COUNTRY SHEET
ON YOUTH POLICY
IN LATVIA

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1. Context and principles of national youth policy

1.1. Context of national youth policy

The development of Latvian youth policy has to be assessed in contest of socio-political challenges associated with Latvia’s late transformation. From the mid-1990s onwards, Latvian youth policy, like many other policy areas, started to evolve as a contested policy field at the intersection of traditional interests. Latvian youth policy at the crossroads was reflected in institutional, as well as in substantive terms. For instance, on one hand, and most visibly, structured leisure time activities (that is “hobby and interest education”), similar to those of the former communist structures of youth management, continued to exist as an important element of youth policy. On other hand, international co-operation and counselling in youth policy development and youth work introduced new concepts to the Latvian context. These included civil society development by facilitating participation, establishing NGOs, promoting autonomy and non-formal methods of education and training.

Up to the present day, these two strands in youth policy development are represented by the State Youth Initiative Centre founded in 1996 under the Ministry of Education and Science on the one side, and the National Youth Council of Latvia (founded in 1992), together with associated NGOs on the other. Originally competing and subsequently complementary in their orientation, these two stakeholders now share the common goal of involving young people in voluntary and constructive out-of-class activities and other forms of active youth participation. Due to their different histories and status (including funding) within the Latvian youth policy, both organisations come with distinct approaches and priorities. The State Youth Initiative Centre has its main focus on various forms of hobby education. Whereas, the National Youth Council of Latvia, together with main youth organisations, has first of all representative, co-ordinating and consultative functions, and it has become an important driving force in the process of reforming youth legislation.

The high status of education in Latvia is reflected in many ways. First, compulsory education was extended to 11 years, including two years of preschool education. Second, the increasing participation in upper secondary education is indicative of the general striving for advanced educational merits as well as, clearly, reflective of the rather bad reputation of vocational and professional tracks. This development causes great concern among Latvian authorities and systematic attempts to anticipate processes of matching labour market are still at an early stage. Third, involvement in higher education, especially at the bachelor and masters level, has become a popular way of postponing career decisions among young people and of escaping the labour market that characterised youth transitions in Latvia until recently. The popularity of doctoral studies, however, is very low and institutions are starting to have problems with ensuring an academic succession. Fourth, educational reform is at the core of Latvian policies towards minorities. The school reform of 2004 introduced extensive compulsory teaching in Latvian in minority schools, most of them for young Russians. In this way, the Russian language in particular is further marginalised, despite its rather significant importance in economic terms, as well as on everyday basis. Fifth, Latvia has a strong and excellent tradition of hobby and interest education, providing large proportions of the youth population with opportunities for meaningful out-of-school activities.

Although the Latvian labour market has recovered during recent years, unemployment remains a key problem affecting young people. Regional differences persist and continue to reinforce social inequalities. Labour market participation is additionally affected for young women by an absence of relevant child care and pre-school facilities, as well as by high female unemployment after
maternity leave. Latvian employment agencies run a programme of summer employment for children and young people from the age of 13 years.

Latvia follows a strategy of enhancing the youth-friendliness of health services by adopting access to, and provision of, services according to young people’s needs within an environment of an overall system where health care provision has a comparatively low profile. So far, very few health centres for children and young people, offering specialised youth counselling for a broad range of issues, have been established.

Currently available forms of youth participation, like the popular school councils at many schools, provide valuable opportunities for responsible youth involvement. However, their status in terms of, for example, citizenship versus leadership learning is unclear. The further extension of Internet – as well as institution-based access to youth information might be critical for successful youth participation and citizenship in the future.

Youth research, youth work training and professionalization, the dissemination of good practice, and international co-operation and exchange are means to improve the reflexive dimension of youth policy, which have so far been rather underutilised in developing Latvian youth policy. International co-operation with Latvian youth policy is primarily characterised by geographical, cultural and historical criteria, while a stronger, additional orientation along relevant topics could be beneficial.

1.2. Principles of national youth policy

Main objective of youth policy in Latvia is to improve the life quality of young people – persons from 13 to 25 years of age – by promoting their initiatives, participation in decision-making and social life, as well as by supporting youth work and providing children easier transition to adult status.

Latvian youth policy development is framed by seven youth policy principles that can be clustered into three main dimensions. The vertical dimension (a) of political youth citizenship contributes to democratic power sharing, facilitating constructive youth involvement in decision-making and the definition of society. Youth participation and information, as well as the consideration of youth interests, are relevant to this dimension, along which youth policy (in a narrow sense) usually formulates its core agenda. The horizontal dimension (b) of socioeconomic youth citizenship promotes equality among young people living in different circumstances. Youth welfare, inclusion and non-discrimination are among the key principles characterising this dimension, where the success of youth policy depends principally on co-operation with associated specialised policies. The reflexive dimension (c) of youth policy development emphasises its sensitivity to changes in youth preferences, as well as in international best practice. This dimension, which is currently only outlined in Latvian youth policy development, requires further improvement and the consideration of additional aspects like youth research, dissemination of results and good practice, and professionalization.
Youth policy principles are following:

1. **Partnership principle** – to enhance active participation of young people in the processes of the society.

2. **Information availability principle** – to promote the provision of young people with information according to their needs and interests, especially the information that is necessary for active participation in all the processes of society.

3. **Equal opportunities principle** – to provide all young people, without any discrimination, with the potential to take part in all the processes of society and to be equal members of society.

4. **Observance of youth interests principle** – to take into account the interests, rights, needs and possibilities of young people, while solving youth-related issues.

5. **Favourable social and economical premises principle** – to enhance developing such social and economical conditions that provide all young people an opportunity to be accepted and integrated members of Latvian society.

6. **Mobility and international co-operation availability principle** – to provide opportunities for youth mobility, allowing young people to learn new skills and knowledge outside their place of abode and to promote the implementation of recommendations from other countries and the exchange and adoption of good practice into Latvian youth policy.

7. **Youth integration facilitation principle** – to facilitate youth integration into society, including the integration of minority groups, and to ensure multi-cultural dialogue at all stages of youth policy planning and implementation.

2. Statistics on young people

**Number and Percentage of young people in global population**

In 2012 year there are 404,476 young people (from the age of 15 to 29) in Latvia that makes 19.81% of total population of Latvia.

*Data taken from Central Statistical Bureau ([www.csb.gov.lv](http://www.csb.gov.lv))*

**Number and Percentage of young people by gender in global population**

There are 207,010 male young people (22.18% of total population) and 197,466 female young people (17.81% of total population) in Latvia.

*Data taken from Central Statistical Bureau ([www.csb.gov.lv](http://www.csb.gov.lv))*

**Any other relevant figures**

In age of 15, 61% of young people continue to study in secondary schools, when 34% – in vocational schools, and 5% of young people do not continue their studies.

In age group of 16 – 17 years, young people – more than half of this age group young people have carried out voluntary work at least once a year.
1/5 of all job searchers are in age between 15 and 24 years.
In age of 18, 58% of young people continue their studies in higher education institutions, 5% - in vocational higher education institutions, but 37% do not continue their studies.
In age group between 20 and 24 years, 60.8% of young people are economically active.

3. Actors and Structures
3.1. Public authorities
3.1.1. National public authorities:
Ministry in charge of youth – the Ministry of Education of Science
- Minister – Roberts Kilis
- Duration of mandate – October 2011 – October 2015
Youth Department in the Ministry – the Department of Sports and Youth
- Main tasks of the Youth department –
  o to develop youth policy, to coordinate its implementation;
  o to elaborate youth policy development programmes;
  o to analyze and to evaluate results of the youth policy;
  o to develop international cooperation in implementation of youth policy;
  o to facilitate collaboration among institutions involved in the field of youth;
  o to ensure methodological management of municipal work with youth;
  o to ensure training and exchange of experience of persons involved in the field of youth;
  o to maintain register of youth organizations, as well as, the portal of youth issues – www.jaunatneslietas.lv;
  o to develop information system of youth and to facilitate youth awareness of their rights, duties, possibilities and responsibilities;
  o to ensure coordination of implementation of the European Union programme Youth in Action and implementation of the Swiss cooperation programme Support to Youth Initiative for Development in Distant and Underdeveloped Regions.
- Number of people who work in this ministry in the youth department – 3 persons
- Director responsible for Youth in the Ministry – Ulrika Auniņa – Naumova (Ulrika.Aunina@izm.gov.lv)
- Contact person in the youth department competent for European youth policy – Diana Simansone (Diana.Simansone@izm.gov.lv)
Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies
- Other Ministries – the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Health
- Offices – State Agency for International Programs for Youth,
Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

There is no parliament commission in charge particularly for youth issues, but there are several commissions responsible for issues dealing with youth field:

- Name – Commission of European Affairs
  - name of president/ chair – Zanda Kalniņa - Lukaševica
  - role and competence – elaborates Latvian positions for international cooperation
- Name – Commission of Education, Culture and Science
  - name of president/ chair – Ina Druviete
  - role and competence – responsible for education field, evaluates legislative acts on education

3.1.2. Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

According to the Law on Regional Development there are 5 regions planning councils created from representatives of local governments. Role of planning regions is to ensure planning process of regional development, including defining the regions development long term goals, objectives and priorities by adopting regional planning documents.

The role of planning regions in youth policy is indirect and is tackled via regional development plans not only directly addressing youth policy fields, but also different youth policy directions, as example youth unemployment or education.

3.1.3. Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

On the local level the main actors in youth policy are the municipalities and the institutions subjected to them, as well as the institutions subjected to line ministries and their local structural units.

One of local government's functions is planning and implementing youth work, by taking into consideration the basic principles of youth policy and the documentation for the planning of state youth policy development. According to the Youth Law, local governments plan local work with the youth, creating the documentation of local government youth policy (for example, youth work strategy) – local youth also participating in the elaboration of such documents, proposing their ideas to the local government youth policy's vision, priorities or tasks that will directly affect youth daily life and their activities in the local government in the long term.

At the beginning of 2012, the youth work strategy was already created in 18 local governments, in 50 local governments the strategy is in the process of being created and in 51 local governments the creation of the strategy has not yet started.

Each local government creates its own institutional system for youth work, by appointing the responsible institution or responsible employees for implementing youth work. A local government is authorized to recruit a specialist on youth affairs, establish a youth centre, Advisory Committee on Youth Affairs or Youth Council.

In order to promote the implementation of youth work in municipalities according to the long term national planning documents the general criteria to assess the youth work in municipalities were developed. 105 general criteria grouped in 10 thematic sections that can be used to assess the current situation in the youth work. Municipalities are responsible to develop the policy planning

documents in the youth field determined by the amendments of the Youth Law initiated by the Ministry of Education and Science.

*Municipal youth affairs specialists* work with young people and youth initiative groups and with youth organizations in different directions: engaging leisure time, voluntary work, non-formal education, ensuring of youth participation in the local municipal administration.

Main areas of responsibility of municipal youth affairs specialists:
- to solve youth-related issues by cooperating with youth organizations and youth initiative groups;
- to promote the cooperation of the municipal agencies on youth issues;
- to organize informative and educational activities in a certain administrative territory by involving municipality workers, youth organizations, youth initiative groups and the youth;
- to consult young people about non-formal education and voluntary work;
- to coordinate the involvement of the youth into social life activities of a certain administrative territory and to provide methodological assistance to other municipality workers on youth issues;
- to come up with suggestions to the Ministry of Education and Science on improving the state youth policy, as well as to the municipalities in coordinating and implementing youth policy;
- to take part in developing, implementing and coordinating regional and national projects and programs on youth work;
- to promote the work of children and youth camps;
- to coordinate international cooperation in youth policy.

To determine the legal status of persons who carry out the municipality work with young people, youth specialist professional standard was drafted, it was accepted on 21st of May 2008 and was included in professions classificatory on 20th of January 2009.

*Youth centre* is a place where friendly, open and supporting environment for young people with different interests and life experience is available. The objective of the centre is to create a possibility for the youth to gather together, to plan a good usage of their time, to receive information in compliance with their needs and interests, to give support to drafting and implementing projects. Youth centre cooperates with different persons, who are involved in youth policy implementation process (different institutions of municipalities, youth organizations, as well as with state administrative institutions). In total there are 81 youth centres in Latvia.

Main assignments of Youth centres are:
- to provide youth possibilities to spend free time usefully;
- to promote development of young people knowledge and skills outside of formal and hobby education, by implementing different non-formal education programmes, projects and actions;
- to create favourable conditions for development of young people intellectuality and creativity;
- to promote youth participation in youth organizations, youth initiative groups and voluntary work;
- to provide young people access to their interests and demands appropriate information;
- to promote inclusion of young people from social risk groups among peer in youth centre activities;
- to promote intercultural dialog in youth target group;
- to manage youth individual or group consultations about actual themes for young people;
• to promote young people participation in local, regional, national and international youth activities, projects and programmes etc.

Advisory Committees on Youth Affairs are institutions established by municipalities with a deliberate function on implementing youth policy and organizing youth work. For the most times the assignments of such committee are to analyze, evaluate and draft proposals for youth policy and strategy making and implementing in the municipality. The objectives of the committees are to attain cooperation and coordination of interests among municipal and state institutions, education establishments, enterprises and youth nongovernmental organizations for drawing up focused and long-term youth policy and its development in the municipality. Board members are usually representatives of municipality and youth organizations, sometimes also representatives of youth initiative groups.

3.2. Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)

In Latvia different line ministries within their field of competence offers different welfare and social services for young people through different agencies and institutions assigned for them, the main actors and their competences are:

• **Ministry of Welfare** develops youth-friendly state policy in the sphere of social services and social assistance, oversees its implementation and ensures support to unemployed youth and job seekers by organizing active employment activities.

• **Ministry of Justice** is the leading state administration institution on legal issues. It coordinates the public registers, the state policy on penal system and criminal punishment and its implementation. **State Probation Service** is subordinated to the Ministry of Justice, and it organizes forced labour and public work for minors, as well as gives assistance to the youth after they have served their sentence.

• **Ministry of Health** organizes health care for the youth, promoting the development of youth-friendly health care service.

There are many regional or local structures that provides different social and welfare services for general population, there are some providing services specifically for young people and there are many state programmes targeted on young people via general services. For instance, there are two youth health care centres in Latvia (one in the city Dobele, other – in Ogre), those target group are only young people, providing them information on sexual and productive health, ensuring classes for them in free atmosphere for discussions and receiving answers on their questions.

All social and welfare benefits that are received in form of money are provided by **The State Social Insurance Agency** acting under supervision of the Ministry of Welfare, performing the public administration function in the area of social insurance and social services.

**Children care institutions** are social service institutions, which provide services for persons who due to their health condition cannot take care of themselves and for orphanages and children without parental care provides shelter, full care and social rehabilitation.

Children care centres and day care centres are for children without parental care till age of 18 years or till 24 if they continue to study, at the moment in Latvia there are 58 different institutions:
5 state children social care centres;
3 specialized state children care centres for children with heavy insanity derangements;
37 municipal children social care centres;
4 family orphanage homes;
9 NGO orphanage homes.

Children and youth education and health centres are institutions developed in framework of youth friendly health services. Main aims of centres are to promote healthy lifestyle and to provide health related consultations. Centres work in three main directions:

- educational direction – different formal and non-formal education services for groups on health issues;
- individual consultation direction – physical and mental health related individual present and distance consultations;
- recreational and educational event organization direction in different health related themes.

3.3. Non-public actors/ structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field

3.3.1. Youth Councils

The National Youth Council of Latvia was founded in 1992 as a youth public organization whose members are youth organizations and youth organization associations. In year 2012 it has 35 member organizations. Members of the National Youth Council of Latvia identify and try to solve a variety of youth-related questions, and enable the participating organizations to intervene on young people’s needs and growth, ensuring the flow of information and their support.

The National Youth Council of Latvia provides information to the public and promotes civic participation of young people, encouraging them to engage themselves in youth organizations, non-formal education activities and shelters the youth organizations. Its tasks are to represent the interests of young people in Latvia and in international institutions, as well as, to gather the views of young people, explore their options, preferences in different regions of Latvia and to help them implement the various youth initiatives. Thus the mission of the National Youth Council of Latvia is to promote youth organizations, development and comprehensive cooperation, to motivate young people to get involved.

Besides, the National Youth Council of Latvia in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science and other stakeholders ensure implementation of European Commission structural dialogue in Latvia organizing national consultations with young people about priorities in the field of youth put forward by presidency of three members in the European Council. The National Youth Council of Latvia chairs a national work group of the European Commission structural dialogue.

Areas of the National Youth Council of Latvia operation:
- Defence of interests
- Foreign affairs and development cooperation
- Information and identification of youth organizations
- Development and Cooperation of the National Youth Council of Latvia
- The formation of new organizations
Furthermore, the National Youth Council of Latvia is a member organization of the European Youth Forum and organizations in Latvia such as the Civil Alliance Latvia and the Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation.

Web page – http://www.ljp.lv
Contact person – President Karlis Boitmanis (karlis.boitmanis@ljp.lv)

There are regional and municipal youth councils established, particularly in cities, which often function in close cooperation with local municipalities. The structure, members and tasks may differ case by case and are defined by local needs. As example one of the biggest municipal youth council is Riga City School Council which unites all Riga’s city pupil’s councils as members and involves youth organizations active in Riga city. Its main tasks are to work with pupil’s councils in Riga, to support young people and to participate in municipal youth work planning and implementation.

Pupils’ councils can be established according to the Law on Education in every general education institution; they act as an independent pupil’s institution which participates in the educational institutions work. Their aim is to lobby and unify interests of pupils and administration of educational institution in order to obtain active pupils participation in educational work. Work of pupils councils are supported by municipal youth affairs specialist and the State Youth Initiative Centre. According to study done on 2007 (Study on Youth Social and Political Activities in Latvia, available online – http://izm.izm.gov.lv/upload_file/jaunatne/petijumi/Jauniesu_socialas_un_politiskas_darbibas_izpete_Latvija.pdf) around 13% of young people are involved in pupils council work.

Similar to pupils’ council, according to the Law on Higher Education Institutions students’ councils are established in every higher education institution that is elected, independent institution which represents interests and rights of students in the particular higher education institution or in other public institution.

3.3.2. Youth NGOs

According to the Youth Law youth organization is a society that is registered in the register of associations and foundations and in the list of youth organizations, where are registered organizations that meet several criteria defined in the law – (1) one of the purposes of activity specified in the statutes of the association is youth work, the promotion of youth initiatives and participation in decision-making and social life;(2) the association carries out youth work and tasks of the association defined in the statutes correspond to at least three main tasks defined in the third part of the article 2.1. of the law; (3) at least two thirds of the members of the association are children and young people or also several associations, where in total at least two thirds of the members are children and young people; and (4) participation of young people is ensured in administrative institutions of the association, and the procedures for this participation are specified in the statutes of the respective association

Up to now, 11 youth organizations that meet criteria have been registered officially in the register of youth organizations of Latvia – Latvijas Mazpulki, Jaunatne smaidam, Mums pieder pasaule, Creativus, the association of youth organisations IMKA Latvija, RED – Radošu Efektu Darbnīca, Latvian Scout and Guide Central Organisation, Youth Cooperation Network of Latgale, culture and
education studio „Talantu pilšēta”, creative society for youth "Trepes", Latvian youth organisation „Tellus”.

Almost all active youth organizations who participate in youth policy planning process are members of the National Youth Council of Latvia.

3.4. National network(s) for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)

Starting with 2010 a youth information network is established involving different stakeholders on national (state institutions), regional (municipalities) and local (communities, NGOs) level in order to provide relevant and up to date information to all young people as well as to raise public awareness on the role and necessity of the youth work. This network is based electronically in the portal of youth issues www.jaunatneslietas.lv.

4. Legislation

Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly

Here is no article of the constitution concerning field of youth explicitly.

National legislation on youth

The Youth Law was adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia and came into force on 1 January, 2009. Purpose of the Youth Law is to improve the life quality of young people by promoting their initiatives, participation in decision-making and social life, as well as by supporting youth work. The Youth Law determines the persons involved in the implementation of the youth policy and the competence thereof in the field of youth policy, youth participation in the development and implementation of the youth policy, as well as the basic principles for granting of financing to youth initiatives, for participation in decision-making and social life and for youth work.

Based on Youth Law three bylaws were accepted:

1) Regulations on Youth Advisory Council that regulate work of Youth Advisory Council;

2) Regulations on training of youth work specialists that set out training system – necessary skills, competences and knowledge to work as youth work specialist according to professions standard;

3) Regulations on procedures for receiving financing from the state budget, which is provided for promotion of young people initiatives and participation in decision-making and social life, as well as for youth work that regulate process of open call procedures for financial support from the state budget for:

- youth organizations for receiving funding for projects the objective of which is the promotion of youth initiatives and participation in decision-making and social life, as well as projects for youth work;
- local governments and associations or foundations for projects which are oriented towards youth work;
- youth organizations for operational support of their activity.
Regional and local legislation on youth

According to the Law on Local Governments municipal binding acts are drafted that can specify the administrative order in municipality or other restrictions and regulations municipality can be passed various spheres including the field of youth.

No summarized information on specific examples of such binding acts in the field of youth is available up to now.

5. National Policy Programmes on youth

National programmes on youth.

Youth Policy Guidelines for Years 2009 - 2018 was elaborated as a long-term policy planning document for 10 years aimed at achieving a coherent youth policy implementation and coordination, and identifying priority action lines and policies, creating a vision of development in relation to the life quality of young people and youth policy. The guidelines identify the key challenges for youth policy, as well main action directions and operational results of 10 years in youth policy field.

Within guidelines the youth policy aim is to improve young people's quality of life by promoting their initiatives, participation in decision-making and public life, supporting youth work, and ensuring a smoother transition from child to adult status. Objective of guidelines is to achieve harmonized coordination and implementation of youth policy on state and local level, identifying priority action lines and policy results, creating vision after 10 years connected to youth life quality and realization of youth policy.

To achieve mentioned aim and fulfill objective three main dimensions of youth policy were defined were state interferences necessary:

- dimension of youth policy coordination;
- dimension of youth participation and useful utilization of leisure time;
- dimension of youth social and economical growth and support to youth competitiveness and inclusion in society.

Action plans i.e. official strategies

Every year the Ministry of Education and Science elaborates annual programme, which includes particular measures and activities to implement youth policy within Youth Policy Guidelines for Years 2009 - 2018. Based on annual programme funding of state budget for implementation of youth policy is allocated.

Programmes and actions for specific target groups

Each institution within field of competence is drafting yearly work programme which includes actions for specific target groups, including particular youth groups – drug abusers, unemployed young people, etc.
6. Budget/ Public expenditure allocated to youth

National level
According Budget for year 2012 public expenditure allocated to the field of youth is 106 985 LVL. Direct allocations are for the following measures of the youth policy:

- work with the youth in municipalities – 63 835 LVL
- support for youth organization and various youth initiatives – 22 150 LVL
- informative support and research work in the field of youth – 19 000 LVL
- international cooperation – 2 000 LVL

In year 2013 the state budget financing for the field of youth will be increased up to 211 985 LVL and it will be allocated to the following measures:

- work with the youth in municipalities – 84 000 LVL
- support for youth organization and various youth initiatives – 86 500 LVL
- informative support and research work in the field of youth – 33 485 LVL
- international cooperation – 8 000 LVL

Regional level
The municipal budget allocation for youth differs according to availability of funding in each municipality and there is no estimated amount known as no survey have been carried to calculate how much is allocated in the field of youth at municipal level.

7. European Dimension of youth policy

7.1. Council of Europe

There is rather passive activity of youth organizations in framework of projects of the European Youth Foundation. Although different activities when possible – information campaigns or training activities are carried out. One of activities carried out on national level is translation of Council of Europe T-Kits. In year 2007 European Portfolio for Youth leaders and Youth workers elaborated by the Council of Europe was translated and published in Latvian. Throughout year 2008 copies of the portfolio were spread out among youth affairs specialists and youth centres in Latvia, additionally training seminar to promote usage of the portfolio was carried out.

Youth centres are aware about possibilities to involve themselves in the project European Youth Centre Label and thus to apply for such status. Besides that, regularly information about seminars organized by the European Council and summer courses of higher education institutions is provided.

Furthermore, active participation in an informative campaign Combating Hate Speech Online organized by the European Council is considered.
7.2. European Union

7.2.1. Implementation of the Youth in Action programme

In Latvia the state agency International Youth Programme Agency acting under the Ministry of Education and Science implements non-formal education programme Youth in Action. In the framework of this programme the youth from age 13 to 30 (and youth workers without any age restrictions) have opportunity to gain knowledge, skills and experience by writing and implementing projects and raising funding from the programme Youth in Actions. Thus it promotes mobility within and beyond the borders of the European Union and collaboration in the field of youth at European level.

The national website of Eurodesk is incorporated in the web page of the agency – www.jaunatne.gov.lv. It is the main provider of information on European policies and opportunities for young people and those who work with them.

7.2.2. Follow up of the EU Youth Strategy (2010 – 2018) on the national level

The EU Youth Strategy’s proposed priorities and actions have been integrated into national youth policy planning documents that are relevant to local institutions in organization of youth work.

National planning documents for youth field – the Guidelines of Youth Policy for the Years 2009 – 2018 and the Youth Policy State Programme for the Years 2009 – 2013 were developed and approved in year 2009. Whereas, work on local youth policy programmes were started around year 2010 and up to now 18 from 119 municipalities have elaborated their youth strategies.

EU Youth Strategy gave impulse to propose at the national level a cross-sector approach with both short and long-term actions. The strategy invited to organize a permanent and regular dialogue (Structured Dialogue) with young people. Furthermore, it encouraged a more research and evidence-based youth policy. All these initiatives have been developed in Latvia at national and local level.

8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Latvia


The website of the Agency for International Programs for Youth – http://www.jaunatne.gov.lv/en

The Central Statistical Bureau publishes annual statistical yearbooks that include basic statistical information on youth. The Bureau also publishes annual publications Children in Latvia that gives in depth statistical information on children in Latvia and their quality of life. These publications are for purchase in the Bureau or in its online shop.