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**Migrants and their Descendants:
Social Inclusion and
Participation in Society**

Latvia, 2015

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Executive summary

Latvia's population amounts to slightly more than 2 million people, among whom 83.7% are citizens of Latvia, 12.7% are non-citizens, and the remaining 3.6% are foreigners, including third country nationals.

The national law determines the status of "non-citizen" for those former Soviet citizens who were registered as living on the territory of Latvia on 1 July 1992, or if their last registered place of residence before that date was on the territory of Latvia and their children - provided that they have no other citizenship. Most of non-citizens arrived in Latvia during the Soviet time and lost their Soviet Union citizenship in 1991 when Latvia regained independence. In light of the provisions of Directive 2003/109/EC non-citizens are recognized as long-term resident third country nationals. Most of non-citizens are ethnic Russians, Ukrainians and Belarusians and in practice they are seen as persons belonging to national minorities, although there are several limitations of the enjoyment of such rights, including those concerning effective participation in public life. At the same time, non-citizens enjoy a wider range of rights than third country nationals. Many persons belonging to non-citizens arrived into Latvia at 1950s-1960s and they object to be regarded as migrants.

As of January 1, 2015, there were more than 74,000 foreigners resident in Latvia – 51,029 with permanent residence permits, and 33,244 with temporary ones. Among those with permanent residence permits, 91.5% were third country nationals, mainly Russian citizens (81.4%) majority of whom have lived in Latvia for a long time, but for various reasons have chosen the citizenship of Russia. Among those with temporary permits, 28.79% came from EU/EEA member states, while 71.21% were third country nationals, mainly citizens of Russia (42%) and Ukraine (8.76%).

The number of asylum seekers has been quite small, although increasing in recent years. From 1998, when the asylum procedure started, until 2014, 1,440 persons applied for asylum in Latvia. During the last few years, the asylum seekers mainly come from Georgia, Syria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Russia, Afghanistan, Iran, Egypt, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, etc. In total, 189 persons had been received refugee or alternative status (subsidiary protection) by the end of 2014.

1. Legal and policy instruments for migrant integration

- Instruments and target groups: The national policy document addresses national identity and integration of society at large, and is not focused on migrants, their descendants or third country nationals. Integration is "inclusion of all people living in Latvia into the society regardless of their ethnic affiliation and self-identification". The document does not give specific reference to fundamental rights in relation to migrants, yet generally refer to human rights and belonging to Europe, European identity and the belief in fundamental European values. There are no definite target groups, yet description include several parts of the society. The immigrants are defined as foreigners with temporary or permanent residence permits, as well as Latvia's non-citizens; these are third-country nationals.
- Drivers & barriers: Respect for diversity, inclusive approach, focus on anti-discrimination, inclusion in the labour market are seen as drivers of integration. Minimal approach in fighting discrimination, lack of immediate access to equal right to work due to language requirements, weak nationality policy, as well as lack of motivation, resources, human capital and information, were identified as factors hampering integration.

- Language learning and integration tests: Language learning is available free of charge through various avenues. Language proficiency levels are compatible with the Common European Framework Reference levels and 6-10 thousand individuals take the tests every year, with around 80% success rate. Language tests are required in order to (1) receive the status of permanent residence permit; (2) receive the status of a permanent EU resident; (3) access to employment in 1,201 professions in the private sector.
- Monitoring and assessment use of indicators: indicators developed for monitoring and assessment of implementation of the "Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018" partially take into consideration Zaragoza indicators and include indicators in the fields of employment (one), education (two) and active citizenship (six). The majority of fines imposed by the State Language Centre are because of insufficient language usage at the workplace.
- EU funding: The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Interior oversee the implementation of the projects funded by the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (EIF) and the European Refugee Fund (ERF) respectively. The distribution of funds does not match the priority areas set by the framework of present research.

2. Promoting equal treatment and non-discrimination.

- Implementation of equal treatment and non-discrimination legislation: there is generally insufficient information on migrants and their descendants as a specific category. While no direct data on migrants and their descendants is available, there is some limited data which can be seen as proxy for migrants and their descendants (break-down of data along the lines of citizenship, ethnic affiliation and native language).
- Outreach and right awareness: there is a general lack of information about migrants' rights awareness while the training available to the third country nationals has so far emphasised Latvian language learning and culture; the relevant authorities (e.g. the Ombudsman's Office, State Labour Inspectorate) do not engage in outreach and training schemes for these groups.
- Complaints: information is lacking on the usage of rights protection mechanisms by migrants and their descendants as well as third country nationals, while the relevant authorities entrusted with overseeing the protection of rights (e.g. the Ombudsman's Office, State Labour Inspectorate) do not collect data on citizenship, migrant status, native language or ethnic affiliation of persons contacting these authorities.

3. Participation of migrants and their descendants in society.

- On 9 May 2013 the Parliament of Latvia adopted amendments to the Citizenship Law, which are considered to be the most far-reaching in the history of this Law. The amendments substantially expanded eligibility for dual citizenship and facilitated acquisition of citizenship for the children of non-citizens and stateless persons.
- The overall number of non-citizens in Latvia remains high, and a consistent down-ward trend has been observed since 2009 with regard to the number of applications for naturalization filed. This is underpinned by a multitude of factors, such as an increase in the non-citizens' contentment with their current status, hope that the naturalization process will eventually be simplified, as well as insufficient motivation. As a result, a considerable part of the population is denied opportunities for full-fledged participation in the life of the society.

- Only Latvian citizens have the right to vote and stand in national elections, take part in referenda and initiate legislation, and only Latvian and EU citizens have voting rights at municipal level. The advantages of granting non-citizens the right to vote in municipal elections have been repeatedly pointed out by international and European observers, the parliamentary opposition, as well as NGOs and individual experts, however proposals for amendments to relevant legislation have, to date, been voted down by the parliamentary majority.
- The Central Election Commission of Latvia (CEC) does not collect data on the ethnic or migrant background of either candidates or voters. Official statistics on the turnout of citizens of migrant background at national and local elections is unavailable, as is comprehensive data on the number of elected representatives with migrant background. Voter information and education is carried out primarily in Latvian, with limited information in other widely spoken languages.
- There are several consultation mechanisms at both national and local levels. With its broad mandate, the Advisory Council for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals under the Ministry of Culture is the main consultative body in the area. As state and municipal institutions are not bound by law to respond to the recommendations of the consultative bodies on draft policy documents or legislation relevant to integration, insufficient efforts are made to conduct consultations in a timely manner and to take into account the concerns expressed. There is also little awareness among minority communities of the various councils and their functions. Until 2013 the selection procedures for membership of minority and migrant associations and other NGOs in the consultation mechanisms were not sufficiently transparent however some improvements have been introduced since. To date, relevant state institutions have not carried out an evaluation of the impact of the work of the consultative bodies.
- Persons with migrant background do not face either legal or practical restrictions to the membership in trade unions, professional associations and civil society organizations. Data on the rate of their participation is, however, unavailable, as trade unions and associations in Latvia do not collect information on the ethnic background or citizenship of their members. Organizations generally report that they do not take particular measures to encourage the membership and participation of TCNs or other persons with migrant background in their work. While the state and municipalities provide some support to migrant NGOs, the scope of assistance received varies per organization and per project. As a result, the activities of migrant NGOs are generally rather limited, implemented on a voluntary basis and sometimes funded by the organizations' members.
- Safeguards for ensuring social diversity in professional, management and board functions in private and public media are not enshrined in domestic laws, which regulate media work in Latvia. Consequently, internal rules and practice vary per organization. While relevant legislation stipulates that electronic media shall promote social integration on the basis of the Latvian language, media outlets are free to broadcast also in other languages, including national minority languages. Against the backdrop of the conflict in the Ukraine efforts have been undertaken to improve the content of and access to public TV and radio in Russian.
- With regard to diversity in the public sector, a number of official functions are reserved solely to citizens. Diversity management has not been developed at either state, public service or institutional levels, and measures to encourage the participation of persons with migrant background in the public sector, are not taken.
- Only Latvian citizens have the right to found political parties, whereas membership is open to individuals, who are Latvian citizens or non-citizens, as well as EU citizens, who reside in Latvia. Representative statistics or survey data on the participation and membership of migrants and their descendants in political parties, initiatives and movements are not available.

- Teachers of migrant background have equal access to employment in education. Data on their participation at national level is not available. In Latvia, schools can follow specific minority education programmes (through a bilingual education system), which offer about 50% instruction in the mother tongue in primary and lower secondary school and 40% in upper secondary school. The state finances national minority education programmes in seven languages. Every pupil can choose an educational institution irrespective of the language of instruction, as uniform standards for academic subjects and sample curricula for all educational institutions apply. While teachers have theoretical knowledge on teaching in multicultural settings, they recognise the need to improve their practical skills in working with immigrant pupils from different cultures. Although some municipalities provide financial support to schools working with newcomers, state funding is generally deemed insufficient.

4. Social cohesion and community relations.

- Measures to foster social cohesion, such as language courses, extracurricular activities, strengthening of public media in Russian, etc., have been carried out by state and municipal institutions, as well as NGOs within the framework of the implementation of the Guidelines for National Identity, Civil Society and Social Integration (2012 – 2018).
- There are no specific ethical or other guidelines or rules concerning the language used by media or journalists, when reporting about migrants and/or their descendants in Latvia. Relevant legislation has provisions prohibiting incitement of hatred or calls to discriminate a person or a group of persons. The Codes of Ethics of various associations of mass media professionals in Latvia also include provisions related to respect for human rights.
- No legal restrictions against mixed marriages exist in Latvia, as long as both persons are lawfully present in the country. Mixed marriages have been a traditional feature in Latvia and their proportion is high.

1. Legal and policy instruments for migrant integration

1.1. Description of existing instruments and target groups

	<p>This section should present the overall state of play concerning national and, where applicable, regional legal and policy instruments focusing on how they address fundamental rights, core EU values and principles, as well as international legal standards and related EU law and policies, such as the Common Basic Principles and the Common Agenda on integration of migrants. Please complete the template in Annex 2. Please make sure the brief information you provide in the table includes the following aspects:</p>
<p>Does the national strategy on migrant integration contain a definition of integration? If so, please include it in the original language and full English translation.</p>	<p><i>"Sabiedrības integrācija – visu Latvijā dzīvojošo cilvēku iekļaušanās sabiedrībā, neraugoties uz viņu nacionālo piederību un pašidentifikāciju. Integrācijas kopīgais pamats ir latviešu valoda, piederības sajūta Latvijas valstij, un tās demokrātiskajām vērtībām, cieņa pret Latvijas unikālo kultūrtelpu, kopīgas sociālās atmiņas veidošana. Sabiedrības integrācija veicina pilsonisko līdzdalību, kas ir vērsta uz sabiedrisko problēmu demokrātisku un racionālu risināšanu, stiprina indivīdu savstarpējo sadarbību un uzticību. Integrācija vienlaikus nozīmē valstsnācijas atvērtību un cieņu pret mazākumtautību savpatnību un to tiesībām saglabāt savu atšķirīgo identitāti. Integrācijas uzdevums ir arī veicināt imigrantu iekļaušanos sabiedrībā, piedāvājot motivējošus līdzekļus un iespējas apgūt saliedētas sabiedrības kopējos pamatus".</i></p> <p>"Integration of society is inclusion of all people living in Latvia into the society regardless of their ethnic affiliation and self-identification. The common basis of integration is Latvian language, the sense of belonging to the state of Latvia and its democratic values, respect towards unique Latvia's cultural space and forming common historic memory. Integration of society facilitates civil participation aimed at democratic and rational resolution of the problems of society, strengthens mutual co-operation and trust of individuals. At the same time, integration means the openness of the state nation and respect towards peculiarities of minorities and their right to preserve their different identity. The aim of integration is also to facilitate the inclusion of immigrants into society by offering motivating means and opportunities to acquire the common basis of coherent society" (the "Guidelines")¹.</p>
<p>Are there specific references in the national strategy or</p>	<p>There are no specific references to fundamental rights in relation to migrants. There are, however, references to</p>

¹ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018 (*Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas politikas pamatnostādnes 2012-2018.*) p.6, available in Latvian at: www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/nozaru/integracija/Pamatnostadnes/KMPam_071011_integ.pdf

	<p>relevant legal or policy instruments to fundamental rights in relation to migrants?</p>	<p>human rights and belonging to Europe: "The basis of the value system of the State of Latvia is a belief in fundamental European values – democracy, rule of law and human rights. European identity is a value identity, which is a part of the national identities of various European countries. The social integration policy has to strengthen the ties between Latvian and European identity, and has to strengthen Europe's common social memory in Latvia. [...] Each person's free choice and human rights are respected. In the area of social integration each individual is free and has the right to choose his or her own identity tactics. All choices are free and are respected. The duty of the State of Latvia is to interact and collaborate with all the population notwithstanding of their choice. The duty of the State is to unite society on the basis of the common values, encouraging this process by democratic means."²</p>
	<p>Which are the target groups of the national integration strategy? Please provide any definitions relevant or the determination of the persons that are entitled to or beneficiaries of the relevant action plans and policy measures (e.g. 'integration agreements': who signs them and what do they contain). Please specify any residence requirements (e.g. which migrant and/or residence status counts or not for "legally residing third country nationals" that eventually would be covered by these policies) for persons to be considered members of the targeted groups.</p>	<p>The "Guidelines" do not define target groups of national integration strategy.</p> <p>The "Guidelines" describe several parts of the society. "National policy on national identity and social integration, including citizenship policy, has to be concerned with strengthening national identity, feeling of belonging to Latvia, and to attract to it every Latvian, every Latvian citizen, no matter where they are, as well as to encourage their return to Latvia". "National identity and integration policy have to encourage society's openness to the contribution of national minorities and have to consolidate their affiliation with Latvia". "USSR citizens arrived to Latvia over the fifty years [...] national policy is required to bring Latvian society together, to promote mutual trust among people and common feeling of belonging which is the basis of social solidarity, as well as to act strongly against the possibility of the development of divided two-community society". "European Union citizens and new immigrants have also settled in Latvia. The integration policy has to efficiently anticipate and provide opportunities for these people to learn the Latvian language, to get acquainted with common values and the Latvian cultural space so that new ethnically separated groups or a rift in inter-cultural dialogue do not develop in the society".</p> <p>The "Guidelines" define immigrants (p.6) as - foreigners with temporary or permanent residence permits, as well as Latvia's non-citizens; these are third-country nationals. There are three groups of immigrants: (1) Latvia's non-citizens, (2) long-term residents of Latvia who gave up the status of non-citizen by accepting the citizenship of non-EU/EEA countries, (3) immigrants who arrived after independence (mostly from former USSR countries).</p>

² Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Guidelines on National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy (2012–2018) (*Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas pamatnostādnes 2012-2018.gadam*), section 1.3 Continuity and New Challenges (*Pēctecība un jauni izaicinājumi*) pp.8-9, available in Latvian at: www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/nozaru/integracija/Pamatnostadnes/KMPam_071011_integ.pdf

	<p>In reference to the CBP 1 '<i>Integration is a dynamic, two-way process of mutual accommodation by all immigrants and residents of Member States</i>': please specify if and how the majority population is explicitly targeted; distinguish, if possible, between policies or measures targeting the general population and specific target groups, such as public authorities, e.g. teachers, police, judiciary, etc.; outline the objectives of such policies and measures, and their duration.</p>	<p>Measures targeting the majority population / host society in the context of integration of migrants can be found in the Activity area 1: "Civil society and integration".³</p> <p>In particular, sub-area 1.1. "To develop civic education by using formal and informal education methods" envisages task 1.1.2. "Improvement of civic knowledge and skills of children and youth at all levels of education programmes", including:</p> <p>1.1.2.1. "Support for inter-school civic initiatives, including for the children and youth exposed to the risk of social exclusion of (special support for initiatives which shape the dialogue between ethnic Latvians and minorities, as well as for pupils of schools with two language streams)" – annually starting in 2013, at least two activity per year, the Ministry of Culture and the Society Integration Foundation are responsible institutions, funding by EEA.</p> <p>1.1.2.2. "Showing Latvian movies in schools and/or libraries, followed by an educational discussion on civil society and society integration issues – annually, showing movies to schoolchildren at least once a year in every Latvia's planning region, the Ministry of Culture, Latvian National Library and National Cinema Centre are the responsible institutions, no additional funding required.</p> <p>Activity sub-area 1.3. "To promote inclusion of socially excluded groups into the society and to prevent discrimination" envisages task 1.3.2. "Regular education and information activities about immigration and third country nationals integration for various target groups of society, including informative events with the participation of immigrants and events for the representatives of mass media" – 5 events per year during 2013-2015, the responsible institutions are the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, funding by the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals.</p> <p>Also, activity sub-area 1.3. envisages task 1.3.3. "To Inform society and to educate the specialists of various assisting professions about tolerance and social exclusion, intercultural competences, court practice on discrimination" (Specialists of assisting professions – employees working in social, education and healthcare fields, such as social workers, education personnel (psychologists, pedagogues), medics, and other public administration employees), including:</p> <p>1.3.3.1. "Seminars on the basis of research about Latvian anti-discrimination legislation, its implementation and court practice results" – 2012 and</p>
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³ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018 (*Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas politikas pamatnostādnes 2012-2018.*) p.38-47, available in Latvian at: www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/nozaru/integracija/Pamatnostadnes/KMPam_071011_integ.pdf

		<p>2013, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Justice and the Ombudsman's Office are responsible institutions, 4 seminars in the regions, 2 in Riga, training for 180 persons, funding by PROGRESS.</p> <p>1.3.3.2. "Seminars about diversity management and non-discrimination for various target groups" – 2012 and 2013, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Welfare are responsible institutions, 4 seminars in the regions, 2 in Riga, training for 180 persons, funding by PROGRESS.</p> <p>1.3.3.3. "Training for employers and human resources specialists about diversity management principles, advantages and good practice" – during 2012 and 2013, the Ministry of Culture, the Society Integration Foundation and the Ministry of Welfare are responsible institutions, 4 seminars in the regions, 1 in Riga, training for 125 persons, funding by PROGRESS.</p> <p>1.3.3.4. "Education measures for children and youth about tolerance and non-discrimination" – during 2012 and 2013, the Ministry of Culture, the Society Integration Foundation, Latvian National Library, the Ministry of Welfare and the Ombudsman's Office are responsible institutions, funding by PROGRESS.</p> <p>1.3.3.5. "Information campaign in mass media "Tolerance and equal opportunities"" – during 2012 and 2013, responsible institutions the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Welfare, funding by PROGRESS.</p>
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1.2. Drivers & barriers in developing, implementing and assessing legal and policy instruments

	<p>On the basis of material collected, including past research, studies, assessments, evaluation and contacts with the authorities, public officials and key actors for social inclusion and participation of migrants, outline the main drivers and barriers for social inclusion and integration policies in general. Please mention also any important differences at regional level. A more detailed outline of specific drivers and barriers for specific policy areas will be required in the following sections.</p>	<p>The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in its Second Opinion on Latvia highlighted with concern that the "Integration Guidelines adopted in October 2011 are widely criticised as ethnocentric and unconstructive in promoting social cohesion, as they differentiate between ethnic Latvians and others. Attention must be paid to involve closely minority representatives in the implementation and ensure that measures are aimed at the promotion of a cohesive society with respect for diversity rather than cultural integration of minorities into the 'Latvian nation state'. The negative public debate related to minorities is exacerbated by increased incidents of hate speech on the Internet, targeting mainly Russians and Latvians." The Advisory Committee also recommended the authorities to "promptly and unequivocally condemn and sanction all expressions of intolerance and disrespect towards national minorities, particularly by public officials; refocus the integration debate on inclusion and dialogue irrespective of ethnic</p>
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		<p>affiliation, and reassure minority communities that diversity is welcome and respected".⁴</p> <p>Regarding the government policies and integration/antidiscrimination programmes, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) report on Latvia published in 2012⁵ stated that "integration programme should promote respect for the diversity of Latvian society; it further considers that consulting minorities after the adoption of the Guidelines is not a sufficiently inclusive approach. Moreover, ECRI is concerned with the persisting absence of a programme targeting the integration of national/ethnic minorities, migrants and asylum seekers/refugees and urges the authorities to place integration once again on the political agenda." ECRI also recommended that the authorities "ensure that the newly adopted Policy Guidelines for the Integration of Society in Latvia pave the way for a broad based programme focusing on anti-discrimination, an open and integrated society and concrete measures to implement it" and that sufficient funding be allocated and that civil society, minorities and local authorities be involved in implementation. ECRI mentioned the "Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030" and encouraged the authorities to take all measures to "implement the Strategy, particularly with regards to the chapter aimed at fighting discrimination at the work place". ECRI also recommended that "the Latvian authorities reconsider their policy on the use of state language and provide for an obligation to use the state language only in cases where a legitimate public interest can clearly be discerned" and "resume the Latvian language courses provided by the Society Integration Fund and ensure that the demand for language training in Latvian is fully met."</p> <p>The research "How integrated is Latvian society?" defines society integration as a policy of uniting society, which is implemented facilitating participation, non-discrimination and intercultural communication and the research authors looked at various aspects of society integration.⁶ a</p> <p>The research "Analysis of integration process of Latvia's non-citizens" was aimed at understanding the motivation of non-citizens to naturalise and the main obstacles to naturalisation, as well as at facilitating dialogue and naturalisation.⁷ As for the drivers and barriers to naturalisation, the research authors concluded that non-citizens are looking at practical</p>
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⁴ Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, published 2014, available at: <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2215943&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383>

⁵ European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) report on Latvia 2012, pp.19-20, www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Country-by-country/Latvia/LVA-CbC-IV-2012-003-ENG.pdf.

⁶ University of Latvia (*Latvijas Universitāte*) How integrated is Latvian society? (*Cik integrēta ir Latvijas sabiedrība?*), 2010 www.szf.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/szf_faili/Petnieciba/sppi/demokratija/Integrac_aud_latv_val_jpg.pdf

⁷ Baltic Institute of Social Sciences, "Analysis of integration process of Latvia's non-citizens" (*Latvijas nepilsoņu integrācijas procesa analīze*), 2014, www.biss.soc.lv/downloads/resources/nepilsoni/BISS_Nepilsoni_2014.pdf.

		<p>considerations: naturalisation procedures and advantages of citizenship. At the same time, on the basis of in-depth interviews it was concluded that the status of non-citizen is perceived as discriminatory and being a "non-citizen" as an outcast.</p> <p>As far as drivers and barriers to naturalisation are concerned, the Naturalisation Board regularly conducts surveys of "Attitude of Latvian non-citizens towards acquisition of Latvian citizenship". According to 2014 survey non-citizens stated that the main reasons why they did not yet apply for naturalisation are: perceived inability to pass naturalisation examinations (22%), belief that they are automatically entitled to citizenship (19%), waiting for easing of naturalisation requirements (17%), content with the status of non-citizen (14%), easier travel to Russia (13%), lack of time (9%), other reasons (3%), unwilling to naturalise (3%).⁸ In 2014, 25% of surveyed non-citizens were planning to submit application for naturalisation procedure.⁹</p>
<h3>1.2.1. Drivers</h3>		
	<p>The key drivers for successful integration policies, therefore factors that are considered to contribute positively in the design, development, implementation, assessment and accomplishment of policy goals and in strengthening social inclusion and participation of migrants and their descendants. For example, are these policies mainstreamed in other public policies, for example in employment, education, housing, etc. and how is this achieved?</p>	<p>Migrant Integration Policy Index III¹⁰ (2011) lists the following positive aspects of Latvia's migrant integration policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latvia started to remove obstacles that prevented newcomers from entering its labour market; - Amendments to Education Law (26 March 2010) recognised equal access to education and training of all third-country nationals with residence permits, including temporary; - Improvements for long-term residents: easier to certify language knowledge; longer periods outside Latvia allowed.
<h3>1.2.2. Barriers</h3>		
	<p>Barriers, limitations, constraints or resistance faced in designing, developing and implementing such policies</p>	<p>Migrant Integration Policy Index III¹¹ (2011) lists the following drawbacks of Latvia's migrant integration policies:</p>

⁸ Latvia, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (*Pilsonas un migācijas lietu pārvalde*) "Attitude of Latvian non-citizens towards acquisition of Latvian citizenship 2014" (*Latvijas nepilsoņu attieksme pret Latvijas pilsonības iegūšanu 2014*), available in Latvian at: <http://www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/sakums/jaunumi/publikacijas/petijumi/2014.gada-p%C4%93t%C4%ABjums-latvijas-nepilso%C5%86u-attieksme-pret-latvijas-pilson%C4%ABbas-ieg%C5%AB%C5%A1anu.pdf> www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/sakums/jaunumi/publikacijas/petijumi/2014.gada-p%C4%93t%C4%ABjums-latvijas-nepilso%C5%86u-attieksme-pret-latvijas-pilson%C4%ABbas-ieg%C5%AB%C5%A1anu.pdf.

⁹ Latvia, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (*Pilsonas un migācijas lietu pārvalde*) "Attitude of Latvian non-citizens towards acquisition of Latvian citizenship 2014" (*Latvijas nepilsoņu attieksme pret Latvijas pilsonības iegūšanu 2014*), available in Latvian at: www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/sakums/jaunumi/publikacijas/petijumi/2014.gada-p%C4%93t%C4%ABjums-latvijas-nepilso%C5%86u-attieksme-pret-latvijas-pilson%C4%ABbas-ieg%C5%AB%C5%A1anu.pdf.

¹⁰ Migration Policy Group (2011), Migrant Integration Policy Index III, available at: www.mipex.eu/latvia

¹¹ Migration Policy Group (2011), Migrant Integration Policy Index III, available at: www.mipex.eu/latvia

<p>and measures, therefore factors that may hinder their effectiveness and influence negatively their outcomes. For example, budgetary limitations, or problems of coordination of governance levels, priority of interventions, lack of training or lack of mainstreaming of relevant policies, lack of action by competent actors or limited data about the interested population, could be factors that may function as obstacles or affect negatively the implementation of selected migrant integration measures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most migrants do not have immediate equal right to work, which has disproportionate impact on their ability to work: since September 2009, increased number of professions must have certain standard of Latvian language; - Minimum approach to fight discrimination and weakest enforcement mechanisms; discrimination on the grounds of religion or nationality are not prohibited; - Weak nationality policies keep third-country nationals outside of democratic life, which hinders public trust: long-term residents cannot participate in local elections; conditions to access to citizenship are "restrictive" and new Latvian citizens can have their status withdrawn on many grounds without appeal, even leading to statelessness; - Authorities have wide grounds of discretion for rejection in family reunification procedures and are not required to consider families' personal circumstances and do not allow for judicial oversight.
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1.2.3. Language learning and integration tests

<p>Please provide information about:</p>	
<p>Main language learning support programmes and courses. Provide details about organisation of such programmes and actors implementing them, funding support, location, duration, frequency, numbers of beneficiaries, entitlements and limitations for accessing courses.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Culture is responsible for the European Fund for the Integration of third country nationals (EIF) in Latvia.¹² According to the information provided by the Ministry of Culture, EIF funding is provided to support language training and integration courses for third country nationals; since 2010, 3,136 third country nationals have been trained and involved in the language training and integration courses. The courses are organised mainly by NGOs, and are linked to the availability of the EIF funding, and therefore can be seen as fragmentary. The content of integration courses includes topics such as Latvian history, culture, traditions, society, state and law, economy, employment. The content of integration courses organised by various NGOs is not standardised and could differ in terms of methodology. At the end of the integration courses, there are no mandatory exams to test the knowledge acquired through these courses.¹³ Language learning support is available to unemployed non-citizens and TCNs with permanent residence permit in Latvia. The State Employment Agency (<i>Nodarbinātības valsts aģentūra</i>) implements the programme "Informal education acquisition with the coupon method" (<i>Neformālās izglītības ieguve ar kuponu metodi</i>) which offers the unemployed an opportunity to improve their qualifications for the labour market.¹⁴</p>

¹² Latvia, Society integration and civil society development section of the Social integration department of the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrijas Sabiedrības integrācijas departamenta Sabiedrības integrācijas un pilsoniskās sabiedrības attīstības nodaļa*), e-mail letter to LCHR 13 March 2015.

¹³ Latvia, Society integration and civil society development section of the Social integration department of the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrijas Sabiedrības integrācijas departamenta Sabiedrības integrācijas un pilsoniskās sabiedrības attīstības nodaļa*), e-mail letter 13 March 2015.

¹⁴ Latvia, State Employment Agency (*Nodarbinātības valsts aģentūra*), Programme "Informal education acquisition with the coupon method" (*Neformālās izglītības ieguve ar kuponu metodi*), www.nva.gov.lv/index.php?cid=3&mid=311&txt=2903.

	<p>According to the coupon method unemployed person can choose the profession, training programme and education establishment from a pre-determined list and pay for it with a coupon issued to the unemployed by the State Employment Agency. The programme is co-funded by the European Social Fund. One of the training opportunities for unemployed is learning the state (Latvian) language. 3,734 persons participated in the state language training in 2014.¹⁵ According to the results of monitoring conducted by the State Employment Agency, Latvian language learning within the informal education programme received the highest assessment of the participants compared to other training: 60% of the graduates of state (Latvian) language courses stated that the knowledge acquired at these courses is useful at work.¹⁶</p> <p>The programme "Latvian language acquisition for adults"¹⁷ implemented by the Society Integration Fund provided an opportunity to learn Latvian up to the level B2 (upper-middle) to employed adult non-native speakers of Latvian legally residing in Latvia. Educational institutions registered at the Ministry of Education and Science (<i>Izglītības un zinātnes ministrija</i>) were eligible to submit their projects. The total funding allotted to 2012-2013 programme was LVL 153,000 (EUR 217,700). The programme complies with the Second activity direction "National identity: language and cultural space" of the "Guidelines",¹⁸ which envisions strengthening non-citizens' Latvian language proficiency and strengthening Latvian cultural space as the basis of society cohesion. 18 projects have been implemented (out of 23 initially planned), providing language courses to 1,814 individuals (91% of planned 2,000) and the programme was evaluated as successful. 92% of participants improved their language proficiency (e.g. A1→A2→B1→B2) and the share of B2 certificates among the participants increased from 4% to 35%. Previously, the programme "Latvian language acquisition for adults" granted LVL 1,271,167 (EUR 1,808,718) to 170 projects that provided language courses to more than 17,000 persons in 2003-2009. The programme was discontinued in 2009 due to financial crisis.¹⁹</p>
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¹⁵ Latvia, State Employment Agency (*Nodarbinātības valsts aģentūra*), Involvement of unemployed and job seekers in active employment measure "Acquisition of informal education" state language learning in 2014 (*Bezdarbnieku un darba meklētāju iesaiste aktīvā nodarbinātības pasākuma „Neformālās izglītības ieguve” valsts valodas apmācībās 2014.gadā*) www.nva.gov.lv/docs/28_5493e368bd2101.08421491.xls.

¹⁶ Project and Quality Management (*Projektu un kvalitātes vadība*), Assessment of ESA training measures (*NVA apmācību pasākumu novērtējums*), 2012, p.32 www.nva.gov.lv/docs/17_51b597be082184.47841388.pdf.

¹⁷ Baltic Institute of Social Sciences "Evaluation of the Society Integration Fund 2012 and 2013 state budget programme "Latvian language acquisition for adults"" (*Sabiedrības integrācijas fonda 2012. gadā un 2013. gadā administrēto valsts budžeta programmu novērtējums „Latviešu valodas apguve pieaugušajiem”*), 2013, www.sif.gov.lv/images/files/informativie-materiali/progr-izvertejumi/Latviesu-valodas-apguve-2012-2013-izvertejums.pdf.

¹⁸ Latvia, Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018, (*Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas politikas pamatnostādnes 2012-2018*) www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/nozaru/integracija/Pamatnostadnes/KMPam_071011_integ.pdf.

¹⁹ Baltic Institute of Social Sciences "Evaluation of the Society Integration Fund 2012 and 2013 state budget programme "Latvian language acquisition for adults"" (*Sabiedrības integrācijas fonda 2012. gadā un 2013. gadā administrēto valsts*

		<p>Language training has also been supported by some local governments, e.g. Riga City Council (<i>Rīgas dome</i>)²⁰ and the Daugavpils City Council (<i>Daugavpils pilsētas dome</i>).²¹</p> <p>Since 2011, the Riga City Council grants funding to free of charge Latvian language courses for the residents of Riga.²² The funding is provided within the Riga City Council's "Society Integration Programme" and offers training for A and B levels of proficiency. The course range from 80 to 125 academic hours. These courses are available not only to TCNs, but to all persons registered as Riga residents (except for unemployed, who have an option to attend courses funded through the State Employment Agency, and school youth, who learn language within school programme); there is no disaggregated statistics regarding the citizenship status of participants of the courses. During 2011-2014, more than 6,000 participants improved their language proficiency.²³</p>
	<p>Knowledge level of the language achieved through such programmes (please use the <u>Common European Framework Reference levels - CEFR</u>)</p>	<p>The language learning programmes as such do not guarantee specific level of language knowledge certificate. Individuals required by the normative regulation to attest their knowledge of state language undergo examination (language tests) at the State Education Content Centre (<i>Valsts izglītības satura centrs</i>). The state fee for examination is EUR 14.23 (with reduced fees for certain categories). The levels of language proficiency envisaged by legislation were developed to be compatible with the Common European Framework Reference levels²⁴ (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2 – see next box).</p> <p>The highest level offered through the programme "Latvian language acquisition for adults" implemented by the Society Integration Fund is B2 (middle-high).²⁵ Latvian language courses funded by the Riga City Council also offer training for A and B levels of proficiency.²⁶</p>
	<p>Language tests required for migrants to access residence</p>	<p>Language tests are required in order to: 1) receive the status of permanent residence permit;</p>

budžeta programmu novērtējums „Latviešu valodas apguve pieaugušajiem”), 2013,

www.sif.gov.lv/images/files/informativie-materiali/progr-izvertejumi/Latviesu-valodas-apguve-2012-2013-izvertejums.pdf.

²⁰ Latvia, Riga City Council Education, Culture and Sports Department (*Rīgas Domes Izglītības, kultūras un sporta departaments*) (2014), 'Latviešu valodas kursi Rīgas iedzīvotājiem', available at: www.iksd.riga.lv/public/58606.html.

²¹ Latvia, Daugavpils City Council Department of Social Affairs (*Daugavpils pilsētas domes Sociālo lietu pārvalde*) (2014), 'Bezmaksas latviešu valodas kursi Daugavpils iedzīvotājiem', available at: www.soclp.lv/aktualitates/bezmaksas-latviesu-valodas-kursi-daugavpils-iedzivotajiem.

²² Latvia, Riga City Council Education, Culture and Sports Department (*Rīgas domes Izglītības, kultūras un sporta departaments*), letter No.DIKS-15-857-nd, 27 February 2015.

²³ Latvia, Riga City Council Education, Culture and Sports Department (*Rīgas domes Izglītības, kultūras un sporta departaments*), letter No.DIKS-15-857-nd, 27 February 2015.

²⁴ Latvia, Latvian Language Agency (*Latviešu valodas aģentūra*), State language proficiency testing in Latvia: results and analysis (2009-2012) (*Valsts valodas prasmes pārbaude Latvijā: rezultāti un to analīze (2009-2012)*) 2013, pp.25, 28, available in Latvian at: http://visc.gov.lv/valval/dokumenti/20140131_vvpp_petijums.pdf.

²⁵ Baltic Institute of Social Sciences "Evaluation of the Society Integration Fund 2012 and 2013 state budget programme "Latvian language acquisition for adults" (*Sabiedrības integrācijas fonda 2012. gadā un 2013. gadā administrēto valsts budžeta programmu novērtējums „Latviešu valodas apguve pieaugušajiem”*), 2013,

www.sif.gov.lv/images/files/informativie-materiali/progr-izvertejumi/Latviesu-valodas-apguve-2012-2013-izvertejums.pdf

²⁶ Latvia, Riga City Council Education, Culture and Sports Department (*Rīgas domes Izglītības, kultūras un sporta departaments*), letter No.DIKS-15-857-nd, 27 February 2015.

	<p>or other legal status affecting equal treatment and access to rights. Please provide information about their content and character, level of knowledge required, numbers of participants, and rates of success/failure</p>	<p>2) receive the status of a permanent EU resident; 3) access to employment in 1,201 professions and occupations in the private sector.</p> <p>According to the Section 15 of the government Regulations No.733, there are three levels of knowledge (basic level – A, medium level – B, highest level – C). The Section 16 further subdivides these into two grades (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2, 1 – lower, 2 - higher).²⁷</p> <p>1) Section 24 Paragraph 5 of the Immigration Law²⁸ foresees the state language proficiency requirement for those foreigners who have the right to request permanent residence permit (spouses of citizens, non-citizens or permanent residents and their underage children applying for the third residence permit; pension age parents of citizens and non-citizens applying for the third residence permit; a foreigner moving to Latvia for permanent residence, if he or she was a citizens of Latvia before 1940, or his or her parent was a citizen; foreigner, who continuously resided in Latvia with temporary residence permit at least five years prior to the end of the last temporary residence permit). The Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No.733 determine the required scope of knowledge of the state language, examination procedures and exemptions for receiving the permanent residence permit.²⁹ According to Section 10 of the Regulations N.733, the required level of knowledge of the state language is A2.</p> <p>2) According to the Section 3 of the "Law on the Status of a Long-term Resident of the European Community in the Republic of Latvia", a third country national has the right to request the status of a long-term resident of the European Community in the Republic of Latvia, if the following conditions exist concurrently: ... 2) he or she has mastered the state language.³⁰ The Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No.733 determine the scope of knowledge of the state language and examination procedures required for receiving the status of a long-term resident of the EU. ³¹ According to Section 10 of</p>
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²⁷ Latvia, Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No.733 "Regulations regarding the amount of knowledge of the state language and the procedures for examination of the knowledge of the state language for the performance of professional and job duties, receipt of the permanent residence permit and obtaining of the status of a long-term resident of the European Union and the state fee for examination of the fluency in the state language" (Noteikumi Nr. 733 "Noteikumi par valsts valodas zināšanu apjomu un valsts valodas prasmes pārbaudes kārtību profesionālo un amata pienākumu veikšanai, pastāvīgās uzturēšanās atļaujas saņemšanai un Eiropas Savienības pastāvīgā iedzīvotāja statusa iegūšanai un valsts nodevu par valsts valodas prasmes pārbaudi"), 7 July 2009, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=194735>.

²⁸ Latvia, Immigration Law (*Imigrācijas likums*), 31 October 2002, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/ta/id/68522-imigrācijas-likums>

²⁹ Latvia, Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No.733 "Regulations regarding the amount of knowledge of the state language and the procedures for examination of the knowledge of the state language for the performance of professional and job duties, receipt of the permanent residence permit and obtaining of the status of a long-term resident of the European Union and the state fee for examination of the fluency in the state language" (Noteikumi Nr. 733 "Noteikumi par valsts valodas zināšanu apjomu un valsts valodas prasmes pārbaudes kārtību profesionālo un amata pienākumu veikšanai, pastāvīgās uzturēšanās atļaujas saņemšanai un Eiropas Savienības pastāvīgā iedzīvotāja statusa iegūšanai un valsts nodevu par valsts valodas prasmes pārbaudi"), 7 July 2009, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=194735>.

³⁰ Latvia, Law on the Status of a Long-term Resident of the European Community in the Republic of Latvia (*Par Eiropas Savienības pastāvīgā iedzīvotāja statusu Latvijas Republikā*), 22 June 2006, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=139372>

³¹ Latvia, Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No.733 "Regulations regarding the amount of knowledge of the state language and the procedures for examination of the knowledge of the state language for the performance of professional and job

		<p>the Regulations N.733, the required level of knowledge of the state language is A2.</p> <p>3) The Section 6 Paragraph 2 of the State Language Law³² regulates the usage of state language by employees of private institutions, organizations, enterprises (companies), as well as self-employed persons. The Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No.733 lists 1,201 professions in the private sector, which are required specific levels of proficiency.³³ According to Annex 2 of the Regulations N.733, level A grade 1 (A1) is required for seven professions, A2 is required for 56 professions, B1 is required for 117 professions, B2 is required for 317 professions, C1 is required for 702 professions, C2 is required for two professions. According to the Paragraph 33 of the Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No.733: "The examination shall have two parts – written part and oral part. The progress of the examination shall be recorded in a protocol of the examination. In the written part the person shall complete tests for listening skills, reading skills and writing skills. The duration for completion of the written part for the basic level of fluency in the official language shall be 60 minutes, for the medium and highest level – 90 minutes. In the oral part the speaking skills of the person shall be evaluated, and they shall be examined in an interview and by special speech tasks. The duration of the oral part for each person shall be 10-15 minutes".</p> <p>According the State Education Content Centre, during 2013, 9,625 individuals participated in language tests; among them 2,698 received level A, 3265 received level B, 1597 received level C; and 2,065 failed the test.³⁴ Among the persons taking the state language proficiency tests, 3% indicated that they need the level for receiving the permanent residence permit or the status of a long-term resident of the EU.³⁵ 8.6% of applicants to the "A2" level state language proficiency tests indicated that they need the level for receiving the</p>
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duties, receipt of the permanent residence permit and obtaining of the status of a long-term resident of the European Union and the state fee for examination of the fluency in the state language " (Noteikumi Nr. 733 "Noteikumi par valsts valodas zināšanu apjomu un valsts valodas prasmes pārbaudes kārtību profesionālo un amata pienākumu veikšanai, pastāvīgās uzturēšanās atļaujas saņemšanai un Eiropas Savienības pastāvīgā iedzīvotāja statusa iegūšanai un valsts nodevu par valsts valodas prasmes pārbaudi"), 7 July 2009, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=194735>.

³² Latvia, State Language Law (*Valsts valodas likums*), 9 December 1999, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/ta/id/14740-valsts-valodas-likums>

³³ Latvia, Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No.733 "Regulations regarding the amount of knowledge of the state language and the procedures for examination of the knowledge of the state language for the performance of professional and job duties, receipt of the permanent residence permit and obtaining of the status of a long-term resident of the European Union and the state fee for examination of the fluency in the state language " (Noteikumi Nr. 733 "Noteikumi par valsts valodas zināšanu apjomu un valsts valodas prasmes pārbaudes kārtību profesionālo un amata pienākumu veikšanai, pastāvīgās uzturēšanās atļaujas saņemšanai un Eiropas Savienības pastāvīgā iedzīvotāja statusa iegūšanai un valsts nodevu par valsts valodas prasmes pārbaudi"), 7 July 2009, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=194735>.

³⁴ Latvia, State Education Content Centre, "State language proficiency testing results statistics. 2013" (*Statistika par valsts valodas prasmes pārbažu rezultātiem. 2013.gads*), 2014, p.4, available in Latvian at: http://visc.gov.lv/valval/dokumenti/20140520_statistika_2013.gads.pdf

³⁵ Latvia, Latvian Language Agency, "State language proficiency tests in Latvia: results and analysis" (*Valsts valodas prasmes pārbaude Latvijā: rezultāti un analīze*) 2013, p.65 http://visc.gov.lv/valval/dokumenti/20140131_vvpp_petijums.pdf

		<p>permanent residence permit or the status of a long-term resident of the EU.³⁶</p> <p>The research "State language proficiency tests in Latvia: results and analysis" reviews the results of the state language tests.³⁷ Although the tests were originally defined as aiming at testing language knowledge for professional duties, none of the language tests included professional modules. The research also lists the data on the number of persons taking the tests and the success rate. The increase in the number of applications in 2010 is explained by economic crisis (increased unemployment), and changes to regulatory framework (expanding the list of professions requiring specific level of knowledge).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Persons</th> <th>Success rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2001</td><td>13,253</td><td>94%</td></tr> <tr><td>2002</td><td>10,051</td><td>93%</td></tr> <tr><td>2003</td><td>10,110</td><td>93%</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>7,701</td><td>94%</td></tr> <tr><td>2005</td><td>6,426</td><td>84%</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>4,997</td><td>67%</td></tr> <tr><td>2007</td><td>3,826</td><td>70%</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>5,104</td><td>71%</td></tr> <tr><td>2009</td><td>5,324</td><td>78%</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>10,645</td><td>84%</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>6,566</td><td>83%</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>6,880</td><td>83%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Persons	Success rate	2001	13,253	94%	2002	10,051	93%	2003	10,110	93%	2004	7,701	94%	2005	6,426	84%	2006	4,997	67%	2007	3,826	70%	2008	5,104	71%	2009	5,324	78%	2010	10,645	84%	2011	6,566	83%	2012	6,880	83%
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	<p>Integration tests for access to residence or other status affecting equal treatment and access to rights. Please provide information about their content and character, range of knowledge required, numbers of participants, and rates of success/failure.</p>	<p>There are no additional integration tests, apart from the language proficiency tests mentioned above. According to the Ministry of Culture,³⁸ since 2010, 3,136 third country nationals have been trained and involved in the language training and integration courses. The courses are organised mainly by NGOs and depend on the availability of the EIF funding. Integration courses are not standardised and could differ in terms of content and methodology. The content of integration courses includes topics such as Latvian history, culture, traditions, society, state and law, economy, employment. At the end of the integration courses, there are no mandatory exams to test the knowledge acquired through these courses.³⁹</p>																																							
	<p>Mother tongue learning programmes for children of migrants</p>	<p>Section 9 of the Education Law provides that education can be acquired in language other than the state language in private schools or in state and municipal schools implementing minority education programmes.⁴⁰</p>																																							

³⁶ Latvia, Latvian Language Agency, "State language proficiency tests in Latvia: results and analysis" (*Valsts valodas prasmes pārbaude Latvijā: rezultāti un analīze*) 2013, p.45 http://visc.gov.lv/valval/dokumenti/20140131_vvpp_petijums.pdf

³⁷ Latvia, Latvian Language Agency, "State language proficiency tests in Latvia: results and analysis" (*Valsts valodas prasmes pārbaude Latvijā: rezultāti un analīze*) 2013 http://visc.gov.lv/valval/dokumenti/20140131_vvpp_petijums.pdf.

³⁸ Latvia, Society integration and civil society development section of the Social integration department of the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrijas Sabiedrības integrācijas departamenta Sabiedrības integrācijas un pilsoniskās sabiedrības attīstības nodaļa*), e-mail letter 13 March 2015.

³⁹ Latvia, Society integration and civil society development section of the Social integration department of the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrijas Sabiedrības integrācijas departamenta Sabiedrības integrācijas un pilsoniskās sabiedrības attīstības nodaļa*), e-mail letter 13 March 2015.

⁴⁰ Latvia, Education Law (*Izglītības likums*) adopted on 29 October 1998, available at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=50759>.

		<p>Please, refer to section 3.7 (sixth question) of the present report for the statistics of the Ministry of Education and Science regarding the number of schools and streams implementing minority education programmes in Latvia and the number of pupils. According to the Ministry of Education and Science, the State Basic Education Standard provides that within minority education programmes, subjects "Minority language" and "Literature" are mandatory as well as determines acquisition of subjects in Latvian and in minority language. However, there are no provisions that envision teaching of migrant or minority languages in Latvian schools if the parents request so, and similarly, there are no such provisions regarding teaching migrant languages (e.g. Chinese) in minority schools. According to the Ministry of Education and Science, so far, there have been no cases of parents expressing such requests; however, if the parents made such request, the state can provide such training if it is possible, thus the Ministry would have to evaluate whether there are specialists available and whether other factors are met (infrastructure, education materials, funding).⁴¹</p>
	<p>Please provide insights about key issues, debates, challenges or problems related to the implementation of the above measures and policies. The findings should be substantiated through existing assessments, research or studies and case law (use template in Annex 9).</p>	<p>Policy review "Immigrant integration in Latvia: state language acquisition and civic education" highlighted that while certain positive developments can be observed, there are a number of challenges to language and civic education learning by migrants.⁴² In particular, there is uncertainty of the state support and the lack of systematic approach to integration, a challenge, which is also exemplified by the fact that since the closure of the Secretariat of the Special Assignments Minister for Society Integration at the end of 2008, the competence over integration of immigrants was switched between four different ministries. The review also stated other challenges: training materials for language learning are not widely available; information about language learning opportunities is not available at one place; there is no cooperation with entrepreneurs and municipalities on the issue; the main emphasis to ensure implementation of the state language legislation is by imposing fines⁴³, not by providing language learning opportunities.</p>
<p>1.2.4. Monitoring and assessment – Use of indicators</p>		
	<p>In this section please outline monitoring and evaluation procedures applied by public authorities at national and</p>	<p>According to the Ministry of Culture, the ex-ante evaluation (initial assessment) in this regard is the research "Immigrants in Latvia: possibilities and conditions of inclusion" conducted in 2009; the research</p>

⁴¹ Latvia, Information provided by phone on 10 March 2015 by the Senior expert of the state language policy of the Policy initiative and development department (*Politikas iniciatīvu un attīstības departamenta vecākā eksperte valsts valodas politikas jomā*) of the Ministry of Education and Science Zaiga Sneibe.

⁴² Centre for Public Policy "Providus", Immigrant integration in Latvia: state language acquisition and civic education (*Imigrantu integrācija Latvijā: valsts valodas apguve un pilsoniskā izglītība*), 2011 http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/UDRW/images/items/doc/18824_976839401.pdf.

⁴³ See next section.

<p>regional level, as applicable, for migrant integration. In particular, please present any indicators used for the monitoring, assessment and review of integration policies in the areas of political and social participation, social cohesion, and intolerance, inclusive and welcoming society. Please make sure to report here the link of such indicators with fundamental rights and the way their use reflects to the review of such policies.</p>	<p>will be repeated in 2015 to evaluate the situation.⁴⁴ The research provides information on statistics of immigrants, EU legislation and practices, Latvia's policies, interviews with immigrants, employers and policy makers and recommendations.⁴⁵ According to the data of the State Language Centre (<i>Valsts valodas centrs</i>) (the main state institution in charge of monitoring implementation of the State Language Law), the key issue regarding language is not language tests or certificates for employment, but language use at the workplace.⁴⁶ Of 4,815 fines imposed by the State Language Centre during 2010-2014 (including 763 in 2014), 2,587 fines (54%) were imposed on employed non-native speakers for insufficient language use at the workplace (430 or 56% in 2014). The fines for insufficient language use at the workplace are imposed on those employed non-native speakers who have the state language proficiency certificates required by legislation for the fulfilment of professional duties (see above on language tests).</p>
<p>Provide full wording and translation in English of each indicator used per area and dimension covered as well as its full definition, legal basis, rationale, and link with fundamental rights or EU law (use table in the Annex 4).</p>	
<p>Please provide data and evidence about the adoption of related Zaragoza indicators, especially in the dimensions of active citizenship and welcoming society. Please consult the publication Using EU Indicators of Immigrant Integration (ESN, MPG) and report more detailed and updated specific descriptions and mapping of indicators used in the Member States.</p>	<p>, There are 63 indicators included in the "Guidelines" and according to the Ministry of Culture the Zaragoza indicators are partially taken into consideration.⁴⁷</p> <p><u>Employment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The share of ethnic groups among the long-term unemployed (%); <p><u>Education:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latvian language proficiency among non-native speakers; - The number of persons enrolling in integration programmes, including language programmes; <p><u>Social inclusion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <p><u>Active citizenship:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The share of non-citizens among the total population (%); - The number of naturalised per year; - The share of naturalisation applicants successfully passing language exam for naturalisation - The number of active migrant NGOs, and NGOs representing migrant interests; - The share of public administration officials, who believe that the state institutions should involve minority employees (%);

⁴⁴ Latvia, Society integration and civil society development section of the Social integration department of the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrijas Sabiedrības integrācijas departamenta Sabiedrības integrācijas un pilsoniskās sabiedrības attīstības nodaļa*), e-mail letter 13 March 2015.

⁴⁵ Baltic Institute of Social Sciences "Immigrants in Latvia: possibilities and conditions of inclusion" (*Imigranti Latvijā: iekļaušanās iespējas un nosacījumi*) 2009, www.biss.soc.lv/downloads/resources/imigrantu_integracija/Imigranti_EN.pdf.

⁴⁶ Latvia, State Language Centre (*Valsts Valodas centrs*), 17.02.2015 www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/LV/aktualitates/statistika_2014.pdf.

⁴⁷ Latvia, Society integration and civil society development section of the Social integration department of the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrijas Sabiedrības integrācijas departamenta Sabiedrības integrācijas un pilsoniskās sabiedrības attīstības nodaļa*), e-mail letter 13 March 2015.

		- The share of public administration officials, including minorities (%).
1.2.5 Funding integration policies (EIF, ERF, EMIF)		
	<p>Please provide information about the distribution of funds for integration of migrants, as well as their social inclusion and participation. In particular, provide specific breakdown of funding per general area of integration policies – with particular focus on active citizenship, participation, welcoming society, social cohesion - in the last year and for the period 2010-2014 if available. (Use the table in the Annex 5).</p>	<p>European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (EIF) The Ministry of Culture is the authority responsible for the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (EIF) in Latvia; available information can be accessed at the specific website of the Ministry.⁴⁸ There are two types of project selection: open call for proposals (applicants equally compete for approval for the project and the assignment of funding), or restricted project selection (final beneficiaries and the amount of granted funding is known in advance).⁴⁹ The latest available information about the distribution of funding of the EIF covers 2013 annual funding programme (the projects were implemented in 2014).⁵⁰ The Ministry of Culture sets the priority activity areas which are not directly relevant to the thematic areas envisioned by the present research. Priority activity areas are set by the Ministry every year and may differ from year to year in terms of their titles and numbers of areas (5 priority activity areas in 2013 programme, 4 in 2012 and 2011, 9 in 2010). Relevant information about the budgets and brief description of the projects is available in Latvian at the website of the Ministry of Culture.⁵¹ Please, refer to the Annex 5 Table 1 for details.</p> <p>European Refugee Fund (ERF) The Ministry of Interior is responsible for the European Refugee Fund (ERF) in Latvia; information can be accessed at the website of the Ministry.⁵² Information available online covers the distribution of ERF funding for 2013.⁵³ Information about annual budgets and brief description of the projects 2010-2013 was made available to the LCHR on request.⁵⁴ The distribution of funds along thematic areas is not available. Please, refer to the Annex 5 Table 2 for details.</p>

⁴⁸ Latvia, Ministry of Culture, European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (*Eiropas Trešo valstu valstspiederīgo integrācijas fonds*) www.km.gov.lv/lv/es/finans/etvvif.html.

⁴⁹ Latvia, Ministry of Culture, 2013 annual programme of the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (*2013.gada programma Eiropas Trešo valstu valstspiederīgo integrācijas fonds*), available in Latvian www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/ES/finans/etvvif/2014/ETVVIF_2013gada_programma.docx and English www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/ES/finans/etvvif/2014/ETVVIF_Annual_Programme_2013.docx.

⁵⁰ Latvia, Ministry of Culture, Information about the grant contracts signed within the framework of 2013 annual programme of the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (*Informācija par Eiropas Trešo valstu valstspiederīgo integrācijas fonda 2013.gada programmas ietvaros noslēgtajiem grantu līgumiem*) www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/ES/finans/etvvif/Noslegtie_ligumi_2013.doc.

⁵¹ Latvia, Ministry of Culture, European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (*Eiropas Trešo valstu valstspiederīgo integrācijas fonds*) www.km.gov.lv/lv/es/finans/etvvif.html.

⁵² Latvia, Ministry of Interior, General information (*Vispārīgā informācija*) www.iem.gov.lv/lat/es_fondi_un_programmas/solidaritate_un_migracijas_plusmas_parvaldibas_programma/programma_un_fondi.

⁵³ Latvia, Ministry of Interior, European Refugee Fund 2013.annual programme (*Eiropas Bēgļu fonda 2013.gada programma*) [www.iem.gov.lv/files/text/2013%20gada%20Aptstiprinatie%20projekti\(1\).doc](http://www.iem.gov.lv/files/text/2013%20gada%20Aptstiprinatie%20projekti(1).doc).

⁵⁴ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Ministry of Interior by e-mail, 27 March 2015.

2.Promoting equal treatment and non-discrimination

2.1.The implementation of anti-discrimination legislation and equal treatment

Briefly provide information on the following:	
<p>Outreach and awareness raising campaigns, training schemes, etc. undertaken by national or regional public authorities (including national equality bodies) targeting migrants and their descendants on the national anti-discrimination legal framework.</p>	<p>There is a general lack of information about anti-discrimination awareness raising or training by authorities targeting migrants and their descendants. The emphasis in training available to the third country nationals has so far been on Latvian language training and culture. The Ministry of Culture provided no information on outreach and awareness raising campaigns targeting specifically migrants and their descendants.⁵⁵ The national equality body (Ombudsman's Office) has not organised outreach and awareness raising campaigns, training schemes, etc. targeting migrants and their descendants on the national anti-discrimination legal framework.⁵⁶ The State Labour Inspectorate has not organised training or other special awareness raising campaigns etc. targeting migrants and their descendants on the national anti-discrimination legal framework in the field of labour relations.⁵⁷</p>
<p>Evidence through polls, surveys, academic research, etc. on the awareness of migrants and/or their descendants concerning the right to equal treatment. Please indicate differences between ethnic/ migrant groups, living in different geographic areas, gender and age, as well as trends in time.</p>	<p>During 2010-2014 the Ombudsman's Office did not organise polls, surveys or research on the awareness of migrants and/or their descendants concerning the right to equal treatment.⁵⁸ A survey commissioned by the Ombudsman's Office in 2012 included categories of citizenship and ethnicity, which one could see as a proxy for "migrants and/or their descendants".⁵⁹ According to the results, 12% of participants indicated ethnicity as the main ground of discrimination in selecting potential employees. In case of discrimination, 7% would seek help at the Ombudsman's Office, while 22% would not seek help (ethnic Russians and non-citizens mentioned this more often). 25% of the participants are not aware of the Ombudsman's Office (ethnic minorities, non-citizens and foreigners mentioned this more often). 5% believe that</p>

⁵⁵ Latvia, Society integration and civil society development section of the Social integration department of the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrijas Sabiedrības integrācijas departamenta Sabiedrības integrācijas un pilsoniskās sabiedrības attīstības nodaļa*), e-mail 13 March 2015

⁵⁶ Latvia, Ombudsman's Office (*Tiesībsarga birojs*), Letter, 20 February 2015.

⁵⁷ Latvia, State Labour Inspectorate (*Valsts darba inspekcija*), letter No.2015-01-08/72, 27 February 2015.

⁵⁸ Latvia, Ombudsman's Office (*Tiesībsarga birojs*), letter, 20 February 2015.

⁵⁹ TNS, "Latvia residents' understanding about human rights" (*Latvijas iedzīvotāju izpratne par cilvēktiesībām*), 2012, available in Latvian at:

www.tiesibsargs.lv/files/content/Petijumi/TNS_Petijums_LV_iedzivotaju_izpratne_par_cilvektiesibam_2012.pdf.

		<p>the rights of non-citizens are violated (minorities and non-citizens mentioned this view more often). The State Labour Inspectorate did not organise polls or research on the awareness of migrants and/or their descendants on the right to equal treatment in the field of labour relations.⁶⁰</p> <p>Research "Discrimination in Latvia's labour market" included survey of five target groups, 10 focus group discussions and two discussions of experts.⁶¹ One of the survey target groups was "persons with poor Latvian language skills" (as acknowledged by the respondents). 314 respondents (5.2% of all) identified themselves as having "poor Latvian language knowledge"; among this group, 55.1% were men and 44.9% women, the majority (68.1%) being aged 45-64 and (74.3%) persons with secondary education. Among this group, 43.9% were gainfully employed, while 27.6% were job seekers (14% registered and 13.6% non-registered with the State Employment Agency); the majority of the job seekers (62.6%) were long-term unemployed. In case of discrimination in employment, persons with poor Latvian language skills would seek the help of: the State Labour Inspectorate (27.7%), higher official within that workplace (19.7%), friends (14.6%), Latvian Centre for Human Rights (12.1%), trade union (8%), court (6.7%), Ombudsman's Office (3.2%); 27.1% were not sure where to seek help or did not answer.</p> <p>In 2010-2014, the Ministry of Culture did not conduct any surveys or research on the awareness of migrants or their descendants about their right to equal treatment.⁶²</p>
	<p>Evidence of complaints lodged by migrants and/or their descendants - % of total complaints to equality bodies, % of admissible complaints, statistics about outcomes of investigation, % of cases establishing discrimination. Please indicate differences between ethnic/ migrant groups, geographic areas, gender and age, as well as trends in time.</p>	<p>The Ombudsman's Office does not register whether the applicant is a migrant, or the applicant's ethnic affiliation, gender, age or geographical locality; therefore, such data are not available.⁶³ During 2014, the Ombudsman's Office initiated 22 verification cases regarding discrimination on various grounds, including five cases of discrimination on the ground of race or ethnic affiliation.⁶⁴</p> <p>Applications or complaints submitted to the State Labour Inspectorate (SLI) do not provide information on whether the person submitting application or complaint shall be classified as migrant or a descendant of migrants. Therefore, the SLI do not have information about how many of the complaints about discrimination were submitted by migrants and/or their descendants during 2010-2014.⁶⁵ The SLI received no complaints from third country nationals about discrimination or the</p>

⁶⁰ Latvia, State Labour Inspectorate (*Valsts darba inspekcija*), letter No.2015-01-08/72, 27 February 2015.

⁶¹ Project and Quality Management (*Projektu un kvalitātes vadība*), "Discrimination in Latvia's labour market" (*Diskriminācija Latvijas darba tirgū*), 2014, www.nva.gov.lv/docs/30_532182ec87ebe6.54266345.pdf.

⁶² Latvia, Society integration and civil society development section of the Social integration department of the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrijas Sabiedrības integrācijas departamenta Sabiedrības integrācijas un pilsoniskās sabiedrības attīstības nodaļa*), e-mail letter 13 March 2015

⁶³ Latvia, Ombudsman's Office (*Tiesībsarga birojs*), letter to LCHR, 20 February 2015.

⁶⁴ Latvia, Ombudsman's Office (*Tiesībsarga birojs*), e-mail to LCHR, 24 March 2015.

⁶⁵ Latvia, State Labour Inspectorate (*Valsts darba inspekcija*), letter No.2015-01-08/72, 27 February 2015.

		violation of the principle of equal treatment. ⁶⁶ During 2014, the SLI received 31 complaints, which, besides violations of labour legislation, also mentioned violation of the prohibition of discrimination on various grounds. ⁶⁷
	Tools, measures and positive initiatives aiming at facilitating reporting incidents of discrimination – e.g. translation facilities to report and submit complaints in multiple languages – and tackling under-reporting and low rights-awareness.	<p>According to the Ombudsman's Office, there were no such measures facilitating reporting discrimination.⁶⁸ The State Labour Inspectorate did not take outreach measures to facilitate reporting by migrants and/or their descendants.⁶⁹</p> <p>The Ministry of Culture was not able to provide information on measures to facilitate reporting of discrimination, including translation facilities and usage of multiple languages.⁷⁰</p> <p>Language legislation provides that individuals can submit documents (such as written applications) to public authorities in languages other than Latvian in exceptional cases such as applications to the police and medical institutions, rescue services or other institutions in cases of emergencies.⁷¹ In other cases, individuals can submit documents in languages other than Latvian provided that a translation into the state language certified by the notary is attached. According to the Ombudsman's Office, in cases when translation is necessary, its officials try to find solutions to clients speaking foreign languages.⁷²</p> <p>According to the language legislation, public authorities accept written applications in Latvian only. Exceptions include applications to the police and medical institutions, rescue services or other institutions in cases of emergencies.⁷³ In other cases, written submissions in other languages require translation in Latvian certified by the notary. At the same time, public officials are allowed to reply orally in languages other than Latvian. Public authorities are allowed to use other languages alongside Latvian in provision of publically visible information regarding international tourism, international events, security considerations, free movement of goods within the EU, epidemics or dangerous infectious diseases, rights and obligations of foreigners in places of detention, emergency situations.⁷⁴ Public information materials (e.g. brochures) in languages other than Latvian cannot be displayed visibly to the public, and, if available, an</p>

⁶⁶ Latvia, State Labour Inspectorate (*Valsts darba inspekcija*), letter No.2015-01-08/72, 27 February 2015.

⁶⁷ Latvia, State Labour Inspectorate (*Valsts darba inspekcija*), letter No.2015-01-08/72, 27 February 2015.

⁶⁸ Latvia, Ombudsman's Office (*Tiesībsarga birojs*), letter, 20 February 2015.

⁶⁹ Latvia, State Labour Inspectorate (*Valsts darba inspekcija*), letter No.2015-01-08/72, 27 February 2015.

⁷⁰ Latvia, Society integration and civil society development section of the Social integration department of the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrijas Sabiedrības integrācijas departamenta Sabiedrības integrācijas un pilsoniskās sabiedrības attīstības nodaļa*), e-mail letter 13 March 2015

⁷¹ Latvia, State language law (*Valsts valodas likums*), Section 10, Paragraph 2, adopted on 9 December 1999, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=14740>.

⁷² Latvia, Ombudsman's Office (*Tiesībsarga birojs*), letter, 20 February 2015.

⁷³ Latvia, State language law (*Valsts valodas likums*), Section 10, Paragraph 2, adopted on 9 December 1999, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=14740>.

⁷⁴ Latvia, Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No.130 "Regulations on the Use of Languages in Information" (*Noteikumi par valodu lietošanu informācijā*), Paragraph 2, adopted on 15 February 2005, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=102667>.

		<p>information sign about the availability of such materials can be made and the materials can be handed to the client for free upon his/her informal request.⁷⁵ There were instances when the State Language Centre stopped the provision of very limited public information by public institutions in Russian or bilingually.⁷⁶</p>
	<p>In particular, provide information about any legal protection on grounds of nationality, which is not covered by the EU anti-discrimination Directives,⁷⁷ but is a prohibited ground in several Member States. Please explain how unequal treatment on the basis of nationality is treated and provide exemplary cases, if any. Please provide information on the relevant practice and case law (use template in Annex 9)</p>	<p>Latvian legislation does not prohibit discrimination on the ground of citizenship directly. Antidiscrimination provisions are included into several laws and certain parts of legislation prohibit discrimination not only on specific grounds, but also leave the list of the grounds open: in particular, the Constitution (Article 91) provides that human rights shall be realised "without discrimination of any kind", while the Labour Law and the Law on Social Security include "other circumstances" in the list of the grounds. The notions of "any" discrimination and "other circumstances" may provide the space for interpretation, including by judicial authorities. In one known case in 2011 the Constitutional Court ruled that the differences in the calculation of pensions of citizens and non-citizens are in line with the Article 91 (non-discrimination) of the Constitution of Latvia and Article 14 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in conjunction with the Article 1 of the Protocol 1 and did not constitute discrimination on grounds of nationality.⁷⁸ The applicants' claim was based on the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Andrejeva vs. Latvia, which established that by calculating Mrs Andrejeva's pension differently because she was a non-citizens, Latvia violated Article 14 of the Convention taken in conjunction with Article 1 of Protocol No. 1.⁷⁹</p>
	<p>Please provide information about the application of the legislation concerning discrimination against migrants – on any ground – in accessing law enforcement and judiciary services. In particular please clarify whether and when the latter are considered and treated, or not, as services available to the public, therefore falling</p>	<p>Because of its wide mandate, the Ombudsman's office would consider complaints concerning discrimination against migrants in accessing law enforcement or judiciary. The Ombudsman Law does not specify particular grounds of discrimination or citizenship as a criteria for accessing rights and provides that the Ombudsman shall, <i>inter alia</i>, promote the "protection of the human rights of a private individual" and "compliance with the principles of equal treatment and prevention of any kind of discrimination".⁸⁰</p>

⁷⁵ Latvian Centre for Human Rights, Second Alternative report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Latvia, 2013, pp.26-28, http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/site/attachments/27/09/2013/LCHR_Minority_Shadow_Report_2309_1.pdf.

⁷⁶ Latvian Centre for Human Rights, Second Alternative report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Latvia, 2013, pp.26-28, http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/site/attachments/27/09/2013/LCHR_Minority_Shadow_Report_2309_1.pdf.

⁷⁷ As of Art. 3.2 of the Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin.

⁷⁸ Latvia, Constitutional Court (*Satversmes tiesa*), Ruling in the Case No. 2010-20-0106, 17 February 2011, www.satv.tiesa.gov.lv/upload/spriedums_2010-20-0106.htm.

⁷⁹ European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), Case of Andrejeva v. Latvia (Application no.55707/00), Judgment, 18 February 2009, <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/sites/eng/pages/search.aspx?i=001-91388>.

⁸⁰ Latvia, Ombudsman Law (*Tiesībsarga likums*), 6 April 2006, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=133535>.

<p>within the scope of the directives and the jurisdiction of Equality Bodies.</p>	<p>Equality body (the Ombudsman's Office) does not collect data about discrimination complaints submitted by third country nationals.⁸¹ The State Labour Inspectorate received no complaints from third country nationals about discrimination or the violation of the principle of equal treatment.⁸²</p>
<p>Please provide statistical data about numbers of discrimination cases/complaints submitted to competent bodies (Equality Bodies, Administrative Courts), as well as about their outcomes (use the tables in the Annex 8)</p> <p>Equality body (the Ombudsman's Office) does not collect data about discrimination complaints submitted by third country nationals.⁸³ The State Labour Inspectorate received no complaints from third country nationals about discrimination or the violation of the principle of equal treatment.⁸⁴ There is no information about court cases on discrimination against migrants. Publicly available search engine of Latvia's court decisions returns some results (2010-2014) which involve "migrant", "immigrant", "foreigner" (regarding border crossing in violation of Latvia's Immigration Law) and some results involving "discrimination"; however, these two categories do not overlap and insight into individual cases did not help identify any relevant cases.⁸⁵</p>	
<h2>2.2.Implementation of equal treatment of various permit holders</h2>	
<p>Please summarize <u>briefly</u> in this section any key issues affecting the implementation of equal treatment of permit holders, as defined by the following EU legislation; these could be, for example, practical issues and bottlenecks, administrative delays, coordination and cooperation of public authorities, etc.</p> <p>Please substantiate findings, as far as possible, through formal evaluations, as well as research or studies and case law (use template in Annex 9). Please bear in mind that no assessment of the legal transposition process is required. In regard to the five categories below, please provide <u>statistical data</u> issued in 2014 or valid on 31.12.14. (use annex 3)</p>	
<p>2.2.1.<u>Long Term Residence</u> (LTR) status holders (Art.11 of the Directive 2003/109/EC)</p>	<p>Policy Report on Migration and Asylum Situation in Latvia 2013 highlights that one of the important changes in 2013 were amendments to the "Law on the Status of the Long-term Resident of the European Union in the Republic of Latvia", which have been made in order to implement extended scope of the Council Directive 2003/109/EC to beneficiaries of international protection (refugee status or subsidiary protection).⁸⁶</p>
<p>2.2.2.<u>Single-permit procedure</u> permit holders (Art.12 and 13 of the Directive 2011/98/EU)</p>	<p>Policy Report on Migration and Asylum Situation in Latvia 2013 highlights as important changes in 2013 the amendments to the "Immigration Law" and to the "Support for Unemployed Persons and Persons Seeking Employment Law", made in order to fully implement the requirements of Directive 2011/98/EU of the European</p>

⁸¹ Latvia, Ombudsman's Office (*Tiesībsarga birojs*), letter, 20 February 2015.

⁸² Latvia, State Labour Inspectorate (*Valsts darba inspekcija*), letter No.2015-01-08/72, 27 February 2015.

⁸³ Latvia, Ombudsman's Office (*Tiesībsarga birojs*), letter, 20 February 2015.

⁸⁴ Latvia, State Labour Inspectorate (*Valsts darba inspekcija*), letter No.2015-01-08/72, 27 February 2015.

⁸⁵ Latvia, Latvian courts database: www.tiesas.lv/nolemumi.

⁸⁶ Latvia, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, Policy Report on Migration and Asylum Situation in Latvia 2013, p.16, www.emn.lv/wp-content/uploads/APR-2013_Part_2_Latvia_EN.FINAL_.pdf.

	Union. ⁸⁷ Amendments to the "Immigration Law" expanded the range of cases when third country nationals can work without specific work permit. Amendments to "Support for Unemployed Persons and Persons Seeking Employment Law" expanded the eligibility for the status of the unemployed person and person seeking employment to all third country nationals who have obtained a temporary residence permit, hence opening certain opportunities available at the State Employment Agency: consultations, non-formal education, such as learning Latvian language.
2.2.3. <u>Blue card holders</u> (Art.14 and 12 of the Directive 2009/50/EC)	The Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (OCMA) of the Ministry of Interior is the main state authority responsible for implementation of the state migration and asylum policy, and it is dealing with invitations, permits, resident status and asylum. ⁸⁸ OCMA highlights that normative legal acts on issuance of permits to various groups are in accordance with the relevant EU Directives and OCMA does not monitor equal treatment of holders of various permits. ⁸⁹
2.2.4. <u>Family reunification permit holders</u> (specifically in terms of access to labour market - Art. 14 of Directive 2003/86/EC)	The Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (OCMA) of the Ministry of Interior is the main state authority responsible for implementation of the state migration and asylum policy, and it is dealing with invitations, permits, resident status and asylum. ⁹⁰ OCMA highlights that normative legal acts on issuance of permits to various groups are in accordance with the relevant EU Directives and OCMA does not monitor equal treatment of holders of various permits. ⁹¹
2.2.5. Beneficiaries of international protection long term residence status holders ⁹²	Policy Report on Migration and Asylum Situation in Latvia 2013 highlights as one of the important changes in 2013 the amendments to the "Law on the Status of the Long-term Resident of the European Union in the Republic of Latvia", which have been made in order to implement extended scope of the Council Directive 2003/109/EC (long term residence status) to beneficiaries of international protection. ⁹³
2.3. Key developments and trends	
Please include in this section key developments in the area of equal treatment and anti-discrimination that concern	Policy developments During 2014, the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs was developing draft Immigration Policy

⁸⁷ Latvia, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, Policy Report on Migration and Asylum Situation in Latvia 2013, pp.19-20, www.emn.lv/wp-content/uploads/APR-2013_Part_2_Latvia_EN.FINAL_.pdf.

⁸⁸ Latvia, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, Services, www.pmlp.gov.lv/en/home/services.

⁸⁹ Latvia, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (*Pilsonības un migrācijas lietu pārvalde*), letter No.24/1-42/479, 10 February 2015.

⁹⁰ Latvia, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, Services, www.pmlp.gov.lv/en/home/services.

⁹¹ Latvia, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (*Pilsonības un migrācijas lietu pārvalde*), letter No.24/1-42/479, 10 February 2015.

⁹² As per recitals 6 and 7 of Directive [2011/51/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2011 amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC to extend its scope to beneficiaries of international protection Text with EEA relevance

⁹³ Latvia, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, Policy Report on Migration and Asylum Situation in Latvia 2013, p.16, www.emn.lv/wp-content/uploads/APR-2013_Part_2_Latvia_EN.FINAL_.pdf.

	<p>only migrants and/or their descendants. Key developments may be new legislation or policies, abolition, update, improvement or reform of existing ones, as well as important case law, court, equality body or administrative cases, that have had or may have an impact on the implementation of the anti-discrimination legislation and equal treatment policies that related to the rights of migrants and/or their descendants (for presentation of case law, use template in Annex 9). Such developments may also affect the actual situation on the ground, including public debates and perceptions among the native population and migrants.</p>	<p>Concept.⁹⁴ Annual report of the Cabinet of Ministers mentioned that the work on the draft is still in progress,⁹⁵ and as of March 2015, the draft had not been approved by the Cabinet⁹⁶ and was not on the Cabinet's agenda.⁹⁷</p> <p>Legislative developments</p> <p>On 13 June 2013, the Saeima amended⁹⁸ the "Law on the Status of the Long-term Resident of the European Union in the Republic of Latvia", in order to implement "Directive 2011/51/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2011 amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC to extend its scope to beneficiaries of international protection". Effective since 17 July 2013, the amendments provide that persons with refugee status or subsidiary protection are eligible for the status of the long-term resident of the European Union in Latvia.</p> <p>On 5 December 2013 the Saeima amended the "Immigration Law", expanding the range of cases when third country nationals can work without specific work permit.⁹⁹</p> <p>On 13 June 2013 the Saeima amended¹⁰⁰ the "Support for Unemployed Persons and Persons Seeking Employment Law", expanded the eligibility for the status of the unemployed person and person seeking employment to all third country nationals who have the right to work with any employer in Latvia and who received temporary residence permit. This opens certain opportunities available at the State Employment Agency: consultations, non-formal education, such as learning Latvian language.</p> <p>Important case law</p> <p>The searches at Latvian court database systems regarding equal treatment and anti-discrimination that concern only migrants and/or their descendants returned no relevant court decisions. The searches were conducted at the database of the Latvian court portal www.tiesas.lv (Anonymised decisions at www.tiesas.lv/nolemumi), at the Supreme Court case law database http://at.gov.lv/lv/judikatura/judikaturas-nolemumu-arhivs/senata-administrativo-lietu-departamentos/klasifikators-pec-lietu-kategorijam-ar-tezem and at the search engine of the Constitutional Court www.satv.tiesa.gov.lv/?lang=1&mid=19&smode=1.</p>
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⁹⁴ Luksa M. (2014), 'Karstais imigrācijas jautājums Latvijā', *LV Portal*, 10 June 2014, www.lvportals.lv/print.php?id=263532.

⁹⁵ LETA (2014) Imigrācijas koncepcijā koncentrēsies uz reemigrējušā darbaspēka piesaisti www.tvnet.lv/zinas/latvija/530866.

⁹⁶ Latvia, Cabinet of Ministers, www.mk.gov.lv.

⁹⁷ Latvia, Cabinet of Ministers drafts, <http://tap.mk.gov.lv>.

⁹⁸ Latvia, Amendments to "Law on the Status of the Long-term Resident of the European Union in the Republic of Latvia" (*Grozījumi likumā "Par Eiropas Savienības pastāvīgā iedzīvotāja statusu Latvijas Republikā"*), 13 June 2013, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/ta/id/258004>.

⁹⁹ Latvia, Amendments to "Immigration Law" (*Grozījumi Imigrācijas likumā*), 5 December 2013, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/ta/id/263228>.

¹⁰⁰ Latvia, Amendments to "Support for Unemployed Persons and Persons Seeking Employment Law" (*Grozījumi Bezdarbnieku un darba meklētāju atbalsta likumā*), 13 June 2013, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/ta/id/258009>.

3. Participation of migrants and their descendants in society

3.1. Political rights at national level

3.1.1. Citizenship acquisition

In this section please provide information about the specific requirements and criteria for citizenship acquisition, if any, that relate to the applicants active participation in society, genuine links or bond to the society or the country, schooling period or other 'socialization' requirements. -Path to citizenship for foreign born third country nationals (the so-called '1st generation')

Please provide information about the specific requirements and criteria for citizenship acquisition, if any, that relate to the applicants active participation in society, genuine links or bond to the society or the country, schooling period or other 'socialization' requirements. - Path to citizenship for country-born (so-called '2nd generation') and country-grown migrant children (so-called '1,5 generation')

According to the Citizenship Law¹⁰¹, the criteria for naturalization of adults encompass the following requirements: 1) permanent residence in Latvia for no less than 5 years, with a total permitted interruption of no more than 1 year, which cannot be the last year before applying for naturalization 2) knowledge of the Latvian language, the basic tenets of the Constitution of Latvia, the lyrics of the National Anthem and the basics of Latvian history and culture 3) proof of legitimate means of income, and 4) pledge of allegiance to the Republic of Latvia. Article 20 of the Citizenship Law clarifies that a person can be considered to have knowledge of the Latvian language if he or she 1) fully understands information related both to everyday life as well as official matters, 2) can freely speak, converse and answer questions related to everyday life, 3) can read fluently and understand instructions, manuals and other texts related to everyday life, and 4) can write an essay on a topic pertaining to everyday life, as instructed by the commission. The Law envisages that a person who has acquired more than half of the basic education programme in the Latvian language, is exempt from having the Latvian language and knowledge of the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the lyrics of the National Anthem and the basics of the history and culture of Latvia tested, and is registered as a citizen upon submitting a naturalization application in accordance with the standard procedures. If one parent acquires or has acquired Latvian citizenship through naturalisation, upon his/her request to be naturalised, the children of this person, who are up to 15 years old and whose permanent place of residence is in Latvia, also acquire Latvian citizenship.

¹⁰¹ Latvia, Citizenship Law (*Pilsonības likums*), adopted on 22 July 1994, Article 12(1), available in Latvian at <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57512>

		<p>With regard to minors, the amendments to the Citizenship Law, adopted on 9 May 2013, stipulate that children of stateless persons and non-citizens, born in Latvia after 21 August 1991 are granted Latvian citizenship upon birth, based on the wish of one of the parents, provided that two conditions are fulfilled: 1) both parents are stateless or non-citizens, 2) Latvia is the permanent place of residence of the parent expressing such a wish, or if the parent has arrived to Latvia after 1 July 1992, he or she holds a permanent residence permit. If a child is not registered as a citizen on the basis of the wish of one of the parents at the same time as birth is registered, it is still possible to register the child as a citizen up to its 15th birthday. This serves to remove one of the main obstacles, which had previously restricted children's opportunities to acquire Latvian citizenship, where both parents were identified on the birth certificate but at least one of the following conditions existed regarding one of them: he/she refused to sign the application, was abroad or his/her place of residence was unknown. Between 15-18 years of age, a child can themselves apply to be registered as a citizen, provided certain conditions are met, including fluency in the Latvian language. The amendments also eliminate a previous requirement for the stateless or non-citizen parents to pledge allegiance to the Republic of Latvia when registering the citizenship of a child.</p>
	<p>Debates, issues and challenges concerning the implementation of citizenship policies</p>	<p>In general, the legislation in Latvia in the area of citizenship complies with international standards and existing development trends in Europe. However, the significant number of non-citizens and the low prestige of citizenship (which, occasionally, is not facilitated by politicians' exclusionary rhetoric concerning an alleged lack of loyalty among the new citizens) suggest that a part of the society in Latvia is still denied full-fledged opportunities for political participation.¹⁰²</p> <p>From the start of the naturalization process on 1 February 1995 to 31 December 2014, 142,557 persons, including 14,264 minors, have acquired the citizenship of Latvia through a decree of the Cabinet of Ministers. From 1999 to 2006, the number of naturalised persons exceeded 10-15,000 per year (19,169 in 2005), however since 2009 the number has significantly dropped and only 939 individuals were granted Latvian citizenship through naturalisation in 2014 – the lowest annual figure, to date.¹⁰³ Moreover, since 2010, the number of persons rescinding non-citizen status and opting for citizenship of another country, mainly Russia, has exceeded the number of those receiving Latvian citizenship. Insufficient</p>

¹⁰² Latvia, University of Latvia (*Latvijas Universitāte*), The Advanced Social and Political Research Institute of University of Latvia (*Latvijas Universitātes Sociālo un politisko pētījumu institūts*) (2014), How Democratic is Latvia? Audit of Democracy 2005-2014, Sc.ed. J.Rozenvalds, p.29, available in Latvian at: http://www.szf.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/szf_faili/Petnieciba/Demokratijas_audits_2014_kopaa.pdf

¹⁰³ Latvia, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (*Pilsonības un migrācijas lietu pārvalde*), Statistics: Naturalization, available in English at <http://www.pmlp.gov.lv/en/home/statistics/naturalization.html>

		<p>motivation on the part of non-citizens to acquire Latvian citizenship should still be considered a serious obstacle to addressing the issue of citizenship. According to the study conducted by the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (OCMA) in 2014, non-citizens' contentment with their current status has increased and non-citizens are still hoping that the naturalization process will be made easier.¹⁰⁴ The report reveals that the number of non-citizens, who do not see the sense of obtaining Latvian citizenship, has risen and that a total of 3% of those surveyed do not wish to acquire it at all.</p> <p>Consequently, the Council of Europe (CoE) has called on Latvia to intensify measures to actively encourage and promote the naturalisation of all "non-citizens" through targeted awareness-raising and outreach activities and the increased offer of free Latvian language courses.¹⁰⁵ Similar views are expressed by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities who considers that it is vital that non-citizens are encouraged to become citizens and that they do take advantage of the opportunities to do so. To this end, the High Commissioner calls on the Latvian public authorities to undertake campaigns to promote naturalization and to publicize the amendments recently made to the Citizenship Law. In addition, the High Commissioner recommends a more active involvement of non-citizens in public affairs at the community and other levels, including through granting non-citizens the right to vote in local elections.¹⁰⁶</p> <p>While the amendments to the Citizenship Law, adopted on 9 May 2013, substantially ease registration of children as Latvian citizens, they do not lay down other measures for reducing the high number of non-citizen minors in the state. As of 1 January 2015, 7 846 non-citizen children under 18 were registered in Latvia. On a positive note, the data of the Naturalization Board demonstrates that the number of citizens among non-citizens' new-born children has increased significantly following the introduction of said amendments and that 82.3 % of non-citizens' new-born children were registered as Latvian citizens in 2014. There have been suggestions that measures should be considered to facilitate the acquisition of citizenship by the more than 7 000 minors who are currently younger than 15</p>
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¹⁰⁴ Latvia, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (*Pilsonības un migrācijas lietu pārvalde*), Study „The attitude of Latvia's non-citizens towards acquisition of Latvian citizenship“ (*Latvijas nepilsoņu attieksme pret Latvijas pilsonības iegūšanu*), 2014, available in Latvian at <http://www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/sakums/jaunumi/publikacijas/petijumi/2014.gada-p%C4%93t%C4%ABjums-latvijas-nepilso%C5%86u-attieksme-pret-latvijas-pilson%C4%ABbas-ieg%C5%AB%C5%A1anu.pdf>

¹⁰⁵ Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers, Resolution CM/ResCMN(2014)9 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Latvia, 9 July 2014, available at <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2215943&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383>

¹⁰⁶ OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Statement HCNM.GAL/5/14/Corr.1*) to the 1026th Plenary Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council, 20 November 2014, available at: <http://www.osce.org/pc/127063?download=true>

		and who may be registered as Latvian citizens, provided that they permanently live in Latvia and that their parents wish to apply for it. ¹⁰⁷
	Key developments and trends – case law (please use the template in the Annex 9 to provide information about the cases – here only a simple reference to the case name is required) or new provisions and reforms.	On 13 January 2015, the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR, Application No. 44230/06) refused the claim of Jurijs Petropavlovskis, a permanent resident non-citizen of Latvia, over the refusal by the Latvian authorities to grant him citizenship through naturalization in November 2004. ¹⁰⁸
	Please indicate key and/or milestone dates – e.g. of major reforms - regarding citizenship acquisition for migrants and/or their descendants.	On 9 May 2013 the Parliament of Latvia adopted amendments to the Citizenship Law, which are considered to be the most far-reaching in the history of this Law. ¹⁰⁹ Following a general trend in Europe, the amendments substantially expanded eligibility for dual citizenship and facilitated acquisition of citizenship for the children of non-citizens and stateless persons. In addition, changes were introduced to the naturalisation procedure. The Law had not been amended since 1998 when, as a result of a national referendum, changes were introduced bringing an end to ‘naturalization windows’ and establishing the right of non-citizens’ children born after 21 August 1991 to be registered as citizens upon birth, provided conditions were met. The amendments of 2013 also set forth broader governmental powers concerning decisions refusing citizenship. In line with the new provisions, the Cabinet of Ministers “may decide to deny citizenship to a person, who, through his or her behaviour or actions, threatens the national security of Latvia, its public order, democratic constitutional order, or the independence and territorial integrity of the State.” ¹¹⁰ Refusals by the Cabinet of Ministers to grant citizenship are not subject to appeal. This approach has since received criticism from the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe. ¹¹¹

¹⁰⁷ Latvia, University of Latvia (*Latvijas Universitāte*), The Advanced Social and Political Research Institute of University of Latvia (*Latvijas Universitātes Sociālo un politisko pētījumu institūts*) (2014), How Democratic is Latvia? Audit of Democracy 2005-2014, Sc.ed. J.Rozenvalds, p.26, available in Latvian:

http://www.szf.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/szf_faili/Petnieciba/Demokratijas_audits_2014_kopaa.pdf

¹⁰⁸ European Court of Human Rights, Case of Petropavlovskis v. Latvia (Application no. 44230/06), 13 January 2015, available at: <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/sites/eng/pages/search.aspx?i=001-150232#%7B%22itemid%22:%5B%22001-150232%22%5D%7D>

¹⁰⁹ Latvia, University of Latvia (*Latvijas Universitāte*), The Advanced Social and Political Research Institute of University of Latvia (*Latvijas Universitātes Sociālo un politisko pētījumu institūts*) (2014), How Democratic is Latvia? Audit of Democracy 2005-2014, Sc.ed. J.Rozenvalds, p.23, available in Latvian:

http://www.szf.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/szf_faili/Petnieciba/Demokratijas_audits_2014_kopaa.pdf

¹¹⁰ Latvia, Citizenship Law (*Pilsonības likums*), adopted on 22 July 1994, Section 17 (5), available in Latvian at <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57512>

¹¹¹ Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Second Opinion on Latvia, adopted on 18 June 2013, available at: http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/minorities/3_FCNMdocs/PDF_2nd_OP_Latvia_en.pdf

3.1.2. National elections voting rights - turnout

	<p>Third county nationals are allowed in exceptional cases to vote in national elections. In this section please provide the specific requirements and criteria for participation of citizens of migrant background (and third country nationals in the very few cases where this is foreseen) in national elections, as well as any available data on their voting turnout. Please specify any differences in different geographic areas or by type of national level voting circumstances (e.g. parliament, referendum, president of the republic etc.). In addition to official data and also if such data are not available, make reference to any relevant quantitative or qualitative academic research concerning the exercise of the right to vote and related drivers and barriers.</p>	<p>With regard to the right to vote in parliamentary elections, relevant domestic legislation provides that only citizens of Latvia, who have reached the age of 18 by the election day, have the right to vote.¹¹² The law does not put forward any other criteria, specifically relevant for persons of migrant background or TCNs. All citizens of Latvia, who are eligible to vote in the elections of the parliament, may also take part in national referenda and initiate legislation.¹¹³ The President of Latvia is elected by the Parliament. Thereby, only those migrants and their descendants, who have acquired Latvian citizenship, have the right to vote in national elections, take part in national referenda and initiate legislation. The Central Election Commission of Latvia (CEC) does not collect data on the ethnic or migrant background of voters. Therefore, official statistics on the turn-out of citizens of migrant background at national elections is unavailable.¹¹⁴ To date, quantitative or qualitative academic research concerning the exercise of the right to vote and related drivers and barriers has not been conducted, either. A survey on voters' attitudes, carried out in October 2014, reveals that 72.4% of respondents, who speak Russian at home, indicate that they exercised their right to vote in the latest parliamentary elections, compared to 74.6% of Latvian-speakers.¹¹⁵</p>
	<p>Please indicate any programmes or information campaigns aiming at informing citizens of migrant background about their political rights and encouraging the exercise of the right to vote.</p>	<p>In line with relevant legislation, CEC informs voters about the order of elections, referenda and legislation initiation, including details on voting procedures, public information on candidates and candidates' lists, pre-election programmes, as well as the results of elections, referenda and signature collection campaigns. Within the framework of national elections, the target audience of CEC are persons, who have reached the age of 18 and are Latvian citizens living in Latvia or abroad. Citizens of migrant background as not singled out and targeted as a separate group.¹¹⁶ Information campaigns have been carried out through the website of CEC, various internet and social networking portals and a 24-hour telephone hotline for voters, as well as through the mass media, including TV and the radio. In compliance with the State Language Law, information materials (including video</p>

¹¹² Latvia, The Constitution of the Republic of Latvia (*Latvijas Republikas Satversme*), adopted on 15 February 1922, Article 8; available in Latvian at: <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57980>; Law on Saeima Elections (*Saeimas Vēlēšanu likums*), adopted on 6 June 1995, Article 1, available in Latvian at: <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=35261>

¹¹³ Latvia, Law on National Referendums and Initiation of Legislation (*Likums Par tautas nobalsošanu un likumu ierosināšanu*), adopted on 31 March 1994, Article 2, available in Latvian at: <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=58065>

¹¹⁴ Latvia, Central Election Commission (*Centrālā vēlēšanu komisija*), Letter No. 02-017/24e, 20 February 2015

¹¹⁵ Latvia, Centre for Marke and Public Opinion Research SKDS (*Tirgus un sabiedriskās domes pētījumu centrs SKDS*), Report on attitudes of voters in 2014 (*vēlētāju attieksmju pētījums 2014*), October 2014, available in Latvian at http://www.cvk.lv/pub/upload_file/Petijumi/atskaite_CVK_102014.pdf

¹¹⁶ Latvia, Central Election Commission (*Centrālā vēlēšanu komisija*), Letter No. 02-017/24e, 20 February 2015

		<p>materials) about the voting process, pre-election programmes and ballot papers are developed only in Latvian. The only exception is the website of CEC, which provides basic information also in Russian and English, as well as the telephone hotline.¹¹⁷</p> <p>In its report on the latest Parliamentary elections on 4 October 2014, OSCE ODIHR notes that citizens, whose native language is not Latvian, had, overall, adequate access to information pertaining to the elections, however some details were lacking in languages other than Latvian. The report also commends provision of comprehensive information on the elections in Latvian, and summaries in Russian and English, on the website of CEC as well as the establishment of the 24-hour telephone hotline. OSCE ODIHR called on Latvia to consider providing broader voter education in minority languages to reach out to national minority voters.¹¹⁸</p> <p>The observations made in 2014 show some improvement from years 2010 and 2011, when OSCE ODIHR assessed parliamentary and early parliamentary elections respectively.¹¹⁹ In 2010 and 2011, OSCE ODIHR noted that public authorities interpreted the State Language Law as prohibiting voter education and provision of information materials in languages other than Latvian, thereby potentially disadvantaging voters with a low proficiency of Latvian. The report on the parliamentary elections in 2010 stated that information provided by Russian-language print and broadcast media about voting procedures helped fill the information gaps for Russian-speaking voters.</p>
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3.1.3. National level election – representation

	<p>The number of candidates with migrant background (where available, specify own or parent’s country of birth) at the latest national level elections (specify date)</p>	<p>With regard to parliamentary elections, relevant domestic legislation stipulates that only citizens of Latvia, who have reached the age of 21 by the election day, may stand for election to the Parliament of Latvia.¹²⁰ CEC does not have data on the number of candidates with migrant background to the Parliament, as the candidates are not required to disclose such information.¹²¹ Candidates are, however obligated to submit a declaration stating that they have sufficient proficiency of the Latvian language to perform their professional duties as members of the parliament as well as information on foreign citizenship, if applicable.</p>
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¹¹⁷ Latvia, Central Election Commission (*Centrālā vēlēšanu komisija*), Letter No. 02-017/24e, 20 February 2015

¹¹⁸ OSCE ODIHR, Election Assessment Mission, Final Report, 18 December 2014, available at:

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/latvia/132416?download=true>

¹¹⁹ OSCE ODIHR, Limited Election Observation Mission, Final Report, 19 December 2011, available at:

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/86363?download=true> and Final Report, 10 December 2010, available at:

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/latvia/74785?download=true>

¹²⁰ Latvia, Constitution of the Republic of Latvia (*Latvijas Republikas Satversme*), adopted on 15 February 1922, Article 8, Article 9; available in Latvian at: <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57980>; Law on Saeima Elections (*Saeimas Vēlēšanu likums*), adopted on 6 June 1995, Article 1, Article 4, available at: <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=35261>

¹²¹ Latvia, Central Election Commission (*Centrālā vēlēšanu komisija*), Letter No. 02-017/24e, 20 February 2015

		<p>Candidates may also provide information on their ethnic background, if they so choose.¹²²</p> <p>At the latest parliamentary elections in Latvia, which took place on 4 October 2014, 6 candidates declared dual citizenship (2 – United States of America, 1 – Lebanon, 1 – Germany, 1 – Sweden), 123 candidates indicated ethnic background other than Latvian (10.64% of the total; 5 – Byelorussians, 3 – Jews, 1 – Georgian, 1 – Estonian, 1 – Karelian, 80- Russians, 1 – Lebanon, 4 – Lithuanians, 17 – Poles, 9 – Ukrainians, 1 – German), whereas 285 (24.65% of the total) persons chose not to provide information on their ethnicity.¹²³</p>
	The number of elected representatives with migrant background at national level (e.g. parliament, senate)	<p>CEC does not have information on the number of elected representatives with migrant background to the Parliament.¹²⁴ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia does state, however, that many Latvians of Russian ethnic background hold high political positions, and Latvia’s Parliament includes members, whose mother tongue is Lithuanian, Arabic, Russian and Ukrainian.¹²⁵ Houssam Abou Merhi, a Latvian citizen of Lebanese origin, who is a well-known doctor, was elected to the Parliament of Latvia in the latest parliamentary elections.</p>
	Those appointed to public office (e.g. ministers, secretaries of state, etc.) by end of 2014.	<p>There are no ministers or secretaries of state of migrant background. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia informs, however, that diplomats of Russian, American, Polish, Armenian, Uzbek and other backgrounds work in Latvia’s diplomatic service.¹²⁶</p>

3.2. Political rights at regional/local level

3.2.1. Regional/Local elections voting rights – turnout

	Specify what regional/local voting rights are given to third country nationals and any different entitlements according to residence status, permit type or length of stay etc.	<p>Along with citizens of Latvia, citizens of the EU are also eligible to vote in municipal elections, provided they are registered in the Latvian Population Register.¹²⁷ In addition, voters must be at least 18 years old on the election day, be registered in the Voters' Register and own real estate or have been registered at their place of residence for at least 90 days prior to the day of the elections in the administrative territory of the concerned self-government. Latvian non-citizens and</p>
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¹²² Latvia, Law on Saeima Elections (*Saeimas Vēlēšanu likums*), adopted on 6 June 1995, Article 1, Article 11 (4), available at: <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=35261>

¹²³ Latvia, Central Election Commission (*Centrālā vēlēšanu komisija*), Candidate lists for the election of the 12. Parliament on 4 October 2014 (*2014. gada 4. Oktobra 12. Saeimas vēlēšanu deputātu kandidātu saraksti*), available in Latvian at: <http://sv2014.cvk.lv/saraksti/>

¹²⁴ Latvia, Central Election Commission (*Centrālā vēlēšanu komisija*), Letter No. 02-017/24e, 20 February 2015

¹²⁵ Latvia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*Ārlietu ministrija*), Facts regarding Society integration in Latvia, 17 March 2015, available in English at: <http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/policy/society-integration/facts-regarding-society-integration-in-latvia>

¹²⁶ Latvia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*Ārlietu ministrija*), Facts regarding Society integration in Latvia, 17 March 2015, available in English at: <http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/policy/society-integration/facts-regarding-society-integration-in-latvia>

¹²⁷ Latvia, Law on Elections of the Republic City Council and Municipality Council (*Republikas pilsētas domes un novada domes vēlēšanu likums*), adopted on 13 January 1994, Article 5, available in Latvian at: <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57839>

	TCNs residing in Latvia do not have any voting rights in municipal elections. ¹²⁸
Key and/or milestone dates regarding the voting and/or election rights for migrants and/or their descendants at regional/local level	N/A
Please indicate any programmes or information campaigns aiming at informing citizens of migrant background about their political rights and encouraging the exercise of the right to vote.	Information campaigns for local elections are executed in the same manner as those for national elections. For more information, please see point 3.1.2.
In addition to official data and also if such data are not available, make reference to any relevant quantitative or qualitative academic research concerning the exercise of the right to vote and related drivers and barriers.	Data on how citizens of migrant background exercise their right to vote in Latvia is not available. The issue of granting non-citizens the right to vote in municipal elections has been widely discussed by international and European observers, the parliamentary opposition, as well as NGOs and individual experts. The core argument in favour is that this would facilitate integration. ¹²⁹ Representatives of international organisations, and, in particular, the Council of Europe and EU institutions believe that granting non-citizens the rights to vote at local level would promote integration, strengthen democracy and encourage their participation in the social and political life of Latvia. ¹³⁰ However, the official stance and the opinions of most political parties remain clearly negative, allegedly due to the contradiction between the naturalisation policy and granting voting rights to non-citizens. ¹³¹ The Latvian government is concerned that granting voting rights to non-citizens would undermine the implementation of integration policy, which aims to facilitate the naturalisation process. ¹³² The parliamentary opposition has repeatedly proposed

¹²⁸ Latvia, Law on Elections of the Republic City Council and Municipality Council (*Republikas pilsētas domes un novada domes vēlēšanu likums*), adopted on 13 January 1994, Article 5, available in Latvian at:

<http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57839>

¹²⁹ Latvia, Latvian Centre for Human Rights (2014), Analysis on electoral participation – TCN (non-EU) with permanent resident permits. Case of Latvia. Available in English at: <http://www.migrant-participation.eu/soubory/12.pdf>

¹³⁰ Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Second opinion on Latvia, adopted on 18 June 2013, available at:

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/minorities/3_FCNMdocs/PDF_2nd_OP_Latvia_en.pdf; The Baltic Course

(07.02.2012), Muiznieks: Council of Europe will continue to demand that non-citizens in Latvia be permitted to participate in municipal elections, available at: <http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/legislation/?doc=52721>; Recommendation 317 (2011) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on Latvia of October 2011, available at:

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1857271&Site=COE>

¹³¹ Latvia, Latvian Centre for Human Rights (2014), Analysis on electoral participation – TCN (non-EU) with permanent resident permits. Case of Latvia. Available in English at: <http://www.migrant-participation.eu/soubory/12.pdf>

¹³² Comments of the Government of Latvia on the Second Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Latvia (received on 3 January 2014), available at:

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/minorities/3_FCNMdocs/PDF_2nd_Com_Latvia_en.pdf

		amendments to legislation, which would allow non-citizens to vote in municipal elections. These proposals have, however, constantly been rejected by parliamentary majority. ¹³³ Public opinion surveys reveal mainly supportive or neutral attitudes towards the issue. ¹³⁴ No serious debate has been held on the political participation of TCNs.
3.2.2. Regional/local level election – representation		
		Latvian citizens and citizens of the EU are eligible to stand for election at regional/local level. To qualify, the candidate must be at least 18 years old, be registered in the Voters' Register, and fulfil at least one of the following conditions: 1) be registered at their place of residence in the administrative territory of the concerned local government for the last 10 months as a minimum, 2) be either employed or self-employed in said territory for the last four months as a minimum or 3) own real estate in the administrative territory of the concerned local government. ¹³⁵ CEC does not have data on the number of candidates with migrant background at municipal elections, as the candidates are not required to disclose such information. ¹³⁶ They are, however, obligated to submit a self-assessment of their Latvian language proficiency as well as information on foreign citizenship, where applicable. Candidates may also provide information on their ethnic background, if they so choose. ¹³⁷ At the latest municipal elections in Latvia, which took place on 1 June 2013, 17 persons declared foreign citizenship (1 – Canada, 3 – Lithuania, 1- Poland, 2 – Sweden, 6 – United States of America, 1 – Denmark, 2 – Germany, 1 – Estonia), and 571 candidates (6.54% of the total) indicated ethnic background other than Latvian (371 – Russians, 43 – Lithuanians, 39 – Ukrainians, 2 – Roma, 58 – Poles, 32 – Byelorussians, 1 – Romanian, 6 – Germans, 1 – Chuvash, 1 – Liv, 1 – Czech, 1 – Greek, 1 – Armenian, 1 – Avar, 1 – Dane, 4 – Jews, 2 – Tatars, 4 – Georgians, 1 – Bashkirian, 1 – Estonian), whereas 2,252 (25.81% of the total) persons chose not to provide information on their ethnic background. ¹³⁸
	The number of candidates that were third country nationals and/or with migrant background at the latest regional/local level elections (specify date)	
	The number and % of elected representatives with migrant	CEC does not have data on the number of elected representatives with migrant background at municipal

¹³³ Latvia, Latvian Centre for Human Rights (2014), Analysis on electoral participation – TCN (non-EU) with permanent resident permits. Case of Latvia. Available in English at: <http://www.migrant-participation.eu/soubory/12.pdf>

¹³⁴ Latvia, AC Konsultācijas (2008), Quantitative and Qualitative research on topical issues of society integration and citizenship (*Kvantitatīvs un kvalitatīvs pētījums par sabiedrības integrācijas un pilsonības aktuālajiem aspektiem*), p. 19, available in Latvian at:

[http://izm.izm.gov.lv/upload_file/jaunatne/petijumi/Cela_uz_pilsonisku_sabiedribu_06112008\[1\]\[1\].pdf](http://izm.izm.gov.lv/upload_file/jaunatne/petijumi/Cela_uz_pilsonisku_sabiedribu_06112008[1][1].pdf);

¹³⁵ Latvia, Law on Elections of the Republic City Council and Municipality Council (*Republikas pilsētas domes un novada domes vēlēšanu likums*), adopted on 13 January 1994, Article 8, available at: <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57839>

¹³⁶ Latvia, Central Election Commission (*Centrālā vēlēšanu komisija*), Letter No. 02-017/24e, 20 February 2015

¹³⁷ Latvia, Law on Election of City and Regional Municipalities, (*Republikas pilsētas domes un novada domes vēlēšanu likums*), adopted on 13 January 1994, Article 17(3), accessed at <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57839>

¹³⁸ Central Election Commission, Registered Lists of Candidates for Municipal Election on 1 June 2013, accessed at <http://www.cvk.lv/cvkserv/pv2013/saraksti/>

background at regional/local level (e.g. municipalities, regions, prefectures etc.)	elections. ¹³⁹ The Latvian Farmers Union (<i>Latvijas Zemnieku Savienība</i>) reports that some of its candidates with migrant background have been elected at local level, however it does not have exact data at its disposal. ¹⁴⁰
Those who were elected or appointed to a high public office (e.g. mayor, vice mayor etc.) by end of 2014.	Official information on the ethnic or migrant background of persons elected or appointed to high public office at local level in Latvia is unavailable. ¹⁴¹ Some local municipalities, e.g. Riga and Rēzekne, however, are headed by ethnic minority representatives.
Please identify related limitations and challenges or public debates, as well as relevant research, studies and assessments.	Research or studies on the representation of ethnic minorities or persons with migrant background at local level is not available. To date, public debates have mostly focused on the representation of ethnic minorities at national level (the parliament and government). ¹⁴²

3.3.Consultation

3.3.1.Consultative bodies at national/regional/local level

Are there any migrants' consultative bodies in place at national / regional/ local level foreseen and/or operational in practice? Since when and on which legal basis (please provide reference). Please specify whether migrants' consultative/advisory/representative bodies are established by law or other type of normative regulation, policy or practice.	The "Guidelines", adopted in October 2011, envisage the establishment of a national-level coordinating system to support immigrant participation - the National Integration Centre and a national-level Advisory Council, with the participation of immigrants and representatives of their organizations. ¹⁴³ Accordingly, the Advisory Council for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals was established in 2013 by a decree of the Ministry of Culture. The Statute, approved by the Ministry of Culture on 16 January 2013 ¹⁴⁴ , regulates the work of the Council. It defines the goals and objectives of the council, its composition, decision-making procedures, as well as the frequency of meetings. With its broad mandate pertaining to the integration of TCNs, this Council is
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¹³⁹ Latvia, Central Election Commission (*Centrālā vēlēšanu komisija*), Letter No. 02-017/24e, 20 February 2015

¹⁴⁰ Information provided to the LCHR by the Latvian Farmers Union (*Latvijas Zemnieku Savienība*) by e-mail, 27 January 2015.

¹⁴¹ Latvia, Central Election Commission (*Centrālā vēlēšanu komisija*), Letter No. 02-017/24e, 20 February 2015

¹⁴² Latvia, University of Latvia (*Latvijas Universitāte*), The Advanced Social and Political Research Institute of University of Latvia (*Latvijas Universitātes Sociālo un politisko pētījumu institūts*) (2014), How Democratic is Latvia? Audit of Democracy 2005-2014, Sc.ed. J.Rozenvalds, p.36, available in Latvian:

http://www.szf.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/szf_faili/Petnieciba/Demokratijas_audits_2014_kopaa.pdf; Latvian Centre for Human Rights, Second Alternative report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Latvia, 2013, pp.47-48,

http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/site/attachments/27/09/2013/LCHR_Minority_Shadow_Report_2309_1.pdf; Brands Kehris I., Citizenship, Participation and representation, pp. 109 - 115; in: N. Muižnieks (ed.) How Integrated is Latvian Society? LU, 2010, available at: http://www.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/lu_portal/zinas/Integracija_anglu.pdf

¹⁴³ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Guidelines on National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy (2012-2018) (*Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas pamatnostādnes 2012.-2018. gadam*), adopted 20 October 2011, available in Latvian:

http://www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/ministrija/saliedeta_sabiedriba/KM_bkls_A5_3mm_bleed_02_2012_EN_PRINT.pdf

¹⁴⁴ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Statute of the Consultative Board for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (*Konsultatīvās padomes trešo valstu pilsoņu integrācijai nolikums*), No. 5.1.-4-3, 16 January 2013, Article 1.3., available in Latvian http://www.km.gov.lv/lv/nozares_info/integracija/treso_valstu_pilsoni.html

		<p>the main consultative body in the area and will therefore be described in more detail.</p> <p>In addition, there are four other national-level consultative bodies for promoting national minority integration and participation in decision-making processes in Latvia: (1) Consultative Board of National Minorities of the President of Latvia, established in 1996 and renewed in 2011¹⁴⁵; (2) Consultative Board on Education-related issues of National Minorities, set up by the Ministry of Education and Science in 2001¹⁴⁶; (3) Consultative Committee of Representatives of NGOs of National Minorities to Oversee the Implementation of Council of Europe Framework Convention in Latvia, set up by the Ministry of Culture in 2006¹⁴⁷ and (4) Consultative Board for the Implementation of Roma Integration Policy, established by the Ministry of Culture on 6 July 2012¹⁴⁸. The work of all these councils is also based on statutes approved by the relevant ministry.</p> <p>Several minority organisations, including those representing non-citizens, have been participating in various councils at national level; however, only one immigrant organization (the Arabic Culture Centre) has been represented in the consultative bodies so far.</p> <p>Local-level integration advisory boards or commissions have also been established in five municipalities, which are some of the largest cities in Latvia: Riga, Jelgava, Jūrmala, Liepāja and Ventspils. These consultative bodies are set up by the decision of the relevant local authority and their work is regulated by statutes. However, only national minority and not immigrant organizations are represented in these councils.</p> <p>Integration commissions in several municipalities with a substantial number of national minorities, including the cities of Daugavpils and Rēzekne (located in the Eastern part of Latvia), were closed down in 2009.¹⁴⁹</p>
	<p>What is the mandate of the body – duration and procedures? In particular specify if and by which modalities these bodies are competent to participate in consultations only on migration or integration issues or if they</p>	<p>The common goal of all consultative bodies on integration at both the national and local levels has been to promote dialogue among national minority groups and policy makers as well as to encourage national minorities to take a more active part in the political, social and economic affairs of the state, thereby providing them with an opportunity for representation. The mandates of the integration</p>

¹⁴⁵ Latvia, President of Latvia (*Valsts prezidents*), Statute of the Consultative Board of National Minorities (*Mazākumtautību konsultatīvās padomes nolikums*) No. 1, 22 August 2011, available in Latvian at http://www.president.lv/images/modules/items/PDF/Mazakumtaut_nolikums_aktualizets.pdf

¹⁴⁶ Latvia, Ministry of Education and Science (*Izglītības un zinātnes ministrija*), Statute of the Consultative Board on Education-related issues of National Minorities (*Konsultatīvās padomes mazākumtautību izglītības jautājumos nolikums*) No. 20, 06 June 2008.

¹⁴⁷ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Statutes of the Consultative Committee of Representatives of NGOs of National Minorities (*Mazākumtautību NVO pārstāvju konsultatīvās komitejas nolikums*) No. 5.1.-4-32, 11 December 2013, available in Latvian at http://www.km.gov.lv/lv/nozares_info/integracija/mazakumtautibas.html

¹⁴⁸ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Statute of the Consultative Board for the Implementation of Roma integration policy (*Romu integrācijas politikas īstenošanas un koordinācijas konsultatīvās komitejas nolikums*) No. 6-4-18, 6 July 2012, available in Latvian at <http://www.km.gov.lv/lv/ministrija/romi.html>

¹⁴⁹ Latvian Centre for Human Rights (2014), Consultative Bodies for Immigrants in Latvia, p. 3, available in English at <http://www.migrant-participation.eu/soubory/33.pdf>

	<p>participate also in consultations on other issues? How do these bodies work in practice?</p>	<p>councils include exchange of information and views, the right to request information from public authorities, evaluation of the implementation of relevant policies and the preparation of proposals on the development of policies, laws and issues relevant to national minorities and immigrants.</p> <p>The Advisory Council for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals is tasked with the coordination of institutional cooperation in the area of integration of TCNs and promotion of collaboration among public authorities and NGOs of TCNs within the framework of integration policy. The Council is mandated to develop proposals for resolving legal, socio-economic, political, educational and cultural challenges faced by TCNs, as well as to analyse draft legislation and laws currently in force, and to propose the necessary amendments. In addition, it is charged with the development and implementation of the strategy of the National Integration Centre (NIC), established with financing from the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (EIF). Finally, the Council has the right to request information from public authorities on the integration of TCNs, as well as policy and legislative initiatives affecting TCNs to provide its assessment and recommendations before to their adoption.¹⁵⁰ According to the Ministry of Culture, so far the work of the Council has had more of an informative character. However, the Ministry plans to deal with specific integration issues, e.g. integration of beneficiaries of international protection in Latvia, starting from 2015.¹⁵¹</p>
	<p>Frequency of convening of the body/-ies/ meetings with competent public authorities. What is foreseen and how is it implemented in practice?</p>	<p>The frequency of the meetings of the councils is defined in their respective statutes. It varies from two to four times a year for national-level consultative boards to once a month for local-level integration commissions. According to its Statute, the Advisory Council for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals must be convened at least three times a year.¹⁵² If necessary, extraordinary meetings may be convened at the request of the Council's members. Three meetings were held in 2013 and five in 2014.</p>
	<p>Role in relation to other public or private bodies. Is there a statutory role of coordination and cooperation with other public or private stakeholders foreseen? How is this implemented in practice?</p>	<p>One of the core tasks of the Advisory Council for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals is to facilitate cooperation among public authorities and the NGO sector, as well as to coordinate the work of state institutions in the area of the integration of TCNs. It also has the right to request relevant information, as well as draft legislation and policy documents from public authorities to provide feedback and proposals before said draft acts are adopted. The Council is</p>

¹⁵⁰ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Statute of the Consultative Board for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (*Konsultatīvās padomes trešo valstu pilsoņu integrācijai nolikums*), No. 5.1.-4-3, 16 January 2013, available in Latvian http://www.km.gov.lv/lv/nozares_info/integracija/treso_valstu_pilsoni.html

¹⁵¹ Latvia, information provided to the LCHR by the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*) by e-mail, 13 March 2015.

¹⁵² Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Statute of the Consultative Board for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (*Konsultatīvās padomes trešo valstu pilsoņu integrācijai nolikums*), No. 5.1.-4-3, 16 January 2013, Article 20., available in Latvian http://www.km.gov.lv/lv/nozares_info/integracija/treso_valstu_pilsoni.html

		<p>composed of 18 members representing eight state institutions responsible for areas such as education, health, welfare, citizenship, migration and others, two local governments with a substantial number of TCNs in their administrative territories, as well as five NGOs and three social partners, including the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia and the Employer's Confederation of Latvia. Immigrant associations are not represented in the Council.</p>
	<p>Participation in decision-making (consultative, observer status, voting right etc.). Are such bodies competent to participate in decision-making at national/regional/local level in regard to the design, implementation, assessment and/or review of integration-specific, migration or other policies of general interest? Are such bodies and/or their representatives participating in any way to allocation, distribution, monitoring, evaluation or management of funding social inclusion and integration policies, measures and programmes at national level?</p>	<p>The Ministry of Culture informs that the meetings of the Advisory Council for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals have, to date, served mainly to share information. The Ministry foresees that the Council will begin to tackle particular issues, such as integration of beneficiaries of international protection in Latvia, as of 2015. Upon the initiative of member NGOs, the Council has for the first time, been involved in the development of the normative base for the implementation of EIF. The results of the work of the Council have, to date, not been formally assessed.¹⁵³ Relevant domestic legislation does not oblige Latvian public authorities to respond to the recommendations of the consultative bodies on draft policy documents or legislation relevant to integration or to defend their opinions at the Parliament or the Cabinet of Ministers. Therefore, the role of these councils is purely advisory. Nevertheless, the Statute of the the Advisory Council for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals envisages that the chairperson of the council is required to submit adopted decisions to the State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture. This requirement was included following the recommendation by three NGOs with long-lasting experience in social dialogue.¹⁵⁴</p>
	<p>What are the modalities for representation and participation of migrants, e.g. elections, designation etc.? What is foreseen and how is it implemented in practice?</p>	<p>The Statute of the Advisory Council for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals envisages that at least four NGOs shall be represented in the Council and that they shall be selected through an open procedure run by the Ministry of Culture. Organizations selected for membership in the Council are required to nominate their candidate representatives and to submit the candidate's CV, motivation letter as well as a declaration on sufficient knowledge of the Latvian language, to the Ministry of Culture. The composition of the Council is then approved for a two-year term by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture. Importantly, while the Statute requires that the statutes of the participating NGOs declare representation of the interests of TCNs, refugees, persons with alternative status and Latvian non-citizens or expertise in the integration of TCNs as one</p>

¹⁵³ Latvia, information provided to the LCHR by the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*) by e-mail, 13 March 2015.

¹⁵⁴ Latvia, Latvian Centre for Human Rights (*Latvijas Cilvēktiesību centrs*), Public Policy Centre PROVIDUS (*Publiskās politikas centrs PROVIDUS*), NGO "Shelter Safe House" (*Biedrība "Patvērums "Drošā māja"")*), Opinion on Regulation of the Advisory Council for Integration of Third Country Nationals (*Atzinums par Nacionālās Konsultatīvās padomes trešo valstu pilsoņu integrācijainolikumu*), 12 October 2012, available in Latvian at: http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/site/attachments/15/10/2012/Nolikums_KP_treso_valstu_integracijai_PROVIDUS_LCC_PDM.pdf

		<p>of the objectives of the NGOs' work for at least two years, it does not require them to be migrant NGOs.¹⁵⁵ Migrant organizations are not represented in the current composition of the Council. The Ministry of Culture does not provide information on any measures, taken to promote the participation of migrant organizations in the work of the Council.¹⁵⁶</p> <p>Until 2013, transparent selection procedures among minority and migrant associations and other NGOs dealing with integration issues for membership in the consultative bodies were not practiced. The responsible institution addressed particular persons or invited NGOs to delegate their representatives to the council concerned. As a result, some representatives were members of several councils, while others (mostly those expressing critical or 'uncomfortable' views) were excluded from consultative mechanisms altogether. The only exception was the establishment of the Advisory Council on Society Integration Issues of the Riga City Council in 2010, when an open call with clearly defined criteria for the NGOs was launched.¹⁵⁷ Recently, after numerous discussions between NGOs with long-term experience in social dialogue and relevant public authorities, open calls for minority and immigrant organizations for the participation in the Advisory Council for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (2013)¹⁵⁸ and the Consultative Committee of Representatives of NGOs of National Minorities (2014)¹⁵⁹ were made. For the first time, the appointment procedure to the latter council also included face-to-face interviews with all 29 NGO representatives, who applied. According to the Ministry of Culture, this provided the opportunity to better assess the skills and capacities of the candidates.¹⁶⁰</p>
	<p>On which criterion are migrant groups represented (migrant status, foreign-born, foreign nationality etc.)? What is foreseen and how is it implemented in practice?</p>	<p>The Statute of the Advisory Council for the Integration of Third Country Nationals states that the Council shall include NGOs, which meet the following criterion: "The objective of the activities of the organization at least two years is directly linked to at least one of the following areas: representation of the interests of Latvian non-citizens; representation of the interests of</p>

¹⁵⁵ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Statute of the Consultative Board for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (*Konsultatīvās padomes trešo valstu pilsoņu integrācijai nolikums*), No. 5.1.-4-3, 16 January 2013, available in Latvian http://www.km.gov.lv/lv/nozares_info/integracija/treso_valstu_pilsoni.html

¹⁵⁶ Latvia, information provided to the LCHR by the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*) by e-mail, 13 March 2015.

¹⁵⁷ Latvian Centre for Human Rights (2014), Consultative Bodies for Immigrants in Latvia, p. 4, available in English at <http://www.migrant-participation.eu/soubory/33.pdf>

¹⁵⁸ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Decree No. 5.1.-1-53 "On the selection of NGOs for participation the Advisory Council for Integration of Third Country Nationals" (*Par nevalstisko organizāciju atlasī darbam Konsultatīvajā padomē trešo valstu pilsoņu integrācijai*), issued in 14 February 2014, available in Latvian at: <http://www.km.gov.lv/lv/ministrija/konkursi.html>

¹⁵⁹ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), "Ministry of Culture announces apply for the candidates to participate in the Consulting Committee of National Minority Non-governmental Organisation Representatives" (*Kultūras ministrija izsludina kandidātu pieteikšanos dalībai Kultūras ministrijas Mazākumtautību nevalstisko organizāciju pārstāvju konsultatīvajā komitejā*), 20 December 2013, available in Latvian at: http://www.km.gov.lv/lv/nozares_info/integracija/aktualitates.html?news_id=4300

¹⁶⁰ Latvian Centre for Human Rights (2014), Consultative Bodies for Immigrants in Latvia, p. 3, available in English at <http://www.migrant-participation.eu/soubory/33.pdf>

		<p>newly arrived Third-Country Nationals; representation of the interests of refugees and persons with alternative status; expertise in the integration of Third-Country Nationals.”¹⁶¹ As described above, the NGOs need not be founded, run or represented by migrants themselves. Although an open call for participation of NGOs, including immigrant organizations, in this Council was organized in 2013, only five NGOs working with migrants within the framework of various projects used this opportunity. None of the migrant organizations applied for participation, allegedly due to the lack of information.¹⁶²</p>
	<p>Is there any evidence through formal evaluations or academic research on awareness about such national level consultative bodies among migrants and their descendants, and among the general public?</p>	<p>To date, the Ministry of Culture has not undertaken an evaluation of the impact of the consultative bodies and on the awareness about them among migrants and the general public.¹⁶³</p> <p>Research carried out in 2013 demonstrates that ministries, as well as national minority and migrant organizations, and the general public, have no information about the work of the consultative councils, including the issues discussed, decisions taken, and the organizations involved. Although the Ministry of Culture has started to publish materials and protocols of the councils’ meetings on its website, this information reaches neither the wider society, including minority and migrant NGOs, nor the mass media. Some members of the councils have expressed doubts about the effectiveness of the various consultative bodies and have pointed to the need to establish only one national-level council, which would deal with minority and immigrant issues in a comprehensive manner and have real impact.¹⁶⁴</p> <p>Similarly, in the Resolution on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Latvia, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe notes that: “While a number of consultative mechanisms exist, few provide for effective participation in decision making, particularly at central level, as insufficient efforts are made to conduct consultations in a timely manner and comprehensively take into account the concerns that were expressed. There is little awareness among minority communities of the various councils and their functions.” The Committee has recommended to Latvia to “strengthen the mandate of existing consultation mechanisms for minority communities and ensure that the views and concerns of representatives are timely</p>

¹⁶¹ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Statute of the Consultative Board for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (*Konsultatīvās padomes trešo valstu pilsoņu integrācijai nolikums*), No. 5.1.-4-3, 16 January 2013, available in Latvian http://www.km.gov.lv/lv/nozares_info/integracija/treso_valstu_pilsoni.html

¹⁶² Latvia, Latvian Centre for Human Rights (2015), Civic engagement of immigrants in Latvia, p.6, available in English at: <http://www.migrant-participation.eu/soubory/48.pdf>

¹⁶³ Latvia, information provided to LCHR by the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*) by e-mail, 13 March 2015

¹⁶⁴ Asari E.-M, Bjurholm E., Dusman A., Dusman A. jun., Hamidian K., Holvander P., Matlik T., Zankovska-Odina S., Ogur D. (2013), Comparative Analysis of Dialogue Platforms in Estonia, Latvia and Sweden Report, p. 36-39, available at: http://sidp.abikeskused.ee/images/documents/CAoDP_2014_ebook.pdf

		and effectively taken into account in all relevant decision making at central and local level." ¹⁶⁵ Interviews with the leaders of seven migrant NGOs reveal that only three of them had heard about the existence of the Advisory Council for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals; none of the respondents was familiar with its current work. All respondents, however, expressed a willingness to participate in the Council's work if such an opportunity were granted. ¹⁶⁶
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3.4. Participation in trade-unions and professional association

	In this section based on available data, research, surveys, studies, etc. please provide information about:	
	Membership and participation of migrant workers in <u>workers' unions and craft associations</u> :	
Are there any legal or practical limitations or barriers for the membership of migrant workers in trade unions and craft associations?	There are no legal or practical restrictions to the membership of persons with migrant background in trade unions and craft associations. According to the new Law on Trade Unions, which came into force on 1 November 2014, everyone has the right to found and join trade unions in Latvia without any discrimination. ¹⁶⁷ Thus, membership in trade unions is open not only to citizens, but also non-citizens, EU citizens and TCNs. Previously, the Law on Trade Unions stated that only residents of Latvia, who work or study, may establish trade unions. Therefore, trade unions did not represent migrants as they held the view only permanent residents of Latvia could be represented. ¹⁶⁸	
Do workers' associations encourage and support membership and participation of migrant workers? E.g. through information and raising awareness initiatives in more languages, translation and language support services etc.	The Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia (<i>LBAS</i>), which coordinates cooperation among 20 different workers' unions and associations, does not have information on specific measures aimed in particular at encouraging and supporting membership and participation of migrant workers in trade unions or associations. According to <i>LBAS</i> , trade unions in Latvia generally ensure access to information on their activities in both Latvian and Russian. In addition, key facts about the work of trade unions is also provided in English on their websites. ¹⁶⁹	
What is the rate of participation (figures and % of association members, figures	Trade unions and associations in Latvia do not collect official data on the ethnic background or citizenship of their members. According to <i>LBAS</i> , there certainly are	

¹⁶⁵ Council of Europe, Resolution CM/ResCMN(2014)9 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Latvia, Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 9 July 2014, available at: <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2215943&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383>

¹⁶⁶ Latvia, Latvian Centre for Human Rights (2015), Civic engagement of immigrants in Latvia, p.6, available in English at: <http://www.migrant-participation.eu/soubory/48.pdf>

¹⁶⁷ Latvia, Law on Trade Unions (*Arodbiedrību likums*), adopted on 6 march 2014, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=265207>

¹⁶⁸ Latvia, information provided to LCHR by the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia (*Latvijas Brīvo arodbiedrību savienība*) by e-mail, 12 February 2015

¹⁶⁹ Latvia, information provided to LCHR by the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia (*Latvijas Brīvo arodbiedrību savienība*) by e-mail, 12 February 2015

	<p>and % of migrant professionals as members, or descriptive data if statistical data is not available) of migrant workers in the most representative workers' unions and associations? Please specify the geographic and workforce range/type of associations (referring to national, regional, local and to the range of workers represented and degree of association).</p>	<p>a number of non-citizens among the members of trade unions, but it is not in the position to provide exact numbers. It was also noted that, according to the information provided by member organizations, there are no TCNs among members of trade unions associations in Latvia.¹⁷⁰</p>
	<p>Are migrant workers elected as representatives of trade unions and workers' or craft associations? Please provide figures if available, and report the related legal or practical limitations or barriers, eventually faced by migrant workers.</p>	<p><i>LBAS</i> does not collect official data on the ethnic background and nationality of the elected representatives of trade unions and associations. However, <i>LBAS</i> notes that, while it is not in the position to provide exact numbers, it is certain that non-citizens are among them.¹⁷¹</p>
	<p>Are there differences between associations for high and low skill workers, different industries and trades, and/or different geographic area of country of origin, citizenship or birth or gender?</p>	<p>As trade unions and associations in Latvia do not collect official data on the ethnic background or citizenship of their members, it is impossible to determine differences by any of the listed criteria.</p>
<p>Membership and participation of migrant entrepreneurs and expert professionals to professional and scientific associations:</p>		
	<p>Are there any legal or practical limitations or barriers for the membership of migrant workers in professional, employer and scientific associations (such as medical, engineer, bar associations)?</p>	<p>Everyone has the right to found and join associations and foundations in Latvia¹⁷² and any physical or legal person, who employs at least one individual, can become a member of an employers' organization.¹⁷³ Likewise, everyone, who is at least 16 years old, has the right to found and join public organizations and their unions.¹⁷⁴ A number of professions, such as architect, doctor, lawyer, dentist, engineer, aviation pilot and others, are treated as regulated professions in Latvia. Accordingly, the Law on Regulated Professions and Recognition of Professional Qualifications (<i>Par reglamentētajām profesijām un profesionālās kvalifikācijas atzīšanu</i>) stipulates that the right to work in one of the regulated professions is granted to persons, who have completed corresponding training through an accredited</p>

¹⁷⁰ Latvia, information provided to the LCHR by the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia (*Latvijas Brīvo arodbiedrību savienība*) by e-mail, 12 February 2015

¹⁷¹ Latvia, information provided to the LCHR by the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia (*Latvijas Brīvo arodbiedrību savienība*) by e-mail, 12 February 2015

¹⁷² Latvia, Law on Associations and foundations (*Biedrību un nodibinājumu likums*), adopted on 30 October 2003, Articles 24 and 29, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=81050>

¹⁷³ Latvia, Law on Employers' organizations and their unions (*Darba devēju organizāciju un to apvienību likums*), adopted on 29 April 1999, Article 2, available in Latvian at <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=24467>

¹⁷⁴ Latvia, Law on Public Organizations and their Unions (*Par sabiedriskajām organizācijām un to apvienībām*), adopted on 15 December 1992, Articles 4 and 6, available in Latvian at <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=62836>

		<p>educational programme or who have obtained professional qualifications, certified by documentary evidence, recognized in Latvia in line with this Law and applicable international treaties, approved by the Parliament of Latvia.¹⁷⁵ Additional requirements, including an adequate knowledge of the Latvian language, may apply. The procedure for recognition of professional qualifications obtained abroad is rather challenging and therefore may constitute an obstacle to practising a profession and taking part in professional, employer and scientific associations in Latvia.</p> <p>The Association of Cardiologists of Latvia and the Association of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy of Latvia confirm that they have not imposed any legal or practical limitations or barriers to the membership of migrants or their descendants.¹⁷⁶ The Employers' Confederation of Latvia (<i>Latvijas darba devēju konfederācija</i>) reports that it considers the ethnic origin of its members, immaterial.¹⁷⁷</p>
	<p>Do professional associations encourage and support membership and participation of migrant professionals? E.g. through information and raising awareness initiatives in more languages, translation and language support services etc.</p>	<p>The Association of Cardiologists of Latvia as well as the Employers' Confederation of Latvia reports that they do not undertake any particular measures to encourage and support the membership and participation of professionals with migrant background in their activities. The Association of Cardiologists states that it is a community of specialists, which can be freely joined, and that professionals usually choose to do so to take part in post-diploma lifelong learning. The Association of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy of Latvia states that it has shared information on the possibilities for persons with migrant background to take part in the work of the Association.</p>
	<p>What is the rate of participation and membership (figures and % of association members, figures and % of migrant professionals as members, or descriptive data if statistical data is not available) of migrant professionals in the most representative professional, employers' and scientific unions and associations? Please specify the geographic and workforce range/type of associations (referring to national, regional, local and to the range of</p>	<p>The Employers' Confederation of Latvia does not collect data on the origin of its members, however it firmly believes that there are foreign citizens, who run business in Latvia, including in the banking sector. Quotas for membership of migrant professionals are not applied by the Confederation.</p> <p>The Association of Cardiologists of Latvia reports that 32% of its 364 members have migrant background. Five persons (1.4% of the total number of its members) – two from India and three from Lebanon, have joined the Association after Latvia regained independence, i.e., after 4 May 1990.</p> <p>The Association of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy of Latvia informs that three doctors from Lebanon, making up around 4% of the total number of its members, have joined the Association.</p>

¹⁷⁵ Latvia, Law on Regulated Professions and Recognition of Professional Qualifications (*Par reglamentētajām profesijām un profesionālās kvalifikācijas atzīšanu*), adopted on 20 June 2001, Article 3(2), available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=26021>

¹⁷⁶ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Association of Cardiologists of Latvia (*Latvijas kardiologu biedrība*) by e-mail, 17 March 2015, and by the Association of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy of Latvia (*Latvijas Gastrointestinālās endoskopijas asociācija*) by e-mail, 19 March 2015.

¹⁷⁷ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Employers' Confederation of Latvia (*Latvijas darba devēju konfederācija*) by phone, 18 March 2015.

	professional represented and degree of association)	The Association of Transplantologists of Latvia reports that no migrants are involved in the work of the Association. ¹⁷⁸
	Are migrants elected as representatives of professional, employers' and/or scientific associations? Please provide figures if available, and report the related legal or practical limitations or barriers, eventually faced.	The Employers' Confederation of Latvia and the Association of Transplantologists of Latvia report that no migrants have been elected as their representatives or to any other official capacity within these organizations. The Association of Cardiologists of Latvia informs that, until 2013, two members of the Board of the Association were descendants of migrants. Currently, the Board does not include persons with migrant background. The Association of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy of Latvia informs that one doctor with migrant background has been elected to the Board of the Association.
	Are there differences between associations for different professions, different skill levels and/or types of enterprise, different industries and trades, and/or different geographic area of country of origin, citizenship or birth or gender?	The incomplete set of data available does not allow for comparison between associations for different professions, skills, industries or countries of origin, citizenship or birth. The Association of Cardiologists of Latvia reports that out of the five migrants, who joined the Association after 4 May 1990, four are men, and one is a woman. The Association of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy of Latvia reports that all three doctors with migrant background are men.

3.5. Participation in social, cultural and public life

	In this section based on available data, research, studies, etc. provide information about the membership and participation of migrants and their descendants in media, cultural organisations and public life:	
	Are there any legal or practical limitations or barriers for the membership of migrants in professional associations related to the media, sports and culture?	Everyone has the right to found and join associations and foundations in Latvia ¹⁷⁹ Likewise, all persons, who are at least 16 years old, have the right to found and join public organizations and their unions. ¹⁸⁰
	Do media, sports, culture professional associations encourage and support membership and participation of third country nationals as members? E.g. through	The Association of Journalists of Latvia ¹⁸¹ , the Association of Track and Field Athletics of Latvia ¹⁸² and the Latvian Ice Hockey Federation ¹⁸³ report that they have not undertaken particular measures to encourage and support the membership and participation of TCNs

¹⁷⁸ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Association of Transplantologists of Latvia (*Latvijas Transplantologu asociācija*) by e-mail, 17 March 2015.

¹⁷⁹ Latvia, Law on Associations and foundations (*Biedrību un nodibinājumu likums*), adopted on 30 October 2003, Articles 24 and 29, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=81050>

¹⁸⁰ Latvia, Law on Public Organizations and their Unions (*Par sabiedriskajām organizācijām un to apvienībām*), adopted on 15 December 1992, Articles 4 and 6, available in Latvian at <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=62836>

¹⁸¹ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Association of Journalists of Latvia (*Latvijas Žurnālistu asociācija*) by e-mail, 17 March 2015.

¹⁸² Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Association of Track and Field Athletics of Latvia (*Vieglatlētikas savienība*) by phone, 19 March 2015.

¹⁸³ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Latvian Ice Hockey Federation (*Latvijas Hokeja federācija*) by phone, 20 March 2015.

	information and raising awareness initiatives in more languages, translation and language support services etc.	or other persons with migrant background in their work. The Union of Theatrical Stage Employees of Latvia informs that it has not invested targeted efforts to encourage and support the membership of Third-Country Nationals in its work, because the origin of its members is not considered relevant. ¹⁸⁴
	What is the rate of participation in the most representative professional associations? (figures and % of association members, figures and % of migrant professionals as members, or descriptive data if statistical data is not available)	Representative statistics or survey data on members of professional associations are not available. The Association of Journalists of Latvia indicates that it does not have members of migrant background. The Association of Track and Field Athletics of Latvia and the Latvian Ice Hockey Federation report that they most certainly have members with migrant background, however, exact data is not available. The Union of Theatrical Stage Employees of Latvia reports that it has members of migrant background, however statistical data is unavailable.
	Are migrants elected as representatives of professional associations related to the media, sports and culture? Please provide figures if available, and report the related legal or practical limitations or barriers, eventually faced.	The Association of Journalists of Latvia reports that no journalist with migrant background has been elected as either its representative or to any other official post in the Association. The Association asserts, however, that there are no legal or practical limitations or barriers to the participation of journalists with migrant background in its work. The Association of Track and Field Athletics of Latvia and the Latvian Ice Hockey Federation inform that currently no person with migrant background is represented on their Boards. The Union of Theatrical Stage Employees of Latvia informs that currently no person of migrant background serves on its Board.
	Is there a visible or notable presence (or absence) of migrants and their descendants as media professionals?	Safeguards for ensuring social diversity in professional, management and board functions in private and public media are not enshrined in either the Law on the Press and Other Mass Media ¹⁸⁵ (<i>Par presi un citiem masu informācijas līdzekļiem</i>) or the Law on Electronic Mass Media ¹⁸⁶ (<i>Elektronisko plašsaziņas līdzekļu likums</i>), which regulate media work in Latvia. According to the information provided by the public service media – Latvian Radio (<i>LR</i>) ¹⁸⁷ and Latvian Television (<i>LTV</i>) ¹⁸⁸ – the Labour Law, as well as the labour and internal regulations are complied with during recruitment, employment and dismissal. LR believes that the existing scope of regulation is sufficient for guaranteeing equality, therefore there is no need to develop additional internal rules pertaining to the representation of various ethnic and social groups. Both LR and LTV

¹⁸⁴ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Union of Theatrical Stage Employees of Latvia (*Latvijas teātra darbinieku savienība*) by phone 25 March 2015.

¹⁸⁵ Latvia, Law on the Press and Other Mass Media (*Par presi un citiem masu informācijas līdzekļiem*), adopted on 20.12.1990, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=64879>

¹⁸⁶ Latvia, Law on Electronic Mass Media (*Elektronisko plašsaziņas līdzekļu likums*), adopted on 12.07.2010, available in Latvian at <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=214039>

¹⁸⁷ Latvia, Latvian Radio (*Latvijas Radio*), Letter No. 175/1-11n, 1 November 2013.

¹⁸⁸ Latvia, information provided to the LCHR by the Latvian Television (*Latvijas Televīzija*) by e-mail, 15 November 2013.

		<p>point out that there are representatives of different ethnic background among their staff.</p> <p>A number of commercial media outlets¹⁸⁹ state that their internal regulations and personnel selection practices comply with the equality principle enshrined in the Labour Law. For example, the human resources policy of <i>SIA Dienas Mediji</i> provides for equal treatment of its employees without discrimination on the grounds of origin, gender, social or property status, race, ethnic belonging, religious belonging or sexual orientation".¹⁹⁰</p> <p>Several media outlets inform that they have not developed internal regulations for ensuring social diversity in either professional, management or board functions.¹⁹¹</p> <p>In reality, media preference in Latvia is largely divided across ethno-linguistic lines. Radio and TV channels, as well as print media, which cater to the Russian-speaking audience, employ representatives of national minorities, who may be also migrants or their descendants. There is, however, a notable near-absence of representatives of national minorities as media professionals in outlets, whose main target audience are Latvian-speakers.¹⁹²</p>
	<p>Are migrants and/or their descendants present, visible and actively participating in public? (E.g. in public events, TV and electronic media, cultural events). Please substantiate on the basis of existing data or contacts with relevant authorities, actors and stakeholders, making sure to cover a wide spectrum and obtain as much as possible objective information.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Culture does not have data or studies on the participation of migrants and their descendants in public events, TV and electronic media, or cultural events.¹⁹³ The Association of Journalists of Latvia also points out that there are no studies or reports on migrant and their descendent presence and visibility in TV and the electronic media.¹⁹⁴</p> <p>A study, published in 2013, notes that LTV broadcasts mainly in Latvian (while LTV1 broadcasts only in the Latvian language, the second channel of LTV – LTV7 - provides a limited amount of Russian language programming, including news bulletins on weekday evenings) and that the overall visibility of Russian speakers in it is low. As a result, many Russian speakers do not recognize themselves as part of the image of the national community, which is constructed by the public broadcaster and feel excluded from this version of the national "we", or do not see LTV as a welcoming place. Therefore, LTV is characterised by national minorities as television oriented towards ethnic Latvian audience only.¹⁹⁵</p>

¹⁸⁹ Information provided to the LCHR by the internet portal www.apollo.lv by e-mail, 29 October 2013; by newspaper owner AS Lauku Avīze by e-mail, 31 October 2013; by owner of several print media SIA Dienas Mediji by e-mail, 4 November 2013.

¹⁹⁰ Information provided to the LCHR by the SIA Dienas Mediji by e-mail, 4 November 2013.

¹⁹¹ Information provided to the LCHR by the SIA Žurnāls Santa by e-mail, 31 October 2013.

¹⁹² Latvia, "How democratic is Latvia? A Democracy Audit 2005-2014", Rozenvalds J. (eds), Institute of Social and Political Research, University of Latvia, available in Latvian at:

http://www.szf.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/szf_faili/Petnieciba/Demokratijas_audits_2014_kopaa.pdf

¹⁹³ Latvia, information provided to the LCHR by the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*) by e-mail, 13 March 2015

¹⁹⁴ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Association of Journalists of Latvia (*Latvijas Žurnālistu asociācija*) by e-mail, 17 March 2015

¹⁹⁵ Juzefovics J. (2013), Television news preferences and a sense of belonging among the Russian-speaking minority in post-communist Latvia: the case of Panorāma and Vremya, available at:

http://www.academia.edu/5099283/Television_News_Preferences_and_a_Sense_of_Belonging_among_the-Russian-speaking_Minority_in_Post-Communist_Latvia

		<p>The Council of Europe notes that the media environment overall remains divided between the two main socio-linguistic groups with little interaction and few bilingual options, which further exacerbates the division. The representation of national minorities in the media is often based on stereotypes and prejudice, while the Mass Media Council, mandated among other matters to oversee the content of TV and radio broadcasts, is not considered objective by minority representatives.¹⁹⁶ The Council of Europe recommends to Latvia to promote a more diverse media environment with adequate opportunities for persons belonging to national minorities to access quality media in their languages; ensure that the content of media is independently monitored with the participation of minority representatives and enhance the role of media in the promotion of social cohesion, including through the increased use of bilingual media outlets.</p> <p>96 national minority collectives, representing an increase of 81% if compare with the data from 2008, took part in the Nation-wide Song and Dance Festival of Latvia in 2013.¹⁹⁷</p> <p>The Mikhail Chekhov Riga Russian theatre, established in 1883, is the oldest such establishment outside Russia.¹⁹⁸ Performances are done in Russian, thereby attracting a predominantly Russian-speaking audience. The theatre benefits from the financial backing of the Ministry of Culture and the Fund for the Cultural Capital of Latvia. The Daugavpils Theatre, which is based in the second biggest city of Latvia, which, in addition, hosts the highest percentage of national minorities state-wide (82,1% in 2013), performs plays in both Latvian and Russian. It also receives financial support from the Ministry of Culture as well as the Fund for the Cultural Capital of Latvia.¹⁹⁹</p>
	<p>Are there legal or practical limitations for the media, culture or other type of public events by migrants and/or their descendants? (E.g. are there national language requirements for TV or radio stations, bureaucratic and representation requirements, etc.)</p>	<p>The Law on Electronic Mass Media stipulates that social integration shall be promoted on the basis of the Latvian language, simultaneously envisaging rights to use minority and other languages in electronic mass media. The Law sets forth that national and regional electronic mass media should broadcast at least 65% of its programmes, except advertisements and the TV-shop, in the state language and that programmes in the state language should account for at least 65 per cent of transmission time. Thereby electronic mass media are free to broadcast in other languages,</p>

¹⁹⁶ Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers, Resolution CM/ResCMN(2014)9 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Latvia, 9 July 2014, available at <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2215943&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383>

¹⁹⁷ Latvia, National Centre for Culture of Latvia (*Latvijas nacionālais kultūras centrs*), Song and Dance Festival in Latvia: a business project or the soul of the nation (*Dziesmu un deju svētki Latvijā; Biznesa projekts vai nācījas dvēsele*), p. 7, available in Latvian at: http://www.lnkc.gov.lv/Uploads/2014/10/28/1414506864_6529.pdf

¹⁹⁸ Latvia, Website of the Mikhail Chekhov Riga Russian theatre, available in English at: <http://www.trd.lv/en/theatre/theatre-today>

¹⁹⁹ Latvia, Website of the Daugavpils Theater, available in English at: https://www.daugavpilsteatris.lv/par_teatri.php

		<p>including national minority languages, for at least 35 per cent of the transmission time. Article 28 of the Law (<i>The Language of Broadcast and Advertisement</i>) determines that all programs are broadcast in one language – either Latvian or a foreign language²⁰⁰. TV broadcasts in foreign languages, except from live broadcasts, news and language learning broadcasts, should be provided with subtitles in Latvian language. It also envisages that in case if the Cabinet of Ministers concludes that the use of the state language is endangered or its use or penetration is essentially insufficient in some of the territory of the state, the Cabinet of Ministers may take measures to promote the state language usage in that territory. Article 71 of the Law (<i>Public Procurement</i>) determines that public procurement is a totality of measures aimed at: "2) facilitating the fulfillment of human rights and fundamental freedoms; 6) facilitating society integration and unity on the basis of the Latvian language; 7) envisaging broadcasts for minority groups and persons with special needs". In practice, public and private television and radio stations broadcast programmes in Latvian and also in minority languages, mainly Russian. The use of minority languages in print media is not limited by the Law on Press and Other Mass Media (<i>Par presi un citiem masu informācijas līdzekļiem</i>).²⁰¹ The State Language Law recognises the rights of minorities to use any language in private. According to the Law, the use of the state language is mandatory only in cases, where the activities of private undertakings, organizations or institutions affect legitimate public interests (such as public security, health care, etc.), and taking into account the rights and interests of the private undertakings concerned.²⁰² Public events organised by private persons and private organisations can be held in other languages than Latvian. The Law does not regulate language use in unofficial communication among individuals, internal communication of ethnic and national groups or during religious activities.</p>
	<p>Are there positive measures for promoting or restrictions/barriers to the operation of migrant and ethnic minority (owned,</p>	<p>On 6 May 2014, the government granted EUR 682,399 for the improvement of Latvian public media (TV and radio) content in the Russian language to strengthen local programming and provide alternative sources of information in Russian²⁰³. This funding is earmarked for the production and broadcasting of content in</p>

²⁰⁰ According to the State Language Law, the official language in the Republic of Latvia is the Latvian language. Any other language used in the Republic of Latvia, except the Liv language, shall be regarded, within the meaning of this Law, as a foreign language.

²⁰¹ Latvia, Law on the Press and Other Mass Media (*Par presi un citiem masu informācijas līdzekļiem*), adopted on 20.12.1990, available in Latvian at <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=64879>

²⁰² Latvia, State Language Law (*Valsts valodas likums*), adopted on 09.12.1999, Article 2. para.2., available in Latvian at <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=14740>

²⁰³ LETA (2014) 'LTV satura uzlabošanai krievu valodā piešķir vairāk nekā pusmiljonu', 6 May 2014, www.diena.lv/latvija/zinas/papildinats-16-38-ltv-satura-uzlabosanai-krievu-valoda-pieskir-vairak-neka-pusmiljonu-14054445.

<p>directed or audience specific) media?</p>	<p>Russian on channel LTV7 (broadcasting in both Latvian and Russian), Latvian Radio Chanel 4 (broadcasting in Russian and other national minority languages) and the internet portal of Latvian public media lsm.lv. As a result, starting from September 2014, LTV7 introduced four new programmes in Russian, aimed at provision of information to Russian-speaking residents. These programs include a morning news programme, an analytical weekly programme, a political discussion and an interview show. Several new programs were also introduced on Latvia’s Radio Channel 4. The Russian-language section of the public media internet webpage www.lsm.lv was also expanded.</p> <p>To counter Russia’s propaganda²⁰⁴ and to promote the belonging of local ethnic minorities to the Latvian state, as well as to encourage integration, on 19 March 2015, the National Council on Electronic Mass Media (<i>Nacionālā elektronisko plašsaziņas līdzekļu padome</i>) approved a conceptual decision on the establishment of a Russian-language TV channel. It is planned that the channel will also broadcast special programs for the residents of Latgale (a region in Eastern Latvian).²⁰⁵ However, the establishment of the third LTV channel must yet be approved by the government</p>
<p>Are there practical measures encouraging and promoting the visibility, voice and public presence of migrants and/or their descendants in the media, culture or other type of public events? (E.g. are there programmes and information provided by the media in other than the country official language, and migrants’ languages, quotas for journalists and public programmes reflecting the diversity in society etc.?)</p>	<p>Overall, the structure of mass media ensures the functioning of all channels and types of media in two languages – Latvian and Russian. However, challenges concerning the offer in other national minorities’ languages and guaranteeing quality news broadcasts about Latvia in Russian on public TV persist.²⁰⁶</p> <p>In general, non-Latvians more often choose to watch TV channels, which either retransmit Russian channels or base their content on programmes purchased from the latter. A relatively small number of non-Latvians watch commercial TV channels broadcasting in Latvian, and that their interest in state-owned TV, including LTV7, which broadcasts some of its content in Russian, is very low, in particular, in Latgale (Eastern Latvia).²⁰⁷ According to the results of the poll conducted in 2014, 77.8 % of the respondents who speak Latvian at home watch either only Latvian television channels or they watch Latvian television channels more frequently than Russian ones. Conversely, such a practice is characteristic of only 8.7 % of the Russian-speaking</p>

²⁰⁴ Latvia, A. Dimants, Chairmen of the National Electronic Mass Media Council: Against censored media propaganda, for a strong national information space (*A. Dimants, NEPLP priekšsēdētājs: Pret cenzēto mediju propogandu, par stipru nacionālo informācijas telpu*), 6 February 2015, available in Latvian at: <http://lato.lv/2015/02/a-dimants-neplp-priekssedetajs-pret-cenzeto-mediju-propogandu-par-stipru-nacionalo-informacijas-telpu/>

²⁰⁵ Latvia, the National Council on Electronic Mass Media (*Nacionālā elektronisko plašsaziņas līdzekļu padome – NEPLP*), Information about NEPLP meeting on 19 March (*Informācija par NEPLP sēdi 19. martā*), available in Latvian at: <http://neplpadome.lv/lv/sakums/padome/padomes-sedes/sedes-sadalas/informacija-par-neplp-sedi-19.marta.html>

²⁰⁶ Latvia, Mass Media in a Democratic Society by Ojārs Skudra, Ilze Šulmane, Vita Dreijere, p. 198, in “How democratic is Latvia? A Democracy Audit 2005-2014”, Rozenvalds J. (eds), Institute of Social and Political Research, University of Latvia, available at http://www.szf.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/szf_faiļi/Petnieciba/Demokratijas_audits_2014_kopaa.pdf

²⁰⁷ Latvia, National Council for Electronic Mass Media (*Nacionālā elektronisko plašsaziņas līdzekļu padome*) (2013), Concept Paper on the Establishment of new electronic public media (*Koncepcija par jauna Latvijas sabiedriskā elektroniskā medija izveidi*), p. 42, 44, available in Latvian at <http://neplpadome.lv/lv/sakums/sabiedriskie-mediji/sabiedriskais-pasutijums/jaunais-sabiedriskais-elektroniskais-medijs/> and accessed on 25 March 2015

		<p>respondents. The poll suggests that 84.1 % of the Russian-speaking respondents watch only Russian television channels or they watch Russian television channels more frequently than Latvian ones. The proportion of Latvian-speaking respondents with such television watching habits is 15.2 %.²⁰⁸</p> <p>Although the Latvian Radio 4 (state radio broadcasting programme), which is also considered to be an integration programme, broadcasts mainly in the Russian language, it also offers programs by national culture associations in 12 other languages, including Estonian, Lithuanian, Polish, Belarusian, Ukrainian, Hebrew, Georgian and German, lasting 30 minutes each.²⁰⁹ The main topics are cultural issues, national traditions, latest news from associations and contacts with the ethnic homeland. LR4 in the Russian language is one of the positive examples in the sphere of public media confirming the ability of its creators to speak to its audiences.²¹⁰ Thus LR4 is popular among national minorities, whereas the other four public radio channels garner low interest from this group.²¹¹</p> <p>As noted above, in September 2014 the Latvian Television added four new original programs in Russian on LTV7.</p> <p>Print media in Latvia is divided in Latvian- and Russian-language media, differing significantly in terms of content, tone, viewpoint, arguments and information sources. Six national minorities in Latvia (including the Ukrainians, Belarusians, Armenians and Poles) have their own newspapers or bulletins, issued in either their minority language or in a bilingual format.²¹² Only one national daily is currently published in a language other than the state language and it is Vesti Segodnya (Вести Сегодня) in Russian. Two regional Russian-language dailies – Ventas Balss (Вентас Балсс) and Kurzemes Vards (Курземес Вардс) are also available. There are a high number of regional and national different periodicals in the Russian language, published at various frequencies.²¹³</p>
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²⁰⁸ Latvia, “How democratic is Latvia? A Democracy Audit 2005-2014”, Rozenvalds J. (eds), p. 17, Institute of Social and Political Research, University of Latvia, available at

http://www.szf.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/szf_faili/Petnieciba/Demokratijas_audits_2014_kopaa.pdf

²⁰⁹ Latvia, Latvian Radio 4, Broadcasts of national cultural associations (*Nacionālo kultūras biedrību raidījumi*), available in Russian at: <http://lr4.lsm.lv/lv/lr4/peredachi/peredachi-nacionalnih-kulturnih-obschestv/>

²¹⁰ Latvia, Mass Media in a Democratic Society by Ojārs Skudra, Ilze Šulmane, Vita Dreijere, p. 200, in “How democratic is Latvia? A Democracy Audit 2005-2014”, Rozenvalds J. (eds), Institute of Social and Political Research, University of Latvia, available at http://www.szf.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/szf_faili/Petnieciba/Demokratijas_audits_2014_kopaa.pdf

²¹¹ Latvia, National Council for Electronic Mass Media (NEPL Padome), Concept Paper on the Establishment of new electronic public media, p. 42, available in Latvian at <http://neplpadome.lv/lv/sakums/sabiedriskie-mediji/sabiedriskais-pasutijums/jaunais-sabiedriskais-elektroniskais-medijs/> and accessed on 25 March 2015

²¹² Latvia, Second Report Submitted by Latvia Pursuant to Article 25, Paragraph 1 of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Received on 3 September 2012, available at http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/minorities/3_FCNMdocs/PDF_2nd_SR_Latvia_en.pdf

²¹³ Latvia, Latvian Postal Service (Latvijas Pasts), Catalogue of newspapers in Russian language, available at: https://abone.pasts.lv/lv/latvijas_preses_izdevumi/laikraksti_ru/page_0.

3.5.1. Diversity in the public sector

In this section based on available data, research, studies, etc. please provide information about recruitment of migrants and their descendants in the public sector:

Please describe how legal provisions allow or prevent the recruitment of third country nationals in the public sector. Please indicate specific areas, requirements, quotas if any, upward mobility and promotion limitations if any, as well as if and how these provisions are applied in practice.

The Constitution of Latvia stipulates that all Latvian citizens have the right to take part in the work of state and municipal authorities, as well as to provide civil service in line with relevant legislation.²¹⁴ According to the State Civil Service Law a person may be a candidate for a civil service position if he/ she is a citizen of the Republic of Latvia and is fluent in the Latvian language.²¹⁵

In line with relevant legislation, a number of posts in the public sector are reserved solely to citizens. These include President of the State, Minister, official in the civil service, Constitutional judge, judge, prosecutor, employee of the state security service, diplomatic and consular service, State Controller, employee of the Bureau for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption, member of the Board of Public Services Regulator, member of the Central Election Commission, state, municipal and port policeman, prison security guard, employee of the State Fire and Rescue Service, border guard, soldier, official at the State Revenue Service, official at the State Labour Inspectorate, official at State Civil Registration office, as well as any other post, which entails access to the state secret.²¹⁶

The Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030 states that, in order to approximate the administration to the society as much as possible, it should respect the existing social diversity and observe the principle of equal rights of different groups of the society also in the field of management of administrative personnel.²¹⁷ In practice, however, diversity management has not been developed at either state, public service or institutional levels. State and municipal authorities do not have guidelines on how best to involve representatives of various social groups, including migrants, in their work. Lack of diversity management policy also prevents the identification of reasons, which underpin the unequal representation of various ethnic groups in the public sector in Latvia.²¹⁸

²¹⁴ Latvia, The Constitution of the Republic of Latvia (*Latvijas Republikas Satversme*), adopted on 15 February 1922, Article 101, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57980>

²¹⁵ Latvia, State Civil Service Law (*Valsts civildienesta likums*), adopted on 07 September 2009, Article 7 (1), available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=10944>

²¹⁶ Latvia, Latvian Committee of Human Rights (*Latvijas Cilvēktiesību kmiteja*) (2013), List of differences among the rights enjoyed by citizens and non-citizens of Latvia (*Latvijas pilsoņu un nepilsoņu tiesību atšķirību saraksts*), p. 36-37, available in Latvian at: <http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/site/record/docs/2013/10/11/LVCitizens2013.pdf>

²¹⁷ Latvia, Saeima of the Republic of Latvia (2010), Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030, p. 93, available in English at: http://www.cbs.nl/NR/rdonlyres/B7A5865F-0D1B-42AE-A838-FBA4CA31674D/0/Latvia_2010.pdf

²¹⁸ Latvia, M. Golubeva, I. Kažoka, O. Rastrigina (2011), Diversity management in the public sector: experience of developed countries and an assessment of the situation in Latvia. (*Dažādības vadība publiskajā sektorā: attīstīto valstu pieredze un Latvijas situācijas novērtējums*), p. 3, available in Latvia at: http://providus.lv/upload_file/Publikacijas/2011/Marija%20Golubeva_Zinojums_Dazadibas%20vadiba.pdf

		<p>The Council of Europe notes that, following legislative amendments, which restrict the access of “non-citizens” to a number of public positions, the sense of inequality experienced by many permanently residing “non-citizens” has increased, as they consider their employment rights limited in comparison with EU citizens.²¹⁹</p>
	<p>Please indicate if citizens of migrant descent can also be affected by limitation – e.g on the basis of their ethnic origin or migrant background or naturalisation - in public sector recruitment, for example in education, law enforcement, judiciary, etc.</p>	<p>In terms of relevant legislation, citizens with migrant background are not affected by said limitations, as long as they meet the rest of the requirements, which are the same for all citizens, irrespective of their descent.</p> <p>Responsible authorities express a view that obstacles to the participation of national minorities and citizens of migrant descent in the work of the public service in Latvia do not exist. In practice, however, the understanding of discrimination at a workplace varies greatly among public sector employees. The state has not invested sufficient efforts in educating heads of institutions and HR departments on indirect discrimination or structural obstacles to the involvement of minorities in the public sector.²²⁰</p>
	<p>Please indicate proportion of recruitment (% on the total of posts for this category or service) for the interested categories of third country nationals, if any</p>	<p>As noted above, TCNs and non-citizens are not eligible to enter a range of posts in the Latvian public sector. The State Chancellery asserts that information on the ethnic background or migration history of eligible candidates is neither required nor taken into account during recruitment for the civil service.²²¹</p> <p>Research published in 2010, demonstrates that in 2007, 37% of Latvian employees were employed by state or local governments, NGOs, or publicly owned (by at least 50%) enterprises, whereas the respective figure for national minority representatives was only 24%. The proportion of minorities among employees in the public sector was below 20%, or less than a half of their overall share of the population.²²² Data published in 2014 reveals that in 2013, a total of 23.4% of employees in public sector were non-Latvians.²²³</p> <p>A survey held in 2011 within the framework of a study on diversity management in the public sector demonstrated that only 49% of those surveyed</p>

²¹⁹ Resolution CM/ResCMN(2014)9 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Latvia (*Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 9 July 2014*), available at: <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2215943&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383>

²²⁰ Latvia, M. Golubeva, I. Kažoka, O. Rastrigina (2011), Diversity management in the public sector: experience of developed countries and an assessment of the situation in Latvia. (*Dažādības vadība publiskajā sektorā: attīstīto valstu pieredze un Latvijas situācijas novērtējums*), p. 18-19, available in Latvia at: http://providus.lv/upload_file/Publikācijas/2011/Marija%20Golubeva_Zinojums_Dazadibas%20vadiba.pdf

²²¹ Latvia, State Chancellery (Valsts kanceleja), Letter No. L-192-jur, 02 february 2015.

²²² Latvia, Hazans M., Ethnic Minorities in the Latvian Labour Market, 1997-2009, p. 144-145; N. Muižnieks (ed.) How Integrated is Latvian Society? LU, 2010, available at: http://www.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/lu_portal/zinas/Integracija_anglu.pdf

²²³ Hazans M., Kļave E., Zepa B. (2014), Research on elaboration of the Non-discrimination policy monitoring system (*Pētījums par pretdiskriminācijas politikas uzraudzības sistēmas izstrādi*), p. 73, available in Latvian at: http://www.sif.gov.lv/images/files/SIF/progress-dazadiba/Petijums_diskr_final.pdf

	<p>Please indicate any affirmative action and positive action either for third country nationals or citizens with a migrant background, if any, e.g. quotas, reserved posts for people of migrant background etc. as well as promising practices in this area. Please provide information specifically for law enforcement, judiciary, and education.</p>	<p>considered it necessary to promote the participation of national minorities in the work of the public sector.²²⁴</p> <p>There is no affirmative action or other specific measures for TCNs or citizens with migrant background to encourage their participation in the public sector. The State Chancellery informs that ethnic background and migration history do not impact the chances of a candidate to join the civil service, therefore specific measures to promote the inclusion of citizens with migrant background have not, to date, been taken.²²⁵</p> <p>Some activities have, however, been implemented by NGOs or state institutions to raise awareness of diversity management in the public sector. In 2013, the Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS (<i>Sabiedriskās politikas centrs PROVIDUS</i>), in cooperation with the Latvian School of Public Administration (<i>Valsts administrācijas skola</i>) implemented a project "Intercultural and Diversity Management Training system for public sector employees" with financing from EIF.²²⁶ In 2014, three training courses "Diversity management" for high-level officials from state institutions were organized by the Society Integration Foundation (<i>Sabiedrības integrācijas fonds</i>).²²⁷</p>
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3.6. Political activity – active citizenship

	<p>Membership and participation of migrants in migrant and/or diaspora organisations and associations:</p> <p>Are there any legal or practical limitations or barriers for the self-organisation membership of migrants in migrant and or diaspora associations and organisations?</p>	<p>Everyone has the right to found and join associations and foundations in Latvia.²²⁸ Likewise, all persons, who are at least 16 years old, have the right to found and join public organizations and their unions.²²⁹ Only individuals, who are at least 18 years old and whose declared place of residence is Latvia, have the right to perform leading functions at public organizations and their unions.²³⁰</p>
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²²⁴ Latvia, M. Golubeva, I. Kažoka, O. Rastrigina (2011), Diversity management in the public sector: experience of developed countries and an assessment of the situation in Latvia. (*Dažādības vadība publiskajā sektorā: attīstīto valstu pieredze un Latvijas situācijas novērtējums*), p. 22, available in Latvia at: http://providus.lv/upload_file/Publikācijas/2011/Marija%20Golubeva_Zinojums_Dazadibas%20vadiba.pdf

²²⁵ Latvia, State Chancellery (Valsts kanceleja), Letter No. L-192-jur, 02 february 2015.

²²⁶ Latvia, PROVIDUS, Intercultural and Diversity Management Training system for public sector employees (*Starpkultūru un dažādības vadības mācību sistēmas izveide publiskā sektora darbiniekiem*), available in Latvian at:

<http://providus.lv/article/starpkulturu-un-dazadibas-vadibas-macibu-sistemas-izveide-publiska-sektora-darbiniekiem>

²²⁷ Latvia, Society integration Foundation (*Sabiedrības integrācijas fonds*), New training course "Diversity management" for high level officials of state institutions (*Jauns apmācību kurss "Dažādības vadība" valsts pārvaldes iestāžu vadošajām amatpersonām*), available in Latvian at:

http://www.sif.gov.lv/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9227%3AJauns-apmacibu-kurss-%E2%80%9EDAZADIBAS-VADIBA-valsts-parvaldes-iestazu-vadosajam-amatpersonam&catid=2%3Afonds&Itemid=30&lang=lv

²²⁸ Latvia, Law on Associations and foundations (*Biedrību un nodibinājumu likums*), adopted on 30 october 2003, Articles 23 and 29, available in Latvian at <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=81050>

²²⁹ Latvia, Law on Public Organizations and their Unions (*Par sabiedriskajām organizācijām un to apvienībām*), adopted on 15 december 1992, Articles 4 and 6, available in Latvian at <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=62836>

²³⁰ Latvia, Law on Public Organizations and their Unions (*Par sabiedriskajām organizācijām un to apvienībām*), adopted on 15 december 1992, Articles 5, available in Latvian at <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=62836>

		<p>The Law on Religious Organizations²³¹ stipulates that at least 20 Latvian citizens or persons, who are registered in the Population Register, aged 18 or above, must be among the founders of religious organizations. Any resident of Latvia can become a member of such an organization.</p>
	<p>Are there notable cases of active migrant and/or diaspora associations and organisations? Please indicate the most known, active or representative ones on the basis of existing data about membership – please include size/numbers of members - and through contacts with competent actors and stakeholders. Please specify their character and eventual differences, including aspects concerning their religious, culture or geographic scope.</p>	<p>Public opinion surveys reveal that the rate of participation in civil society organizations in Latvia is generally rather low. It is, however, higher among ethnic Latvians (37.9%) than non-Latvians (24.3%).²³² Representative statistics or survey data on the members of NGOs, participation rates of TCNs in civil society organizations and the number of civil society organizations established by migrants in Latvia, are not available. Neither the Ministry of Culture²³³, nor the National Integration Centre²³⁴ collects this information. According to the Ministry of Culture, in-depth research on national minority and migrant participation, including the establishment and work of NGOs, will be conducted in 2015 and results will be available at the end of the year.²³⁵ Around 1% of all civil society organizations in Latvia are established by foreign residents (mostly, business organizations, such as chambers of commerce, business councils or trade institutes).²³⁶ Only a few of them directly represent the interests of migrants, promote their social, economic and political rights or provide permanent services to TCNs residing in Latvia. Information gathered from media, internet sources (e.g. data bases of enterprises) and personnel contacts indicates that TCNs have set up seven NGOs with the aim to facilitate social integration of the relevant community and to promote development of intercultural dialogue in Latvia: Afro-Latvian Association,²³⁷ Arabic Cultural Centre,²³⁸ Latvian Lebanese Cultural Association,²³⁹ Latvian Federation of Overseas Chinese Compatriots,²⁴⁰ European Union Syrians Association,²⁴¹ Nigerian European Business</p>

²³¹ Latvia, Law on Religious Organizations (*Reliģisko organizāciju likums*), adopted on 7 September 1995, Article 7, available in Latvian at <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=36874>

²³² Latvia, Latvijas Fakti (2013), Public opinion on the Latvian NGO Sector (*Sabiedrības viedoklis par NVO sektoru Latvijā*), available in Latvian at http://nvo.lv/site/attachments/03/11/2014/Iedzivotaju_aptauja.pdf

²³³ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*) by e-mail, 13 March 2015.

²³⁴ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the National Integration Centre (*Nacionālais integrācijas centrs*) by e-mail, 05 January 2015.

²³⁵ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Ministry of Culture by e-mail on 6 January 2015.

²³⁶ Latvia, Statistics of Lursoft: countries of the founders of civil society organizations, associations and foundations (*Lursoft statistika: sabiedrisko organizāciju, biedrību un nodibinājumu dibinātāju valstis*), available at: https://www.lursoft.lv/lursoft_statistika/?&id=40

²³⁷ Latvia, Afro-Latvian Association, Database of the Lursoft: <http://company.lursoft.lv/afrolatviska-asociacija/40008077837>

²³⁸ Latvia, Arabic Cultural Centre in Latvia, website: <http://www.bakc.lv/en/>

²³⁹ Latvia, Latvian Lebanese Cultural Association, Database of the Lursoft: <http://company.lursoft.lv/latvijas-libanas-kulturas-biedriba/50008094491>

²⁴⁰ Latvia, Latvian Federation of Overseas Chinese Compatriots, Database of the Lursoft: <http://company.lursoft.lv/the-latvian-federation-of-oversea-chinese-compatriots/40008185835>

²⁴¹ Latvia, The European Union Syrian Association, website: <http://ngolatvia.lv/en/component/organizcijas/201?view=organizcija>

		<p>Network²⁴² and the Iraqi society in Latvia "IBL"²⁴³. Although there are more than 250 NGOs (mostly cultural associations) established by national minorities traditionally living in Latvia,²⁴⁴ newcomers from countries such as Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, etc. either do not join any association or join the various national cultural societies and diaspora organizations.²⁴⁵ According to the Statutes of said seven migrant organizations, all of them were established with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to bring together community members living in Latvia and to strengthen their sense of national identity and belonging; • to provide practical and legal assistance to community members in such areas as employment and entrepreneurship, education and health, communication with public authorities, rights violations, etc.; • to promote intercultural dialogue and interaction among different cultures in Latvia, thereby contributing to the social integration in Latvia; • to encourage and strengthen cultural, social and economic ties between the particular kin state and Latvia.
	<p>Please provide any data on the participation of migrants and their descendants in the most representative migrant and/or diaspora organisations and associations? (figures and % of migrants and/or persons with the specific ethnic or other background as members, or descriptive data if statistical data is not available).</p>	<p>The Afro-Latvian Association has 20 members, the Arabic Cultural Centre has 64 members, the Latvian Lebanese Cultural Association has 30 members, the Latvian Association of Overseas Chinese Compatriots has 200 members, the European Union Syrians Association has 18 members, the Nigerian European Business Network has 20 members and the Iraqi society in Latvia "IBL" has 2 members.²⁴⁶ All NGOs mostly focus on TCNs from one country of origin or one ethnic/ linguistic group. For example, AFROLAT and Nigerian European Business Network mainly work with migrants from African countries, while the Arabic Cultural Centre works with Arabs from Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and other Arabic countries. The European Union Syrians Association and recently established Iraqi society in Latvia consolidate mainly beneficiaries of international protection in Latvia, and their main activities are related to provision of assistance to asylum-seekers and refugee or alternative status holders from Syria and Iraq.²⁴⁷ The Islamic Cultural Centre of Latvia reports that about the 2/3 of its active members, of which there are around 400, have migrated to Latvia relatively recently – over the last 10 years. Out of 7 Members currently serving on its Board, 4 are migrants. The Centre does</p>

²⁴² Latvia, Nigerian European Business Network, Database of the Lursoft: <http://company.lursoft.lv/nigerian-european-business-network/40008229222>

²⁴³ Latvia, Iraqi Society in Latvia "IBL", Database of the Lursoft: <http://company.lursoft.lv/iv/ibl/40008231528>

²⁴⁴ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*) by e-mail, 6 January 2015.

²⁴⁵ Latvia, Latvian Centre for Human Rights, Country Analysis „Civic Engagement of Migrants“, Latvia, p. 3

²⁴⁶ Latvia, Latvian Centre for Human Rights (2015), Country Analysis „Civic Engagement of Migrants“, Latvia, p. 5

²⁴⁷ Latvia, Latvian Centre for Human Rights (2015), Country Analysis „Civic Engagement of Migrants“, Latvia, p. 5

		<p>not undertake any steps to promote or support the participation of migrants in its activities, as this is not deemed necessary. Persons with migrant background find their way to the Centre without additional encouragement.²⁴⁸</p> <p>The Union of Ukrainians' Associations in Latvia, which comprises 15 organizations, reports that it has a total of approximately 1000 members. Information on the time of their arrival to Latvia is not collected, and is therefore not available.²⁴⁹ The Association of Georgians of Latvia "Samsoblo" reports that it has 40 members, and, while some of them still hold Georgian citizenship, all have resided in Latvia for more than 25 years.²⁵⁰</p> <p>The Union of Belarusians of Latvia consists of 15 organizations and a total of 948 members. Data on the time of the members' arrival to Latvia is not collected.²⁵¹ The Community of Russians of Latvia comprises around 7000 members and reports that the vast majority of them are long-term residents on Latvian soil; only 3 or 4 persons have arrived after 4 May 1990, when Latvia's independence was restored.²⁵² The Union of Poles of Latvia informs that it has 1410 members; however data on the time of their arrival to Latvia is unavailable.²⁵³</p>
	<p>Are such associations and organisations encouraged and/or supported financially or in other means (e.g. offices) by the national, regional or local authorities? Is there in place a mechanism linking such associations at national level? (e.g. network of migrant associations).</p>	<p>The "Guidelines"²⁵⁴ foresee the strengthening of traditional and non-traditional forms of civic engagement and improving the operational conditions of NGOs. To this end, they envisage the establishment of a national-level coordinating system to support immigrant participation - the National Integration Centre and national level Advisory Council, with the participation of immigrants and representatives of their organizations. Direct support to promote the establishment of migrant NGOs or to strengthen capacity of existing migrant NGOs is not foreseen; however some relevant activities have been financed through EIF.</p> <p>NGOs of national minorities in Latvia report varying levels of municipal support. The Union of Ukrainians' Associations in Latvia and the Union of Belarusians of Latvia inform that they benefit from assistance provided by municipalities, in particular, in Jelgava,</p>

²⁴⁸ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Islamic Cultural Centre of Latvia (*Latvijas Islāma kultūras centrs*) by phone, 26 March 2015.

²⁴⁹ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Union of Ukrainians' Associations in Latvia (*Latvijas Ukraiņu savienība*) by phone, 26 March 2015.

²⁵⁰ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Association of Georgians of Latvia "Samsoblo" (*Latvijas Gruzīnu biedrība Šamsšoblo*) by phone, 26 March 2015.

²⁵¹ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Union of Belarusians of Latvia (*Latvijas Baltkrievu savienība*) by phone, 26 March 2015.

²⁵² Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Community of Russians of Latvia (*Latvijas Krievu sabiedrība*) by phone, 26 March 2015

²⁵³ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Union of Poles of Latvia (*Latvijas Poļu savienība*) by phone, 26 March 2015

²⁵⁴ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Guidelines on National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy (2012-2018) (*Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas pamatnostādnes 2012.-2018. gadam*), adopted 20 October 2011, available in Latvian:

http://www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/ministrija/saliedeta_sabiedriba/KM_bklts_A5_3mm_bleed_02_2012_EN_PRINT.pdf

		<p>Jekabpils, Rezekne, Daugavpils and Riga, as well as other cities. The Union of Poles of Latvia informs that its regional branches also reach out to municipalities for support, and also sometimes receive it; however no particular cities are mentioned. The Community of Russians in Latvia has benefited from some assistance from the Riga Municipality, however mostly it has had to be self-sufficient. The Association of Georgians of Latvia „Samsoblo“, in turn, reports that it does not receive support from either the state or municipalities. Information provided by migrant organizations reveals that they have neither permanent office and staff, nor permanent funding provided by the state or local authorities or membership fees. Migrant organizations can apply for project funding to the Society Integration Foundation, the Ministry of Culture and local authorities. Although most of the project programmes are envisaged for the promotion of intercultural dialogue and participation, strengthening of human rights and prevention of discrimination, there are also grants to support the daily activities of NGOs working with human rights and minority rights issues.²⁵⁵ Three of the seven migrant organizations had applied for funding once or several times (through project competitions organized at national or local level), but none of the submitted project proposals have been approved so far. NGOs explain that the lack of permanent staff, the complicated procedure for submitting applications and previous failures have discouraged them from submitting new project proposals. As a result, the activities of all of these organizations are rather limited, implemented on a voluntary basis and sometimes funded by the organizations' members.²⁵⁶</p> <p>The Riga City Municipality programme for integration of the society for 2012 – 2017²⁵⁷ includes measures on provision of information to immigrants on the operating principles of NGOs in Latvia and on NGOs working with migration issues and immigrants. The programme also aims to provide support to NGOs in engaging and supporting immigrants. Inclusion-related activities were not, however, implemented in 2012-2014, allegedly due to lack of financial resources or quality project proposals submitted by NGOs.²⁵⁸</p> <p>A Dialogue Platform was established in 2013 within the project “Diverse solutions for Public Education and Integration” financed by the EIF, to increase the</p>
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²⁵⁵ Latvia, Society Integration Foundation (*Sabiedrības integrācijas fonds*), EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, available at http://www.sif.gov.lv/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&id=8&Itemid=121&lang=en

²⁵⁶ Latvia, Latvian Centre for Human Rights (2015), Civic engagement of immigrants in Latvia, p.6, available in English at: <http://www.migrant-participation.eu/soubory/48.pdf>

²⁵⁷ Latvia, Riga City Council (*Rīgas Dome*), Riga City Programme for the Integration of the Society for 2012 – 2017 (*Rīgas pilsētas sabiedrības integrācijas programma 2012.-2017. gadam*), adopted on 25 September 2012, available in Latvian at: <http://www.iksd.riga.lv/public/index.html>

²⁵⁸ Latvia, Riga City Council (*Rīgas Dome*), Implementation of the Action Plane of the Riga City Programme for the Integration of the Society for 2012-2014 (*Rīgas pilsētas sabiedrības integrācijas programmas rīcības plans 2012.-2014. gadam. izpilde.*)

		<p>capacity of NGOs acting in the area of migrant integration and encourage their cooperation.²⁵⁹ The Platform's aim is to share information on the latest developments and the needs of TCNs as well as to discuss the planning activities of the EU Foundation for Shelter and Support to Migrants in Latvia, and relevant legislation and policy. The meetings of the Platform also provide an opportunity to debate matters discussed at the Consultative Board for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals and the Supervisory Board for the Implementation of Guidelines on National Identity, Civic Society, and Integration Policy. To date, less than 10 organizations, mostly those who implement projects financed through EIF, are involved in the Platform. Neither of them has been established by migrants.²⁶⁰</p> <p>In addition, an e-platform – www.ngolatvia.lv - has been established by the Society Integration Fund to collect and share data on NGOs in Latvia. While there is no formal network of migrant associations at the national level, this website provides access to information on fellow organizations, their main areas of work, as well as contact information.</p>
<p>Membership and participation of migrants in civil society organisations and voluntary work:</p>		
	<p>Are there any legal or practical limitations or barriers for the membership of migrants in civil society organisations?</p>	<p>There are no legal and practical limitations or barriers to membership of migrants in civil society organizations. As noted above, everyone has the right to found and join associations and foundations in Latvia. Likewise, all persons, who are at least 16 years old, have the right to found and join public organizations and their unions.</p>
	<p>Do civil society organisations encourage and support membership and participation of migrants and/or their descendants? E.g. through information and raising awareness initiatives in more languages, translation and language support services etc.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Culture reports that it does not have information, on whether civil society organizations encourage and support the membership of migrants and their descendants.²⁶¹</p> <p>A number of civil society organizations inform that they do not undertake particular measures to encourage the membership and participation of persons with migrant background in their work.²⁶² Migrants (mainly the youth) are, however, involved as volunteers in the work of some NGOs, for example, the society "Shelter "Safe House""²⁶³ and the Creative association for youth TREPES.²⁶⁴</p> <p>In February 2015, the Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS started a mentor programme to facilitate the engagement of immigrants. It targeted TCNs, recently naturalized Latvian citizens from immigrant</p>

²⁵⁹ Providus (2013), Notiks imigrantu integrācijas jomā aktīvo NVO dialoga platformas pirmā tikšanās. Available at <http://providus.lv/article/notiks-imigrantu-integracijas-joma-aktivo-nvo-dialoga-platfomas-pirma-tiksanas>

²⁶⁰ Latvia, Latvian Centre for Human Rights (2015), Civic engagement of immigrants in Latvia, p.4, available in English at: <http://www.migrant-participation.eu/soubory/48.pdf>

²⁶¹ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*) by e-mail, 13 March 2015.

²⁶² Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Centre for Education Initiatives, the Union of Samaritans of Latvia, the Latvian Red Cross by phone, 19 March 2015.

²⁶³ Latvia, Society "Shelter "Safe House"", website: <http://www.patverums-dm.lv/lv/>

²⁶⁴ Latvia, Creative Association for Youth TREPES, Facebook profile: <https://www.facebook.com/NVOTrepes?fref=nf>

		<p>families as well as non-citizens by promoting their participation in civic activities, forming initiative groups and societies to explore and represent immigrant interests. The programme also foresees an opportunity for participants to receive some funding to implement their participation project.²⁶⁵ The mentor programme builds on the activities of PROVIDUS in 2012, when a training and mentoring programme was implemented, aiming at the development of civic participation skills and strengthening the capacity to engage in policy-making among migrant NGOs.²⁶⁶</p> <p>Information on the e-platform www.ngolatvia.lv is provided in Latvian, Russian and English. In addition, there is a possibility to choose among more than 20 other foreign languages, with the help of google translate. The webpage "Live in Latvia" http://dzivotlatvija.lv/en, created within the project "Diverse solutions for Public Education and Integration" financed through EIF, is also available in Latvian, English and Russian. The webpage provides information on the rights and opportunities of immigrants, including in the area of participation. The webpages of most of the NGOs working in the area of migrant integration and participation are available in Latvian, Russian and English.</p>
	<p>Please provide any data on the participation and membership of migrants and their descendants in the most representative civil society organisations? (figures or % of organisation members, % of migrants and/or with migrant background as members, or descriptive data if statistical data is not available).</p>	<p>Representative statistics or survey data on the members of NGOs and participation rates of TCNs in civil society organizations are not available. NGOs do not collect information on the background of their members and volunteers, nor do they discriminate on the basis of nationality or country of origin.²⁶⁷ Society "Shelter "Safe House"" works with one volunteer, who is a Tajik national.²⁶⁸</p>
<p>Membership and participation of migrants in political parties:</p>		
	<p>Are there any legal or practical limitations or barriers for the membership of migrants in political parties, initiatives (e.g. petitions, signature collections) and movements?</p>	<p>Although the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia stipulates that everyone has the right to join unions, political parties and other social organizations,²⁶⁹ only Latvian citizens, who are eligible to vote in parliamentary elections, have the right to take part in referenda and to initiate legislation.²⁷⁰</p> <p>On 19 January 2012, the Parliament (Saeima) passed amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Saeima</p>

²⁶⁵ Latvia, PROVIDUS (2015), Opportunity: Apply for the PROVIDUS mentor programme (*Iespēja: Piesakies PROVIDUS mentoru programmai*), available in Latvian at: <http://providus.lv/article/iespeja-piesakies-providus-mentoru-programmai>

²⁶⁶ Latvia, PROVIDUS (2012), Capacity building of NGOs representing third country nationals, available in English at: <http://providus.lv/article/capacity-building-of-ngos-representing-third-country-nationals>

²⁶⁷ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Centre for Education Initiatives, the Union of Samaritans of Latvia, the Latvian Red Cross by phone, 19 March 2015.

²⁶⁸ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the society "Shelter "safe House"" by phone, 20 March 2015.

²⁶⁹ Latvia, The Constitution of the Republic of Latvia (*Latvijas Republikas Satversme*), adopted on 15 February 1922, Article 102; available in Latvian at: <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57980>

²⁷⁰ Latvia, Law on Referenda, Initiation of Legislation and the European Citizens' Initiative (*Likums par tautas nobalsošanu, likumu ierosināšanu un Eiropas pilsoņu iniciatīvu*), Article 2, accessed at <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=58065>

		<p>(<i>Saeimas kārtības rullis</i>)²⁷¹, which spells out rules for collective submissions. According to the Rules, a minimum of 10 000 citizens of Latvia, who have reached the age of 16 on the day of filing a submission, are needed to file a collective submission with Saeima. The proposal of the party Harmony Centre (<i>Saskaņas Centrs</i>) to include non-citizens among those entitled to submit collective submissions was voted down twice. The Harmony Centre noted that allowing non-citizens to participate in the dialogue with state authorities would facilitate their integration and increase their trust in the Parliament.²⁷²</p> <p>Only Latvian citizens, who are at least 18 years old, have the right to found political parties. Membership of political parties is open to individuals of at least 18 years of age, who are Latvian citizens or non-citizens, as well as EU citizens, who reside in Latvia. The law determines, however, that if the total number of party members exceeds 400, at least half of them must be Latvian citizens.²⁷³ The political participation of TCNs through parties in Latvia is restricted.</p>
	<p>Do political parties encourage and support membership and participation of migrants and/or their descendants in their activities? E.g. through information and raising awareness initiatives in more languages, translation and language support services etc.</p>	<p>The party "Union of Farmers" (<i>Zemnieku Savienība</i>) reports that it does not differentiate its members across age, gender, ethnicity or any other criterion. The party accepts Latvian citizens, who support the party's programme, and, in line with relevant legislation outlined above, are at least 18 years old and not members of any other political organization. The party claims that other restrictions do not exist.²⁷⁴</p> <p>Political party "Unity" (<i>Vienotība</i>) reports that, to join it as members or supporters, candidates are required to declare their citizenship in the application form. Distinction by any other criterion is neither foreseen nor applied, in line with relevant legislation of Latvia.²⁷⁵</p> <p>The party "For Latvia from the Heart" (<i>No sirds Latvijai</i>) notes that activities of the party comply with the principle of equality and if there is an interest from the society, party's members meet with people and inform them about the party and possible cooperation.²⁷⁶</p> <p>The websites of the six political parties currently represented in the Parliament do not appear to encourage membership and participation of migrants and their descendants in their activities. On the contrary, the webpage of the right-wing national</p>

²⁷¹ Latvia, Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Saeima (*Grozījumi Saeimas kārtības rullī*), adopted on 19 January 2012, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/ta/id/243485-grozijumi-saeimas-kartibas-rulli>

²⁷² Latvia, National News Agency LETA (*Nacionālā ziņu aģentūra LETA*) (20.09.2012.), Deputies will not evaluate HC proposal about the "rights" of non-citizens (*Deputāti nevērtēs SC ierosinājumu par nepilsoņu „tiesībām”*), available in Latvian at: <http://www.tvnet.lv/zinas/latvija/436752-deputati-nevertes-sc-ierosinajumu-par-nepilsonu-tiesibam>

²⁷³ Latvia, Law on Political Parties (*Politisko partiju likums*), adopted on 22 June 2006, Article 12(1), Article 26 and 26 (2), available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=139367>

²⁷⁴ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the party "Union of Farmers" (*Zemnieku Savienība*), by e-mail, 27 January 2015.

²⁷⁵ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the party "Unity" (*Vienotība*), by e-mail, 25 March 2015.

²⁷⁶ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the party "For Latvia from the Heart" by e-mail, 25 March 2015.

		<p>alliance "All for Latvia - Fatherland and Freedom/LNNK" (<i>Nacionālā apvienība "Visu Latvijai - un Tevzemei un Brīvībai/LNNK"</i>) would rather serve to discourage it, as the section on why and how to join the party begins with a statement that the party is against immigration.²⁷⁷ The websites of the three centrist parties – "Unity"²⁷⁸, "Union of Greens and Farmers" (<i>Zaļo un Zemnieku Savienība</i>)²⁷⁹ and "Union of Latvian Regions" (<i>Latvijas Reģionu Apvienība</i>)²⁸⁰ are available in Latvian only. The websites of two parties – centre-left Social Democratic Party "Harmony" (<i>Sociāldemokrātiskā partija Saskaņa</i>)²⁸¹ and centrist "For Latvia from the Heart" (<i>No sirds Latvijai</i>)²⁸² are available both in Latvian and Russian. Information on the website of the right-wing national alliance "All for Latvia - Fatherland and Freedom/LNNK" (<i>Nacionālā apvienība "Visu Latvijai - un Tevzemei un Brīvībai/LNNK"</i>) is presented in Latvian, Russian and English.²⁸³</p>
	<p>Please provide any data on the participation and membership of migrants and their descendants in the political parties, initiatives and movements? (figures or % of party members, % of migrants and/or with migrant background as members, or descriptive data if statistical data is not available)</p>	<p>Representative statistics or survey data on the participation and membership of migrants and their descendants in political parties, initiatives and movements are not available.</p> <p>Two members of the party „Unity“ have foreign citizenship, namely, Danish and British. One member of the party, who is also a Member of the Parliament, has migrant background and double citizenship – Latvian and Lebanese. Another member of the Parliament from this party has acquired Latvian citizenship through naturalisation. Finally, one of the party’s supporters has Nigerian citizenship.</p> <p>The party "Union of Farmers" (<i>Zemnieku Savienība</i>) reports that it has members with migrant background. While the party does not possess data on their exact number, it estimates that persons with migrant background make up a maximum of 5% of its members.</p> <p>The party "For Latvia from the Heart" (<i>No sirds Latvijai</i>) informs that it has one member with migrant background, which constitutes 2.68% of its members.</p>
	<p>Are migrants elected as representatives of political parties, initiatives and movements? Please provide figures if available, and report the related legal or practical</p>	<p>Data on migrants elected as representatives of political parties, initiatives and movements is not publicly available.</p> <p>The party "Union of Farmers" (<i>Zemnieku Savienība</i>) informs that two of its 64 party branches are headed by persons with migrant background.</p>

²⁷⁷ Latvia, website of the National alliance "All for Latvia - Fatherland and Freedom/LNNK" (*Nacionālā apvienība "Visu Latvijai - un Tevzemei un Brīvībai/LNNK"*), available at: <http://www.nacionalaapvieniba.lv/par-mums/pievienojies/>

²⁷⁸ Latvia, website of the party „Union“ (*Vienotība*), available at: <http://vienotiba.lv/>

²⁷⁹ Latvia, website of the "Union of Greens and Farmers" (*Zaļo un Zemnieku Savienība*), available at: <http://www.zzs.lv/index.php?p=8375&lang=1281>

²⁸⁰ Latvia, website of the "Union of Latvian Regions" (*Latvijas Reģionu Apvienība*), available at: <http://latvijasregionuapvieniba.lv/>

²⁸¹ Latvia, website of the Social Democratic Party "Harmony" (*Sociāldemokrātiskā partija Saskaņa*), available at: <http://www.saskana.info/>

²⁸² Latvia, website of the party "To Latvia, from Heart" (*No sirds Latvijai*), available at: <http://nosirdslatvijai.lv/>

²⁸³ Latvia, website of the National alliance "All for Latvia - Fatherland and Freedom/LNNK" (*Nacionālā apvienība "Visu Latvijai - un Tevzemei un Brīvībai/LNNK"*), available at: <http://www.nacionalaapvieniba.lv/>

	limitations or barriers, eventually faced.	According to the party "For Latvia from the Heart" (<i>No sirds Latvijai</i>), no migrants have been elected as its representatives, Board members or to any other elected post in the party.
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3.7.Civic and citizenship education

	The participation of migrants and their descendants (with a distinct linguistic, cultural background) in education:	
	Have teachers of migrant background equal access to employment in education, as teachers? If yes, what is the rate of participation (% of teachers with migrant background at national level)? Are they represented in professional teacher associations? Please identify limitations, challenges and promising practice.	Teachers of migrant background have equal access to employment in education, without restrictions. As teacher is one of the regulated professions in Latvia, relevant qualifications obtained abroad must be recognized in Latvia through the recognition of documents certifying said qualifications by the Academic Information Centre. The Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) does not have data on the rate of participation of teachers with migrant background at national level at its disposal, except for information on the number of guest teachers, who implement education programs for minorities. In the 2014/2015 academic year, there are eight such teachers from Poland, one from Israel, one from Belarus, one from the Ukraine, and one from Lithuania. ²⁸⁴ The National Association of Teachers of Latvia indicates that it does not have members of migrant background. ²⁸⁵
	Are there any particular gender issues?	Data on the gender balance among teachers with migrant background is unavailable. OECD reports, however, that teaching is a highly feminised profession in Latvia and that Latvia's share of male teachers is very low at both primary and secondary levels compared to other OECD countries. In 2012, only 6.5% of teachers in primary education were men, with 16.2% in lower secondary and 19.2% in upper secondary education. ²⁸⁶
	Are parents of migrant background actively participating in the school life? Please provide evidence concerning their participation in parents associations, school and community events and	MoES reports that the parents of pupils are invited to take part in events, organized by schools, where they can familiarize themselves with the cultural diversity of Latvia. ²⁸⁷ A study on the inclusion of newcomers in schools in Riga reveals that the majority of schools report close cooperation with parents. ²⁸⁸ Research on the access of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of

²⁸⁴ Latvia, Ministry of Education and Science (*Izglītības un zinātnes ministrija*), Letter No. 01-12e/54, 03 March 2015.

²⁸⁵ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the National Association of Teacher of Latvia (*Latvijas Nacionālā Skolotāju savienība*) by phone, 25 March 2015.

²⁸⁶ OECD (2014), Teacher Remuneration in Latvia: an OECD Perspective, available at:

http://izm.izm.gov.lv/upload_file/2014/OECD%20Teacher%20Remuneration%20in%20Latvia.pdf

²⁸⁷ Latvia, Ministry of Education and Science (*Izglītības un zinātnes ministrija*), Letter No. 01-12e/54, 03 March 2015.

²⁸⁸ Latvia, Riga City Council's Education, Culture and Sports Department (*Rīgas Domes Izglītības, kultūras un sporta departaments*) and Education Development Centre (*Izglītības attīstības centrs*), Situational Report on the inclusion of newcomers and re-emigrant children in schools in Riga (*Situācijas izpētes apkopojums par jauniebraucēju un reemigrantu bērnu iekļaušanos Rīgas vispārizglītojošajās skolās*), p. 6, available in Latvian at http://www.iksd.riga.lv/upload_file/IKSD_pievienotie/0_2014/2014_05/Situācijas%20izpēte%20jauniebr_Rīgas%20sk_2014.pdf

	<p>extracurricular activities, consultations etc.</p>	<p>international protection to education in Latvia echoes these findings, noting that some schools claim there is close collaboration with the pupils' parents. The study also reveals, however, that the parents themselves consider that they have not been involved in the development and planning of education programs for their children.²⁸⁹</p> <p>In general, it appears that, save for the good practices of individual schools, Latvia lacks a systematic approach towards ensuring a positive learning environment and engagement of parents.²⁹⁰</p>
	<p>Are there extracurricular activities involving and engaging with children and parents of migrant background and/or focussing on civic and citizenship education? Please identify limitations, challenges and promising practice.</p>	<p>The study on the inclusion of newcomers in schools in Riga reveals that schools report organization of class team-building activities among the support measures taken.²⁹¹</p> <p>A number of projects to encourage extracurricular activities, such as support for inter-school civic initiatives, in particular, among Latvian and national minority schools, and an exchange program, which enabled Latvian children to be hosted by national minority families and vice versa, were financed from the state budget in 2012 and 2013.²⁹²</p> <p>Informal educational activities such as inter-cultural camps for children and parents, as well as different workshops, which bring together children from Latvian and TCNs' families, have been organized within the framework of projects financed from EIF annual programme 2007-2012.²⁹³</p>
	<p>Are there provisions for bilingual education? If yes, is it supported by trained teachers and training programmes, curriculum provisions and dedicated school manuals and books?</p>	<p>Provisions contained in the Law on Education²⁹⁴ and the Law on General Education²⁹⁵ foresee the possibility for schools to follow specific minority education programmes (through a bilingual education system), which offer about 50% instruction in the mother tongue in primary and lower secondary school and 40% in upper secondary school. These programmes can include, in addition to the general educational programme, elements relevant to the particular ethnic minority culture.</p>

²⁸⁹ Latvia, Latvian Centre for Human Rights (*Latvijas Cilvēktiesību centrs*), Access to education by asylum seekers, refugees and persons with alternative status in Latvia (*Pētījums par patvēruma meklētāju, bēgļu un personu, kurām piešķirts alternatīvasi statuss, piekļuvi izglītībai Latvijā*), available in Latvian at http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/site/attachments/29/01/2012/Gala_zinojums_ped.pdf, p. 11

²⁹⁰ Māgi E. and Siarova H. (2014), Migrant education opportunities in the Baltic States: strong dependence on the level of school preparedness, p. 18, available at http://www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Baltic-Policy-Paper-2014_FINAL.pdf

²⁹¹ Riga Municipality and Education Development Centre, Situational Report on the inclusion of newcomers and re-emigrant children in schools in Riga, p. 6, accessed at http://www.iksd.riga.lv/upload_file/IKSD_pievienotie/0_2014/2014_05/Situacijas%20izpete%20jauniebr_Rigas%20sk_2014.pdf

²⁹² Latvia, Society Integration Foundation (*Sabiedrības integrācijas fonds*), State budget programme 2002-2015 (*Valsts budžeta programma 2002-2015*), available in Latvian at: http://www.sif.gov.lv/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&id=13&Itemid=178&lang=lv

²⁹³ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (*Eiropas Trešo valstu valstspiederīgo integrācijas fonds*), available in Latvian: <http://www.km.gov.lv/lv/es/finans/etvvif.html>

²⁹⁴ Latvia, Law on Education (*Izglītības likums*), adopted on 29 October 1998, Article 9 (2), available on Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=50759>

²⁹⁵ Latvia, General Education Law (*Vispārējās izglītības likums*), Article 30 and Article 42, adopted on 10 June 1999, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=20243>

		<p>Until the mid-1990s, two different schooling systems – Russian and Latvian – existed in Latvia, each with its own education programme. The reform of the content of education at schools implementing bilingual education programmes was introduced gradually, starting from 1995. From the school year 1995/96 onwards, two subjects had to be taught in Latvian at primary school. In 1998, four programme models of national minority education were elaborated, which determined the proportion of subjects taught in Latvian, bilingually and/or in the national minority language. Each school could choose one or several models, or to elaborate their own education programme, i.e., the fifth model; the selection and implementation was carried out gradually – until 2002. By 2006/2007, all schools, which had opted for a minority education programme, had introduced the models from grades 1 to 9. In secondary schools, the transition to national minority education programmes was phased in from the school year 1995/1996, when three subjects had to be taught in the state language. From the school year 2004/2005, grades 10 to 12 of state and municipal national minority education institutions had the language ratio of 60% of educational content being taught in Latvian and 40% – in the language of the national minority.</p> <p>The state finances national minority education programmes in Latvia in seven languages: Russian, Polish, Hebrew, Ukrainian, Estonian, Lithuanian, and Belarusian.</p> <p>Targeted policies for teacher training have been developed since 1995, when the National Programme for Latvian Language Training was created with support from UNDP. The Programme (run since 2003 by a separate government agency – the Latvian Language Agency (<i>Latviešu valodas aģentūra</i>)) included large-scale training for teachers of Russian-language schools, improving Latvian language proficiency and bilingual education skills, as well as elaboration of teaching methodology, textbooks and teaching materials. Since around 2005, teachers of mainstream (Latvian-language) schools have also begun to take part in bilingual education and intercultural education teacher training courses, funded by ESF and government funds, however, their participation in these courses is relatively low.²⁹⁶</p> <p>Through the implementation of the ESF project of the national programme “The Latvian language acquisition”, 2128 secondary school teachers of Latvian and bilingual tracks raised their professional qualification in one of the 15 professional development programmes; methodological materials were developed in 10 subjects, and 28 course books and 10</p>
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²⁹⁶ SIRIUS (2013), National Analysis reports of Latvia; in: Policy Implementation Analysis by national Educational Agents and Other Stakeholders, p. 53, available at: http://www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/country-review-tot_SIRIUS_131209.pdf

		<p>methodological materials in DVD format were developed and published. Until 2012, the ESF project "Support for State language acquisition and bilingual education" was implemented with the aim to provide methodological support for teachers in general and initial vocational education to ensure a contemporary method for the acquisition of the Latvian language and an effective implementation of bilingual education.²⁹⁷ Children of TCNs can choose between school with Latvian language of instruction and school which provide bilingual education (for more information see next section).</p>
	<p>Is there evidence of school segregation and/or policies of separate/distinct schooling of migrants?</p>	<p>Every pupil can choose an educational institution irrespective of the language of instruction, as MoES develops uniform standards for academic subjects and sample curricula for all educational institutions. In the 2013/2014 academic year, 807 schools of general education received state funding. Out of those, national minority education programmes were implemented in 109 schools: education programmes in the Russian language and bilingually are carried out in 99 schools, in Polish and bilingually – in 4 schools, in Ukrainian and bilingually – in one, in Belarusian and bilingually – in one, in Hebrew – in two, in Latvian and Lithuanian – in one, in Latvian and Estonian – in one school. Both Latvian and minority education programmes were implemented in 67 schools, and three private schools ran general education programmes in English (two schools) and French (one school).²⁹⁸</p> <p>In the 2013/2014 academic year, 56 140 pupils were enrolled in national minority education programmes, accounting for 28.37% of the total number of students.²⁹⁹ In the same academic year, 380 newly arrived immigrant pupils (TCNs) have been enrolled in general education. Although MoES could not provide information on which educational programmes these students chose³⁰⁰, research demonstrates that most of immigrant children attend schools with Russian as the language of instruction (implementing a bilingual education programme), partly due to their greater experience in accommodating diversity.³⁰¹</p>
	<p>Is there evidence of modifying school curricula and teaching</p>	<p>Questions related to immigrants, ethnic minorities and promotion and respect for diversity are covered in both</p>

²⁹⁷ Latvia, Ministry of Education and Science (*Izglītības un zinātnes ministrija*), State Language, available in English at: <http://izm.izm.gov.lv/9419.html>

²⁹⁸ Latvia, Ministry of Education and Science (*Izglītības un zinātnes ministrija*), : Breakdown of the general education by the language of instruction in 2013/2014 (*LR vispārīzglītojošo dienas skolu sadalījums pa plūsmām 2013./2014.m.g.*), available in Latvian at: <http://www.izm.gov.lv/lv/publikacijas-un-statistika/statistika-par-visparejo-izglitibu/2013-2014-m-g>

²⁹⁹ Latvia, Ministry of Education and Science (*Izglītības un zinātnes ministrija*), Statistics: Number of pupils in general education by the language of instruction in 2013/2014 (*Izglītojamo skaits vispārīzglītošajās dienas apmācības programmās 2013./2014.m.g. sadalījumā pēc apmācības valodas*), available in Latvian at: <http://www.izm.gov.lv/lv/publikacijas-un-statistika/statistika-par-visparejo-izglitibu/2013-2014-m-g>

³⁰⁰ Latvia, Ministry of Education and Science (*Izglītības un zinātnes ministrija*), Letter No. 01-12e/54, 03 March 2015.

³⁰¹ Mägi E. and Siarova H.(2014), Migrant education opportunities in the Baltic States: strong dependence on the level of school preparedness, p. 10, available at http://www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Baltic-Policy-Paper-2014_FINAL.pdf

	<p>materials can be modified to reflect the diversity of the school population? Is the teacher regular curricula/training dealing with specific reference to immigrants or ethnic minorities and respect/promotion of diversity?</p>	<p>the teachers' study programs, as well as programs aimed at further enhancing their professional qualifications.³⁰² A number of courses on building intercultural competence as in-service training are offered in Latvia by the Latvian Language Agency and number of NGOs. However, a report published in 2013 notes that teachers in many schools acquire intercultural skills within the framework of projects, including those funded by the EU, but not as part of a general policy. Only in-service training for teachers of Social Studies includes intercultural education as an obligatory component. There is no government policy in the field of diversity management in schools.³⁰³ A study published in 2014 shows that teachers have theoretical knowledge on teaching in multicultural settings, but that they recognise the need to improve their practical skills in working with immigrant pupils from different cultures. Intercultural support at schools and within informal settings is provided by social pedagogues, youth workers, and social workers only on ad hoc basis, whereas individual approach is based on a flexible and specified curriculum and a learning plan.³⁰⁴ Cross-cultural competences are included in the National curriculum for primary and secondary schools. The principles of cultural diversity are integrated into different subjects, namely, social sciences, ethics, history, minority language. Regulations No. 281 'Regulations on the State General Secondary Education Standard, Subject Standards and Sample Education Programmes' (<i>Noteikumi par valsts vispārējās vidējās izglītības standartu, mācību priekšmetu standartiem un izglītības programmu paraugiem</i>) include the provisions on promoting the understanding of cultural diversity "in the context of cultural values of Latvia and the world".³⁰⁵ The Regulations include more specific provisions regarding the standards for certain subjects. Similarly, Regulations No. 468 'Regulations on the State General Basic Education Standard, Subject Standards and Sample Education Programmes' (<i>Noteikumi par valsts pamatizglītības standartu, pamatizglītības mācību priekšmetu standartiem un pamatizglītības programmu paraugiem</i>) include provisions regarding the awareness of cultural diversity</p>
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³⁰² Latvia, Ministry of Education and Science (*Izglītības un zinātnes ministrija*), Letter No. 01-12e/54, 03 March 2015.

³⁰³ SIRIUS (2013), National Analysis reports of Latvia; in: Policy Implementation Analysis by national Educational Agents and Other Stakeholders, p. 53, available at: http://www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/country-review-tot_SIRIUS_131209.pdf

³⁰⁴ Māgi E. and Siarova H.(2014), Migrant education opportunities in the Baltic States: strong dependence on the level of school preparedness, p. 14, available at http://www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Baltic-Policy-Paper-2014_FINAL.pdf

³⁰⁵ Latvia, Regulations No. 281 'Regulations on the state general secondary education standard, subject standards and sample education programmes' (*Noteikumi Nr. 281 'Noteikumi par valsts vispārējās vidējās izglītības standartu, mācību priekšmetu standartiem un izglītības programmu paraugiem'*), 21 May 2013, Section 5.3.

		and multicultural society in the standards for relevant subjects. ³⁰⁶
	Are all students – not only of migrant background – targeted and/involved by civic education and activities related to migrant integration at schools?	Civic education is covered in Latvia’s general education programmes under various social science subjects and all students, irrespective of their ethnicity or migrant background, are targeted. ³⁰⁷
	The implementation of specific measures and initiatives aiming at (the following possible practices on the left is an indicative and non-exhaustive list):	
	Please use the following as indicative list of possible practices to report on:	In line with relevant legislation, if a student of another state has applied for enrolment at an educational institution, the director shall determine the additional measures necessary for the successful continuation of education in Latvia (for example, individual consultations in the Latvian language, an individual study plan for a set period of time) and the time period for implementation thereof. ³⁰⁸ However, schools do not receive additional funding to support the integration of newly arrived migrant children. Instead, the school gets the same amount of state funding for every student, which does not cover the extra time invested by teachers (e.g. language support). Schools complain about the lack of funding for extra language classes and other targeted measures that would render the integration of students from first generation migrant families in Latvian schools easier. The practice of schools also shows that schools are not yet prepared to address the language needs of students from regions, where Russian and other former USSR languages are not spoken. ³⁰⁹ Within the framework of Riga City Integration Programme 2012 – 2017, Riga municipality contributes complementary funding towards payment to teachers for supplementary Latvian language lessons to minors, who are newcomers. ³¹⁰ Raising awareness of cultural diversity is one of the overall objectives of general education in Latvia. A number of projects aimed at raising the competence of teachers on intercultural and tolerance issues, as well as elaboration of methodological materials that could be used in the future in work with pupils/students from
	Improving the way civic and citizenship education reflect diversity in society through curricular and extracurricular activities. Are there specific programmes helping young people to learn how to live in a society with people from different cultures and religions?	
	Improving the way formal curriculum subjects, e.g. literature, history, etc. promote mutual understanding, respect for ethnic and religious diversity and the common democratic and pluralist values?	
	Facilitating equal opportunities in education for children with migrant background?	
	Facilitating the involvement, participation and support of parents with migrant background in the educational system and in the school activities?	

³⁰⁶ Latvia, Regulations No. 468 ‘Regulations on the state general basic education standard, subject standards and sample education programmes’ (*Noteikumi Nr. 281 ‘Noteikumi par valsts pamatizglītības standartu, pamatizglītības mācību priekšmetu standartiem un pamatizglītības programmu paraugiem’*), 12 August 2014.

³⁰⁷ Latvia, Ministry of Education and Science (*Izglītības un zinātnes ministrija*), Letter No. 01-12e/54, 03 March 2015.

³⁰⁸ Latvia, Cabinet of Regulation No. 149 Regulations Regarding the Procedures for Enrolment of Students in and Discharge from General Educational Institutions and the Mandatory Requirements for Moving Them up into the Next Grade (*Ministru kabineta noteikumi Nr. 149 Noteikumi par kārtību, kādā izglītojamie tiek uzņemti vispārējās izglītības iestādēs un atskaitīti no tām, un obligātajām prasībām pārcelšanai uz nākamo klasi*), adopted on 28 February 2012, Article 25.3, available in Latvian at:

<http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=245006>

³⁰⁹ SIRIUS (2013), National Analysis reports of Latvia; in: Policy Implementation Analysis by national Educational Agents and Other Stakeholders, p. 54, available at: http://www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/country-review-tot_SIRIUS_131209.pdf

³¹⁰ Latvia, Riga City Council’s Education, Culture and Sports Department (*Rīgas Domes Izglītības, kultūras un sporta departaments*), Letter No. DIKS-15-857-nd, 27 February 2015.

Providing language learning support to students of migrant background?		<p>different cultures, have been implemented within the framework of EIF 2007-2013.³¹¹</p> <p>In 2010 and 2011, MoES, in collaboration with the Latvian Language Agency, has implemented projects "Adaption programme and development of materials for children of third country nationals aged 6 to 12" and "Teaching/learning programme and development of materials for Latvian language acquisition for children and youth of third country nationals aged 13 to 18". The projects resulted in two adaptation programmes for the children and youth of TCNs. The objective of the programmes is to assist children and the youth in acquiring basic skills of the state language and practical intercultural skills, thus facilitating the adaptation process in the society and environment of Latvia. Both sets of materials were sent to every school in Latvia. In addition, a set of teaching aids for newly arrived migrants, including materials for Latvian language teachers and information about Latvian education system for parents (a total of seven materials) have been developed by the Latvian Language Agency within the framework of projects financed through the EIF. The website "Teach and Learn Latvian", which offers open educational resources for Latvian language acquisition³¹² as well as an innovative tool for the children and youth of TCNs (<i>sazinastilts.lv</i>)³¹³ has been created by the Agency. In 2014, the Latvian Centre for Human Rights prepared a Handbook for teachers to promote inclusion of immigrant children and their families "Everyone is welcome at school". This material provides information on the legal framework for the education of immigrant children and addresses such issues as principles of inclusive pedagogy, diversity in the classroom, an inclusive school and classroom environment, as well as parental involvement in the everyday teaching process and extracurricular activities. The handbook gives not only theoretical framework, but also practical exercises and recommendations.³¹⁴</p>
Improving attendance and reducing drop-out of students with migrant background?		
Improving school and teachers' capacity to embrace, build on and/or manage diversity?		
	<p>In particular, please specify if there are promising practices, including affirmative action / positive action practices designed to tackle structural inequalities</p>	

3.8. Drivers, barriers for the implementation, monitoring and assessment of legislation & policy measures

	Previous paragraphs indicated in detail aspects about the	The main barrier to the political participation of migrants and their descendants is lack of Latvian
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³¹¹ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (*Eiropas Trešo valstu valstspiederīgo integrācijas fonds*), available in Latvian: <http://www.km.gov.lv/lv/es/finans/etvif.html>

³¹² Latvia, Latvian Language Agency (*Latviešu valodas aģentūra*), Teach and Learn Latvian (*Māci un mācies latviešu valodu*), available at: <http://maciunmacies.valoda.lv/eng>

³¹³ Latvia, Latvian Language Agency (*Latviešu valodas aģentūra*), *Sazinastilts.lv*, available at: <http://www.sazinastilts.lv/?lang=en>

³¹⁴ Latvia, Kolčanovs B., Tūna A., Zankovska-Odiņa S. (2014), Handbook for teachers to promote inclusion of immigrant children and their families "Everyone is welcome at school" (*Metodiskais materiāls pedagogiem jauniebraukušo skolēnu un viņu ģimeņu iekļaušanās sekmēšanai „Ikviens ir gaidīts skolā!”*), available in Latvian at: <http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/lv/publications/metodiskais-materials-pedagogiem-jauniebraukuso-sk-288/>

	<p>actual implementation of participation policies, normative framework and measures. In this section briefly summarize the most important drivers, positive factors and the barriers, resistance or negative factors that have been identified regarding the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of policy measures and normative framework for the political and social participation of migrants and their descendants. Please base the analysis on governmental and non-governmental reports, as well as research and studies.</p>	<p>citizenship, which precludes voting rights in national or municipal elections, as well as participating in referenda, initiating legislation and founding or joining political parties (with exception of non-citizens who can be members of political parties). In addition, non-citizens and persons with foreign citizenship are denied entry into a broad range of posts in the public sector. While the Latvian government is concerned that granting voting rights to non-citizens would undermine the implementation of integration policy, which aims to facilitate the naturalisation process,³¹⁵ representatives of international organisations, and, in particular, the Council of Europe believe that granting non-citizens the rights to vote at local level would facilitate integration, strengthen democracy and encourage their participation in the social and political life of Latvia.³¹⁶</p> <p>The Audit of Democracy published in 2014 suggests that Latvia has not succeeded in settling relations between the main ethno-linguistic groups in Latvia during the last ten years. The number of permanent residents, who are stateless, is disproportionately high in Latvia. Little has been done during the recent years to facilitate constructive political participation among representatives of this group (for example, through participation in municipal elections, rights to collective applications, etc.). The state's insufficient attention to providing a flow of information aimed at the Russian-speaking residents of Latvia, in combination with the increase of the influence of private and state-controlled Russian media in the Latvian information space, deepens the gap between the two information spaces in Latvia.³¹⁷ The Audit recommends reviewing political stances on social integration through the strengthening of civic values as the basis for integrating Latvian society; as well as shaping a constructive dialogue, including with minority groups, and ensuring observation of various social groups' rights and interests when adopting decisions, especially regarding matters that directly affect these groups.</p>
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3.9. Use of funding instruments (EIF, ERF, EMIF)

	Please provide briefly information and documented	EU funding for integration-related activities in Latvia is administered by the Ministry of Interior and the
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³¹⁵ Comments of the Government of Latvia on the Second Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Latvia (received on 3 January 2014), available at: http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/minorities/3_FCNMdocs/PDF_2nd_Com_Latvia_en.pdf

³¹⁶ Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Second opinion on Latvia, adopted on 18 June 2013, available at:

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/minorities/3_FCNMdocs/PDF_2nd_OP_Latvia_en.pdf

³¹⁷ Latvia, University of Latvia (*Latvijas Universitāte*), The Advanced Social and Political Research Institute of University of Latvia (*Latvijas Universitātes Sociālo un politisko pētījumu institūts*) (2014), How Democratic is Latvia? Audit of Democracy 2005-2014, Sc.ed. J.Rozenvalds, p.17, p. 39., available in Latvian at:

http://www.szf.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/szf_faili/Petnieciba/Demokratijas_audits_2014_kopaa.pdf

	<p>insights about the allocation and distribution of funds aimed at supporting political and social participation, and active citizenship measures for migrants and/or their descendants.</p>	<p>Ministry of Culture. The Ministry of Interior is the lead institution for the implementation of projects co-financed under the European Refugee Fund. Funding is mostly foreseen to provide legal aid for asylum seekers and to enhancing the administrative capacity of OCMA, fostering cooperation among the authorities, provision of health care, material assistance, interpretation services and psychological counselling to asylum seekers, improvement of reception standards at Reception centre for asylum seekers „Mucenieki” and development of relevant information systems.³¹⁸ Projects to promote the integration of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection have been implemented by the society “Shelter “Safe House””. In the framework of these projects, social, legal, medical, psychological and material support as well as other types of assistance has been provided. Activities to support the political and social participation of beneficiaries of international protection have not been foreseen and implemented so far.³¹⁹</p> <p>Projects aimed at fostering the integration of migrants have been implemented mainly within the framework of EIF, which is administrated by the Ministry of Culture, with a 25% co-financing by the state. From 2011 through 2013, 40 projects were accepted for measures including Latvian language courses, cultural orientation, as well as support to particularly vulnerable groups of TCN at a total of 3,942,905 EUR. 3136 TCNs took part in these courses; in addition, more than 154 events such as seminars and information days were held, more than 65 support mechanisms established, and more than 111 audio-visual materials created. From 2011 through 2013, one project per year was approved for the establishment of a coordinating structure for a total of 1,613,435 EUR. Within this activity, 1488 consultations to TCNs were provided, 1201 TCNs and non-citizens took part in courses on the Latvian language, culture, traditions and history, 93 persons received support for the recognition of professional qualifications, events such as discussions, seminars and information days, as well as other support measures were organized. Further, within the same time-frame, training of specialists as well as research activities received the total funding of 3358,527 EUR for 8 projects. This allowed improving the knowledge of at least 812 experts working with TCNs, to hold roundtable discussions, improve the skills of teachers to work in multicultural settings, to undertake measures to improve intercultural education and diversity management, as well as to carry out research</p>
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³¹⁸ Latvia, Office of the Citizenship and Migration Affairs (*Pilsonības un migrācijas lietu pārvalde*), Letter No. 24/1-42, 05February 2015.

³¹⁹ Latvia, Society “Shelter “Safe House”” (*Patvērums “Drošā māja”*), European Refugee Fund (*Eiropas Begļu fonds*), available in Latvian at: <http://www.patverums-dm.lv/lv/eiropas-beglu-fonds>

		<p>on the integration of TCNs in Latvia. Finally, activities related to intercultural competences, training of specialists in the regions and exchange of good practices received a total of 137,992 EUR for 5 projects from 2011 through 2013. This allowed 54 specialists to benefit from exchange of experience abroad, 220 specialists to receive training on intercultural communication and issues related to the reception and integration of TCNs, in particular, in the regions, as well as to hold events, aimed at fostering multi-disciplinary cooperation among 100 specialists in the work with TCNs.³²⁰</p>
<p>In particular provide a breakdown of funding for the relevant actions and measures by area (political participation, social participation and membership, indicating the source of funding (EIF, ERF, national, regional, other funding source) by using the Annex 5</p>		

3.10. Key legal and policy developments, and relevant case law

	<p>In this section, please provide information about developments regarding the above legal and policy instruments concerning participation (political, consultation, membership and association, active citizenship and civic education), including any new legislative or policy initiatives in the framework of migrant integration in the country. Key developments may be new legislation or policies, abolition, update, improvement or reform of existing ones, as well as important case law, court, equality body or administrative cases, that have had or may have an impact on the implementation of legal and policy instruments and on the actual situation on the ground, including public debates and perceptions among the native population and migrants. (Use template in Annex 9).</p>	<p>The Guidelines on National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy (2012–2018) were drawn up by the Ministry of Culture and adopted by the Government on 11 October 2011. The principal courses of action set out in the document are: development of civic society; strengthening various forms of civic participation; reducing discrimination of socially marginalised groups and promoting their inclusion; increasing the role of the media in society integration through support for diverse, modern and high quality journalism; improving the proficiency of Latvian among ethnic minorities, non-citizens, new immigrants, and the Latvian diaspora. The Guidelines envisage the establishment of a national-level coordinating system to support immigrant participation - the National Integration Centre and a national-level Advisory Council, with the participation of immigrants and representatives of their organizations. A number of activities to improve the knowledge of service providers to TCNs on intercultural and non-discrimination issues are also envisaged in the Guidelines.³²¹</p>
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³²⁰ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Assessment of the implementation of the Fund. An overview of the programs and projects of the Fund“ (*Fonda ieviešanas izvērtējums. Pārskats par fonda programmām un projektiem*), 20 February 2015, available in Latvian at <http://www.km.gov.lv/lv/es/finans/etvvif.html> on 20 March 2015

³²¹ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Guidelines on National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy (2012-2018) (*Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas pamatnostādnes 2012.-2018. gadam*), adopted 11 October 2011, available in Latvian: <http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=3782>

4.Social cohesion and community relations

4.1.Social cohesion policies

	<p>Does the national integration legal and policy framework refer to social/community cohesion? Is there a clear definition of social/community cohesion? Please report it here – in original language and in full English translation.</p>	<p>The Guidelines on National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy (2012-2018) refer to a cohesive Latvian society without offering a clear definition of it.³²² Instead the Guidelines give definition of “society integration”. (see Section 1.1.)</p>
	<p>Are there any specific measures in place to strengthen social cohesion? Please refer to promising practices and examples of challenges. Use the template for promising practices in Annex 7 highlighting the most important and/or successful.</p>	<p>On 29 May 2012, in response to the referendum, held on 18 February 2012, on Russian as the second official language and the subsequent discussions on the results of the integration policy pursued hitherto, the government approved the ‘Informative Report on the Consolidation of the Society and Strengthening of the National Identity and the Position of the Official Language’.³²³ Among others, it outlined priority measures for consolidating the society and strengthening national identity with support from the state budget. Priority measures were mainly aimed at securing a common social memory and information space, learning the Latvian language and provision of access to the Latvian culture and education for the children of those citizens, who have emigrated. Although the list of priorities included development of a dialogue with national minority NGOs, the planned measures were aimed only at the strengthening of cultural identity. After several years of interruption, a significant sum was allocated for society integration measures from the government budget (approximately EUR 3 million for 2012–2013). Measures to foster social cohesion have been carried out within the framework of the implementation of the Guidelines for National Identity, Civil Society and Social Integration (2012 – 2018). The approach is three-pronged: 1) Civil society and integration, which aims at the promotion of civic education through formal and informal methods, strengthening of traditional and non-traditional forms of civic participation, promotion of the inclusion of socially marginalised groups in the society and to prevent discrimination, the strengthening of a high quality democratic information space and</p>

³²² Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Guidelines on National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy (2012-2018) (*Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas pamatnostādnes 2012.-2018. gadam*), adopted 11 October 2011, p.9, available in Latvian: <http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=3782>

³²³ Latvia, Cabinet of Ministers (*Ministru kabinets*), Informative Report on the consolidation of the society, strengthening of national identity and the state language positions (*Informatīvais ziņojums ‘Par sabiedrības saliedēšanu, nacionālās identitātes un valsts valodas pozīcijas nostiprināšanu’*), adopted on 29 May 2012, available in Latvian at: <http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=3988>

	<p>increasing the role of mass media in integration processes; 2) National identity: language and cultural space, which aims at ensuring the use of Latvian in the public space of Latvia, the strengthening of the Latvian language skills of Latvian emigrants, minority nations, non-citizens and new immigrants, further solidifying Latvian cultural space as a basis for social cohesion and promoting a sense of belonging to cultural space at local, national and European levels, as well as to strengthen the Latvian identity and sense of belonging of Latvians living abroad; 3) Cohesive social memory, which aims at the further promotion of an understanding of WWII and the Soviet and Nazi occupation of Latvia, based on true facts and in line with democratic values, as well as awareness, research and understanding of the local and European history of Latvia.³²⁴</p> <p>In practice, measures have included Latvian language courses for adults, mainly in Riga and Latgale (Eastern Latvia) regions, an exchange program for Latvian and national minority children and the youth from grades 5 to 9, who use Latvian and Russian as their routine language of communication, organization of extracurricular activities for pupils, such as educational and creative events promoting knowledge of the Latvian and national minority culture and history, broadening the reception and coverage of Channel 4, which is the only state radio program broadcasting in Russian, a program to promote reading, in particular, among children from national minorities, organization of a Forum for Minority Nations “We are united by Latvia” with 200 participants from Riga and the regions, passing amendments to asylum, citizenship and immigration legislation, holding information days on possibilities to naturalize, carrying out research on factors fostering and hindering acquisition of Latvian citizenship, establishment of a unified portal for public media in Russian and Latvian as well as a launch of several new radio and TV programs in Russian.³²⁵</p> <p>The Plan for the Implementation of the Guidelines for National Identity, Civil Society and Social Integration (2012 – 2018) until 2016 foresees continuation of the three-pronged approach. Among the practical measures to be taken, informative events on possibilities to acquire Latvian citizenship, provision of support to national minority NGOs, a programme on extra-curricular activities as well as an exchange program to</p>
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³²⁴ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Informative Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Guidelines for National Identity, Civil Society and Social Integration (2012 – 2018) (*Informatīvais ziņojums 'Par sabiedrības saliedēšanu, nacionālās identitātes un valsts valodas pozīcijas nostiprināšanu'*), p. 3, available in Latvian and accessed at <http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=3782> on 27 March 2015

³²⁵ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*) (2012), Social Cohesion in Latvia: Facts (*Sabiedrības saliedētība Latvijā: fakti*), available in Latvian at: http://www.km.gov.lv/lv/ministrija/sabiedrības_integracija.html and Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Informative Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Guidelines for National Identity, Civil Society and Social Integration (2012 – 2018) (*Informatīvais ziņojums 'Par sabiedrības saliedēšanu, nacionālās identitātes un valsts valodas pozīcijas nostiprināšanu'*), available in Latvian and accessed at <http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=3782> on 27 March 2015

		<p>promote cooperation among school pupils of different nationalities, research on the civil participation of national minorities, as well as the establishment of a portal for national minorities, are planned.³²⁶</p> <p>The government-commissioned survey of national minorities 'Sense of Belonging to Latvia' clarified the respondents' opinion about the community cohesion activities. According to the respondents, cohesion is mostly enhanced through activities for children (93.8%), Latvian language training (86.7%), festivals of ethnic minorities (86.2%), broadcasting of significant events in Russian (85%), support for organizations in preserving the ethnic identity (80%), exchange programmes for children (76.8%), granting of citizenship in a solemn ceremony (64.2%) and bilingual education (62.7%). As the main problems to be addressed as a matter of priority, minorities listed social protection and social policy (38%). At the same time, 13% of respondents called for the tackling challenges related to citizenship and inter-ethnic issues and 11% - addressing problems in the area of education.³²⁷</p>
<p>Are there indicators used by authorities to assess, monitor and support social cohesion policies? E.g. social distance, social interaction, intergroup relations, etc. Please provide available relevant data, figures and findings, if any, and present them briefly in the relevant table of the Annex (4).</p>		
<p>Please outline available research, studies, and surveys about the sense of belonging and identification of migrants and/or their descendants with diverse types of local, regional and national identities. Please summarise briefly key findings and any differentiations by nationality or ethnic origin, gender, age and geographic area.</p>		<p>In 2014, the government commissioned a survey "Sense of Belonging to Latvia" of the national minorities. On a scale from 1 (do not feel like I belong to at all) to 5 (feel that I strongly belong to), the survey revealed that 56% of the respondents feel that they strongly belong to the village, city, or county they reside in, whereas 51% consider that they strongly belong to Latvia, and 48% state that they strongly belong to the region. 13% of national minorities reported a strong sense of belonging to the Baltic states and 8% - to the EU, and a further 11% indicated a strong sense of belonging to Russia. It must be noted, that of those, who reported a strong sense of belonging to Russia were mainly residents over 65 years of age, whereas the youth (persons from 18 to 24), at 7%, were the smallest group to identify with this sentiment. Of those respondents, who indicated a strong sense of belonging to Russia, 66% simultaneously reported a strong sense of belonging to Latvia, too.</p> <p>When asked about factors forming their identity, 85% of respondents reported that their family was the most important in determine who they were. The next most frequent were "that I am a resident of</p>

³²⁶ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Plan for the Implmentation of the Guidelines for National Identity, Civil Society and Social Integration (2012 – 2018) until 2016 (, available in Latvian and accessed at <http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=3782> on 27 March 2015

³²⁷ Latvia, Market and Public Opinion Research Centre SKDS (*Tirgus un sabiedrisko pētījumu centrs SKDS*) (2014), „A sense of belonging to Latvia: A survey of the national minorities in Latvia“ (*Piederības sajūta Latvijai. Mazākumtautību Latvijas iedzīvotāju aptauja*). Quantitative survey conducted from May 2014 -June 2014 involving 801 ethnic minority respondents. Available in Latvian at http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/site/record/docs/2014/08/27/atskaite_piederiba_08_2014.pdf

		<p>Latvia”, city or county they reside in, and their nationality. Persons over 64 were the likeliest to state that their being residents of Latvia was significant to their identities.</p> <p>A total of 64% respondents stated that they considered themselves patriots of Latvia. This group was mainly made up of persons over 65, Latvian citizens, those, who use mainly Latvian in their families, individuals with medium or high income, as well as those residing in Riga and Vidzeme (centre-north of Latvia). Finally, a total of 58% of respondents stated that they were proud to be Latvian citizens/residents, which is a considerable increase from the figure of 35% in 2009.³²⁸</p>
	<p>Please indicate legal measures and case law affecting social cohesion and community relations, for example the banning of specific religious or ethnic dress, such as the ‘burqa’.</p>	<p>Legal measures affecting social cohesion mainly encompass restrictions to the right to vote and to enter the civil service, as described above. The Constitution stipulates that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and persons belonging to ethnic minorities have the right to preserve and develop their language and their ethnic and cultural identity.³²⁹</p>
	<p>Does the action plan or strategy on integration and inclusion of migrants and their descendants address combating racism, xenophobia and intolerance?</p> <p>Are there specific integration/inclusion actions related to racism and intolerance for education and/or for young people? If yes, how are such actions linked to general integration and/or social inclusion and/or cohesion policy? Please provide information on implementation and impact of such plans and refer to any assessment of their impact?</p>	<p>The Guidelines on National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy (2012-2018) note that an institutional mechanism for the introduction and evaluation of anti-discrimination policy and an anti-discrimination normative framework has been developed. The Guidelines underline, however, that discrimination is often not recognized, and that when it does get recognized, it often goes unpunished. The Guidelines also note that there is little case-law on the subject in Latvia. Further, the document notes that a positive public attitude towards diversity should be promoted to foster a tolerant and respectful attitude to diversity and those who are different. Finally, the Guidelines conclude that a comprehensive system for monitoring and preventing discrimination has not been established and that there is a lack of regular research and awareness campaigns on social exclusion and discrimination in the Latvian society.³³⁰ The Guidelines doesn’t foresee strategy to actually combat racism, xenophobia and intolerance, except some minor activities to inform society and train representatives of different professions on tolerance issues and intercultural competences. In 2013, the Society Integration Foundation, in cooperation with various state institutions and NGOs, implemented a project “Different People. Different Experiences. One Latvia”. Within the framework of this</p>

³²⁸ Latvia, Market and Public Opinion Research Centre SKDS (*Tirgus un sabiedrisko pētījumu centrs SKDS*) (2014), „A sense of belonging to Latvia: A survey of the national minorities in Latvia“ (*Piederības sajūta Latvijai. Mazākumtautību Latvijas iedzīvotāju aptauja*), p. 7, 8, available in Latvian at http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/site/record/docs/2014/08/27/atskaite_piederiba_08_2014.pdf

³²⁹ Latvia, The Constitution of the Republic of Latvia (*Latvijas Republikas Satversme*), adopted on 15 February 1922, Article 99, Article 114; available in Latvian at: <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57980>

³³⁰ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Guidelines on National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy (2012-2018) (*Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas pamatnostādnes 2012.-2018. gadam*), adopted 10 October 2011, p.34, available in Latvian: <http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=3782>

		<p>project, activities were undertaken to raise public awareness on issues related to combating discrimination, including use of social media and organization of special thematic days and discussions for children and the youth.³³¹ No assessment of the impact of this project has been carried out so far. A number of projects aimed at combating extremism, racism and anti-Semitism as well as hate speech through new technologies and social media have been approved and are being implemented under the EEA Grants programme 'NGO Fund', administrated in Latvia by the Society Integration Foundation (SIF). As most of the projects started in the second half of 2013 and will be implemented until the end of 2015, it is impossible to evaluate outcomes yet.³³² The SIF became the coordinator of the Latvian national campaign of young people for human rights online 'No Hate speech', initiated by the Council of Europe. Only a few activities have been implemented so far.</p>
	<p>Please provide information about state and non-state responses via positive measures, campaigns, partnerships involving migrants and communities. Please provide information only about those actions that focus on migrants and on <u>prevention</u> and promotion of peaceful living together and integration as mutual accommodation combatting racism and intolerance. Please outline any assessment about their impact and identify any relevant promising practice. (Use the template for promising practices in Annex 7).</p>	<p>In 2013, the Riga City Council and the Latvian Centre for Human Rights implemented a campaign to raise public awareness "This is my story. Or ours?". The aim of the campaign was to show the positive impact of migration on the state and the society, highlighting the contribution of migrants, who arrived in Latvia during the last 10 years to developments in social, economic and cultural affairs of the state, as well as the willingness of the Latvian society to accept these people. The activities targeted certain groups: teachers, non-governmental organisations, university representatives, pupils and inhabitants of Riga (the capital of Latvia) and Latvia (The main target audience of the project was inhabitants of Riga, however some of activities, like publications, competitions and TV film were accessible for every inhabitant of Latvia) and included four competitions about migration issues for students and journalists; ten articles-interviews with testimonials from the campaign and other immigrants living in Latvia in two national media and two internet portals (both in Latvian and Russian language); campaign posters were placed on 70 street transport stops and other poster stands around Riga with three campaign testimonials on them; a film on the realities of immigrants in Latvia was made and shown on Latvian television at prime time.³³³ No campaign impact assessment has been carried out so far. The campaign was organized within the project "Awareness on Migration, development and human rights through local partnerships (AMITIE)" coordinated by the</p>

³³¹ Latvia, Society Integration Foundation (*Sabiedrības integrācijas fonds*), project "Different People. Different Experiences, One Latvia" (Dažādi cilvēki, atšķirīga pieredze, viena Latvija), available in Latvian at:

http://www.sif.gov.lv/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9033&Itemid=240&lang=lv

³³² Latvia, information provided by the Society Integration Foundation (*Sabiedrības integrācijas fonds*) by e-mail, 5 November 2014.

³³³ Latvia, Latvian Centre for Human Rights (*Latvijas Cilvēktiesību centrs*), Information about the campaign "This is my story. Or ours?" (*Informācija par kampaņu "Šis ir mans stāsts... Vai mūsu?"*), available in Latvian at:

<http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/lv/media-materials/informacija-par-kampanu-sis-ir-mans-stasts-vai-musu-239/>

		Municipality of Bologna and implemented in Italy, Spain, Latvia, Romania and Brazil.
4.2. Combatting racism and intolerance		
	<p>Are there any policy measures, initiatives and practices to accommodate for ethnic or religious differences, for example in regard to sharing public space, such as swimming pools at local level?</p> <p>Identify any promising practices encouraging social interaction and contacts of people of different backgrounds at local level (use the template for promising practices in annex 7).</p>	<p>The Riga City Programme for the Integration of Society for 2012 – 2017 acknowledges that intolerant attitudes towards various social and ethnic groups, including newcomers, exist, and must be tackled at municipal level. To this end, efforts must be intensified to inform and educate the broader public on issues related to anti-discrimination and promotion of tolerance, as well as cultural diversity.³³⁴ The Action Plan for this Programme foresees the organization of a range of events, aimed at providing the residents of Riga with information on newcomers and cultural diversity.³³⁵ In 2010, Riga Municipality launched grants for projects under the Social Integration Program, whereby non-governmental and religious organisations could apply for funding for activities in areas such as civic participation, promotion of social integration, promotion of tolerance and combating all types of discrimination. Since 2010, grants have been provided for 140 projects, including those implemented by national minority organizations and associations.³³⁶ However, none of the projects include targeted activities to accommodate for ethnic or religious differences.</p>
	<p>Please indicate concrete measures, initiatives or programmes targeting migrants and/or descendants aiming at building trust in public institutions, especially at local level. E.g. campaigns, opening doors and reaching out to citizens, social centres, informal collective bodies, cultural events etc.</p> <p>Please provide notable examples of promising practice (use the template for promising practices in annex 7).</p>	<p>The Ministry of Culture informs that integration courses organized within the framework of the EIF, introduce participants to state and local authority institutions.³³⁷ From 2011 through 2013, measures were taken to improve the knowledge of experts working with TCNs, to hold roundtable discussions, improve the skills of teachers to work in multicultural settings, to undertake measures to improve intercultural education and diversity management, as well as to carry out research on the integration of TCNs in Latvia. In addition, specialists benefited from exchange of experience abroad, received training on intercultural communication and issues related to the reception and integration of TCNs, in particular, in the regions. Finally, events, aimed at fostering multi-disciplinary cooperation among specialists in the work with TCNs, were held.³³⁸</p>

³³⁴ Latvia, Riga City Council (*Rīgas Dome*), Riga City Programme for the Integration of the Society for 2012 – 2017 (*Rīgas pilsētas sabiedrības integrācijas programma 2012.-2017. gadam*), adopted on 25 September 2012, p. 24, available in Latvian at: <http://www.iksd.riga.lv/public/index.html>

³³⁵ Latvia, Riga City Council (*Rīgas Dome*), Action Plane of the Riga City Programme for the Integration of the Society for 2012-2014 (*Rīgas pilsētas sabiedrības integrācijas programmas rīcības plans 2012.-2014. gadam*), available in Latvian at: <http://www.iksd.riga.lv/public/40468.html>

³³⁶ Latvia, Riga City Council's Education, Culture and Sports Department (*Rīgas Domes Izglītības, kultūras un sporta departaments*), Letter No. DIKS-15-857-nd, 27 February 2015.

³³⁷ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*) by e-mail, 13 March 2015.

³³⁸ Latvia, Ministry of Culture (*Kultūras ministrija*), Assessment of the implementation of the Fund. An overview of the programs and projects of the Fund“ (*Fonda ieviešanas izvērtējums. Pārskats par fonda programmām un projektiem*), 20 February 2015, available in Latvian at <http://www.km.gov.lv/iv/es/finans/etvvif.html> on 20 March 2015

		<p>The Riga Municipality reports that it is currently implementing a project “We are the residents of Riga!”, financed from the EIF, with the aim of developing high quality and freely accessible adaptation programmes and integration events for TCNs, ensuring access to and quality of services, as well as to promote and support the integration of TCNs of various religious, cultural, linguistic and ethnic background in the Latvian society through mutual dialogue. Within the framework of this project, the Riga Municipality organizes Latvian language and culture courses for child and adult TCNs. The participants visit museums, the theatre, as well as creative workshops, and familiarize themselves with the work and services of the Riga Municipality as well as regional local governments. This will provide an opportunity to learn about the broad range of services offered by the state and municipalities on issues such as welfare, health care, education, extracurricular activities, cultural and sports events, as well as other areas of interest to the target group, thereby fostering a positive attitude and trust towards relevant institutions. Finally, within the framework of this project, a network of volunteers, who will help TCNs with a range of integration-related issues, is being established.³³⁹</p> <p>In addition, the National Integration Centre (<i>Nacionālais integrācijas centrs</i>), which provides and improves the availability of different support services to TCNs to foster their integration in the Latvian society, also organizes inter-cultural communication training courses for state authorities, municipalities and NGOs.³⁴⁰</p>
	<p>Are there any specific ethical or other guidelines or rules concerning the language used by media or journalists, when writing about migrants and/or their descendants? In this case please provide briefly information about actual application of such rules and challenges.</p>	<p>There are no specific ethical or other guidelines or rules concerning the language used by media or journalists, when writing about migrants and/or their descendants in Latvia.</p> <p>Several provisions of the Electronic Mass Media Law (<i>Elektronisko plašsaziņas līdzekļu likums</i>) (Section 19, 23, 26, 35) prohibit incitement of hatred or a call to discriminate a person or a group of persons on the grounds of gender, race or ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, disability, age or other circumstances, in programmes, broadcasts, audio and audio visual commercial messages, and service catalogues of electronic mass media.³⁴¹</p> <p>Further, the Law on Print Media and other Mass Media Means prohibits publication of information, which constitutes a state secret or any other secret protected by the law, which incites violence and regime change,</p>

³³⁹ Latvia, Riga City Council’s Education, Culture and Sports Department (*Rīgas Domes Izglītības, kultūras un sporta departaments*), Letter No. DIKS-15-857-nd, 27 February 2015.

³⁴⁰ Latvia, National Integration centre (*Nacionālais integrācijas centrs*) (2014), ‘Results of the project *National Integration Centre*’, available at: www.integration.lv/en/national-center-of-integration-project-the-reached-results/379.

³⁴¹ Latvia, Electronic Mass Media Law (*Elektronisko plašsaziņas līdzekļu likums*), adopted on 12 July 2010, Article 19, 23,26, 35, available in Latvian at <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=214039>

		<p>propagandizes war, cruelty, racial, national or religious superiority and intolerance, or incites other crimes.³⁴² The Code of Ethics of the Association of Journalists of Latvia stipulates that journalists must refrain from specifying an individual's ethnic background or nationality, if this information does not bear relevance in the particular context.³⁴³ The Code of Ethics of the Union of Journalists of Latvia stipulates that it is the duty of mass media to protect human rights, and that journalists shall respect everyone's private life, nationality, way of thinking and religious conviction.³⁴⁴ The Association of Journalists of Latvia also informs that on 27 January 2015 it conducted training for journalists on issues related to refugees, in cooperation with the UNHCR.³⁴⁵</p> <p>In 2011, Latvian Centre for Human Rights published a material for journalists and journalism students "Media and Diversity" which also provides practical recommendation how to report about different minority groups, including migrants and refugees.³⁴⁶</p> <p>In 2014, three training courses "My hide-and-seek in ambiance, time and space" for 58 journalists, PR and communications specialists have been organized by SIF within the framework of the project "Different People. Different Experiences. One Latvia". Guidelines how to report diversity have been elaborated within the project.³⁴⁷</p>
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4.3. Mixed marriages

	<p>Mixed marriages is often used as an index for social distance and integration or, even, assimilation. Mixed (citizenship) marriages are defined as those where one of the spouses has foreign citizenship and the other has national citizenship (including registered partnerships, common-law marriages). Please indicate legal limitations, if any, for</p>	<p>Legal restrictions against mixed marriages do not exist, as long as both persons are lawfully present in Latvia. In line with relevant legislation, a citizen of the EU, EEA, the Swiss Confederation or any other country, a stateless person, a refugee or a person with alternative status, who is lawfully present on the territory of Latvia at the moment of entering into marriage, has the right to enter into marriage with a Latvian citizen, Latvian non-citizen, a citizen of the EU, EEA, the Swiss Confederation or any other country, a stateless person, a refugee or a person with alternative status, who is</p>
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³⁴² Latvia, Law on Print Media and other Mass Media (*Par presi un citiem masu informācijas līdzekļiem*), adopted on 20 December Article 7, accessed at <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=64879>

³⁴³ Latvia, Association of Journalists of Latvia (*Latvijas žurnālistu asociācija*), Code of Ethics (*Ētikas kodekss*), adopted on 23 November 2012, Art. 2.7, available in latvian at: <http://www.latvijaszurnalisti.lv/etikas-komisija/etikas-kodekss/>

³⁴⁴ Latvia, Union of Journalists of Latvia (*Latvijas Žurnālistu savienība*), Code of Ethics (*Ētikas kodekss*), adopted on 28 April 1992, Articles I and V, available in Latvian at <http://www.zurnalistusavieniba.lv/?p=3519&pp=3768&lang=923>

³⁴⁵ Latvia, Information provided to the LCHR by the Association of Journalists of Latvia (*Latvijas Žurnālistu asociācija*) by e-mail, 17 March 2015

³⁴⁶ Latvia, Latvian Centre for Human Rights (2011), Media and Diversity (*Mediji un daudzveidība*), available in Latvian at: http://cilvektiesibas.org.lv/site/attachments/29/01/2012/Mediji_un_daudzveidiba.pdf

³⁴⁷ Latvia, Society Integration Foundation (*Sabiedrības integrācijas fonds*), Project "Different People. Different Experiences. One Latvia" (*Dažādi cilvēki, atšķirīga pieredze, viena Latvija*), available in Latvian: http://www.sif.gov.lv/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9033&Itemid=240&lang=lv

<p>marriages between nationals and foreigners, e.g. for asylum seekers, third country nationals, etc. Do these limitations result in practical barriers?</p>	<p>lawfully present on the territory of Latvia at the moment of entering into marriage.³⁴⁸</p>
<p>Are there any official or non-official data and information on mixed marriages (between nationals and people with another citizenship)? Please provide % proportions on the total number of marriages in a given period, as well as data – where available – about ages, country of origin/birth of migrant spouses.</p>	<p>Mixed marriages have been a traditional feature in Latvia and the number of mixed marriages in Latvia has been relatively high. From 2010 through 2013, 8400 marriages were concluded between Latvian nationals and persons with foreign citizenship, making up 19.66% of all 42730 marriages entered into within the given period of time.³⁴⁹ In 2012 and 2013, the majority of brides in mixed marriages were Latvian non-citizens, while others held the citizenship of countries such as Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Estonia, Lithuania and others. Likewise, the biggest share of bridegrooms in 2012 in mixed marriages were Latvian non-citizens, followed by persons with citizenship of countries such as Russia, Lithuania, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Germany, Israel, Belarus, Estonia, the USA, Norway, Italy, Poland and others.³⁵⁰ In 2013, the majority of bridegrooms in mixed marriages were Latvian non-citizens, followed the persons with citizenship of countries such as Russia, Lithuania, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Germany, Israel, Poland and others.³⁵¹</p>

³⁴⁸ Latvia, Law on the Registration of Acts concerning Civil Status (*Civilstāvokļa aktu reģistrācijas likums*), adopted on 29 November 2012, Article 18, available in Latvian at at <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=253442>

³⁴⁹ Latvia, Central Statistical Bureau (*Centrālā statistikas pārvalde*), Annual statistical data: ILG05. Marriages by citizenship of persons marrying, available in English at http://data.csb.gov.lv/pxweb/en/Sociala/Sociala_ikgad_iedz_laulibas/IL0050.px/?rxid=cdbc978c-22b0-416a-aacc-aa650d3e2ce0

³⁵⁰ Latvia, Central Statistical Bureau (*Centrālā statistika pārvalde*) (2013), Demography 2012, p. 53, available in English at: http://www.csb.gov.lv/sites/default/files/publikacijas/Nr%202012%20Demografija%202012%20%2813_00%29%20LV_EN.pdf

³⁵¹ Latvia, Central Statistical Bureau (*Centrālā statistika pārvalde*) (2014), Demography 2013, p. 52, available in English at: http://www.csb.gov.lv/sites/default/files/publikacijas/nr_11_demografija_2014_14_00_lv_en.pdf

Annex 2: National and regional level action plans on integration

National / regional level (specify region)	Year of the first edition and Year of latest update (e.g. First edition: 2004, Most recent update: 2011)	Responsible ministry – public authority – reference details (URL – links)	Target groups identify migrant and refugee groups as beneficiaries (e.g. on the basis of their residence status)	Main aims, actions and activities foreseen in the focus areas – link to fundamental rights [provide both key dimensions and specific actions and aims of the policy instruments in each focus area (use a different row for each focus area if needed)]	Targeting general population? Yes/No – explanatory comments where needed	Insert here definition of integration (in EN) if any. Alternative: Indicate the core aim/objective of the NAP related to social inclusion and/or integration of migrants
Regional. "Riga city Society Integration Programme 2012-2017" (Rīgas pilsētas sabiedrības integrācijas programma 2012.–2017. gadam) www.iksd.riga.lv/upload/file/I	First edition: 2012 (approved by the Riga City Council on 25 September 2012)	Coordination: Education, Culture and Sports Department of the Riga City Council (<i>Rīgas domes Konsultatīvā padome sabiedrības integrācijas jautājumos</i>) www.iksd.riga.lv/public/40468.html Oversight: Consultative Council on Society Integration Issues	Latvian legislation does not provide a definition of the term "immigrant", therefore, throughout the document, measures envisioned for: - recently arrived persons (including refugees);	"The aim of society integration in the capital is to facilitate the formation of cohesive society, which complies with the values of democratic state and forms sense of belonging to Riga, ensuring high degree of participation and cooperation of the members of society" (p.2). "Implementation work plan of the Riga city Society Integration Programme 2012-2014" (<i>Rīgas pilsētas sabiedrības integrācijas programmas īstenošanas rīcības plāns 2012.–2014.gadam</i>) envisages activities in five issue areas (pp.54-73):	Yes: "Integration measures are necessary for the whole Latvia's society – for those members of society who for many years live in Latvia, and for those	"Integration of society is a dynamic two-way process, which unites the society and facilitates mutual understanding of the people, in which all members of society participate as equal partners and members of society are provided with opportunities to cooperate constructively, intercultural contacts and equality is being

KSD_pievi enotie/20 12_11/rig a%20dim d/DomesB roshura.p df		of the Riga City Council (<i>Rīgas domes Konsultatīvās padomes sabiedrības integrācijas jautājumos</i>) www.iksd.riga.lv/public/40593.html	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - persons without Latvian citizenship; - persons with insufficient Latvian language proficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation opportunities; - Accessibility of information; - Education; - Culture, sports, leisure activities; - Social inclusion. 	who arrived recently"	encouraged in the society. This is a long-term process, which covers all areas of life – economic, social, cultural, civic and political" (p.2).
National. Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018, (<i>Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas politikas pamatnostādnes 2012-2018</i>) www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/nozaru/integracija/Pamatnos	First edition: 2011 (approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 11 October 2011)	The Department for Society Integration Affairs of Ministry of Culture is the authority responsible for the coordination of integration policy in Latvia www.km.gov.lv/lv/ministrija/sabiedrības_integrācija.html	The "Guidelines" define immigrants (p.6) as - foreigners with temporary or permanent residence permits, as well as Latvia's non-citizens; these are "third-country nationals". There are three groups of immigrants: (1) Latvia's non-citizens, (2) long-term residents of Latvia who gave up the status of non-citizen by accepting the citizenship of	The aim is "strong, coherent people of Latvia: national and democratic community, which provides the preservation and enrichment of its unifying basis – Latvian language, culture and national identity, European democratic values, unique cultural space - for the balanced development of Latvian national democratic state" (p.9). Medium term policy goals and activity areas (p.33): 1. Civil society and integration 1.1. To develop civic education by using formal and informal education methods. 1.2. To strengthen the traditional and non-traditional forms of civic participation.	Yes	"Integration of society is inclusion of all people living in Latvia into the society regardless of their ethnic affiliation and self-identification. The common basis of integration is Latvian language, the sense of belonging to the state of Latvia and its democratic values, respect towards unique Latvia's cultural space and forming common historic memory. Integration of society facilitates civil participation aimed at democratic

tadnes/KM Pam 0710 11 integ.pdf			<p>non-EU/EEA countries, (3) immigrants who arrived after independence (mostly from former USSR countries).</p>	<p>1.3. To promote inclusion of socially excluded groups into the society and to prevent discrimination.</p> <p>1.4. To strengthen democratic information space of high quality and increase the role of media in integration.</p> <p>2. National identity – language and cultural space</p> <p>2.1. To ensure the use of the Latvian language in the public space of Latvia.</p> <p>2.2. To strengthen the Latvian language skills of the Latvians living abroad, national minorities, non-citizens and new immigrants.</p> <p>2.3. To strengthen the Latvian cultural space as a cohesive framework of the society and to promote the affiliation to the cultural space on local, national and European level.</p> <p>2.4. To strengthen the Latvian identity and affiliation to Latvia of the Latvians residing abroad.</p> <p>3. Shared social memory</p>	<p>and rational resolution of the problems of society, strengthens mutual cooperation and trust of individuals. At the same time, integration means the openness of the state nation and respect towards peculiarities of minorities and their right to preserve their different identity. The aim of integration is also to facilitate the inclusion of immigrants into society by offering motivating means and opportunities to acquire the common basis of coherent society" (p.6).</p>
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				<p>3.1. To enhance understanding of the World War II and the Soviet occupation in Latvia based on true facts and according to democratic values.</p> <p>3.2. To promote exploration, research and understanding of local and European history.</p>		
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Annex 4: Indicators monitoring migrant integration - social inclusion/cohesion

The Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018 envision 25 policy results indicators, some of which may be relevant to the integration and social inclusion of TCNs and persons with migrant background.³⁵²

³⁵² Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018, (*Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas politikas pamatnostādnes 2012-2018*), 2011 www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/nozaru/integracija/Pamatnostadnes/KMPam_071011_integ.pdf

N.	Indicator	Definition	Legal frame / policy target	Data source	Periodicity	Reference / Comments
1	The share of minorities employed within public sector	Growing number of representatives of minorities are working in the public sector	Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018, (<i>Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas politikas pamatnostādnes 2012-2018</i>) p.87	Labour Force Survey	Monitoring research	Employment. National. www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/nozar_u/integracija/Pamatnostadnes/KMPam_071011_integ.pdf Methodology: M.Hazans. Ethnic Minorities in the Latvian Labour Market, 1997–2009, in: How Integrated is Latvian Society? N.Muižnieks (ed.) 2010, p.158, www.lu.lv/fileadmin/user_upload/lu_portal/zinas/Integracija_anglu.pdf
2	The share of non-citizens among Latvia's population	Decreasing the number of non-citizens	Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018, (<i>Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas politikas pamatnostādnes 2012-2018</i>) p.88	The data of Central Statistics Bureau IS09	Annually	National. www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/nozar_u/integracija/Pamatnostadnes/KMPam_071011_integ.pdf

3	The number of naturalisations	The number of persons granted citizenship through naturalisation per year is stable or increased	Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018, (<i>Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas politikas pamatnostādnes 2012-2018</i>) p.88	The data of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs	Annually	National. www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/nozar_u/integracija/Pamatnostadnes/KMPam_071011_integ.pdf www.pmlp.lv/lv/statistika/Naturalizacija.html
4	Decreased differences in employment of ethnic groups	Decreased differences in the level of employment of various ethnic groups	Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018, (<i>Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas politikas pamatnostādnes 2012-2018</i>) p.88	The data of the Employment State Agency and the Central Statistics Bureau	Annually	National. Employment. www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/nozar_u/integracija/Pamatnostadnes/KMPam_071011_integ.pdf The data on representatives of various ethnic groups registered at the Employment State Agency and long-term unemployed www.nva.gov.lv/index.php?cid=6&mid=330&txt=336&t=stat , as relative to the data on relevant population groups at the Central Statistics Bureau
5	Improved Latvian language proficiency of non-native speakers	The Latvian language proficiency of non-native speakers improved	Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018, (<i>Nacionālās</i>	Naturalisation language exam data of the Office of	Annually	National. www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/nozar_u/integracija/Pamatnostadnes/KMPam_071011_integ.pdf

			<i>identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas politikas pamatnostādnes 2012-2018)</i> p.90	Citizenship and Migration Affairs		The rate of successful passes of language exams for naturalisation relative to the total number of persons taking language exam for naturalisation, on the basis of the data of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs: www.pmlp.lv/lv/statistika/dokuments/Naturalizacija_1995_2010.pdf
6	Conditions for comprehensive immigrant integration policy	The number of persons taking integration programmes (including various levels of the state language programmes) is growing	Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018, (<i>Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas politikas pamatnostādnes 2012-2018)</i> p.91	Data of service providers	Annually	National. www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/nozar_u/integracija/Pamatnostadnes/KMPam_071011_integ.pdf
7	Active NGOs established by immigrants or representing the interests of the immigrants	The number of active NGOs established by immigrants or representing the interests of the immigrants is growing	Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018, (<i>Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un</i>	Data of service providers	Annually	National. www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/nozar_u/integracija/Pamatnostadnes/KMPam_071011_integ.pdf

			<i>integrācijas politikas pamatnostādnes 2012-2018)</i> p.91			
8	Increased sense of belonging to Latvia among minorities	Increasing number of minority groups taking part in the Latvian Song and Dance Festival	Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018, (<i>Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas politikas pamatnostādnes 2012-2018)</i> p.92	Data of service providers	Regularly	National. www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/nozar_u/integracija/Pamatnostadnes/KMPam_071011_integ.pdf
9	Participation of minorities in the commemorative events related to Latvian history	Increasing number of minority respondents indicate that they celebrate the Proclamation Day of the Republic of Latvia	Guidelines of National Identity and Society Integration Policy 2012 – 2018, (<i>Nacionālās identitātes, pilsoniskās sabiedrības un integrācijas politikas pamatnostādnes 2012-2018)</i> p.93	Data of service providers	Periodically	National. www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/nozar_u/integracija/Pamatnostadnes/KMPam_071011_integ.pdf Methodology: Baltic Institute The sociological research of ce <i>Svētki. Valsts. Valsts svētku s</i> p.71.

Annex 5: Use of funding instruments

Table 1 - European Integration Fund (EIF)

	European Integration Fund (EIF) - TOTAL	Own funds	Funds distribution / Thematic areas							
			Participation	Social Cohesion / social inclusion	Active citizenship	Welcoming society	Employment	Education	Healthcare	Other
2010	1068203.38	314412.99								
2011	1506304.04	471722.99								
2012	1748691.00	549613.59								
2013	1948859	613634.88								
2014	Not approved									

Note: EIF is managed by the Ministry of Culture within open call or restricted project selection and the priority activity areas set by the Ministry³⁵³ are not directly relevant to the thematic areas envisioned by the Annex 5 Table 1 of the present research (Participation; Social Cohesion / social inclusion; Active citizenship; Welcoming society; Employment; Education; Healthcare; Other). Priority activity areas may differ from year to year (5 priority activity areas in 2013 programme, 4 in 2012 and 2011, 9 in 2010).

Distribution of funds is 75% EIF and 25% state budget funding.

³⁵³ Ministry of Culture, 2013 annual programme of the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (2013.gada programma Eiropas Trešo valstu valstspiederīgo integrācijas fonds), available in Latvian www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/ES/finans/etvvif/2014/ETVVIF_2013gada_programma.docx and English www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/ES/finans/etvvif/2014/ETVVIF_Annual_Programme_2013.docx.

	European Integration Fund (EIF) - TOTAL	Own funds	Priority activity areas (The Ministry of Culture)								
2010	1,068,203.38	3144 12.99	Development of programmes and activities aimed at promoting the adaptation of recently arrived third-country nationals to the host society and help them to learn the Latvian language, history, institutions, social and economic characteristics, cultural life, etc.:	Improve access of third country nationals to the state and private services and products, as well as help them integrate into Latvian society, ensuring intermediation services and necessary consultations:	Develop education or adaptation programmes for the youth - third country nationals:	Promote a more favourable attitude towards migration in the host society as well as adoption of integration measures through educational campaigns, particularly in the media:	Development of information technology system for planning effective policy of integration of third-country nationals and its adaptation to the migrants' needs:	Development of monitoring tools and evaluation schemes for integration policies and integration measures implemented:	Develop and implement training courses for civil servants, representatives of municipalities, social workers, medical personnel, NGOs and representatives of international organizations and other specialists who provide services to immigrants;	Involvement of NGOs in development of intercultural dialogue between the Latvian society and third-country nationals and facilitation of third-country nationals:	Assistance in development of effective functional integration policy by exchange of experiences and good practices with other member states:
			10 projects; LVL 411,304.83 (EUR 585,237.38)	1 project; LVL 91,157.81 (EUR 129,706.62)	1 project; LVL 85643.53 (EUR 121860.46)	1 project; LVL 85583.22 (EUR 121774.64)	1 project, LVL 50602 (EUR 72000.57)	1 project, LVL 21081.94 (EUR 29997.07)	3 projects; LVL 61,882.64 (EUR 88,051.57)	2 projects; LVL 48,714.52 (EUR 69,314.91)	1 project; LVL 27912.33 (EUR 39715.89)
2011	1,506,304.04	4717 22.99	Development and implementation of education or adaptation programmes in order to provide high quality integration of	Improve access of third country nationals to the state and private services, as well as facilitate benevolent	Strengthening administrative capacity of the state agencies, which provide services to	Experiences and good practices exchange in the field of integration policy:					
						1 project, LVL					

			third country nationals, including programmes for special groups of third country nationals: 12 projects; LVL 725,415.60 (EUR 1,032,179.28)	attitude towards migration in the host society: 1 project; LVL 431,289.00 (EUR 613,672.45)	third country nationals: 4 projects; LVL 155297.56 (EUR 220969.78)	14,113.00 (EUR 20,081.10)					
2012	1,748,691.00	5496 13.59	Development of language and adaptation programs for integration of third country nationals and the creation of an cohesive society: 14 projects; EUR 1,121,658.99	Establishment of unified coordination and information structure for the support of integration of third country national: 1 project; EUR 499,767.40	Improvement of mutual coordination and the quality of services provided by the specialists of the state institutions : 3 projects; EUR 92,557.74	Assistance in development of effective functional integration policy by exchange of experiences and good practices with other member states: 1 project; EUR 22,998.38					
2013	1,948,859	613,6 34.88	Development of language and adaptation programs for integration of third country nationals and the creation of an cohesive society: 14 projects; EUR 1,743,285.88	National integration centre and informational activities for Latvian society: 1 project, EUR 499,999.38	Develop and implement systems envisioned for collecting and analysing information about the needs of various categories of third	Develop and implement intercultural training system, increasing opportunities and diversity awareness, training of personnel of public, private institutions and social	Experiences, good practices and information exchange between member states in the field of integration: 1 project, EUR 14,997.79				

					country nationals: 1 project, EUR 24,999.99	partners providing services, including educational institutions; 2 projects, EUR 79,914.77 in total					
2014	Not approved										

2010 data: Ministry of Culture, Grant contracts within 2010 annual programme of the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (*Eiropas Trešo valstu valstspiederīgo integrācijas fonda 2010. gada programmas ietvaros noslēgtie līgumi*) www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/ES/finans/etvvif/etvvif_2010g_programma/Apstiprinaati_projekti.docx.

2011 data: Ministry of Culture, Projects approved within 2011 annual programme of the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (*Eiropas Trešo valstu valstspiederīgo integrācijas fonda 2011.gada programmas ietvaros apstiprinātie projekti*) 21 March 2013, www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/ES/finans/etvvif/2011.gada_programmas_ietvaros_apstiprinatie_projekti.docx.

2012 data: Ministry of Culture, Information about the grant contracts within 2012 annual programme of the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (*Informācija par Eiropas Trešo valstu valstspiederīgo integrācijas 2012.gada programmas ietvaros noslēgtajiem granta līgumiem*), 28 March 2014, www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/ES/finans/etvvif/2012gada/Noslegtie_ligumi_2012granti.doc

2013 data: Ministry of Culture, Information about the projects approved within 2012 annual programme of the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (*Informācija par Eiropas Trešo valstu valstspiederīgo integrācijas fonda 2013.gada programmas ietvaros apstiprinātajiem projektiem*), 11 February 2015, www.km.gov.lv/lv/doc/ES/finans/etvvif/Noslegtie_ligumi_2013.doc.

Table 2 - European Refugee Fund (ERF) aiming at integration of beneficiaries of international protection

	European Refugee Fund (ERF) - TOTAL	Own funds(national/regional)	Funds distribution / Thematic areas							
			Participation	Social Cohesion / social inclusion	Active citizenship	Welcoming society (host society targeted)	Employment	Education	Healthcare	Other
2010	78,728	26,244								
2011	88,753	29,585								
2012	45,000	15,000								
2013	156,991	52,331								
2014										

* Please indicate if Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund is used for 2014

The Ministry of Interior is responsible for the European Refugee Fund (ERF) in Latvia; the distribution of funds along the thematic areas envisioned by the Annex 5 Table 2 is not available. The data provided by the Ministry of Interior on 27 March 2015 by e-mail.

Annex 7: Promising practices

Thematic area	Social cohesion
Title (original language)	Nacionālais Integrācijas Centrs
Title (EN)	National Integration Centre (NIC)
Organisation (original language)	Sabiedrības Integrācijas Fonds
Organisation (EN)	Society Integration Foundation
Government / Civil society	Public foundation
Funding body	European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (75%) and state budget (25%)
Reference (incl. url, where available)	http://integration.lv/en/
Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist	August 2013
Type of initiative	Project to set up a central organisational and co-ordinating establishment for the integration of TCNs in Latvia
Main target group	Third-Country Nationals (TCNs), irrespective of gender, age, disability, ethnic origin or beliefs
Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National	National
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	<p>The Guidelines on National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy (2012-2018) envisaged the establishment of a national-level coordinating system to support immigrant participation. Consequently, the Society Integration Funds began work on a project "National Integration Centre" (NIC) in August 2013, within the framework of the 2012 programme of the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals. NIC continues its work also during of the 2013 programme.</p> <p>The project's objective is to develop the NIC as a sustainable and coordinating institution providing and improving the availability of different support services to third-country nationals in order to help them integrate into the Latvian society (incl., Latvian language training and integration courses) and to promote the understanding of</p>

	<p>migration processes in host societies, as well as the coordination of activities of the public sector and the civil society.</p>
<p>Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>In both Riga as well as all the regions, NIC provides TCNs with access to individual consultations in areas such as social issues, health care, education, employment, civic participation, as well as assistance by lawyers, psychologists and social workers, translation of documents, Latvian language lessons and integration programmes, extra-curricular activities for children, and others. In addition, NIC also organizes inter-cultural communication training courses for state authorities, municipalities and NGOs.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as opposed to 'one off activities')</p>	<p>NIC is specifically established as organisational and coordinating entity, which continuously provides TCNs with information, a range of services and assistance.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact</p>	<p>Through the establishment of NIC, the activities of the public sector and the civil society in the area of the integration of TCNs are better coordinated, and TCNs have access to information, a range of services and assistance. As of March 2015, NIC has provided consultations to 1213 TCNs countrywide, with 65% of the consultations held on issues related to education, training and language courses. Consultations have also been given to stakeholders, such as NGOs (27.47% of the total number of consultations), municipalities, state institutions, entrepreneurs, and educational establishments. As of 25 February 2015, NIC reports that 552 persons have taken part in its integration events, 346 – in creative and interactive activities for children, 249 persons have attended trainings for state, municipality and NGO employees, and 518 persons have participated in language courses. The activities of the project in 2013-2014 included inter-cultural communication training courses for state authorities, municipalities and NGOs, with the participation of 102 participants, as well as information seminars about topical issues of the integration of third-country nationals. The project also included activities aimed at media involvement in the discussion on integration: a press breakfast and discussion was organised as well as four videos on broadcast on TV were posted.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as transferrable to other settings and/or Member States?</p>	<p>With its clear objectives and tasks, the practice is easily transferrable to any EU MS, which strives to improve the integration of TCNs through better coordination among the public sector and non-governmental organizations, and provision of at least a minimum of centrally-administered information, assistance and services to TCNs.</p>

<p>Explain, if applicable, how the practice involves beneficiaries and stakeholders in the design, planning, evaluation, review assessment and implementation of the practice.</p>	<p>The Advisory Council for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals, which is tasked with the coordination of institutional cooperation in the area of integration of TCNs and promotion of collaboration among public authorities and NGOs of TCNs within the framework of integration policy, is also charged with the development and implementation of the strategy of NIC. While the Advisory Council does not, at present, include any immigrant organizations, NGOs representing their interests are among the members of the board.</p>
<p>Explain, if applicable, how the practice provides for review and assessment.</p>	<p>No project impact assessment has been carried out so far. However, questioner to evaluate the quality of the service that was provided is available on the website of the NIC. The aim of the questioner is to asses and to improve the quality of services in the futures. Training evaluation by the participants has been carried out at the end of the each training.</p>

Thematic area	Social cohesion
Title (original language)	„Migrācijas, attīstības un cilvēktiesību jautājumu izpratnes veicināšana, iesaistot vietējās pašvaldības”
Title (EN)	“Awareness on Migration, development and human rights through local partnerships (AMITIE)”
Organisation (original language)	In Latvia: Latvijas Cilvēktiesību centrs; Rīgas Domes Izglītības, kultūras un sporta departaments
Organisation (EN)	Project was coordinated by the Municipality of Bologna and implemented in Italy, Spain, Latvia, Romania and Brazil. Project partners in Latvia: Latvian Centre for Human Rights, Riga City Council’s Education, Culture and Sports Department
Government / Civil society	NGO, Local authority
Funding body	EU Development Cooperation Instrument - Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development
Reference (incl. url, where available)	http://www.comune.bologna.it/amitie/index.php
Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist	15 March 2011 to 15 May 2013

Type of initiative	Awareness-raising through research, focus group interviews, seminars, trainings and an information campaign
Main target group	Immigrants, experts working with immigrants at state and municipal bodies, including schools, as well as NGOs and the general public
Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National	National, with the main emphasis on Riga
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	<p>AMITIE explored the relationship between development, migration and human rights, and responded to the need to raise awareness on these issues. To this end, the project aimed to create new channels of communication, develop research and educational programmes, and to promote local participation.</p> <p>The project component, carried out in Latvia, followed a comprehensive approach, which included focus group interviews with the beneficiaries of the project, development of an overview on issues related to migration, development and human rights, training seminars for school representatives, teachers, high school students, NGO and municipality representatives, as well as an information campaign, which consisted of a video film „This is my Story. Or Ours? Riga”, involvement of campaign ambassadors, the organisation of four creative contests, production of another original film in Latvian, street posters, articles in the mass media, and the holding of informative events.</p>
Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars)	All of the awareness-raising measures, implemented in Latvia, while tailored to the local circumstances, are generally applicable and therefore transferrable to other countries.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as opposed to 'one off activities')	<p>Research and focus group discussions, held within the framework of this project in Latvia, created a baseline understanding of the situation with regard to the inter-linked aspects of migration, development and human rights.</p> <p>Training and information activities helped raise awareness on these issues among the target group, thereby promoting their better understanding in the long-term.</p>
Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact	<p>Within the framework of this project in Latvia, 40 persons from the target group took part in focus group discussions, thereby providing the necessary data for the subsequent training and information activities, an overview on issues related to migration, development and human rights was developed, 23 school representatives and 53 high school students from mainstream and national minority schools received training on issues related to migration, development and human rights, 20 representatives of NGOs and municipalities took part in e-training on the same</p>

	<p>issues, and 18 representatives of the Riga Municipality received training on diversity and migration. In addition, an information campaign, which consisted of a video film „This is my Story. Or Ours? Riga”, involvement of six campaign ambassadors, the organisation of four creative contests, production of another original film in Latvian, street posters, articles in the mass media, and various informative events, was held.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as transferrable to other settings and/or Member States?</p>	<p>The practice, which consisted of a diverse range of awareness-raising measures, was implemented through activities, which are not specific to the local context and can therefore be easily replicated in other EU MS.</p>
<p>Explain, if applicable, how the practice involves beneficiaries and stakeholders in the design, planning, evaluation, review assessment and implementation of the practice.</p>	<p>Within the framework of this project in Latvia, 40 persons from the target group took part in focus group discussions, thereby providing the necessary data for the subsequent training and information activities.</p>
<p>Explain, if applicable, how the practice provides for review and assessment.</p>	<p>No project impact assessment has been carried out so far. However, training evaluation by the participants has been carried out at the end of the each training.</p>

Annex 8: Discrimination complaints submitted to Equality Bodies

N/A.

Annex 9: Case law – max 5 leading cases

Thematic area	The implementation of anti-discrimination legislation and equal treatment
Decision date	17 February 2011
Reference details	Latvia, Constitutional Court Ruling in the Case No. 2010-20-0106, 17 February 2011 (<i>Latvijas Republikas Satversmes tiesas Spriedums lietā Nr. 2010-20-0106, 2011. gada 17. februārī</i>), available in Latvian at: www.satv.tiesa.gov.lv/upload/spriedums_2010-20-0106.htm
Key facts of the case (max. 500 chars)	Section 1 of the transition provisions of the law "On State Pensions" ³⁵⁴ stipulate the period of work and obligatory military service accrued in the USSR outside of Latvia up to 31 December 1990 are counted into the length of insurance of citizens, but not of the persons without Latvian citizenship. The applicants (five non-citizens of Latvia) submitted a complaint, requesting to recognise the said provision does not comply with Article 91 of the Constitution and Article 14 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in conjunction with Article 1 of the Protocol No. 1. The applicants claimed this provision discriminates non-citizens and referred to the ECHR decision in the case of Andrejeva v. Latvia, which found the said provision entitles to pension for employment up to 1991 in the USSR outside Latvia, and concluded that by refusing this entitlement because she was a non-citizen, Latvia violated Article 14 of the Convention in conjunction with Article 1 of Protocol No. 1.
Main reasoning/argumentation (max. 500 chars)	The Constitutional Court established that the legislator provided for a difference in calculating pensions of citizens and non-citizens, and pointed out that the state has a wide margin of discretion in developing its social security system. The Court also argued that in the case of Andrejeva v. Latvia, the ECHR evaluated only specific facts of the case, not the compliance of the contested provision with the provisions of higher legal force. The Court reminded that Latvia was not a successor to the former USSR and concluded that the differential treatment has objective and understandable ground, thus such treatment can be regarded as proportionate and the contested norm complies with Article 14 of the Convention in conjunction with Article 1 of the Protocol No. 1 and Article 91 of the Constitution.
Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)	Differential treatment on the ground of nationality in provision of social entitlements

³⁵⁴ Latvia, Law "On State Pensions" (*Par valsts pensijām*), adopted on 2 November 1996, available in Latvian at: <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=38048>.

<p>Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>The Constitutional Court ruled that the Section 1 of the transition provisions of the law "On State Pensions" (on non-citizens' period of work counting into the length of insurance) complies to Article 91 of the Latvian Constitution and Article 14 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in conjunction with Article 1 of the Protocol No. 1</p>
<p>Key quotation in original language and translated into English with reference details (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>"Atšķirīgajai attieksmei, aprēķinot vecuma pensijas Latvijas Republikas pilsoņiem un nepilsoņiem, ir objektīvs un saprātīgs pamats" - "The difference in treatment in the calculation of retirement pensions of the Republic of Latvian citizens and non-citizens has an objective and understandable ground" (Section 13 of the Judgement)³⁵⁵</p> <p>"Atšķirīgo attieksmi var uzskatīt par samērīgu un apstrīdētā norma atbilst Konvencijas 14. pantam kopsakarā ar Pirmā protokola 1. pantu un Satversmes 91. pantam" - "The difference in treatment can be regarded as proportionate and the contested norm complies with Article 14 of the Convention in conjunction with Article 1 of the Protocol No. 1 and Article 91 of the Constitution." (Section 15 of the Judgement)³⁵⁶</p>

<p>Thematic area</p>	<p>Citizenship acquisition through naturalization</p>
<p>Decision date</p>	<p>13 January 2015</p>
<p>Reference details</p>	<p>Application no. 44230/06, available at http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/sites/eng/pages/search.aspx?i=001-150232#%7B%22itemid%22:[%22001-150232%22]%7D</p>
<p>Key facts of the case (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>The applicant is a "permanently resident non-citizen" of Latvia. He was actively involved in protests against the education reform that provided significant increase of subjects taught in Latvian in all municipal schools. He complained under Articles 10 and 11 and 13 of the Convention considering his freedom of expression and assembly to have been interfered with by the fact that the Cabinet of Ministers had rejected his application to acquire Latvian citizenship through naturalization and thus punished him for his views.</p> <p>Latvia insisted that freedom of expression could be freely exercised by the applicant with or without Latvian citizenship. By refusing to grant him citizenship, the objective of the Cabinet of Ministers had been to protect democracy since the applicant's genuine aim was not to acquire Latvian citizenship</p>

³⁵⁵ Latvia, Constitutional Court (*Satversmes tiesa*), Ruling in the Case No. 2010-20-0106, 17 February 2011, www.satv.tiesa.gov.lv/upload/spriedums_2010-20-0106.htm

³⁵⁶ Latvia, Constitutional Court (*Satversmes tiesa*), Ruling in the Case No. 2010-20-0106, 17 February 2011, www.satv.tiesa.gov.lv/upload/spriedums_2010-20-0106.htm

	but to conduct an organized campaign directed at triggering a political scandal. [46], [65], [75].
Main reasoning/argumentation (max. 500 chars)	In the assessment on whether the decision on naturalization had any punitive character for the purpose of the exercise of the applicant's freedom of expression and assembly, the Court emphasized that there is no right to nationality. Further, regarding the argument that the State's discretion was limited by the obligation to reduce statelessness, the Court observed that the applicant belonged to a category of Latvian residents who were granted a specific civil status under domestic law – "permanently resident non-citizens". The Court further considered that a State is entitled to require persons who wish to acquire its citizenship to be loyal to the State and its constitutional principles.
Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)	<p>Neither the Convention nor international law in general provides for the right to acquire a specific nationality. Nevertheless, an arbitrary denial of nationality might in certain circumstances raise an issue under Article 8 of the Convention [73], [81].</p> <p>In order to guarantee the stability and effectiveness of a democratic system, the State may be required to take specific measures to protect itself [72].</p> <p>The issue whether or not the applicant has an arguable right to acquire citizenship of a State must in principle be resolved by reference to the domestic law of that State. The same applies with the determination whether a person was denied a State's citizenship arbitrarily [84]</p>
Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)	The Court did not see in what manner the applicant had been prevented from expressing his disagreement with government policy and that he was prevented from participating in any meetings or movements, accordingly finding that Articles 10 and 11 were not applicable. The same conclusion was reached regarding Article 13 as there was no "arguable complaint" under the Convention. The decision was unanimous.
Key quotation in original language and translated into English with reference details (max. 500 chars)	85. The requirement of loyalty to the State and its Constitution cannot be considered as a punitive measure capable of interfering with the freedom of expression and assembly. Rather, it is a criterion which has to be fulfilled by any person seeking to obtain the Latvian citizenship through naturalization.