

RAILWAYS AND GREENWAYS IN LATVIA

Theory and Practice

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Railways of Latvia and their development

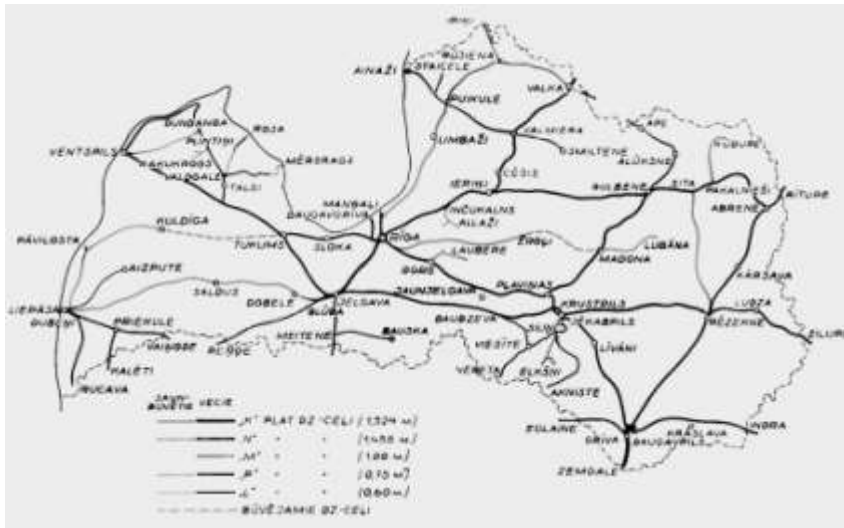


Statistics - past

- From 1860 till 1940 totally built 3223 km of railway lines,
- 30 % of them - narrow gauge (less than 1435 mm gauge),
- 50 % of them – secondary railways (Nebenbahn).

Railway network

1940



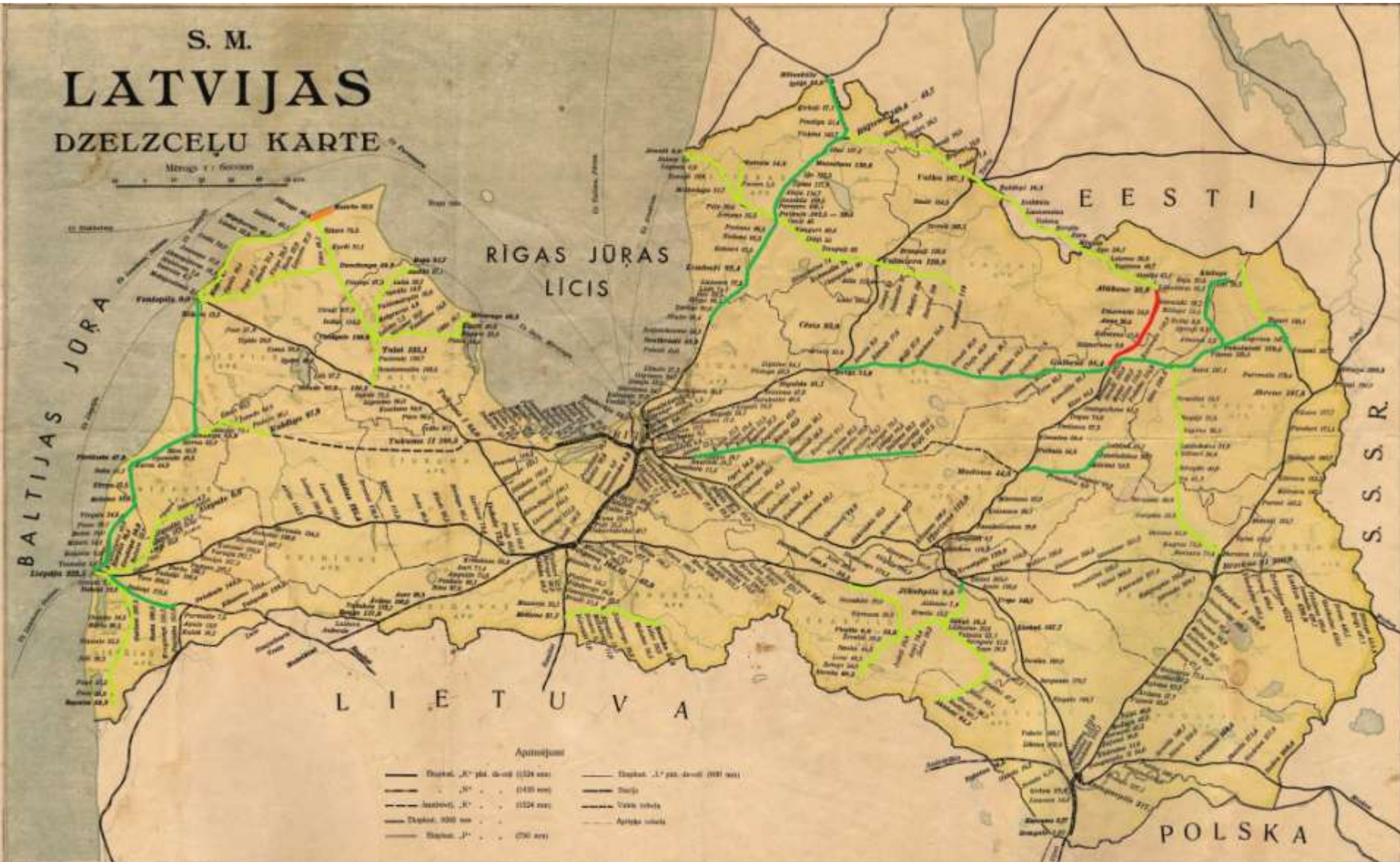
2014



Statistics - present

- Total length of operational railway lines today is 1806 km,
- During last 50 years we theoretically lost 1417 km of railways (all potential greenways),
- Practically we have 5 km of so called greenways now.

Latvian Railways map of 1938



Problems according greenways

- ▶ Almost all narrow gauge railways were dismantled in 1960-1970-ties. And in some cases it is even problematic to find any trace of them (marked in light green on the map). Incidentally, this is also true for some of the most recently dismantled broad gauge railways.

Problems according greenways



Problems according greenways



Problems according greenways

- Not all the railways after the removal of the track is cleaned up - sleepers are not harvested or (that is more pity) bridges have been stolen and gravel from embankments illegally removed.



Problems according greenways

- Part of the abandoned railways continue to carry the railway infrastructure status, which means here is prohibit to change anything, in other words – even touch the ground. But practically local people doing here everything (including vandalism), nobody are monitoring it.

Potential greenways of Kurzeme



Greenway Mazirbe-Sīkrags

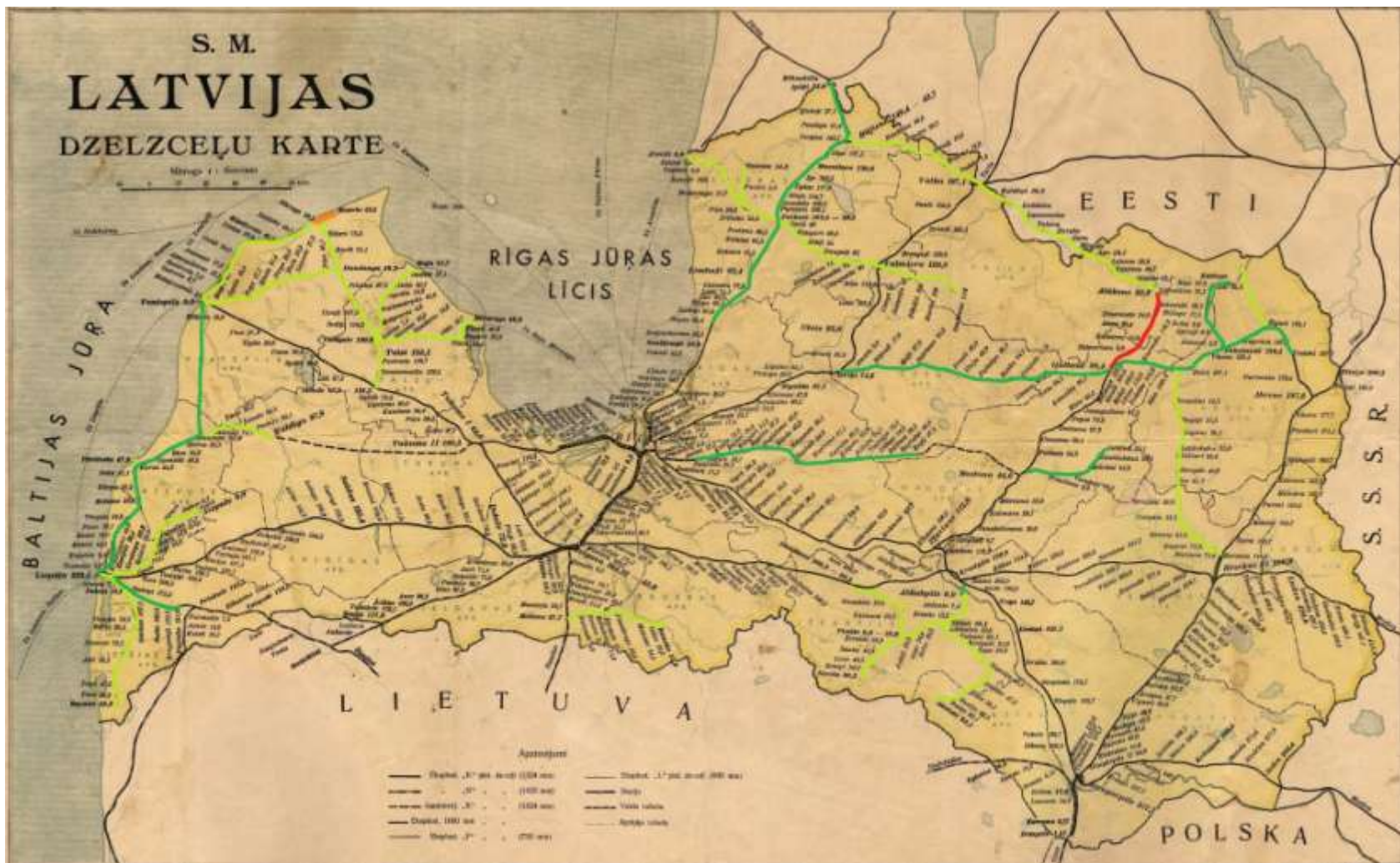


«Greenway» Mazirbe-Sīkrags





Liepāja-Pāvilosta-Kuldīga-Tukums













Thank you!

