

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



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

From the mid-1990s onwards, Latvian youth policy, like many other policy areas, started to evolve as the policy at crossroads of traditional interests. The fact that Latvian youth policy was at the crossroads was reflected both in institutional, and in substantive terms. For instance, on the 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 the 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-school 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 the 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 social value placed on education in Latvia is reflected in many ways. Firstly, compulsory education was extended to 11 years, including two years of preschool education. Secondly, the increasing participation in secondary education is indicating general striving to gain better education as well as, reflects rather bad reputation of vocational and professional education. This trend causes great concern among Latvian authorities and systematic attempts to anticipate processes of matching labour market requirements are still at an early stage. Thirdly, enrolment in higher education, especially at the bachelor and masters levels, has become a popular way of postponing career decisions among young people that has characterised youth transitions in Latvia until recently. Doctoral studies, however, are not very popular and institutions are starting to have problems with ensuring academic succession. Fourthly, the educational reform is at the core of Latvian policies on inclusion of 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. Fifthly, Latvia has a strong and excellent tradition of hobby and interest education, providing most young people with opportunities for meaningful out-of-school activities.

Although, following the economic collapse of 2010, 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 challenging for young women, due to the absence of relevant child care and pre-school facilities,

and because of the high women's unemployment rate 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-friendly health services by adopting access to, and provision of, services according to young people's needs, although the system of health care provision has a comparatively low profile. So far, very few health centres have been established for children and young people, offering specialised youth counselling for a broad range of matters.

Currently, the popular school councils at many schools provide valuable opportunities for responsible youth involvement. However, their purpose in terms of citizenship versus leadership learning is unclear. More use of information technologies in service-provision and access to information might be critical for successful youth participation and citizenship in the future.

Youth research, youth work training and professionalization, the dissemination of good practices, and international co-operation and exchange are means to improve the reflexive dimension of youth policy, which have so far been rather underused in developing Latvian youth policy. International co-operation with Latvian youth policy is primarily characterised by geographical, cultural and historical factors, while a stronger thematic orientation 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 an easier transition to adulthood.

Latvian youth policy development is framed by seven youth policy principles that can be clustered into three main dimensions. The *vertical dimension* (a) political youth citizenship, contributes to democratic power sharing, facilitating constructive youth involvement in decision-making and the definition of society. Youth participation and information, and the focus on youth interests are relevant to this dimension; the core agenda of youth policy is usually formulated according to this dimension. The *horizontal dimension* (b) of socio-economic 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 practices. This dimension, which is currently only outlined in Latvian youth policy development, requires further improvement and the consideration of additional aspects, including youth research, dissemination of results and good practices, 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 information to young people 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, when solving youth-related issues.
5. *Favourable social and economic premises principle* – to enhance developing such social and economic 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 homes 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 2015, there were 276 817 young people (13 to 25 years) in Latvia, making 14% of total population of Latvia.

Data taken from Central Statistical Bureau (www.csb.gov.lv)

Number and Percentage of young people by gender in global population

There were 142 208 young men and 134 609 young women in Latvia.

Data taken from Central Statistical Bureau (www.csb.gov.lv)

Any other relevant figures

In the age category of 15 years, 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.

1/5 of all job seekers are between 15 and 24 years.

In the age category of 18 years, 63% of young people continue their studies in higher education institutions, 6% - in vocational higher education institutions, but 31% do not continue their studies.

In age group between 20 and 24 years, 63% of young people are employed.

3. Actors and Structures

3.1. Public authorities

3.1.1. National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth – [the Ministry of Education and Science](#)

- Minister – Kārlis Šadurskis
- Duration of mandate – since February 2016

Sector advisor in the office of Minister (sports sector and youth field) - Santa Ozoliņa (santa.ozolina@izm.gov.lv)

The unit responsible for youth affairs in the Ministry is the Department of Policy Initiatives and Development

- Number of people who work in this ministry, particularly in the youth field – 3 persons
- Director responsible for youth field in the Ministry – Director of the Department of Policy Initiatives and Development Gunta Arāja (gunta.araja@izm.gov.lv)
- Contact person in the youth department competent for youth policy – Senior Desk Officer in youth field Marika Arkliņa (marika.arklina@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:

- Name – Commission of European Affairs
 - o name of president/ chair – Ojārs Ēriks Kalniņš
 - o role and competence – elaborates Latvian positions for international cooperation
- Name – Commission of Education, Culture and Science
 - o name of president/ chair – Jānis Vucāns
 - o role and competence – responsible for education, develops 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 planning regional development councils – Rīgas, Kurzemes, Zemgales, Latgales, Vidzemes planning regions, made up of representatives of local governments. Role of planning regions is to ensure planning process of regional development, including defining the long-term development goals, objectives and priorities by adopting regional planning documents.

The role of planning regions in youth policy is indirect; via regional development plans, not only directly address youth policy fields, but also other ones related to youth, for 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 subordinated to them, as well as the institutions subordinated 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 youth work, developing the documentation of local government youth policy (for example, youth work strategy) – local youth also participate in the elaboration process of such documents, proposing their ideas (during discussions with municipality politicians, via surveys and/or public consultations) for 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.

In the autumn of 2015 the youth policy strategies have been developed by 34 municipalities, 13 more are in elaboration process, 18 municipalities do not plan to elaborate such strategy, but 39 municipalities are planning to do that in near future. About 14 municipalities offer no information.

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, to establish a youth centre, the Advisory Committee on Youth Affairs or the 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. There are 105 general criteria grouped in 10 thematic sections that can be used to assess the current situation in 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 youth participation in the local municipal administration.

Main areas of responsibility of municipal youth affairs specialists include:

- 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 information and educational activities in their 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 in social life activities of their 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.

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

In 2014, in 104 municipalities there were persons responsible for youth at the local level. In order to ensure the quality of youth work, every year the Ministry of Education and Science organizes trainings for municipal youth specialists and seminars on exchange of experience for managers and employees of youth centres.

There are 182 youth centres in Latvia. *Youth centre* is a place offering friendly, open and supporting environment for young people with different interests and life experiences. The objective of the centre is to offer young people a place to gather together, to plan usefully their time, to receive information based on their needs and interests, and to give support to drafting and implementing projects. Youth centres cooperate with stakeholders involved in youth policy implementation (institutions of municipalities, youth organizations, as well as with state administrative institutions).

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 non-formal education programmes, projects and actions;
- to create favourable conditions for the intellectual and creative development of young people;
- to promote youth participation in youth organizations, youth initiative groups and voluntary work;
- to provide young people with access to information relevant to their interests and needs;
- to promote inclusion of young people from social risk groups among peers in youth centre activities;
- to promote intercultural dialogue among young people;
- to manage individual or group consultations about current themes for young people;

- to promote young people's participation in local, regional, national and international youth activities, projects and programmes, etc.

The Advisory Committees on Youth Affairs are institutions established by municipalities with a deliberate function on implementing youth policy and organizing youth work. At this moment such committees are established in 25 municipalities. The assignments of such committee are mostly to analyse, 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. 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, line ministries offer welfare and social services for young people, within their field of competence, through agencies and institutions assigned to 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.
- [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. The [State Probation Service](#) is subordinated to the Ministry of Justice, and it organizes forced labour and public work for minors. It also 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 provide social and welfare services for the 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](#). Their target groups are only young people, providing them information on sexual and reproductive health, raising awareness in a free atmosphere for discussions and receiving answers to their questions.

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

Children care centres and day care centres are for children without parental care till the age of 18 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 severe mental problems;
- 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 the framework of youth friendly health services. The main aims of these centres are to promote healthy lifestyle and to provide health consultations. The centres work in three main directions:

- educational direction –formal and non-formal education services for groups on health issues;
- individual consultation direction – physical and mental health individual face-face-to-face and distance consultations;
- recreational and educational event organization direction on health 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 2016, it had 33 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 in youth organizations, and in non-formal education activities. It also supports youth organizations. Its tasks are to represent the interests of young people in Latvia and towards 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, as well as 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, ensures implementation of European Commission structured dialogue in Latvia, organizing national consultations with young people about priorities in the field of youth, put forward by the presidency of three members in the European Council. The National Youth Council of Latvia chairs a national working group on the European Commission structured dialogue.

Areas of the work of the National Youth Council of Latvia:

- Defence of interests
- International relations and development cooperation
- Information and identification of youth organizations
- Development and Cooperation of the National Youth Council of Latvia

- Support to formation of new organizations

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 Emīls Anškens (ljp@ljp.lv)

There are *regional and municipal youth councils* established, particularly in cities, functioning in close cooperation with local municipalities. The structure, members and tasks may differ case by case and are defined by local needs. As an example, one of the biggest municipal youth council is the Riga City School Council, which unites all Riga's city pupil's councils 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.

Similar to pupils' council, according to the Law on Higher Education Institutions *students' councils* are established in every higher education institution. They are elected, independent structures which represent the 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, a youth organization is a association that is registered in the register of associations and foundations as well as in the list of youth organizations where only organizations that meet several criteria defined in the law are registered – (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 at least two thirds of the members are children and young people; and (4) participation of young people is ensured in administrative bodies of the association, and the procedures for this participation are specified in the statutes of the respective association.

Up to now, 26 youth organizations that meet these criteria have been registered officially in the register of youth organizations of Latvia, including:

- 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 pilsēta”,
- Creative society for youth "Trepes",
- Latvian youth organisation „Tellus”, and others.

The full list of organisations can be found here: <http://www.izm.gov.lv/lv/jaunatne/jaunatnes-organizaciju-saraksts>

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

There is no article of the constitution concerning 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 youth policy, as well as the basic principles for financing youth initiatives, for participation in decision-making and social life and for youth work.

Based on the Youth Law, three bylaws were adopted:

- 1) Regulations on Youth Advisory Council;
- 2) Regulations on training of youth work specialists that set out the training system, including the necessary skills, competences and knowledge to work as youth work specialist, according to the professions standard;
- 3) Regulations on procedures for receiving financing from the state budget, which is provided for the promotion of young people, initiatives and participation in decision-making and social life, as well as for youth work that regulate the open call procedures for financial support from the state budget to:
 - youth organizations, for receiving project funding, 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 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, binding municipal acts can specify the administrative structure in municipality or set other restrictions and regulations affecting various spheres of youth.

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

5. National Policy Programmes on youth

National programmes on youth

The Youth Policy Guidelines for Years 2009 - 2018 was developed as a 10-year policy planning document, 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 the main action directions and operational results in youth policy field for 10 years period.

In 2013, the mid-term evaluation of the Youth Policy Guidelines for Years 2009-2018 were carried out identifying significant shortcomings developed in the document's structure, and its content. Therefore, it was decided to develop a new, medium-term youth policy planning document that would prevent identified shortcomings and integrate a link of youth policy with EU level documents, as well as national development planning documents. A working group has been established, involving experts from various national and local institutions, as well as from non-governmental sector. It is expected that the new Youth Policy Guidelines for the Years 2015-2020 will be approved in the first half of 2016.

Action plans i.e. official strategies

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

Programmes and actions for specific target groups

Each institution is drafting annual work programme within its field of competence, 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 to the 2015 Budget, public expenditure allocated to the field of youth is 328 520 EUR.

Direct allocations are for the following measures of the youth policy:

- work with the youth in municipalities – 148 744 EUR
- social inclusion of youth – 78 693 EUR
- support for youth organization and various youth initiatives – 70 115 EUR
- information support and research work in the field of youth – 16 923 EUR
- international cooperation – 13 000 EUR.

During the previous three years budget allocation for youth has been gradually increased, but last year – slightly decreased: 2012- 152 225 EUR, 2013 – 315 856 EUR, 2014 – 330 520 EUR, 2015 - 328 520 EUR.

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 has 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 the framework of projects of the European Youth Foundation. When possible, information campaigns or training activities are carried out. One

of activities carried out on national level is the translation of the T-Kits published by the EU-CoE youth partnership. In 2007, the European Portfolio for Youth leaders and Youth workers developed by the Council of Europe was translated and published in Latvian. Throughout 2008, copies of the portfolio were disseminated among youth affairs specialists and youth centres in Latvia. Training seminar to promote use of the portfolio was also carried out.

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

Furthermore, active participation in the Online campaign on Combating Hate Speech organized by the Council of Europe is considered.

7.2. European Union

7.2.1. Implementation of the Youth in Action programme

In Latvia, the Agency for International Programme for Youth, 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 Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme. 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 relevant to local institutions of youth work.

National planning documents for youth– the Guidelines of Youth Policy for the Years 2009 – 2018. Work on local youth policy programmes were started around year 2010 and up to now 34 from 119 municipalities have developed their youth strategies.

The 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 researched 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 Ministry of Education and Science on the youth policy – <http://izm.izm.gov.lv/youth.html>

The portal of youth issues – <http://www.jaunatneslietas.lv/en/>

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 (latest available here: http://www.csb.gov.lv/sites/default/files/nr_13_jauniesi_latvija_2014_14_00_lv.pdf (in Latvian only)). The Bureau also publishes annual publications Children in Latvia that gives in depth statistical information on children in Latvia and their quality of life (latest available here: http://www.csb.gov.lv/sites/default/files/nr_12_bern_i_latvija_2014_14_00_lv_en.pdf (bilingual - in Latvian and English)).