

The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on
Country information on youth policies



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



LATVIA, 2005

1 Statistics on young people

1.1 Total number of young people in global population

624 083 *young persons*

1.2 Percentage of young people in global population

26,9% %

1.3 Percentage of young people by age brackets

13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
4.6 %	4.9 %	4.76 %	4.30 %	4.12 %	4.22 %

1.4 Percentage of young people by gender

Male	Female
13.7 %	13.2 %

1.4.1 Percentage of young people by gender and by age brackets

	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
Female	N/A %	N/A %	N/A %	N/A %	N/A %	N/A %
Male	N/A %	N/A %	N/A %	N/A %	N/A %	N/A %

1.5 Percentage of rural young people in global population

9 %

1.5.1 Percentage of rural young people in rural population

27.6 %

1.6 Percentage of urban young people in global population

17.9 %

1.6.1 Percentage of urban young people in urban population

25.6 %

1.7 Percentage of young people with a different nationality in global population



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



N/A %

1.8 Number of people working in the youth field (employees and volunteers) N/A *persons*

2 Actors and structures

2.1 National public authorities

2.1.1 Ministry in charge of youth

Name of ministry

Ministry for Children and Family Affairs Address: Basteja bulvaris 14, Riga, LV 1050 e-mail: pasts@bm.gov.lv Phone: 00 371 7356497, 00 371 7356482 Fax: 00 371 7356464

Name of minister

Ainars Bastiks

Duration of mandate

48 *months*

Number of people working in the ministry working on youth

3 *persons*

Contact person in the youth department

Alesja Lavrinovica, Senior Specialist of the Department for Youth Affairs (Alesja.Lavrinovica@ugf.gov.lv)

Function, role and competence of youth department

The scope of Department for Youth Affairs of the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs is elaboration of state policy in the sphere of youth field and its organization, co-ordination and implementation.

2.1.2 Other public or semi public bodies

Council of State Youth Policy Coordination responsible for the coordination and development of State policy between the governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations. The co-ordinating body is the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs, contact person: Director of Department for Youth Affairs Marians Nilenders, (Marians.Nilenders@ugf.gov.lv). # State Youth Initiative Centre of the Ministry of Education and Science, responsible for planning and implementation of hobby education in Latvia. Director and contact person: Ms Agra Berzina (agra.berzina@vjic.gov.lv). # State Sports Policy Directorate, responsible for youth sports policy implementation. Director and contact person: Mr Aldis Lieknins (aldis.lieknins@sp.gov.lv)

2.1.3 Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

Commission for Education, Culture and Science of the Latvian Parliament (Saeima); The Chairman is Janis Starzdins. As there is no Parliament Commission responsible specifically for youth affairs, this platform is used for lobbying some of the issues of youth affairs.



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



2.1.4 Other national public authorities

N/A

2.2 Regional and/or local public authorities

2.2.1 Regional public structures with competencies in the youth field

Council of Regional Youth Affairs Co-ordinators, responsible for o summarizing information concerning the state of youth affairs on regional level; o ensuring link between the local and national youth policy level; o working out proposals for the improvement of youth policy implementation for the state institution responsible for youth policy planning. The Council is the result of regional initiatives and performed mainly informative and consultative functions. The coordinating body now is the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs. The contact person is Edgars Paulovics, edgars@jrp.lv. As the start of institutional mechanism changes in youth field, the creation of regional consultants of the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs is being implemented. Their functions are: o co-operation with municipalities, youth organizations and youth initiative groups, ensuring solution of youth problems; o organization of informative and educational events in certain territories, involving municipalities, youth organizations and youth initiative groups; o co-ordination of youth involvement in social life and methodical support for municipal youth affairs specialists; provide proposals for the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs in the sphere of youth work development. At the moment there is a consultant in Kurzeme region (Kuldiga) # Zita Eglite (jaunatne1@e-apollo.lv). In the near future the second consultant is going to be in Latgale region (Daugavpils). It#s also planned to create District Youth affairs councils, which function will be a co-ordination of youth work in a particular district. Official information concerning the planned structure can be obtained at the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs, contact person: Marians Nilenders, Marians.Nilenders@ugf.gov.lv

2.2.2 Local public structures with competencies in the youth field

On local level youth issues are delegated to municipalities (municipal youth affairs coordinators, specialists etc., in larger cities there are councils for youth affairs as the responsibility for youth policy implementation is not defined. However, by the directive of the Ministry of Education and Science of 27 December 1999, Nr 720, the following document has been accepted: #Model regulations of municipal youth affairs consultative council#, which was a legal basis for such consultative councils in municipalities. The Council is a municipal consultative body working out proposals for youth policy strategy in the district. It connects main actors involved in youth policy implementation on local level and ensures their efficient co-operation. It is responsible for summarizing, analyzing and updating information concerning the state of children and youth, their problems, needs and interests; working out and consulting on the creation of long-term strategy of the municipality; defining priorities in the sphere of youth policy implementation; working out proposals for facilitation of youth participation in the processes of social democratization. Municipal youth affairs consultative councils of this type were particularly active in Liepaja, Tukums district, Talsi district etc. Still now there are many districts where such councils don#t jet exist. State Youth



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



Policy Program for 2005-2009 foresees to create district councils in every municipality.

2.3 Non public actors/structures - compulsory consultation

2.3.1 Names of bodies that must be consulted in the youth field

There are obligations of the Cabinet of Ministers that prescribe consultation with appropriate NGO sector (National Youth Council of Latvia and Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments) when the policy planning documents or draft laws are being made with rights to express their opinion and not to allow their further process.

2.4 Non public actors/structures - non-compulsory consultation

2.4.1 Names of bodies that can be consulted in the youth field

According to draft Youth Act, the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs can consult with any appropriate organization in youth field.

2.4.2 National and regional youth councils

Latvian National Youth Council (LJP): association of non-governmental youth organizations of Latvia. Address: (Kalpaka bulv. 10-18, Riga, LV-1050) President: Andris Grafs (andris.grafs@ljp.lv)

2.4.3 Large youth NGOs

Scouts and Guides of Latvia (skauti@mail.bkc.lv) Youth division of the Latvian Lutheran Church (jaunatne@lutheran.lv) YMCA/YWCA Latvia (gunta@imka.lv) Mazpulki (4H) (mazpulki@inbox.lv) Jaunie vanagi # Joung Hawks (jv@apollo.lv)

2.4.4 Expert groups, round tables, consulting groups in the youth field

Till October 2004 there existed following expert working groups: Youth affairs coordinators expert group # Expertise for the Ministry of Education and Science State Youth Initiative Center on issues concerning youth work on local level. Consultative board which consisted of biggest youth NGOs was set up in order to consult Ministry of Education and Science State Youth Initiative Center on issues related to work on State Youth policy action program for 2005-2009 and to set priorities in the youth field # youth work and status of youth NGOs. Council of State Youth Policy Coordination # is responsible for the coordination and development of State Youth policy. In January 2005 Youth affairs coordinators expert group was established # it expertise for the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs on issues concerning youth work on local level. There are already some multi-disciplinary youth affairs consultative councils in some districts. There's planned to create such councils in every district. In near future the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs plan to create Youth affairs consulting council.

2.4.5 Contacts of permanent networks in the youth field

N/A



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



2.4.6 Other non public actors/structures

N/A

3 Legislation

3.1 Constitution (articles that concern youth)

Articles 110 and 112 of Satversme (The Constitution of the Republic of Latvia) are applied in the spheres of social help and protection of youth rights since 07.11.1994.

3.2 Application and transposition of the United Nations Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms

Declaration of Fundamental rights and Freedoms is transposed in the Constitution (Satversme).

3.3 Application and transposition of the European Convention on Childrens Rights

European Convention on Childrens Rights is considered as an equivalent, and it is also transposed in the Protection of the Rights of the Child Law.

3.4 National legislation on youth

Youth policy was defined for the first time in the State Youth Policy Concept, accepted by the Cabinet of Ministers on 19.03.2002, as a permanent area of national policy. With the Concept, a uniform understanding of the essence and meaning of #youth policy# in national and municipal organisations was developed. A particular characteristic of youth policy in Latvia, as defined by the Concept, is its trend towards preventive work, integration and participation of the young people in social, political, economical processes. It focuses on young people in the age of 15 to 25. The Concept is however only a policy planning document with no legislative power. Later on, State Youth Policy Program for 1999-2003 (Action plan for 1999-2003) was worked out, as a system of preventive measures in youth work. Its main mission was facilitation of social integration. It has been accepted by the Cabinet of Ministers for information. Now the State Youth Policy Program for 2005-2009 (Action plan for 2005-2009) has been accepted in the Cabinet of Ministers. The main objective of the program is to create a favorable environment that would help young person to start a stable living as responsible member of society. Apart from the above, different items of national legislation are applied to regulate rights, social help, adoption, living conditions, health in relation to children and young people. One of the most important documents in the sphere - Protection of the Rights of the Child Law.

3.5 Regional or local legislation on youth

On local level youth issues are delegated to municipalities and regulated by respective laws and regulations, as the responsibility for youth policy implementation is not defined from the state.



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



3.6 Guidelines

State Youth Policy Concept # the first document which defined youth policy guidelines. The most important development in the sphere of youth legislation is State Youth Policy Program for 2005-2009, that has been accepted in the Cabinet of Ministers on April 26 of 2005. The draft Youth Law is expected to be duly accepted and implemented in near future. One more thing to add is draft Law on Voluntary Work, which is believed to be accepted in near future and would provide a great help regulating one of the important segments of youth affairs.

4 Programmes

4.1 European programmes

Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci, Culture 2000, EQUAL

4.1.1 National Agency for YOUTH Programme (Contact person)

Mrs Daina Sproge, Head Merkela iela 11-531 Riga LV - 1050 Ph: 371 7213202 Fax; 371 7358060 e-mail: daina.sproge@jaunatne.gov.lv

4.1.2 Eurodesk

Ansis Stals Merkela iela 11-531 Riga LV - 1050 Ph: 371 7211875 Fax; 371 7358060 e-mail: ansis.stals@jaunatne.gov.lv

4.1.3 Implementation of the YOUTH Programme

Latvia has participated in the YOUTH Programme since the Programme started operating in 2000. The national authority Ministry of Education and Culture has designated State Agency #International Programme Agency for Youth# to be the implementing institution of the YOUTH Programme in Latvia. Since Latvia joined the European Union financing for decentralized projects has considerably increased, consequently number of financed projects has increased as well. During first years of YOUTH programme decentralized funds amounted from 355 563 EUR in year 2000 to 412 242 EUR in year 2003. In 2004 allocated funds increased up to 824 562 EUR and 1 154 280 EUR in 2005. In 2003 there were 108 projects financed in all decentralized actions (Youth for Europe exchanges, European Voluntary Service, Youth initiatives and Support measures), and in 2004 number of granted projects was double # 227 projects. It must be mentioned that number of project application constantly increases, as youth groups and organizations become more aware of possibilities offered to them in non-formal education and as they receive training in the framework of YOUTH Programme network. In 2003 there were 209 project proposals submitted and in 2004 it reached number of 350.

4.1.4 Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth

There are also two other EU education programmes operating in Latvia # formal education programme #Socrates# and vocational education programme #Leonardo da Vinci#. Youth is an



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



important target audience for these two programmes. There are also other EU programmes, which are used to improve situation in youth field. For example, October 2004 # August 2005 Latvia national youth council implements a project #Youth for development of non-formal education in Latvia#, which is supported by PHARE programme #Promotion of development of civil society#. November 2003 # August 2004 Latvia national youth council implemented interest representation project #Build a bridge#, this was also done with a support of PHARE programme.

4.2 National Programmes on youth

The State Youth Policy Program for 2005-2009 (accepted in the Cabinet of Ministers on 26.04.2005) is based on the State Youth Policy Concept and its task is to plan concrete actions in the youth field and to nominate concrete governmental and non-governmental institutions responsible for implementing such actions. The main topics of the Program are inspired by the recommendations of the EU Commission's White Paper on Youth policy and cover such issues as Youth Information, Youth participation, Voluntary Service, health, employment, crime prevention and formal and non-formal education for young people and youth workers; The goals of the program are following: 1. To create a favorable institutional environment for youth work. 2. To create information system appropriate to youth needs and interests. 3. To create youth non-formal education system, to develop youth voluntary work and to enhance youth possibilities to spend their free time usefully. 4. To create youth friendly health care services. 5. To contribute to youth employment. 6. To favor youth participation establishing civil society. 7. To enhance youth crime prophylaxis.

Name of non youth specific programmes but which have a direct impact on young people
Each line ministry has its programs that have a direct impact on young people as a part of a population. Ministry of health is working out a Health promotion program, which includes youth friendly health care services and action plans for building youth health centers. There's also draft program on sports (National Sport development program for 2005-2012) worked out by Ministry of Education and Research which is relevant to youth.

5 Action plans

Main characteristics and action plans in other horizontal policies directly related to youth
All youth-related programs and action plans are integrated in State Youth Policy Program for 2005-2009, e.g., related to health, employment, non-formal education, voluntary work, leisure time, participation and crime prevention.

6 Budget

6.1 Amounts allocated to youth policies/actions in the youth field

505 120 *Euros*

6.2 Main beneficiaries

State Youth Policy Program for 2005-2009 worked out by the Ministry for Children and Family



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



affairs in cooperation with the public and NGO sector involved in the youth work/youth policies foresees financing for action in youth policies/action in the youth field. The beneficiaries of the finances are youth and other NGOs, public institutions, national and local services and centers providing services in the youth field. The financing is foreseen for projects, programs and development of structures of youth information, voluntary work, youth work.

6.3 Tendencies

All youth related programs and action plans, youth policies/actions in the youth field are integrated in State Youth Policy Program for 2005-2009. In last 3 years finances allocated for actions in the youth field by the State Youth Policy Program for 2002-2003 were 21 428 EUR per year. The new State Youth Policy Program for 2005-2009 foresees to bring approximately 505 120 EUR of financing per year in 2005-2009. The above plans will help to build up the institutional system of youth policy, the co-operation structure of its main actors and the scheme of co-financing, therefore they clearly point to the tendency of increasing budget of youth policy in Latvia. In 2004 allocated funds of YOUTH programme were 824 562 EUR and 1 154 280 EUR in 2005.

7 Changes foreseen in the youth field and new developments especially linked to the four Open Method of Coordination priorities.

1. Facilitation of youth initiatives: o creation of information system, a homepage, two free informative consultative hot lines, additional workers in the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs responsible for youth policy (2005-2006); o foundation of student self-governments (2005); o creation of a system involving youth in youth organizations (2006); o Support for programs of non-formal education (2006-2009); o Creation of a system of voluntary work (2006-2008) 2. Creation of a unified system of youth work (2005-2008); o Introduction of five regional youth affairs coordinators (2005-2009); 3. Establishment of state co-financing system (2006-2009).

8 Forthcoming events/conferences in the youth field, especially linked to the Open Method of Coordination priorities

Youth Policy State Program for 2005-2009 plans to organize annual Latvian Youth Congress as one of the ways of youth participation starting in the year 2006.

9 Useful links

Ministry of Children and Family affairs - www.bm.gov.lv Ministry of Education and Science State Youth Initiative Center - www.vjic.gov.lv Latvian Youth Council - www.ljp.lv NGO Centre - www.ngo.org.lv International Programme Agency for Youth - www.jaunatne.gov.lv Eurodesk Latvia - www.eurodesk.lv National Agency for Socrates program - www.socrates.lv



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



10 Context of national youth policy (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies)

From the 1st of July 2002 the institution responsible for development and implementation of youth policy was Ministry of Education and Science State Youth Initiative Center. First policy planning documents - State Youth Policy Concept, State Youth Policy Program 2002-2003, also developments in the field of building structures for youth policy implementation on local level, representation of Latvia in Council of Europe youth structures were developed by the Ministry of Education and Science State Youth Initiative Center. The preparation of the State Youth Policy Program 2005-2009 initially was also coordinated by the State Youth Initiative Center. As the State Youth Initiative Center was also responsible for youth hobby education (out of school formal education in Children and Youth Centers), it was difficult to develop stable, appropriately financed and mobile youth work and youth policy - historically youth work in Latvia was based on development of hobby education and the philosophy of youth work based on work with youth organizations, voluntary work was hard to integrate in the work of State Youth Initiative Center. In 26.10.2004. Cabinet of Ministers allocates function of coordination of youth policy from Ministry of Education and Science to Ministry of Children and family affairs. The main achievements in the field of youth policy currently are: - Creation of Youth Policy Coordination Council # consultative and coordinating governmental scale institution, where representative of Latvian Youth Council and Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments. - National program of youth policy for 2005-2009 is accepted in the Cabinet of Ministers on 26.04.2005. - At the moment there#s a preparation of two documents # draft of Youth Act and draft concept on Law of Voluntary work.



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net

