Customs education at Riga Technical University (RTU)
“Is customs officer a profession? If it is, it must have uniform requirements, i.e. the Profession Standard.”

/The question asked at the 1st PICARD conference/
Today,
at the 3rd PICARD conference
we already discuss the first results of the introduction of the uniform WCO Profession Standard.
In 1993, there were 1700 customs officers in the Latvian Customs,

30% of them had secondary education  
(i.e. 500 persons);

20% - higher education  
(i.e. 340 persons,  
incl. 40 with economic or juridical education).
National Customs Profession Standards

National Tertiary Education Professional Standards

Study programmes of Riga Technical University
1. College programme

*Duration:*  
full-time – 2 years  
part-time – 2.5 years  

*Qualification:* “Customs Expert”
2. **Professional Bachelor study programme**

*Duration:*

- full-time: 4 years
- after college programme: 2 years
- part-time: 5 years
- after college programme: 2.5 years

*Qualification:* “Head of Customs unit” and the degree of professional Bachelor in customs and tax administration
3. **Professional Master study programme**

*Duration:*

- full-time for persons with the academic Bachelor degree – 1.5 years
- part-time for persons with the academic Bachelor degree – 2.5 years

*Degree:* professional Master in customs and tax administration
Since 1994,

~7 000 persons have graduated from RTU in customs and tax administration.
Currently

RTU has more than 1000 students in the study programme “Customs and tax administration”.
Annually

RTU offers customs and tax focused qualification advancement courses to:

- **1 300** heads of customs units, customs officers and tax inspectors;

- as well as **200 – 300** certified customs brokers and declarants.
Qualification advancement

State Revenue Service staff

- Customs officers
  - 30 programmes
- Customs officers (control of strategic and dual use goods)

Entrepreneurs

- Tax inspectors
  - 6 programmes
- Customs declarants
- Customs brokers