Factsheet: Latvia
Last update: 10 April 2014

The national youth policy (2009) of Latvia defines youth as between 13-25 years.

**CANDIDACY AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower House</th>
<th>21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**MARRIAGEABLE AGE**

| Male | 18 | 16 | -- |
| Opposite Sex | Same Sex |
| Without parental consent | With parental consent |
| Female | 18 | 16 | -- |
| Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union |

**DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

The national youth policy (2009) of Latvia defines youth as between 13-25 years.

**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX**

- 0.7
- 50 out of 170 countries.
- Year: 2013
- Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

**LITERACY RATES**

- 99.83%
- Both sexes (15-24) %
- Male: 99.79%
- Female: 99.87%
- Year: 2015
- Source: UNESCO

**NET ENROLMENT RATE**

- 83.60%
- Secondary School
- Both sexes %
- Male: 82.86%
- Female: 84.37%
- Year: 2012
- Source: UNESCO

**PREVALENCE OF HIV**

| Male (15-24) | -- |
| Female (15-24) | -- |
| Year: No data. | |
| Source: World Bank |

**TOBACCO USE**

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

| Male (15-24) | 37.60% |
| Female (15-24) | |
| Year: 2010 | |
| Source: WHO |

**POLLUTION BY AGE AND SEX 2010**

- Source: United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division


**PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

**POLICY & LEGISLATION**

The Youth Act (2008) aims to improve the quality of life of young people, promoting their priorities and encouraging patriotism and participation. It also aims to support those working with young people. The basic youth principles include: Participation; Equal opportunity; Addressing youth issues; Integration; Mobility; International cooperation. The Youth Policy Guidelines 2009-2018 aims to facilitate the implementation and coordination of the youth policy by identifying areas of action and creating a vision for the improvement of young peoples’ quality of life. The guidelines also set out the key challenges for youth, and sets out policy objectives and targets for the decade. The National Youth Policy Programme 2009-2013 outlines measures in order to achieve the aims of the Youth Act.

**GDP PER CAPITA**

- USD 15375.45
- Source: World Bank

**HDI**

- 0.814
- Year: 2013
- Source: UNDP

**GINI**

- 36.03
- Year: 2011
- Source: World Bank

**CORRUPTION PERCEPTION**

- 55
- 43 out of 177 countries.
- Year: 2014
- Source: Transparency International

**PRESS FREEDOM**

- 21.1
- 37 out of 180 countries.
- Year: 2013
- Source: Reporters Without Borders

**POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010**

- Source: United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division


**UNEMPLOYMENT**

Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment

- Source: World Bank

- Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or
The Sports and Youth Department within the Ministry of Education and Science has the primary responsibility for youth policy and issues. Its major tasks include promoting cooperation and implementing youth measures, organising trainings for youth workers, and enabling access to information. Municipalities have responsibility for implementing youth policy through the creation of local youth policy planning documents. A Youth Advisory Council exists to promote a coherent youth policy and encourage youth participation in decision-making and public life.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The Latvian Youth Council (LYC) was founded in 1992. Its mission is to represent the interests of young people and to improve the quality of their lives. The LYC promotes the importance of youth organisations and encourages the development of cooperation and public participation in political processes. The LYC's objectives include advocating for youth policy based on young people's needs, promoting youth participation in decision-making, and supporting the development of youth organisations by increasing access to information and government funding.

BUDGET & SPENDING

The 2014 State Budget and Special Budget Summary allocates EUR 338.8 million (USD 467.3 million) to the Sports and Youth Department within the Ministry of Education and Science. The proportion specifically for youth is unknown. According to the World Bank, Latvia spent 11.33% of its government expenditure and 5.02% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

Source: World Bank
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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Documents about Latvia

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