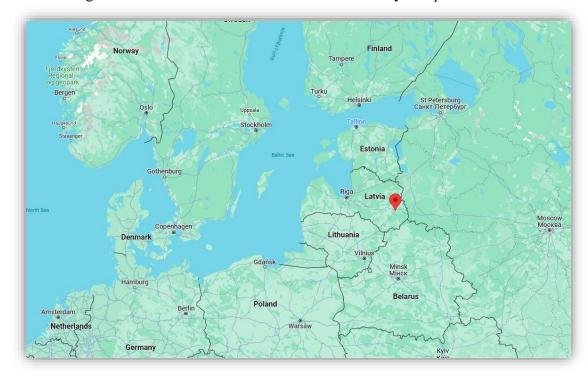
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1. General description of Region and its Demography

1.1 Land area by type

Rezekne is a state city in Latgale region with total area about 17.5 km². Rezekne is 7th largest city in Latvia. It is traditionally believed that city is built on seven hills. Rezekne is located near the Eastern border of Latvia, which is also the border of the European Union: 50 km to the border with Russia, 240 km to the capital city Riga. This territory is crossed by the international highways Riga-Moscow and St. Petersburg-Warsaw and used as a transit corridor for many companies.



https://www.google.com/maps/place

1.2 Population density

Density of population in Rezekne is 1,500/km2. According to the official statistics, there live 26 839 inhabitants at the beginning of 2021 in the city Rezekne. The national composition of the city is 48% Latvians, 42% Russians and 10% residents of other nationalities (Belarussians, Polish, Ukrainians, Roma etc.). The decrease in the population of the city Rezekne has been influenced by both migration and negative natural growth. The largest migration was observed from 1998 to 2001 and in 2009. Over the past five years, the population of the state city Rezekne has decreased by an average of 1.0% annually. At the beginning of 2021, 60.6% of the population is of working age.

1.3 Municipality

Rezekne as a city was first mentioned in historical sources in the 12th century. It was founded in 1285. The decision-making power is a council with 13 deputies, while the functions of the municipality and the execution of the council's decisions are implemented by the council's administration, branch administrations, institutions, agencies and associated companies. There are 3 committees and 16 commissions operating in the municipality.

2. Regional Factors concerning the theme

The specific principles put forward for the spatial development of the Rezekne City Municipality is the improvement of the city's public space, highlighting the diversity and attractiveness of the connecting elements - waterfront, "green structures", car transport, pedestrian and cyclist routes.

A lot of attention is paid to the convenience of pedestrians and their habits in the state city Rezekne in order to connect the most important objects of the urban environment depending on needs of local community, for example – the Centre of Creative Services of Eastern Latvia "Zeimuļs" at Dārzu Street with the Multifunctional culture centre "Gors" (The Embassy of Latgale) at Pils Street. The link between two objects in the city centre provides rather safe movement area for pedestrians and it is one of the most successful examples for availability of services, pedestrian/cyclist needs and solution with added value by raising the competitiveness of the city.

Unfortunately, the city of Rezekne does not have an extensive network of bicycle paths. there are a couple of combined paths for pedestrians and cyclists at Rīgas, Maskavas, Viļakas Street, at Atbrīvošanas avenue, separate sections along the Rezekne River.

The network of bicycle paths is planned in the municipality aimed to the convenient movement from one city side to another linked to the trips of leisure and entertainment character as well as daily (work) routes.

2.1 Mobility

2.1.1 Public network of transport system available in the region

The street network of Rezekne City Municipality is relative denser in the central and southern parts of the city.

2.1.2 Description and data on current bus fleet in city/area

Public transport service in the city and on some routes of surrounding area is provided by the bus service company SIA "Rezeknes satiksme", which is founded by Rezekne City Municipality. 22 environmentally friendly "SOR" buses with EURO 6 eco-engines are available daily for the convenience of citizens on the routes. The average operation time of the buses are 4 years.

2019 was implemented the EU project "Development of public transport in the city Rezekne in environmentally friendly way". There were purchased four 9.5-meterlong electric buses (M3 category) and was arranged related charging infrastructure in the territory of SIA "Rezeknes satiksme" in the framework of the project: three slow charging stations (from 6 to 8 hours) and one fast charging station (around 40 minutes). SIA "Rezeknes Satiksme" became the first company in Latvia and the Baltics states, which has started running electric buses.

2.1.3 Description and data on current private vehicles in the city/area

The number of cars registered in the city of Rezekne in the period from 2016 to 2020 has increased by 11.6% reaching 11,272 units in 2020 (including trucks, tractors - 1,553, buses 93, cars - 9,626). Only the number of buses is decreased at this time, but the number of trucks and passenger cars increased (respectively, a decrease of 25% or 31 buses, an increase of 18.2% or 239 trucks, an increase of 11.1% or for 960 passenger cars).

2.1.4 Description and data on other modes of e-mobility in the region (e.g., ebicycles, e-taxis etc.)

There are opportunities to use the services of rental vehicles in Rezekne, currently it is only offered by "Bolt", which offers electric scooters for rent. If the demand of this e-mobility service increases, other service providers such as *Ride*, *Fiqsy*, *Tuul* could enter e-scooters and e-bicycles market. This service could then become more available in a wider area of the city, as well as in the more densely populated areas of the suburbs, thus improving



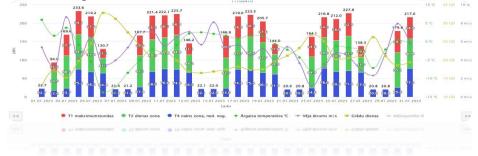
the mobility of residents. However, in order to facilitate the availability of this service, the existing road infrastructure needs to be improved, as it is currently not suitable for the safe use of such vehicles.

2.1.5 Description and data on charging infrastructures

E-mobi is a network of national fast-charging stations providing mobility of electric vehicles in the entire territory of Latvia. The network of charging stations is maintained by the State Administration for Road Safety (VAS "Ceļu satiksmes drošības direkcija"). The website e-mobi.lv and e-mobi application provides information on the installed charging stations and their status. At the moment, 141 fast-charging stations are operated within the e-mobi network across the territory of Latvia. There are only two charging points in the e-mobi network established in the city Rezekne – at Baznīcas Street and at Stacijas Street. Taking into account trends and directions of the e-mobile development, it is essential to increase the number of charging points in the city.

2.2 Energy

Rezekne City Municipality has been implementing an Energy Management System since 2018 in order to promote the efficient use of energy and resources towards sustainable development. Many technically and economically effective solutions have been analysing for management of the objects owned by the municipality, improving the level of energy efficiency and reducing financial expenses as well as emissions in the long term: reconstruction of heating networks of the centralized heat supply system, reconstruction of the street lighting network and implementation of technologies that increase energy efficiency, promoting measures aimed to use of renewable energy resources, co-financing of the municipality for implementation of energy efficiency measures in private apartment buildings.



2.2.1 Availability of renewable energy in the region

In Latvia, the opening of the electricity market was implemented gradually in accordance with the Electricity Market Law. In 2007, the market was opened to merchants with a large amount of electricity consumption. Starting from 1 April 2012, electricity users with medium-high electricity consumption were involved in the market, and as of 1 November 2012, other merchants could also purchase electricity on the free market. From 1 January 2015, the market was opened to households. In the total electricity market consumption, the electricity consumption of merchants makes up 75%, and 25% accounts to the electricity consumption of households.

2.2.2 Share of renewable energy source (RES) in energy production

Various RES are used for electricity generation in the residential sector, such as solar and wind energy. Photovoltaic (PV) panels, solar collectors, and heat pumps (HP) are the most popular equipment for the household energy generation. According to the data of the Latvian Ministry of Economics on the connections of microgenerators, the absolute majority of them generate energy using renewable energy resources (98% is solar energy). Solar energy can play a major role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector.

The impact of the NET payment system for electricity (NET system) established in Latvia at the moment is small. Approximately 2 GWh/year of electricity is transferred to the network using the existing NET system, but this amount will not practically affect the expected energy consumption in 2020. It will constitute about 0.004% of the total electricity consumption. The NET payment system was introduced by Article 30 of the Electricity Market Law as a state support mechanism to promote the production of electricity from RES in general, as well as to promote the involvement of the population in the production of renewable energy. It has been valid since 1 January 2014. The NET system stipulates that households that produce electricity for their own needs and transfer the surplus to the grid can use the NET payment system, which allows them to accumulate generated units of electricity and use it during the year, paying only for the mandatory purchase, distribution, and transmission components. In March 2020, the NET system was used by 519 household consumers, and their total installed capacity was 2.8 MW.

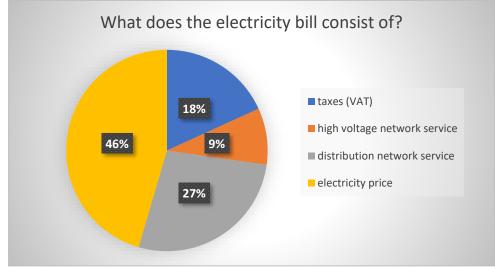
Other energy producers participate in the NET payment system, where the surplus of produced solar energy is transferred to a common grid, used by the grid as storage, and recovered when needed by paying distribution and transmission fees, as well as the OIK. This payment accounted for about 40% of the total electricity price. On 7 April 2020, the Cabinet of Ministers approved amendments to regulation number 50, "Regulations Regarding the Trade and Use of Electricity", simplifying the procedure for application of the NET system. From 1 April 2020, households no longer have to pay the variable part of the OIK for electricity transmitted and returned to the grid.

2.2.3 Regional energy market structure (e.g., energy production, electricity grids, transport of energy, energy delivery to customers, ownership and operation)

The most significant sources of electricity generation in Latvia are the Riga natural gas combined heat and power plants TEC-1 and TEC-2, with a total installed

electrical capacity of 976 MW in 2019, and the Daugava cascade hydro power plants (HPPs) with an installed capacity of 1558 MW. The total installed electrical capacity in Latvia was 2915 MW in 2019; other RES power plants, excluding Daugava HPP, make up just 9% (wind, small hydropower, solar power plants, and biomass and biogas cogeneration plants). The Daugava HPPs have a high proportion of installed capacity, but considering their fluctuating generation, which is significantly dependent on climatic conditions, natural gas cogeneration plants still play an important role in Latvia's energy supply. In 2017, under favorable conditions for the operation of 101%, while in 2019, under significantly less favourable conditions, only at the amount of 84.7%. It follows from the above that electricity production in Latvia is characterized by low diversification of energy sources, which significantly affects self-sufficiency in energy dependence on imported fossil sources.

The infrastructure of electricity supplies consists of high-voltage 330 kV and 110 kV power lines in Rezekne City Municipality. Existing arrangement of electricity networks and available capacity cover fully demand of actual electricity consumers in Rezekne. Free capacity is also available in the city of Rezekne at the beginning of 2022. There is one distribution system operator named "Sadales Tīkls" and one transmission system operator named "Augstsprieguma tīkls" in Latvia. Currently, one nominated electricity market operator (electricity exchange), which is Nord Pool, operates in Latvia.



https://sadalestikls.lv/lv/tarifi

Electricity prices are determined by various factors, such as fuel structure, crossborder interconnections, market interconnection, concentration of market suppliers, weather conditions, etc. PV is offered on the Latvian market by several manufacturers. Before choosing the manufacturer, it is necessary to make sure that the PV complies with the distribution system operator's microgenerator connection requirements. The overview of electricity traders' offers shows the main electricity traders that also offer PV installation. Prosumers need to make sure that the electricians contracted by the PV dealer have the appropriate certification for the installation of the microgenerator. This is required to obtain a distribution system operator PV installation permit. In Latvia, PV installation is also offered by electricity traders, such as *Enefit Ltd*. (Tallinn, Estonia), JSC *Latvenergo-Elektrum (Elektrum Solar)* (Riga, Latvia), etc. Companies offer to support PV installation, including the development of consent, paperwork, PV delivery, and installation. *Enefit* and *Elektrum* have developed calculators where any interested person can calculate the required PV system with possible costs.

The principal problems of solar and wind energies are the seasonal, daily, or instantaneous variations due to dependence on weather conditions, meaning the power generation is stochastic. It is needed to coordinate all connections to the network with operators, because solar and wind energy are unstable and change the voltage profile and frequency response of the system. This affects the transmission and distribution systems of the utility grid.

2.2.4 Description of current state of Energy Communities

The movement of prosumers in Latvia is at an early stage of development. However, there are various initiatives, including small enterprises, municipal, and individual citizens that incorporate the features of energy prosumers or RES projects.

At present, the concept of energy communities is not clearly defined in Latvia, and so far, no such initiatives have been developed, and the establishment of such communities has not been specifically supported.

Prosumers are individuals, groups of people, households, or farms that can function in an organized way - for example, through associations, foundations, or cooperatives - that are both producers and consumers of energy, produced in small installations in courtyards or in residential or commercial buildings (for example, miniature wind turbines, PV panels, solar panels, and HP.

2.3 Infrastructures as potential hubs

Sustainable energy transition means not only the transition from fossil to RES, but also the improvement of energy efficiency in the energy production process.

Due to the advantageous geographical position of Latvia on the shores of the Baltic Sea, the western part of the country is exposed to the influence of southwestern winds, which prevail in this region. The western territories of Latvia are covered with forest plains, and in the eastern part of the country there are hills up to 300 m high. Offshore wind flows have significant potential for wind energy for generating electricity.

According to the analysis of wind efficiency in Latvia, the most suitable region for the installation of low-power wind turbines in Latvia is the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea; the higher elevation in northeastern Latvia, as well as the western region and most of central Latvian territory, are also considered suitable regions. In the rest of the territory of Latvia, wind efficiency is lower - thus, the amount of electricity produced with low-power WT decreases.

2.3.1 Public buildings and other premises

Analysing the available data according the Energy Management report of the city Rezekne from 2016 to 2020 it can be concluded that the total energy consumption has decreased in all forms of energy.

Energy efficiency is not only building insulation, window replacement, roof replacement and insulation, but also the use of RES. There are infrastructure projects, which are already implemented aimed to use of RES. One of such

successful objects is related to the installation of vacuum solar collectors that heat water. They are located on the roofs of such public buildings as pre-school institution (3), Administration building for social issues at Zemnieku street 16A, Olympic Centre Rezekne (OCR) and hotel "Restart", Rezekne Cultural House of the National Societies and were installed in the framework of building and renovation projects. Due to this model Rezekne City Municipality can reduce heating costs, because these collectors give opportunity to receive hot water and during this period there is no need to use the service from the central heating system.

The OCR was designed taking in account several solutions of energy efficiency and following the guidelines of green direction. The installed cogeneration system works depending on weather conditions – it is possible to save about 70-80 MWh during a month. In summertime, when the outdoor swimming pool is open, the heat volume produced by ice rink compressors is not simply discharged into the atmosphere, but transferred for raising temperature in the outdoor swimming pool (up to 27 degrees), to preheat internal water networks, to maintain the ventilation equipment warm.



https://ocr.lv/

Solar collectors located on the roof of hotel "Restart" are used to preheat the water after solar energy were turned it into heat. It has been calculated that hot water storage tanks with a total volume of $2m^3$ provide hot water supply for the hotel and swimming pool for up to 3 hours, if necessary.

The solar power plant of the building at Zemnieku 16A has a capacity of 18.08 kW and is capable of producing approximately 13,000 kWh of electricity per year. It is planned that the amount of electricity produced by the solar panels will cover approximately 40% of the building's annual electricity consumption. Solar panels were installed for the building at Zemnieku street 16A, as part of the project "Increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources in the administration buildings of the Rezekne city municipality".

Information boards placed in the city are powered by solar batteries too.

The associated company responsible for heating networks in the city ("Rēzeknes siltumtīkli") pays special attention to activities aimed at the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and a partial transition from the use of fossil energy resources (natural gas) to the use of RES, thus making a significant contribution to the field of bioenergy.

2.3.2 Private buildings and other premises

Currently we can observe that there are limited range of citizens in private sector, who have decided to use solar batteries in city Rezekne. The biggest obstacle for a

household's involvement in the energy market is the lack of support mechanisms and relatively high cost of RES technologies. The proportion of private multiapartment buildings in the city of Rezekne in 2021 is by 80.7%. Unfortunately, one specific system is not suitable for all buildings. Therefore, private sector needs to get support to choose the best solution that fully matches appropriated model depending on the amount of required energy. In addition - solar energy is a long-term returnable investment, which makes it less attractive.

Solar energy in Latvia can be used for 1700–1900 h a year. In Latvia, with 1 kW PV, it is possible to produce an average of 900–1000 kWh of electricity per year: in summer months about 130–140 kWh per month, and in winter months 5–25 kWh per month.

It can be concluded according gained experience that the use of solar energy in Latvia for electricity will pay off only with highly efficient technologies and at the lowest possible capital investments.

No	Name of stakeholder	Identified key- stakeholders	Earmark Describe	Strategies for their mobilization and ongoing involvement in the project Phases 1&2
1	Latvian state roads administration (VAS "Latvijas valsts ceļi")		 legislative basement rules guidelines 	 participation / local seminars support / work with conception
2	Latvian Road Traffic administration (CSDD)		 legislative basement rules guidelines 	 participation / local seminars support / work with conception
3	Rezekne public transport operator (SIA "Rēzeknes satiksme")	х	GPRESactivities	 participation / local seminars support / work with conception study visits
4	Association of Latvian Cyclists		GPactivitiessupport	 participation / local seminars support / work with conception study visits
5	NGO "Rezekne Mother's club" (NVO "Rēzeknes Māmiņu klubs")	X	 consumer/prosumer activities	 participation / local seminars support / work with conception
6	Rezekne State gymnasium		 consumer/prosumer activities	 participation / local seminars

2.3.3 Open areas

No data available

3. Updated list of stakeholders

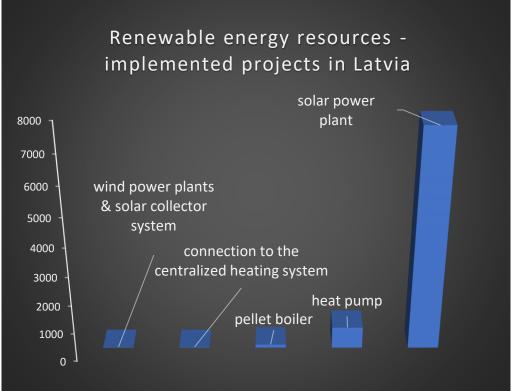
				 support / work with conception study visits
7	Rezekne Secondary school		consumer/prosumeractivities	 participation / local seminars support / work with conception study visits
8	Rezekne Culture and Tourism Center	X	 GP consumer/prosumer activities	 participation / local seminars support / work with conception
9	Olympic Center Rezekne (OCR)	X	- GP - RES - activities	 participation / local seminars support / work with conception study visits
10	Administration for social issues (Sociālā pārvalde)	Х	 consumer/prosumer RES activities 	 participation / local seminars support / work with conception study visits
11	The Centre of Creative Services of Eastern Latvia "Zeimuļs" (Austrumlatvijas radošo pakalpojumu centrs "Zeimuļs")	х	- GP - consumer/prosumer - activities	 participation / local seminars support / work with conception
12	Waste management operator (SIA "ALAAS")	х	- GP - RES - activities	 participation / local seminars support / work with conception study visits

4. Legislative and financial environment in support to renewable energy initiatives

The EU has no specific legislation on prosumers, self-production, or selfconsumption, and there is no general definition of prosumers. However, the Energy Efficiency Directive, the Renewable Energy Directive, and the State Aid Guidelines contain provisions for small electricity producers.

4.1 Legislation, regulations etc.

Despite the fact that the introduction of energy efficiency measures in Latvia is widely reported, there is still a lack of public information and educational measures to promote renewable energy sources. The biggest obstacle for a household's involvement in the energy market is the lack of support mechanisms and relatively high cost of renewable energy source technologies. In order to attract the public to energy production, the concept of energy community needs to be defined in Latvian legislation, a balanced peer trading mechanism needs to be developed for various renewable energy source self-consumption groups willing to sell surplus electricity, and tax policy conditions need to be reviewed for electricity transactions outside the NET (payment system), in order to fully ensure the rights of prosumers. The long-term objective of Latvia's National Energy and Climate plan (NECP) 2021–2030 (one of the main energy planning documents in Latvia) is to promote a climate-neutral economy by improving energy security and the well-being of society in a sustainable, competitive, cost-effective, secure, and market-based manner. Analysing this plan, it was concluded that there is only one support mechanism in Latvia that can increase public involvement in the electricity market as a generating consumer-NET payment system. In order to attract more households to participate in the energy market as productive consumersprosumers, major changes in Latvian legislation are needed.



https://www.tv3.lv/

4.2 Financial incentives etc.

If the state starts subsidizing or providing support to small producers, the development dynamics of microgenerators will certainly be much higher.

In March 2020, 573 microgenerator connections (up to 11.1 kW) were registered in Latvia. Their total installed electrical capacity was 3.4 MW, which is a small part (\sim 0.1%) of the total installed electrical capacity in Latvia. 98 households of these 573 connections sell stored energy to energy traders for commercial purposes: the electricity trader buys electricity at the price at which he would be able to sell it on the market, covering his own costs, but without distribution and transmission service costs or the mandatory procurement component (OIK), and

the electricity producer bilaterally agrees on the terms of cooperation. According to the data of the Ministry of Economics on the connections of microgenerators, the absolute majority of them generate energy using renewable energy resources (98% is solar energy). At the same time, there are households and legal entities that install higher capacity equipment for their own energy production, and there are currently no incentives available for legal entities. Up to June 2020, the Ministry of Economics (ME) had issued 282 permits to increase electricity generation capacity or introduce new generation facilities that do not meet the requirements for microgenerator connections. According to the information of the ME on issued permits, 46% of them use solar energy and 30% use wind energy to generate electricity; the rest also use RES hydropower or biomass cogeneration plants. 37% of electricity is produced for their own consumption, and only 4% of the permits have been for households and other legal entities.

If a permit to increase electricity generation capacity or to introduce new generation facilities is received, it is not guaranteed that the rights to sell electricity produced from renewable energy sources or to sell electricity produced in cogeneration within the framework of mandatory procurement (OIK) will be acquired.

Strengths	Weaknesses			
 Rezekne in its development as a regional centre of national importance; geographical location - at the crossroads of strategic national roads, railways, in the geographical centre of Latgale; human resources and education is available at all levels: preschool, primary school, secondary school, professional, higher and lifelong education; a large number of young people aged 18-25; Natural resources and minerals of the Latgale region; the green structure of the city (including Rezekne river, Kovšu lake and pedestrian promenade); actions aimed at reducing of greenhouse gas emissions and partial transition from the use of fossil energy resources; gradually measures to renovate and organize environmental and strategically important infrastructure. 	 population decline and aging; low life and wellbeing quality; lack of competitive pay; lack of qualified specialists, which has an impact on the labour market; lack of quality and new housing; organization of public transport routes and increasing in the number (use) of private transport; few electric charging points; increasing number of traffic accidents; fragmentary insufficient network of bicycle paths in the city and surrounding area; waste management (including waste sorting problems); drinking water quality; the number of official swimming places; lack of a water management plan in the city. 			
Opportunities	Threats			

5. S.W.O.T Analysis Environment, INFRASTRUCTURE AND MOBILITY

- to create mobility points of different levels and their connections (national, regional, urban, local);
- to attract services of rental vehicle;
- to improve and develop all types of public infrastructure networks (bike routes, roads, electricity, water supply, leisure opportunities etc.);
- to develop a unified bicycle network;
- to develop thematic plan for transport infrastructure;
- to develop plan water management;
- to improve waste sorting organization process and involvement in the development of a regional waste management plan;
- climate-neutral solutions for creation and management of buildings, infrastructure;
- thoughtful extraction of minerals;
- to ensure restoration of the environment and strategically important infrastructure facilities in municipality;
- to use alternative electricity (including to establish solar panel parks);
- to meet generally activities in order to promote and to improve life quality and reach economic development;
- to make prevention regarding labour shortage (to attract and support young specialists);
- digitization of services and use of modern technologies in all areas (administration, education, healthcare and urban environment);
- to implement community projects;
- to involve citizens and NGOs in municipal decision-making process.

- population decline linked to challenges in other areas as result: social, economic, educational and health care;
- lack of co-financing from the EU and other funds for the development of large projects;
- polluted environment, territories with waste, etc. (forests, ditches, roadsides, water bodies, etc.);
- the population's lack of knowledge about the impact of their lifestyle and habits on climate changes;
- thoughtless and fragmentary construction of infrastructure facilities, incl. reconstruction;
- reckless use of minerals;
- lack of skilled labour in the future;
- the proximity of the borders of Russia and Belarus;
- weak public involvement in the generation of proposals and ideas.

6. READINESS MODEL INDICATOR RESULTS

Number of indicators for each of the 5 Categories							
	Level of readiness	1. Legis- lative	2. Behavioural / Organisational	3. Economic	4. Technological	5. Operation scope and environment. Other features	Total score
Baseline		0	3	2	0	0	5
01/08/2023 (at the project		2	2	6	5	7	22
start)		2	5	2	4	0	13

Number of Indicators for each of the 5 Categories

In this scale, the most score is given to indicators in yellow colour. It illustrates ability of Rezekne City Municipality to adopt a proposed changes in policy documents addressed to the green mobility and energy hubs, including organization's capacity, processes, environment, and resources to handle the transformation. The policymaking process in the transition period is complex and requires detailed analysis based on actual monitoring data. In the process, we need to take the conflicting requirements on the social, economic, environmental and technical issues into account. It is considered that additional examination is necessary for the score given to each indicator of the five categories to successfully carry out proposed changes. The readiness model also involves understanding the current state of operations and looking at potential risks and challenges that could arise from implementing of project actions.

<u>Sources</u>

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