



**Youth**Partnership

# FACTSHEET

## ON SOCIAL INCLUSION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

### IN LATVIA



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Council of Europe  
European Commission



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## 1) Risk of poverty

	Sources	Year	Age Range	%
At risk of poverty by age  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006	Less than 18	26,00
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: <b>work income</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158</a>	2005		54,90
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: <b>Unemployment benefit</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158</a>	2005		1,30
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: <b>Family allowance</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158</a>	2005		17,70
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>lone parent</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>jobless</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		16,00
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>lone parent</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>in full-time job</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		79,00
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>couple with children</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>both in full-time job</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		58,00
Distribution of children by the type of household ( <b>couple with children</b> ) and work type of adults of the household: <b>both jobless</b>	<a href="#">Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166</a>	2005		4,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: <b>Single parent with dependent children</b>  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006		40,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: <b>Household without dependent children</b>  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006		25,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: <b>Household with dependent children</b>  (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	<a href="#">Eurostat</a>	2006		22,00

## 2) Social Subsistence/Protection

A short description of country's social protection system and list of the benefits young people are entitled to	<b>Annex 5</b>
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## 3) Equal opportunities

A description of the forms of inequality, which young people may confront in their home country (eg. gender, religion/belief, ethnic origin, disability, geographical location related inequality)	<b>Annex 6</b>
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## ANNEX 5

### SOCIAL SUBSISTENCE / PROTECTION IN LATVIA

The State Social Insurance Agency is a state institution under supervision of the Ministry of Welfare, performing the public administration function in the area of social insurance and social services. Because social protection in Latvia is based on social taxes and/ or insurance systems, results in some major differences in the number of people covered by the respective systems/schemes. (<http://www.vsaa.lv/?lng=en> ; [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/missoc/2008/missoc\\_2008\\_organisation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/2008/missoc_2008_organisation_en.pdf) .)

Central Government manages and meets the main part of the expenses for *health care, labour-market policy and social services and benefits*. *Social assistance* functions are divided among the State and the local governments by law. The local governments finance the expenditure on social-assistance benefits, social care institutions (for children left without parental care and for the elderly) and alternative care services. The main source of revenue of the local government budget is taxes (mainly income tax, real estate tax and land tax) as well as non-tax revenue. ([http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/missoc/2004/022004/lv\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/2004/022004/lv_en.pdf) )

In Latvia there is a three-tiered administrative social system (Government, districts and municipalities). The majority of the social budget comes from the social insurance system. State Social Insurance Agency is taking care of *sickness, maternity, old age, survivors, industrial injuries, as well as the state family allowance*. The municipalities run services/institutions and *care for children, young people, the elderly and the disabled*. Housing benefits and other social benefits, which are *means tested*, are also a local matter. ([http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/missoc/2008/missoc\\_2008\\_organisation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/2008/missoc_2008_organisation_en.pdf); [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/missoc/db/public/compareTables.do](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/db/public/compareTables.do))

Creation of pay-as-you-go systems is common in relation to *sickness benefits and pensions*. Insurances are only for people in the labour market and are financed by the employers and employees, where the employers finance the largest part. While the employers pay a rather high social tax, they pay, on the other hand, very little, or no, income tax. People who are not insured are normally only covered by means-tested benefits that are very small because they are calculated in accordance with the poverty level. (<http://nososco-eng.nom-nos.dk/filer/publikationer/nordbaltsoopro.pdf>)

In accordance with the law local authorities are responsible for social assistance aimed at families or individuals with low incomes (like students). The municipality pays the means-tested poor family social assistance benefit to persons or families, whose income does not reach the minimum subsistence level set by the Government. The law entitles local governments to pay benefits other than the above benefit for other purposes. Municipal social assistance benefits are benefits in cash or in kind payable from the local budget to stabilise the income of an individual (family) up to a certain level, if the individual, due to objective reasons, does not receive an adequate income. Eligibility for a benefit is established after assessment of the person's situation and resources. (<http://nososco-eng.nom-nos.dk/filer/publikationer/nordbaltsoopro.pdf>)

### Sources

<http://www.vsaa.lv/?lng=en>

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/missoc/2008/missoc\\_2008\\_organisation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/2008/missoc_2008_organisation_en.pdf)

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<http://nososco-eng.nom-nos.dk/filer/publikationer/nordbaltsoopro.pdf>

## ANNEX 6

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN LATVIA

#### Ethnic minorities

Latvia is a distinctly multi-ethnic society, in which 41 percent of inhabitants are members of minorities (Latvian 59,03 %, Russian 28,29 %, other 12,68 %). Integration of its various ethnic communities is an essential prerequisite for the country's stability and prosperity. Societal integration is built on fostering understanding and respect among different ethnic communities. In Latvia, this also involves the willingness and readiness to learn the Latvian language. Knowledge of Latvian helps non-Latvians integrate socially, culturally, economically and politically and contributes to their competitiveness in the labour market. State financed secondary education in Latvia is available in eight national minority languages - Russian, Polish, Hebrew, Ukrainian, Estonian, Lithuanian, Roma and Belarusian. Courses in state financed universities are conducted in Latvian, while a number of private educational institutions have language(s) of instruction other than Latvian. (<http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/policy/4641/4642/4646/>; [http://www.li.lv/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=77&Itemid=464](http://www.li.lv/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=77&Itemid=464); <http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/policy/4641/4642/4646/>; <http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/policy/4641/4642/4649/>; <http://www.li.lv/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=74&Itemid=459>)

#### Religion

Besides the statistical data about living conditions of Roma, a number of opinion polls reveal that society's level of intolerance towards people of certain ethnicities and religions, such as Roma, Jews and Muslims is very high. There is a general lack of publicly available evidence of racism and discrimination in the housing sector in Latvia. The Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia does not collect data on housing by ethnicity, legal status, and nationality. Two thirds of the housing stock is in urban areas, the rest in rural areas. (<http://lettonica.blogspot.com/2007/02/roma-in-latvia.html>; [http://www.humanrights.org.lv/upload\\_file/situation\\_of\\_roma.pdf](http://www.humanrights.org.lv/upload_file/situation_of_roma.pdf); <http://www.integracija.gov.lv/?id=463&sa=463&top=460>.)

#### Emigration

The Republic of Latvia has acceded to several international treaties that protect the right of individual to work and to just and favourable working conditions. Besides that a 2006 study by the Rīga-based research firm SKDS estimated 30,000 Latvians lived in Ireland. Most of the immigrants arrived after Latvia joined the European Union in May 2004, when travel to countries such as Ireland became easier. (<http://latviansonline.com/news/article/4669/>)

#### Unemployment

In 2007 there were unemployed persons (aged less than 25) of the labour 10,7 %. At the same time the rate over 25 years were 5,3 %. In July 2008 Unemployment in Latvia was 5.7%. The type of education and the region of residence appears to be the most important determinants of success in finding jobs by the unemployed. The unemployed from ethnic minorities have lower chances to find a job, other things equal, while the difference between genders is not significant. However, neither ethnicity nor gender seems to matter as far as the transition from employment to unemployment is concerned. The job search methods by the unemployed indicates that two target groups of state employment policy (young unemployed and long-term unemployed) appear to make relatively little use of the public employment service. The author also looks at the impact of education, age, gender, ethnicity, and regional factors on individual earnings. The relative position of youth and women in Latvian labour market, compared with prime age men, is less unfavourable than in many other countries. Beneficiaries of the so-called new education system have a relatively high market value, especially with graduates from universities and general secondary schools. ([http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?\\_pageid=1996\\_39140985&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL&screen=detailref&language=en&product=REF\\_TB\\_labour\\_market&root=REF\\_TB\\_labour\\_market/t\\_labour/t\\_employ/t\\_lfsi/t\\_une/tsdec460](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1996_39140985&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&screen=detailref&language=en&product=REF_TB_labour_market&root=REF_TB_labour_market/t_labour/t_employ/t_lfsi/t_une/tsdec460).)

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[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?\\_pageid=1996,39140985&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL&screen=detailref&language=en&product=REF\\_TB\\_labour\\_market&root=REF\\_TB\\_labour\\_market/t\\_labour/t\\_employ/t\\_lfsi/t\\_une/tsdec460](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1996,39140985&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&screen=detailref&language=en&product=REF_TB_labour_market&root=REF_TB_labour_market/t_labour/t_employ/t_lfsi/t_une/tsdec460)