The interview with the representative from the Latvian Society of Ultrasound (LUSA), President Maija Radzina took place in May 2014 with Newsletter Editor Adrian Saftoiu.

History of the Latvian Society of Ultrasound

The Latvian Society of Ultrasound (LUSA) was established on June 5th, 2003. Ilze Sedleniece was elected President of the association in a general meeting of founders, and served till 2011 when the current President, Maija Radzina took over. As of now, the LUSA unites almost 200 members. On June 5th, 2004 during the Congress of European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology EUROSON 2004 in Zagreb the Latvian Society of Ultrasound was approved as a member of European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB). Since 2004, delegations of LUSA members of around 40-50 people are complementing their knowledge each year by attending the Congress of European Ultrasound EUROSON. Also this year EUROSON 2014 will be attended by 40 members of LUSA and we find it as the best networking and collaboration platform that bonds different professionals in the field and has become as tradition.

Ultrasound training in Latvia

Since 2003 LUSA is hosting bi-yearly conferences (last week of November and May) for its members on different subjects or organising joint meetings with other professional societies – vascular surgery, urology, endocrinology. On a regular basis different basic and advanced ultrasound courses are organised for different specialty doctors who are beginners or advanced users of the method. There are several on-going national courses now: General US, Vascular US, Nerve US, Musculoskeletal US, Breast US.

The ultrasound method certification process is supervised by national Radiology association and national Medical association in Latvia. All ultrasound examinations are performed only by doctors and radiologists. The training curriculum includes all ultrasound skills.

National Congresses and Courses

There is also significant international activity in collaboration with different international organisations and peers from other countries in organising different courses:

- 2004 IBUS (International Breast Ultrasound School) Advanced Breast Imaging Seminar
- 2008 Course of lectures on brachiocephalic, transcranial, peripheral and abdominal Doppler ultrasound, by prof. Svetlana Lejliuka (Moscow, Russia)
- 2009 SIS (Senologic International Society) Breast Imaging Course by prof. Ivan Drinkovitsch (Croatia), prof. Tibor Tot (Sweden) and Dominique Ami (France)
- 2010 Several 3 day courses in regions of Latvia for doctors of all specialties “Interpretation of Ultrasound Imaging for Non-Radiologists” by Maija Radzina and Ilze Sedleniece. More than 300 professionals were trained with the support of ESF project “Further Education of Personnel in Health Care and Health Promotion Institutions for the Purpose of Sustainable Growth of the Industry”

EFSUMB Newsletter meets Latvia

Population: 2,008,700

Capital City: Riga

EFSUMB members: 180

Maija Radzina, President of LUSA
2011 A 3 day course “Ultrasonography in Pediatrics” by Hungarian specialists Prof. Zoltan Harkanyi and George Har- 
mat with an active participation of pe-
diatricians and pediatric US specialists 
Dace Kreicsteine and Arturs Plume. 
More than 100 doctors were trained 
with support of ESF project “Further 
Education of Personnel in Health Care 
and Health Promotion Institutions for 
the Purpose of Sustainable Growth of 
the Industry”

2012 Contrast enhanced ultrasound 
course with 41 participants. Course 
was lead by Prof. V Valek  and his col-
leagues M Mechl , A Šprlakova , H 
Petrašova and S Bohata. (Brno, Czech 
Republic)

2012 2D, 3D, 4D Pelvic Floor Ultra-
sound Course. Course by Prof. Andrzej 
Pawel Wieczorek, 52 participants

The most recent Elastography and In-
terventional ultrasound course was 
held on April 4-5, 2014. This EFSUMB 
endorsed course included lecturers 
from France, Greece, Russia, Denmark, 
Poland and Latvia, with 66 partici-
pants.

What do members expect from 
EFSUMB

Our collaboration with EFSUMB is gro-
wing year by year and we actively partici-
pate in EUROSON Schools and EUROSON 
congresses with contribution of our lectu-
rers and workshop consultants in collabor-
ation with Hellenic Society for Ultra-
sound in Medicine and Biology and Israel 
Society for Diagnostic Ultrasound in Me-
dicine. Our experienced colleague Peteris 
Prieditis will give the EUROSON lecture on 
thyroid biopsies and Maija Radzina will 
participate in hands-on sessions as well as 
co-chairing congress sessions at EURO-
SON 2014. We also are looking forward to 
collaborating with other associations as 
well.

Our positive experiences prove that phy-
sical and geographical distance or various 
historical backgrounds are no barriers if 
we have the same vision of educational 
and professional development and work 
together as a team.

Website

Considering the size of Latvia it is impres-
sive that Latvians are listed 28th in the 
worldwide statistics of EFSUMB website 
users and clearly English is no obstacle to 
using this site. Maija Radzina is also a Rus-

ian speaker and will be translating 
The Case of the Month into both Russian and 
Latvian for EFSUMB. Latvia has its own 
website www.ultrasonografija.lv

Riga Capital of Culture 2014

Riga is one of the largest cities on shores 
of the Baltic Sea with a rich cultural and 

historic heritage and Maija encourages us 
to visit and enjoy the wonderful capital 
of Latvia.

Visit the EFSUMB website for the latest programme of the forthcoming Euroson Schools

Save the date for EUROSON 2015