



# Second chance vocational education and training programmes for young NEETs

Helping young people to gain vocational skills through vocational education and training programmes, guidance services and financial support

## LATVIA

**Title of the practice (in original language)**

Sākotnējās profesionālās izglītības programmu īstenošana Jauniešu garantijas ietvaros

**Who is/was implementing the practice?**

Ministry of Welfare

**Which other organisations are/were involved in the practice?**

- State Education Development Agency
- Ministry of Education and Science
- State Employment Agency
- Agency for International Programs for Youth
- VET schools
- Local employers

**What are/were the main objectives of the practice?**

The main objective is to help young people (17-29-year-olds), not in employment, education or training (NEET), and young people (15-29-year-olds) in custody or serving prison sentences, to gain vocational skills needed in the labour market. Young people can gain qualifications in several fields (e.g. construction, energy, machinery, chemical industry). The list of occupations and training programmes is revised each year and approved by sectoral councils to ensure their continued labour market relevance.

**When was the practice implemented?**

Since September 2014 (ongoing)

**Who is/was targeted by the practice?**

- 17-29-year-old NEETs with basic, secondary or vocational education;
- 15-29-year-olds in custody or serving prison sentences;
- Young people with vocational qualifications can participate only if they have been NEET for at least the past 12 months.

**What activities are/were carried out?**

- A call is launched twice a year for young people to participate. This is communicated via a number of channels, such as PES affiliates, municipalities, schools and prisons. Young people then apply to their chosen vocational school.
- Vocational education programmes (at level 2 or 3 in the Latvian Qualifications Framework) are delivered within 1 to 1.5 years.
- Young people receive an allowance (from EUR 70 - 115 per month) and stay in paid accommodation during the training period.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programmes are implemented either as work-based learning or as traineeships with a work-based component.</li> <li>The educational and training process is accompanied with vocational guidance services (including exposure to a real work environment and study visits to companies).</li> </ul>
<b>What are/were the sources of funding?</b>	The total budget of the measure in 2015-2019 is EUR 36 184 219 of which EUR 19 285 769 is provided by the European Social Fund (ESF), EUR 13 495 078 by the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) and EUR 3 403 372 from the Latvian national budget.
<b>What are/were the outputs: people reached and products?</b>	<b>People reached</b> Between 2015-2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 484 young people participated in the measure, 3 055 of whom gained a qualification;</li> <li>6 304 young people received additional vocational guidance support;</li> <li>455 young people serving a prison sentence obtained a qualification.</li> </ul>
<b>What are/were the outcomes: medium-term results or effects?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistical data provided by the project shows that in 2015-2016 at least 50% of all participants were employed in the first six months after completing the educational and training programme. In 2017 on average 70% of all participants found employment in 6 months after participation in education and training programme (according to data based on questionnaires that young people fill in after participation in the programme).</li> <li>Further results will be available in November 2018.</li> </ul>
<b>What are/were the lessons learnt and success factors?</b>	<b>Success Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of the vocational training is organised in the form of work-based training where young people are partially trained in companies. This gives them exposure to the occupations they are interested in and greater motivation to find employment.</li> </ul>
<b>What are key sources of information?</b>	<a href="http://viaa.gov.lv//lat/es_fondu_projekti/jauniesugarantija/par_jauniesu_garantiju/">http://viaa.gov.lv//lat/es_fondu_projekti/jauniesugarantija/par_jauniesu_garantiju/</a>  <a href="https://likumi.lv/ta/id/274081-darbibas-programmas-izaugsmes-un-nodarbinatiba-7-2-1-specifiska-atbalsta-merka-palietinat-nodarbinatiba-izglitiba-vai">https://likumi.lv/ta/id/274081-darbibas-programmas-izaugsmes-un-nodarbinatiba-7-2-1-specifiska-atbalsta-merka-palietinat-nodarbinatiba-izglitiba-vai</a>