



**UNIVERSITY
OF LATVIA**

Public Administration Studies: from Academic Theory to Collaboration

**former student
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UNICOM «National regulation and third mission implementation in HEI - experience and collaboration with social partners»

Riga, 22.08.2023

CV



- University of Latvia
 - BSc geog 1996
 - MSc geog 1999
 - MPA 2023
- Riga municipality (1996 – 2021)
 - City Development Department
 - Urban Transport Simulation Model
 - ICT and front office service support for development planners
 - ISO 9001:2000 implementation
 - Riga City Construction Office
 - Administration
 - Service development



Professional experience acquired



- Administration skills
- HR & PR management skills
- Elaboration of legal documents
 - Municipal documents
 - National law amendment practise
- Cooperation
 - State institutions
 - NGOs
 - Investors
 - Citizens representatives

My Professional consequences



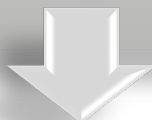
Contacts

Experience

Self learned
knowledge

Burn-out

Feel out-dated



Time for some changes



Why another master studies?

- Need for advanced knowledge in order to add some theoretical side to acquired self-learned competences
- Geographical education sometimes is not the case
- HR principles in public owned institutions and enterprises
 - Competition procedures are common
 - Chief executives must have lawyer or economical education



Why Public administration studies...?

- Respectable reputation
- Appropriate for future career
- Many colleagues have such education
- Well known alumni
 - Graduated politicians, ministers and other active professionals
- Keen for new challenges
- To get more comprehension about current national challenges

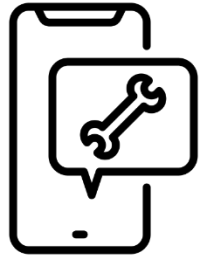


Service policy in Public administration

- Institutions must perform reasonable service
 - Joint service centres for state & municipal authorities
 - Find all relevant information by themselves if available within other institutions
 - Consultation principle instead of fines
- Inclusive public administration citizen's involvement
- Need for collaboration between authorities
 - Legislation amendments
 - Different motivation and values of staff
 - Another competence & knowledge



Issues tackled & observed



- Co-operation problems between institutions
 - Lack of initiatives for change management or weak performance
 - Restrictions of National legislation system
- Tensions between bodies of state & municipalities
 - Insufficient budget problems
 - Playground of politicians
- Sometimes state officials perform not in general interests of public sector even though they are unaware of it

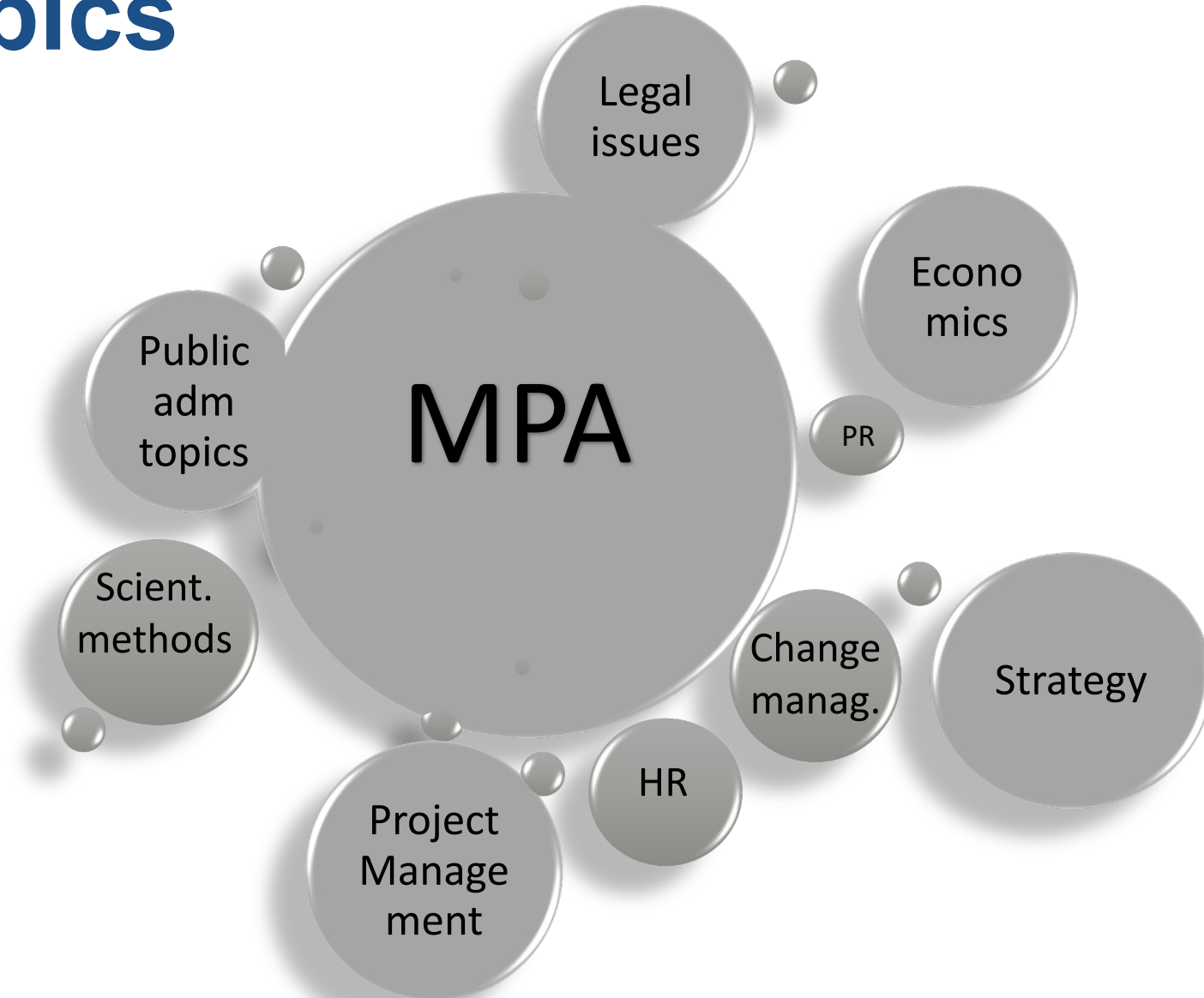
MPA Enrollment of 2021



- Representatives of:
 - State and municipal institutions
 - Private sector
 - Politically related/connected persons
- Mainly bachelor degree background
- Mix of different generations & experiences, learning styles
 - Gen X, Millennials, Gen Z
- Common features:
 - Only basic background knowledge in economics
 - Strong interests in public administration processes & related topics



Main topics



Public administration course

- Task force reflecting common actualities in public administration
 - Analysis of political environment related to economical & public administration issues
- Involvement in public discussions
 - Public administration modernisation plan of Latvia
 - National Action Plan of Open Government Partnership
- Bilateral Synergy
 - Practise of documents elaboration
 - Preparation of comments in specific expression of legal documentation
 - Some fresh ideas worth for public officials as well



Study essentials

- Economics/Macroeconomics
 - Exciting but challenging
- Strategy of organizations course
 - Alternate thinking
 - Prompt results as alumni are more likely to win competitions for chief executive officials
- Scientific skills
 - Scientific writing skills
 - Thesis formulation
 - Methods



Invited guests to take lectures

- PhD students
 - One of topics: System of National Development Planning
- Professionals from:
 - Public owned institutions
 - Crises management experts
 - C19 crises expert
 - State Control Authority
 - State Chancellery
 - History Institute
 - etc.
 - Private entities
 - PR expert
- Politicians



Inside group work



- Cooperation & collaboration approach
- Development of appropriate skills including leadership especially for young colleagues
- Some topics:
 - Sustainable development challenges in different economies
 - Analysis of economical promises, populistics of different governments
 - Theory and practise of interaction and cooperation between politics and officials, profesionals
 - HR strategy plans for public owned institutions/enterprises
 - Financial analysis and comparison of different economies
 - Public opinion observation tasks

Some themes of Master thesis (2023)

- Development Scenarios for the Electric Car Market in the Context of the European Green Deal
- Access to quality housing and opportunities for improving the provision of quality housing in Saldus municipality
- The quality of education in the context of school network reform in Latvia
- Cost-Benefit Assessment of National Road Projects
- Changes in the work organization during Covid-19 crisis - hybrid work and remote work in the Public Administration
- Long-term development opportunities of health care system in Latvia
- Public administration challenges to face demographic issues of ageing in Latvia
- Problems of ensuring equal opportunities for public owned and private enterprises



Received excellences

- Academic knowledge
- Concise writing skills also in different manners
- Discussion development
- Presentation skills
- Institutional network knowledge and contacts
- Different experiences and approaches



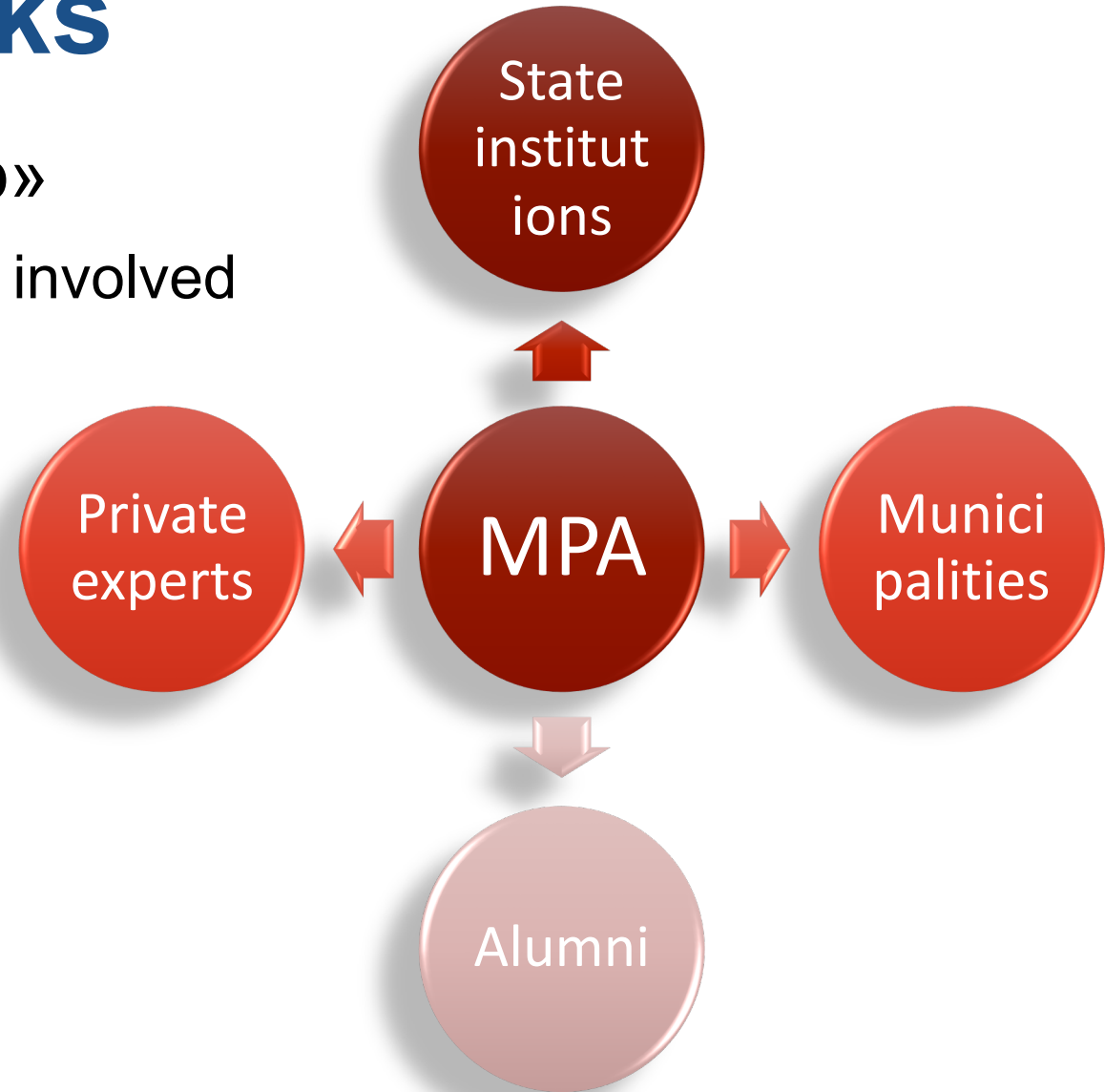
Different dimensions of knowledge/experience exchange



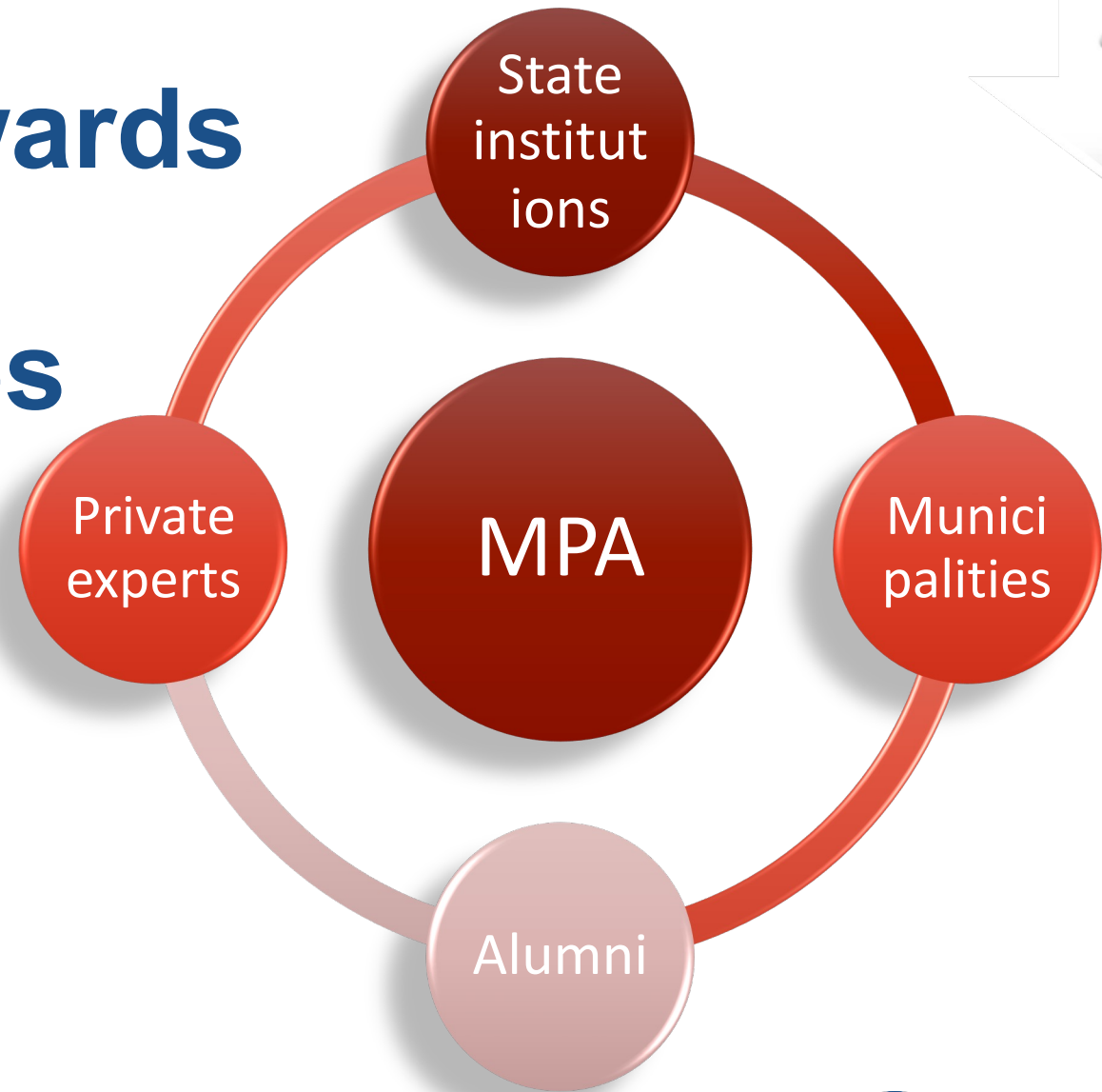
- Academic staff
- Professionals from public & private sectors
- Alumni
- Learning even each from other within the group colleagues from different sectors and experiences
 - Sometimes gen X provides help support gen Z

Concluding remarks

- Emerging «Collaboration Hub»
 - Ministries and state institutions involved
 - Involvement of alumni
 - Municipalities to be involved
 - Union of municipalities
 - Union of large towns



The way of public administration towards tight co-operation between authorities



The latest OECD recommendations against cartels shows the same approach of co-operation emphasis

- „ Encourage formal and informal co-operation among competition authorities and other relevant authorities such as public-procurement, audit and anti-corruption authorities, and criminal prosecutors (if applicable), including through the development of common policies, information exchange, co-ordination and assistance in delivering their respective mandates in the context of public procurement. ”
- Recommendation of the Council on Fighting Bid Rigging in Public Procurement (OECD, 2023)

My reflections & inspirations

- «Why not PhD?»: reasonable question by the university enrollment commission...
 - The answer: «... but I had no academic knowledge of economy»
 - Keen to get to know some more related topics
- Master studies - worth the time
 - Filled knowledge gaps (at least some of them)
 - Acquired latest tools & approaches
 - Master thesis theme – way to uncover previously unknown topic (for me)
- What's next?... PhD... Right Choice in Right Place & in Exact Time!





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Thank you!

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