



# SEED

## Doughnut Economics Approach for Sustainable Decarbonisation and Citizen Engagement

### RIGA, LATVIA

#### Emissions domains addressed by the Pilot Activity



All vehicles &  
transport  
(mobile energy)

#### Key Terms

Doughnut Economics | City Portrait | Just transition  
| Low-emission zones | Participatory policymaking |  
Systemic thinking | Capacity building | Youth and  
educator engagement | Policy integration

#### Levers of Change

Democracy and participation | Governance and  
policy | Learning and capabilities | Social  
innovation

#### Description of the Pilot Activity

SEED introduces Doughnut Economics as a strategic framework to align climate action with social and ecological wellbeing in Riga. Recognising that climate strategies often operate in silos, the pilot promotes systemic thinking and participatory policymaking — making visible how the city's choices affect social foundations and ecological ceilings at both local and global scales.

#### Year One Highlights

Riga's central Year 1 output was the city's first Doughnut City Portrait — a data-driven assessment of performance across social and ecological indicators at both local and global scale. The Portrait identifies gaps and trade-offs across all major domains and has been accepted for integration into the Riga Development Programme 2028–2032, giving it a direct policy pathway beyond the project.

The Portrait was developed through a participatory process involving citizens, businesses, NGOs, municipal departments, and academia.

A citizen workshop gathered priorities and challenges that shaped the final framing, with participants reporting increased awareness of the systemic nature of urban sustainability challenges.

A comprehensive toolkit — guidebook and participatory process handbook — was developed and published online in both Latvian and English, the latter a deliberate pivot from the original plan to support international uptake.

18 youth workers from the Ministry of Science and Education and 14 Ecoschool educators were trained to integrate Doughnut thinking into their ongoing work, creating a multiplier effect beyond direct project participants.

#### Innovation Highlights

The Doughnut City Portrait's four-lens methodology — combining social and ecological domains at local and global scale — makes visible the connections between Riga's consumption patterns and impacts beyond its borders, which standard city-level emissions accounting misses entirely. Publishing the full toolkit openly positions Riga as a replication enabler: other cities can build their own Portrait without starting from scratch. Training youth workers and educators rather than only city officials creates institutional reach that extends well beyond the project's direct engagement.

#### Twinning with Şişli (Turkey)

The collaboration has been productive, with Şişli representatives participating in the Doughnut City Portrait presentation event. This exchange facilitated sharing of ideas around applying the Doughnut Economics framework for sustainable urban transformation.

