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LATEST NEWS

New Scientific Ideas for Latvia's Future

On Friday, 27 February, Latvian scientists gathered at the Latvian Academy of Sciences (LAS) for the closing ceremony of the competition recognizing the most significant scientific achievements of 2025.

We congratulate the 12 laureates representing a wide range of scientific fields. In total, 55 proposals were submitted: 25 in natural sciences, engineering and technology, and medical sciences; 26 in the humanities and social sciences; and 4 in agricultural sciences. The competition, organized annually in Latvia, has become highly popular.

For the first time, one of the 12 laureates received the LMT Group Special Award for Export Support. In addition, ten participants were awarded letters of appreciation from the President of LAS.

The event was supported by the Ministry of Education and Science, along with cooperation partners AS "Latvijas Finieris", LMT Group, SIA "Light Guide Optics International", and the law firm "Eversheds Sutherland Bitans". Media support was provided by Latvian Public Media, including Latvian Television.

Award-Winning Achievements

1. Scientific Monograph:

Agrarian Reform: Peasant Revival and Agricultural Development in Latvia
A team of 13 authors, led by Editor-in-Chief Dr. oec. Irina Pilvere, Full Member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences.

The monograph provided a comprehensive overview of Latvia's recent agrarian reform, offering a deep and multidimensional perspective on one of the most significant processes in the history of Latvia's restored independence.

It consisted of 11 chapters analyzing the historical, political, economic, and social aspects of the reform, as well as its impact on agricultural development from the 1980s to the present, including the evolution of agricultural policy following Latvia's accession to the European Union. The work combined academic analysis with interviews conducted by journalist Ilze Būmane, presenting personal accounts from farmers, cooperative leaders, and business managers.

2. Research on African Swine Fever (ASF):

A team of 10 authors led by Dr. med. vet., Ph.D. Edvīns Oļševskis (Scientific Institute BIOR).

This comprehensive research on the epidemiology, surveillance, and control of African swine fever laid the foundation for widely cited international studies and recommendations.

The studies documented the initial spread of ASF in wild boar and domestic pig populations, analyzed the effectiveness of biosecurity measures, identified common shortcomings, and used collected data to model the spread dynamics of ASF in wild boar populations.

This achievement demonstrated successful cooperation between science and the public sector within the European Union. The results were used by experts from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) to develop international recommendations. Altogether, 16 scientific publications were produced, including two in *Nature Scientific Reports* and four in *Transboundary and Emerging Diseases*.

About the Competition

The Latvian Academy of Sciences has been evaluating annual scientific achievements across all disciplines since 2002. In 2025, the competition was held for the 24th time.

Since 2011, LAS has organized an official ceremony to honor the winners, which has become an important event in Latvian scientific life. To further promote Latvian science internationally, LAS published the *Latvian Academy of Sciences Yearbook 2025*, with support from the Ministry of Education and the Boris and Ināra Teterev Foundation.

Statement from the President of LAS

During a press meeting, LAS President Ivars Kalviņš emphasized that the 2025 results demonstrated Latvia's growing integration into the European and global scientific ecosystem.

He highlighted that Latvian researchers continued to deliver high-level results in both fundamental and applied science, while also advancing innovation in technologies and materials, as well as contributing significantly to the humanities and social sciences.

Among the examples:

- Researchers from the University of Latvia contributed a significant share of the top achievements.

- Scientists from the Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis identified a promising candidate substance for treating diabetes and obesity and developed new methodologies for producing halogen-containing molecules.
- The Biomedical Research and Study Centre advanced vaccine development for Lyme disease.
- The BIOR Institute strengthened research and recommendations for combating African swine fever.
- Riga Technical University researchers implemented methods to ensure electricity system stability under high-risk conditions.
- The Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies contributed with a major monograph on agrarian reform.
- The Latvian State Institute of Wood Chemistry developed environmentally friendly materials for industrial applications.

Overall, the competition once again demonstrated the strong performance and international relevance of Latvian science.

Latvia Among Global Leaders in Emissions Reduction

Latvia ranked fourth globally in total greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions between 1990 and 2023. According to World Bank data, Latvia's emissions in 2023 were 66.6% lower than in 1990.

One of the key indicators of the European Union's (EU) climate change policy action is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. According to European Climate Law (*Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 2021 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations*

(EC) No 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999), the EU aims to reduce its net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions domestically by at least 55% by 2030, compared to the 1990 levels; the EU's goal by 2050 is to become climate neutral, which means reaching net-zero GHG emissions.

Global Policy Context

At the beginning of 2025, the United States adopted a different policy direction under President Donald Trump, including withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. The policy emphasized prioritizing national economic interests while continuing to recognize the importance of reducing pollution and protecting natural ecosystems.

Global Emissions Perspective

In 2023:

- China emitted 13.26 billion tons of CO_2e
- USA: 4.7 billion tons
- EU: 2.5 billion tons
- India: 2.96 billion tons

These figures illustrate the global scale of emissions and the challenges in achieving meaningful reductions.

Conclusions

Given global emission trends, reductions by smaller economies alone may have a limited impact on global totals. However, reducing pollution remains essential for environmental and public health.

For Latvia, a balanced and economically sustainable approach is recommended—one that continues to reduce emissions while maintaining economic stability and quality of life.

Reducing air, land, and water pollution should remain a shared global objective, supported by innovation and effective technologies.

The article was originally published in the 6 January 2026 issue of *Dienas Bizness*.

Full article: https://www.lmsp.lv/latvia-among-the-world-s-leaders-in-cutting-emissions-over-last-35-years

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