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**SECOND REPORT SUBMITTED BY LATVIA
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 25, PARAGRAPH 2
OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR
THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

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**Second Report on the Implementation of
the Framework Convention for the
Protection of National Minorities
by the Republic of Latvia**

Riga, 2012

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List of Abbreviations

ALTE	Association of Language Testers of Europe
ANCAL	Association of National Cultural Associations of Latvia
CAL	Civic Alliance of Latvia
CCNM	Consulting Council on National Minorities
CL	Criminal Law
EEA	European Economic Area
EMM	electronic mass media
LED	A project of the European Commission entitled 'Latvia – Equal in Diversity'
LJTC	Latvian Judicial Training Centre
LLA	Latvian Language Agency
NEMMC	National Electronic Mass Media Council
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NPPT	National Programme for the Promotion of Tolerance
OCMA	Office for Citizenship and Migration Affairs
PHARE	financial instrument of the European Union for financial and technical co-operation with Central and Eastern European countries
SIF	Society Integration Fund
SLC	State Language Centre
SSAMSI	Secretariat of the Special Assignment Minister for Social Integration
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Introduction

Procedure for drafting and adoption of the Report

1. On 26 May 2005 the Saeima (Parliament of Latvia) ratified the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (the Convention) and it entered into force on 1 October 2005. The Initial Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Implementation of the Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the Republic of Latvia (the Initial Report) was submitted on 11 October 2006. The first cycle of monitoring the implementation of the Convention was concluded by the adoption of the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers by 30 March 2011.
2. In order to draft the Second State Report on the Implementation of the Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the Republic of Latvia (the Report), an inter-institutional working group was established by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of 14 June 2011.¹ Experts from the Ombudsman's Office and the Central Statistical Bureau were also involved in the process of drawing up the Report.
3. Before the approval of the Report by the Government, the draft Report was sent to the President's Minorities Consulting Council, the Ministry's of Culture Committee of National Minority Non-governmental Organisations' Representatives for Supervising the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and the Advisory Council to Ministry of Education and Science on the National Minority Education Matters, seeking their opinion. On 28 May a meeting of the inter-institutional working group and representatives of these councils was held. Several proposals to the draft Report were expressed during the meeting and the Report was adjusted respectively.
4. The Report was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers on 24 July 2012.²
5. The Report covers the time period from mid-2006 to March 2012. Some data is provided for the moment of the approval of the Report.

Scope of obligations of Latvia

6. Upon ratifying the Convention, Latvia declared that, within the meaning of the Convention, the notion 'national minorities' applies to "citizens of Latvia who differ from Latvians in terms of their culture, religion or language, who

¹ The working group for drafting the Report was led by the Cabinet of Ministers Representative before International Human Rights Organisations. The group included representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, the National Electronic Mass Media Council and the Society Integration Fund.

² Paragraph 51 of the Cabinet of Ministers' Protocol Decision No.41 of 24 July 2012.

have traditionally lived in Latvia for generations and consider themselves to belong to the State and society of Latvia, who wish to preserve and develop their culture, religion or language.” The scope of application of the Convention was considerably expanded by providing that persons who are not citizens of Latvia or another State but who permanently and legally reside in the Republic of Latvia, who do not belong to a national minority within the meaning of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities as defined in the declaration submitted by Latvia, but who identify themselves with a national minority that meets the definition contained in the declaration, enjoy the rights prescribed in the Framework Convention, unless specific exceptions are prescribed by the law. Latvia believes that the definition of national minorities it has chosen, as well as the declarations submitted by Latvia upon ratification of the Convention are in line with the spirit and aim of the Convention and the established international practice in this regard.

7. The Convention leaves a broad margin of appreciation to States in the application of the rights and principles set forth therein, in order to take into account the specific nature of the constitutional system and historical and geopolitical situation of each State. Such an approach is in full conformity with well-established principles of international law and the existing State practice. The Convention does not require the States to change the aforementioned fundamental principles of a democratic State enshrined in their constitutions.
8. Latvia continues the legal personality of the Republic of Latvia which existed until the occupation by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (hereinafter – the USSR) in 1940 and, upon regaining independence in 1991, democratic institutions of the former Republic of Latvia have been reinstated, along with the body of citizens, legal system, property rights and international obligations as important core elements of State identity. Thus, within the meaning of international public law, Latvia is not a newly established State or a successor to the obligations of the USSR.
9. As a result of the policy pursued by the USSR, which included deportations of the population of Latvia, russification and internal migration within the USSR, the ethnic composition of population in Latvia had been changed. According to the results of the 1989 population census, the share of ethnic Latvians in Latvia had decreased to 52% in comparison to 77% in 1935.³ According to the census data, only 22% of people of other ethnicities in Latvia knew Latvian, while 68,7% of ethnic Latvians claimed command of Russian.⁴ This reality predetermined adoption of special and long-lasting protection measures to ensure, preserve and develop fundamental elements characterising the State of Latvia, for instance, command and use of the Latvian language in the State. Many of the measures remain important even

³ Demographic Yearbook of Latvia, Central Statistics Committee of Latvia, Riga, 1995, p. 17.

⁴ Results of the Population Census on 1989 in Latvia: Statistical Bulletin Part II, State Statistics Committee of Latvia, Riga, 1991, p. 42.

today, as Latvia continues reinforcing the elements of State identity. This consideration must be borne in mind when evaluating measures undertaken by the Latvian State towards honouring its commitments vis á vis national minorities.

10. It should be explained that, upon restoring independence of the Republic of Latvia, the citizenship of the Republic of Latvia was also reinstated as part of the statehood. Justifiably, persons who had settled in Latvia as a result of migration facilitated during the USSR occupation of Latvia, could not automatically become citizens of the Republic of Latvia. Therefore, the status of a non-citizen was introduced as a temporary status for the period during which a person would acquire Latvian citizenship or choose another State to establish his or her legal connection with. On the development of the citizenship institution after the restoration of independence and the non-citizen status see Paragraphs 3, 32-37 of the Initial Report of Latvia, as well as Paragraph 20 of Latvia's comments on the opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter – Advisory Committee).
11. It must be noted that Latvia's non-citizens is the only category of residents who, not being Latvian citizens, have *ex-lege* rights to reside in Latvia (all others need a residence permit). Moreover, the status of non-citizen guarantees consular protection of the Republic of Latvia abroad as well as a broad range of civil and economic rights and freedoms. Meanwhile, non-citizens have the right to naturalise at any moment, acquire Latvian citizenship and enjoy the Latvian citizen's rights. The status of a Latvian non-citizen cannot be equated with any other status of a physical person laid down in international law: the scope of non-citizens' rights is broader than the scope of rights of any other existing and potentially comparable status under international law (see Paragraphs 34, 35 of the Initial State Report). Latvian non-citizens cannot be recognised as stateless persons in the meaning of the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. Rather, these persons should be regarded as persons with undefined citizenship.
12. It should be added that the status of non-citizen must not be mistaken with belonging to a specific ethnic group, and the non-citizen status does not by itself imply belonging to a national minority in Latvia (for details, see Paragraphs 284 and 285 below, as well as Tables 1 and 2 of Annex I).
13. At the same time, Latvia emphasises that the goal of its integration policy is to facilitate naturalisation and increase the number of Latvian citizens enjoying full rights rather than freeze the number of non-citizens with multiple rights.
14. While appreciating the recognition by international institutions as to the progress achieved since regaining independence, Latvia, however, is aware that there is a room for further improvements. Therefore, Latvia pledges its willingness to continue fulfilling the commitments under the Convention and remaining engaged in the dialogue with the Advisory Committee.

Article 1

The protection of national minorities and of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to those minorities forms an integral part of the international protection of human rights, and as such falls within the scope of international co-operation.

15. Latvia is a democratic country, which, by its example in developing a multiethnic society over centuries and sustaining inter-ethnic tolerance, can serve as a model for other countries. Latvia ensures cultural autonomy for national minorities and provides essential support for the strengthening of their identities. Persons belonging to national minorities actively exercise the rights guaranteed by the *Satversme* (Constitution) to establish schools, associations, organisations, cultural institutions, as well as publishing media in national minority languages. The State has introduced and is implementing a number of measures aimed to promote participation of national minority representatives at national and local levels and to ensure protection against discrimination. State funded education is provided in seven national minority languages – Russian, Polish, Belorussian, Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Estonian and Hebrew. In addition, acquisition of Romani language is provided in optional classes.
16. National minorities in Latvia are guaranteed the right to use their native language, while preserving, protecting and developing the Latvian language which is the official State language and thereby serves as a vital element of society integration, as well as ensures equal opportunities for residents of Latvia in the labour market. The Latvian government has supported financially and ensured the Latvian language courses for national minorities in order to improve the State language proficiency level. Good results have been achieved in this regard, and the overall command of the Latvian language in the society has improved during the reporting period.
17. Latvia wishes to refer to information provided in Paragraph 38 of its Initial State Report.

Article 2

The provisions of this framework Convention shall be applied in good faith, in a spirit of understanding and tolerance and in conformity with the principles of good neighbourliness, friendly relations and co-operation between States.

18. The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Estonia on Taking Account of Insurance Periods Completed in the Territory of the Former USSR concluded in 2007 took effect on 1 September 2008; the Agreement between the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Belarus on Co-operation in the Field of Social Security concluded in 2008 took effect on 28 September 2010; the Agreement between the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Federation on Co-operation in the Field of Social Security concluded in 2007 took effect on 19 January 2011.

Article 3

1. Every person belonging to a national minority shall have the right freely to choose to be treated or not to be treated as such and no disadvantage shall result from this choice or from the exercise of the rights which are connected to that choice.

2. Persons belonging to national minorities may exercise the rights and enjoy the freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention individually as well as in community with others.

19. Latvia wishes to refer to information provided in Paragraphs 40, 43, 44, 45 of its Initial State Report.

20. Historically, Latvia has always been a multi-ethnic country. Already when adopting the Constitution of 1922, Latvian legislator and legal scholars recognised that, beside ethnic Latvians, the Latvian people also include other ethnic groups (national minorities). Latvia has a number of historical national minorities, for instance, Jews, Russians, Lithuanians, Poles, Roma, and Germans⁵. There are ethnic groups in Latvia that do not correspond to all the required criteria⁶ for them to be regarded as national minorities (for instance, long term presence); however, persons belonging to those groups are given a possibility to enjoy the rights guaranteed for national minorities. Therefore, certain sections in this Report also provide information about these ethnic groups.

21. Latvia indicates that an ethnic group is a broader term than a national minority. Members of one ethnic group can belong or not belong to a certain recognised national minority. However, it would not be possible or even not desirable to draw a line between the members of one ethnic group in implementation of a national policy. Likewise, in a number of cases, the State implements activities aimed for different ethnic groups or their representatives irrespective of whether or not they could be regarded as national minorities.

22. Latvia calls for those considerations to be taken into account when evaluating the information provided in this Report.

Ensuring public involvement

23. The State Administration Structure Law adopted in 2002 stipulates that public administration institutions shall ensure the involvement of society representatives, by including such persons in working groups, advisory councils or by asking them to provide opinions. Both the Saeima and the government⁷ have established close co-operation with non-governmental

⁵ Ziemele I., Comments on the Constitution of Latvia, Chapter VIII on Fundamental Human Rights (co-authors), Official Journal, 2011, p.696, §§2.3, p.712, §41.

⁶ See Paragraph 6 of this report.

⁷ In 2005 a Co-operation Memorandum was signed between NGOs and the Cabinet of Ministers <http://mk.gov.lv/file/files/valsts_kanceleja/sab_lidzdaliba/sadarbibas_memorands.pdf (in Latvian); 274 organisations have acceded to the memorandum to date, and it is still open for signing. In 2006 the

organisations (hereinafter – NGOs)⁸. Representatives from the government, the Employers' Confederation of Latvia and the Association of Free Trade Unions of Latvia participate in the National Trilateral Co-operation Council. In matters important to the society, public administration institutions have a duty to organise a public discussion. The society is informed about the drafting of planning documents and legal acts, and NGOs and social partners are ensured participation in the drafting process. Civil society representatives are given an opportunity to put forward their proposals, opinions on the draft legal acts and publicly express their view at any stage of drafting of the respective document; besides, the outcome of public involvement are reflected in the initial impact assessments (annotations) of draft legal acts. Meetings of the Cabinet and the Saeima are open to the public; video and audio broadcast of the Saeima meetings is ensured.

24. On 25 August 2009, the Cabinet adopted Regulation No. 970 “Public participation procedures for the development planning process” that regulates participation in the development planning process undertaken by the Saeima, the Cabinet, direct administration institutions and other institutions. The aim of the regulation is to contribute to an efficient, open, inclusive, timely and responsible public participation in the development planning process, thus enhancing the quality of the planning process and compliance of its results with the needs and interests of the society.
25. All local governments have a duty to hold public consultations on any changes in administrative borders and on the local authority development programme and spatial plan. The local community and media representatives in the course of public discussions are guaranteed access not only to the document under discussion but also all the decisions by the local authority related to that document. Everybody has the right to express their opinion, verbally or in writing, on the matter under public discussion. The local authority has an obligation to publish a summary of the discussion results and the decision taken by the local council that incorporates the results of public discussion.

Promotion of national minority participation

26. Society integration has been the priority for the Latvian government since early 1990s; therefore, the State continues to pursue its integration policy. As the result of reorganisation of a number of government institutions, and as from 1 January 2011, functions of the Secretariat of the Special Assignment Minister for Social Integration (hereinafter – SSAMSI) were ceded to the Ministry of Culture, which is responsible for the development and implementation of a common national policy on national identity, society integration, the development of civil society, the elimination of racial and

Saeima adopted a Declaration on Principles for Co-operation between the Saeima and NGOs <<http://www.saeima.lv/lv/sabiedribas-lidzdaliba/dekleracija/>> (in Latvian).

⁸ There is no unified NGO registry in Latvia which would provide classification of NGOs according to their field of activity and national minority NGOs are not marked.

ethnic discrimination, the promotion of tolerance, preservice of the Liv culture and traditions etc. In cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Ministry of Culture coordinates implementation of obligations under the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities.

27. Society integration matters are regarded as a horizontal issue that also remain within the scope of activities of the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, the Latvian Language Agency, the Office for Citizenship and Migration Affairs, the Society Integration Fund, the State Employment Agency, the State Chancellery, local authorities and NGOs.
28. Advisory mechanisms for promoting national minority participation in decision making processes have been set up both at the national and local levels. Three national level advisory councils are working in Latvia: the President's Minorities Consulting Council; the Ministry of Culture Committee of National Minority Non-governmental Organisation Representatives for Supervising the Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities; and the Advisory Council to Ministry of Education and Science on the National Minority Education Matters. These councils ensure a broad representation of national minorities and two of them are chaired by national minority representatives.

The President's Advisory Council on National Minorities

29. As from 22 December 2008, the Consulting Council on National Minorities (hereinafter –CCNM) has resumed permanent activities under the President's Chancery. The aim of the council is to promote dialogue on issues related to ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities, as well as supporting national minorities towards socio-political participation. Representatives from 14 national minority NGOs are engaged in the CCNM, currently headed by the Chairman of the Azerbaijan Culture Centre Council of Riga.
30. The functions of the CCNM are as follows:
 - to promote dialogue among policy makers, implementers, and the society in the fields of national minority interests;
 - to inform the President about current issues and problems of national minorities, their organisations and operation of education establishments;
 - on the President's request, to provide opinions on the current national minority-related issues;
 - to evaluate and provide opinion on the fundamental principles of national minority ethno-cultural autonomy in legal acts;
 - to review national minority related proposals by individuals, NGOs and public institutions;
 - to elaborate proposals for development of cultural autonomy of national minorities and integration of national minorities into Latvian society;

- to ensure public connection with society, the media and other stakeholders.
31. More than ten meetings of the CCNM have taken place over three years, reviewing and discussing issues on the role of the media in the formation of interethnic relations, Latvian as the State language, possibilities for enhancing civic participation and common understanding of the issues related to the 20th century history of Latvia. In 2010, draft Society Integration Guidelines, as well as in 2011 the revised draft National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Guidelines, was presented in the CCNM meeting.

The Committee of National Minority Organisations' Representatives for the Monitoring of the Implementation of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

32. The advisory mechanism – the National Minority Organisation Representatives' Committee for the Monitoring of the Implementation of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (hereinafter – Minority NGO Committee) – previously established under the Ministry of Culture continues its operation with the principal task to co-ordinate the implementation of obligations under the Convention and to develop dialogue with the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The Minority NGO Committee includes representatives from 21 national minority and inter-ethnic NGOs from Riga, Daugavpils, Liepāja, Rēzekne and Tukums. Represented on the Minority NGO Committee are Russian, Belarusian, Ukrainian, Polish, German, Estonian, Lithuanian, Georgian, Roma and other ethnic NGOs, as well as other interethnic societies. Meetings of the Minority NGO Committee are held at least three times a year.
33. During the review period ten meetings of the Minority NGO Committee took place. In these meetings the Minority NGO Committee considered the Initial Report by the Republic of Latvia on the implementation of the Convention in Latvia, as well as elaboration of the alternative (shadow) report, the contents and elaboration of the draft Society Integration Guidelines, the possibilities for NGOs to take part in project competitions and attract funding, the academic achievements of pupils from minority and Latvian schools in the context of national minority education reform implemented in Latvia etc. In June 2008 the Minority NGO Committee met the Chairperson and experts of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Several meetings of the Minority NGO Committee were held in the regions of Latvia in order to get insight into problems and current issues of local communities.

The Advisory Council on Minority Education Affairs with the Ministry of Education and Science

34. The Advisory Council on Minority Education Affairs meets four times a year and is composed of 30 representatives delegated by educational institutions,

local authorities, NGOs and various institutions. At the meetings the Advisory Council deals with issues related to national minority education: drafting new legal acts; changes to educational contents; choice of educational programmes; provision of educational materials; issues related to school funding; and the results of researches and studies.

35. The Advisory Council is headed by a national minority representative, the Chairman of Azerbaijan Culture Centre Council of Riga, who is also the chairman of the Minority Consulting Council for the President (see Paragraph 29 herein).
36. The Advisory Committee on Minority Education Matters is involved in dealing with important education-related matters, and as a result of co-operation with the council, it has been achieved that:
 - every subject standards within general secondary education include topics of multiculturalism, open-mindedness and tolerance, respect for the different, civic education and the education of values;
 - unified requirements have been developed for the contents of courses for the professional development of teachers;
 - intercultural aspect, issues of democracy and civic education have been included in the compulsory part of professional development courses for social sciences teachers and courses for class teachers;
 - unified requirements have been developed for evaluating and approving teaching aids;
 - the intercultural aspect, open-mindedness and tolerance, respect for the different, civic education and the education of values are the fields that must be included in the contents of teaching aids on a compulsory basis;
 - recommendations made by the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities to facilitate citizenship acquisition for pupils have been implemented;
 - it is foreseen to include in the centralised history exam topics that would correspond to the Latvian history knowledge requirements for naturalisation, so that, by receiving a respective certificate, pupils would be exempt from the history test required for acquiring citizenship;
 - proposals for legal acts in the education sector have been implemented.

Participation possibilities at the local government level

37. In accordance with data for 2010, consulting mechanisms for dealing with society integration matters (councils, committees, working groups etc.) have been set up in 14 local authorities⁹, involving NGO representatives. National minorities' representatives participate in four out of 14 councils/committees. In 11 municipalities¹⁰, local level civil society planning documents have been adopted or civil society development issues have been included in the local

⁹Self-governments of Aizkraukle, Bauska, Cēsis, Daugavpils, Tukums, Jelgava, Jēkabpils, Jūrmala, Liepāja, Nīca un Sigulda municipalites, Rīga, Rēzekne un Ventpils cities.

¹⁰Self-governments of Balvi, Cēsis, Iecava, Nīca, Riebiņi and Tukums municipalites and Jelgava, Jēkabpils, Ventpils, Daugavpils and Rīga cities.

government (*novads*/town/city) development programmes. Local governments which have not adopted a respective document recognised that such a programme was currently not necessary, as the share of national minorities is small or they are integrated into the national information space, have command of the State language and communicate in that language. Some local governments pointed to shortage of funds for elaborating such programmes. Latvia acknowledges the necessity to continue the implementation of the Convention at the local level and to promote understanding of local governments about national minorities residing on their territories and their needs.

38. In order to ensure civil society participation in the planning, implementation and assessment of society integration policies, the Riga City Consultative Council on Society Integration was established in the Riga City in 2010. The Council has 23 members, including city council deputies, representatives from the Riga City Council's Education, Culture and Sports Department, the Welfare Department, and the Public Relations Division, and 12 NGOs. While analysing the work previously completed in the field of society integration, the Council is drafting the Riga City Strategy on Society Integration and an Action Plan for its implementation. Following discussions in the Consultative Council and a broader public consultation, the document is to be approved at the beginning of 2012.
39. For information on the Civic Alliance of Latvia see Paragraphs 241-244 of the Report.

Self-identification and indication of ethnicity

40. In addition to information provided in Paragraph 46 of the Initial Report of Latvia and Paragraphs 29-31 of the Comments on the Opinion of the Advisory Committee, Latvia would like to inform that, under provisions set out in the Law On the Change of a Given Name, Surname and Nationality Record, a person has the right to change his or her registered ethnicity.
41. On 12 January 2012 the Saeima of Latvia adopted the Law on Personal Identity Documents the principal aim of which is to improve the current legal framework by adding provisions regarding electronic identification cards in line with the Concept of Electronic Identification Cards. The Law does not stipulate the contents of personal identity documents, because the document contents are set out by directly applicable transnational (EU) legal acts and international standards. On 1 April 2012 the Regulation No 134 of the Cabinet of Ministers On Personal Identity Documents entered into force providing a possibility, upon a person's will, to include in the personal identification document, with the exception of EU's citizens' identification cards and residence permit, original form of a person's name in Roman alphabet's transliteration or historical form of a person's or family name. Distinction in writing one's name or family name shall be attested documentary if it has not been indicated in the Population Register or in the previous person's identification document. The Roman alphabet's

transliteration is determined according to the transliteration table established by the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO). At the same time, person's ethnicity will not be indicated in the identification cards (as well as in other person's identification documents).

42. In 2011, Latvia held a population census [Population and Housing Census]. A special advertising campaign was organised to inform the public about the 2011 census, as part of which all households were sent a letter and an informative brochure in Latvian with Russian translation. During the first phase of the population census between 1 to 12 March 2011 and the third phase between 1 to 10 June 2011 people had a possibility to complete online questionnaires on the internet in the Latvian and Russian languages. During the second phase, when census officers visited those who had not taken part in first phase, the questionnaire on the officers' laptop computers was in Latvian, with a possibility to switch over to Russian language questionnaire, but the aids were available in Russian and English. During the census, a free information hotline, an e-mail address and a Population Census website were operational, with explanations provided both in Latvian and Russian.
43. In accordance with the Programme for the Population and Housing Census of 2011 approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, one of the questions was about the person's ethnicity. National minority representatives had been involved in the preparation of questionnaires and in the census process itself. Census officers were selected according to professional criteria (computer skills, knowledge of Latvian and Russian, experience of working with the public, stress resistance etc.).
44. There were no particular problems with indication of ethnicity during the population census. Several people called the hotline to expressed dissatisfaction on the request to indicate their ethnicity.

Article 4

1. *The Parties undertake to guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities the right of equality before the law and of equal protection of the law. In this respect, any discrimination based on belonging to a national minority shall be prohibited.*
2. *The Parties undertake to adopt, where necessary, adequate measures in order to promote, in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the majority. In this respect, they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities.*
3. *The measures adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 shall not be considered to be an act of discrimination.*

45. Latvia wishes to refer to the information provided in Paragraphs 47, 49, 51, 53 of the Initial State Report.

Equality before the law and protection against discrimination

46. On 19 June 2008, amendments were adopted to the Law on Consumer Rights, which came into force on 23 July 2008. Thereby the Law on Consumer Rights was amended by adding Article 3¹ which stipulates that differential treatment based on sex, race or ethnic belonging of a consumer is prohibited when offering goods or a service, selling goods or providing a service. In the case the prohibition of differential treatment is violated, the burden of proof is on the trader or service provider, not on the consumer.
47. At the same time, the said amendments specify the definition of a consumer contained in the Law on Consumer Rights by stating that a consumer is a natural person who expresses a wish to purchase, purchases or might purchase, or use goods or a service for a purpose, which is not related to his or her economic or professional activity.
48. In view of the above, there was no need to amend the Civil Law (see Paragraph 96 of the Initial State Report), and the 10th Saeima did not proceed with consideration of the said draft law.
49. In 2008, amendments were made to the Law on Social Security supplementing the provision on the prohibition of differential treatment, including on the basis of a person's race, skin colour, national or social origin or other circumstances, by adding the prohibition of differential treatment "based on the person's ethnicity".
50. On 10 June 2009, the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination against Natural Persons – Economic Activities Performers took effect. The purpose of the Law is to prohibit discrimination against a natural person engaged in economic activity (hereinafter – economic activity performer), by offering goods or a service, selling goods or a service, and to prohibit differential treatment with regard to a natural person's access to economic activities. The amendments of 31 March 2010 are enough to ensure full compliance with the provision of the EU Directive 2000/43/EC in the private sector, since now the Law includes the provisions that stemming from the following:
- i. Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of the racial or ethnic origin;
 - ii. Council Directive 2004/113/EC of 13 December 2004 implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services;
 - iii. Directive 2002/73/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2002 amending Council Directive 76/207/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions;
 - iv. Directive 2006/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation.

51. The new Patient Rights Law is in force as from 1 March 2010. The Law prohibits differential treatment including on the grounds of a person's race, ethnic origin, skin colour, national or social origin or other circumstances. Differential treatment includes direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or an indication to discriminate.
52. Article 71 (Genocide) of the Criminal Law (hereinafter – CL) criminalises intentional acts for purposes of the destruction in whole or in part of any group of persons identifiable as such by nationality, ethnic origin, race, social class or a defined collective belief or faith, by killing members of the group, inflicting upon them physical injuries hazardous to life or health or causing them to become mentally ill, intentionally causing conditions of life for such people as result in their physical destruction in whole or in part, utilising measures the purpose of which is to prevent the birth of children in such group, or transferring children on a compulsory basis from one group of persons into another. Such actions are punishable by life imprisonment or deprivation of liberty for a term of not less than three and not exceeding twenty years.
53. Article 71¹ of the CL provides that a public incitement to genocide is punishable by deprivation of liberty for a term not exceeding eight years.
54. Paragraph one of Article 78 of the CL (Triggering of national, ethnic and racial hatred) establishes responsibility for intentional acts directed towards triggering national, ethnic or racial hatred or enmity. It is punishable by deprivation of liberty for a term of not exceeding three years or by forced labour, or a fine not exceeding sixty times the minimum monthly wage. Paragraph two of Article 78 imposes stronger sanctions – deprivation of liberty for a term of not exceeding ten years, where such acts involve violence, fraud or threat, or are committed by a group of persons or a public official, or a responsible employee of an undertaking (company) or organisation, or by using an automatic data processing system.
55. For statistical data on criminal proceedings and hate crime prosecution see Tables 3 and 4 in Annex 1.
56. Article 149¹ of the CL (Violation of the Prohibition to Discriminate) imposes liability for discrimination on the grounds of race or ethnicity or violation of prohibition of discrimination contained in other normative acts if committed repeatedly within a year. The wording of the Article has been drafted in a way to avoid covering only a narrow scope of enlisted features, relating instead to all types of discrimination not sorting them by feature. Liability under Article 149¹ of the CL applies if the following provisions are violated:
- i. Article 7 of the Labour law stipulates that everyone has an equal right to work, to fair, safe and healthy working conditions, as well as to fair work remuneration without any direct or indirect discrimination – among other things, irrespective of a person's race, skin colour, ethnic or social origin or other circumstances;

- ii. Article 2¹ of the Law on Social Security prohibiting differential treatment in ensuring social services, among other things, on the grounds of a person's race, ethnicity, skin colour, gender, national or social origin or other circumstances;
- iii. provisions of the Sentence Execution Code of Latvia stipulating that discrimination against a convicted person, *inter alia*, on the basis of race, nationality, language and other criteria shall not be permitted;
- iv. provisions of the the Prohibition of Discrimination against Natural Persons – Economic Activities Performers prohibiting discrimination, among other things, on the grounds of race or ethnicity against an economic activities performer during his or her economic activities, when offering goods or a service, selling goods or providing a service, and prohibiting differential treatment, with regard to a natural person's access to economic activities;
- v. provisions of the Consumer Rights Protection Law prohibiting differential treatment based, among other things, on race or ethnicity of a consumer when offering goods or a service, selling good or providing a service;
- vi. provisions of the Education Law stipulating that persons specified in Article 3¹¹ are entitled to the right to receiving education disregarding race, ethnicity, ethnic belonging, place of residence or other objective circumstances.

57. Article 150 (Incitement to Religious Hatred) of the CL provides for a punishment for violating religious sensibilities of persons or incitement to hatred related to the attitudes of such persons towards religion or atheism.

58. Article 7 of the Labour Law stipulates that everyone has an equal right to work, to fair, safe and healthy working conditions, as well as to fair work

¹¹Article 3. Right to Education

(1) The following persons have the right to education:

- 1) a citizen of Latvia;
- 2) a non-citizen of Latvia;
- 3) a citizen of the European Union, a citizen of the European Economic Area or a citizen of Swiss Confederation;
- 4) a permanent resident of the European Community who has a valid residence permit in the Republic of Latvia;
- 5) a stateless person who has a valid travel document of the stateless person issued in the Republic of Latvia;
- 6) a citizen of another State, other than a citizen of the European Union, the European Economic Area or Swiss Confederation (hereinafter – a third-country national) or a stateless person who has a valid residence permit in the Republic of Latvia;
- 7) a refugee or a person who has acquired alternative status; and
- 8) a person who has received temporary protection in the Republic of Latvia.

(2) A minor child of an asylum seeker and a minor asylum seeker has the right to basic education and secondary education, as well as the right to continue the commenced education after reaching the age of majority.

(3) A minor third-country national or stateless person who has no legal basis to reside in the Republic of Latvia, has the right to acquire basic education during the time period specified for voluntary exit or during the time period for which the expulsion is suspended, as well as during his or her detention.

remuneration. These rights are to be ensured without any direct or indirect discrimination (see also Paragraph 25 of the Initial State Report and Paragraph 55 of this Report). Under Article 29 of the Labour Law, differential treatment based on the above mentioned grounds is prohibited when establishing employment legal relationships, as well as during the period of existence of employment legal relationships, in particular when promoting an employee, determining working conditions, work remuneration or occupational training or raising of qualifications, as well as when giving notice of termination of an employment contract. If the prohibition of differential treatment and the prohibition against causing adverse consequences are violated, an employee in addition to other rights specified in the Labour Law has the right to request compensation for damages and compensation for moral harm. In accordance with Article 29 Paragraph three of the Labour Law, the burden of proof lies with the employer – it is the employer who has to prove that the differential treatment is based on objective circumstances. In addition, under Article 34 of the Labour Law, if an employer, when establishing legal employment relationships, has violated the prohibition of differential treatment, an applicant has the right to bring an action to a court within three months from the date of receipt of employer's refusal to establish legal employment relationships. This means that already at this moment, in case the applicant is refused employment under discriminating circumstances, the Law provides for a mechanism for an effective protection of his/her rights.

59. The Latvian Judicial Training Centre (hereinafter – LJTC) updates its training programme for judges on an annual basis, providing for a possibility of including new and topical issues. No special Convention-related training has been held so far; nevertheless, issues related to the Convention are dealt with in lectures and workshops on the current judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, international law and human rights, identifying human rights violations, as well as other similar training sessions periodically organised by the LJTC for all groups of judges. The training programme for 2012 included, among other topics, protecting rights of persons, the right to a fair trial, discrimination (types, case law), case law of the ECHR etc. that also concerns Convention-related topics.
60. Another institution that promotes observance of equal treatment and prevention of discrimination is the national human rights institution of Latvia – the Ombudsman's Office. From 1 January 2011 to 30 August 2011, the Ombudsman's Office had considered 46 individual applications in the field of discrimination prevention, and inspection was initiated on 24 cases. During the period, three cases were investigated on violations of prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of race and ethnicity, one case of language discrimination and one – of religious discrimination.
61. For statistical data on complaints submitted to the Ombudsman's Office from 2007 to 2010, see Table 5 in Annex I.

62. According to the study on "Ethnic Minorities in the Labour Market of Latvia from 1997 to 2009", in 2007 37 per cent of employees of Latvian ethnicity worked for State or local government institutions, non-governmental organisations, State or local authority owned companies, while the rate among national minorities was 24 per cent.
63. In a study entitled "Diversity management in public sector: Experience in developed countries and the assessment of the situation in Latvia", Providus Public Policy Centre notes that, in four State and local government institutions, 27 respondents out of 221 identified themselves as belonging to national minorities (that is, approximately 12 per cent of respondents).¹²
64. Nevertheless, it should be noted that data on ethnic background of employees are sensitive data and are not collected by public institutions, and thus, statistics collected indirectly is not fully accurate.
65. Persons belonging to national minorities are broadly represented in the Latvian legislator, the Saeima. Out of 100 elected members of the 9th Saeima of the Republic of Latvia (2006-2010), there were 78 Latvians, 15 Russians, one Jew, one German, one Karelian and four persons of other ethnic origin or members of the parliament who had not indicated their ethnicity. Out of the members of the 10th Saeima (2010-2011), there were 76 Latvians, 13 Russians, one German, one Karelian, and nine persons belonging to other ethnicities or who had not indicated their ethnicity. The relevant figures for the 11th Saeima (elected in 2001) were as follows: 67 Latvians, 13 Russians, one Lithuanian, one Liv, one German, one Karelian and 16 persons belonging to other ethnicities or not having indicated their ethnicity.
66. Chairmen of the Riga City Council and Ludza Municipal Council belong to national minorities. Likewise, persons belonging to Russian national minority are members of the European Parliament.

Article 5

1. *The Parties undertake to promote the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture, and to preserve the essential elements of their identity, namely their religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage.*
2. *Without prejudice to measures taken in pursuance of their general integration policy, the Parties shall refrain from policies or practices aimed at assimilation of persons belonging to national minorities against their will and shall protect these persons from any action aimed at such assimilation.*

67. Latvia refers to the information provided in Paragraphs 54-61, 64, 66 of the Initial State Report.

¹² Study "Diversity management in public sector: Experience of developed countries and the assessment of situation in Latvia". Public Policy Centre Providus)
http://www.providus.lv/upload_file/Publikacijas/2011/Marija%20Golubeva_Zinojums_Dazadibas%20vadiba.pdf.

Promoting preservation of national minority culture and identity

68. The Law on Unrestricted Development and the Right to Cultural Autonomy of National and Ethnic Groups of Latvia of 19 March 1991 was adopted to guarantee to all national and ethnic groups in the Republic of Latvia the rights to cultural autonomy and self-administration of their culture. Over twenty years, the legal system of Latvia has developed and evolved and, consequently, the majority of provisions contained in this Law currently overlap with the provisions of other normative acts.

Language policy in Latvia

69. Language policy in Latvia is based on a wish to ensure equal opportunities for the residents of Latvia in education, employment and other realms. The core principles of the language policy are as follows:

- i. the Latvian language is the State language in Latvia;
- ii. the State guarantees a possibility to preserve, develop and in certain functions use national minority languages.

70. Although Article 9 of the Law on Education provides that the language of instruction in State and municipal education institutions is the State language, education can also be received in other languages, including in national minority languages, in private education institutions, as well as in State and municipal education institutions implementing national minority education programmes and in other education institutions provided by law.

71. The following institutions are responsible for the development and implementation of the State language policy in the Republic of Latvia:

- i. the State Language Commission – an advisory institution established under the auspices of the President's Chancery in 2002 and consisting of experts in the field of linguistics, culture and education (15 members at present). Its aim is to assess the situation of the State language and elaborate specific proposals for strengthening the positions of the Latvian language and enabling its sustainable development;
- ii. the State Language Centre – a governmental authority established in 1992 under supervision of the Ministry of Justice. The primary function of the institution is to ensure compliance with the provisions of the State Language Law and relevant Cabinet of Ministers regulations. Since 2009, when the State Language Centre (hereinafter – SLC) was merged with the State agency "Translation and Terminology Centre", the SLC is also in charge of translating international legislation into Latvian and translating laws and regulations of the Republic of Latvia into official languages of the EU, as well as maintains the broadest term database in Latvia. The centre also ensures the operation of the Latvian Language Experts Commission;
- iii. the Latvian Language Agency (hereinafter – LLA) was established on 1 July 2009 by reorganising the State Agency for Latvian Language

Learning and the State Language Agency. The aim of the LLA is to promote the strengthening of the status and sustainable development of the Latvian language and to organise and administer projects of different types and scale in order to facilitate learning of Latvian as the State language through enabling equal education opportunities and acquisition of the State language for national minorities.

72. The SLC carries out inspections upon peoples' applications regarding alleged violations of the State Language Law. The SLC also undertakes quarterly checkups. Preventive inspections have been introduced over the past 3-4 years, as part of which responsible persons of companies are inquired about the actual situation on observance of the requirements of the State Language Law and the relevant provisions are explained.
73. For data on inspections carried out by the State Language Centre see Table 6 of Annex I.
74. For applications regarding violations of the State Language Law received and reviewed by the State Language Centre see Table 7 of Annex I.
75. Administrative penalties for violations of of the State Language Law are adequate and effective, as the number of recurrent violations within a year is insignificant. For instance, approximately 1-2% of persons (in 2010 – four out of 429, in 2011 – 13 out of 583) were penalised repeatedly for not using the State language to the extent necessary for performance of their professional duties; approximately 1-3% of persons (in 2010 – three out of 229, in 2011 – eight out of 293) have been punished repeatedly for failure to provide translation into the State language of information contained in the labels of goods or instructions for their use. In 2011, the average penalty for failure to use the State language was Ls 31 (aproximately EUR 44). It must be noted that, for the most part, those who received administrative penalties for all other violations of the State Language Law, except the failure to use the State language to the extent required for the performance of professional duties (Article 6 of the State Language Law), were ethnic Latvians. The share of such violations is increasing and constituted as many as 47% of the total number of infringements in 2010.
76. In order to avoid cases when the same sanctions are applied for infringements of different gravity or disproportionate penalty is applied for minor violations, the SLC has elaborated and made publicly accessible "Guidelines on the principles of application of administrative penalties for violations of the State Language Law". These guidelines are observed by all inspectors in their daily work, and the legitimacy and validity of their decisions can be appealed against. The number of decisions in administrative cases appealed against and repealed is approximately 1% (in 2011, the Director of the SLC repealed eight decisions out of 825). Administrative District Courts and regional courts have received but a few appeals from persons punished for administrative infringements (on average, six applications per year).

77. For the number and substance of administrative cases, see Table 8 in Annex I.
78. For information on the use of the State language in mass media, see Paragraphs 152-160 of this Report.
79. For information on language use in personal names see Paragraphs 175-177 of this Report and Paragraphs 119-121 of the comments of Latvia on the Opinion of the Advisory Committee.
80. The results of the latest study by the Latvian Language Agency on the situation of the Latvian language show that more than 90% of respondents with Russian as the native language know Latvian. Almost a half of respondents rate their knowledge of Latvian as good. In reply to the question whether permanent residents of Latvia should know the Latvian language, 49% of respondents not having Latvian as their native language answered affirmatively, while 31% believed that one should rather know the Latvian language; 3% of responses were "Rather no" and another 3% of respondents said "No". As regards national minority youth from 17 to 25 years of age, the study finds that 64% of them rated their Latvian language skills as good, 30% as average and 6% of respondents had found it hard to tell. The study affirmed that up to now the acquisition of Latvian was mostly facilitated by the administrative system, namely, legal and educational policy measures, including the successfully implemented educational reform which is closely related to State language policy measures and laid down in State language policy planning documents.¹³
81. For information on Latvian language training see Paragraphs 248-258 of this Report.

Freedom of religion

82. Latvia wishes to refer to the information provided in Paragraphs 66, 108, 110 of its Initial State Report.
83. There is freedom of religion in Latvia and persons have the right to choose which religion to join.
84. For information on religious organisations and their membership see Table 9 in Annex I.

Support to national minority non-governmental organisations

85. National minority NGOs have the same rights as all the other NGOs in Latvia to take part in grant project competitions under specific financial instruments

¹³ Study „Language Situation in Latvia: 2004-2010”, The Latvian Language Agency, 2011
http://www.valoda.lv/Aktualitates/Latviesu_valodas_agenturas_petijuma_Valodas_situacija_Latvija_2004-2010_slaidrade/965/mid_522.

and to receive support for their main activities or for administrative capacity building. Informative seminars are organised to make access to those financial instruments easier. (For information on financial support from the State budget to national minority NGOs see Table 10 in Annex 1.)

86. From 2005 to 2008, the SSAMSI maintained and regularly updated a national minority NGO database; those records were compiled into a brochure "National Minority Non-governmental Organisations in Latvia" published in 2006 and 2008. The year 2008 also saw the publication of a brochure "National Minority Creative Groups in Latvia". The brochures were issued in Latvian and Russian languages.
87. From 2003 to 2008, the SSAMSI accumulated an archive of national minority NGO publications, photographs, posters and other visual materials. Since 2011 this archive is kept under the Ministry of Culture.
88. In 2006-2008, national minority NGOs could use the SSAMSI premises for rehearsals, meetings, open events; infrastructure support was provided to national minority NGOs on a regular basis (possibilities to use office equipment and library resources).
89. On average 50 members of national minority NGOs and up to ten creative groups used the above mentioned possibilities; from 15 to 30 events with up to 650 participants took place in the SSAMSI premises each month.
90. In 2006-2007, the SSAMSI held three to four seminars each year about funding sources at the domestic and European level, project application writing and accounting issues. The seminars were held both in Riga and regional cities: Daugavpils, Liepāja, Ventspils, Preiļi and elsewhere. Each event gathered the audiences of about 50-80 members of national minority NGOs.
91. An agreement was signed with the "Ziedot" (Donate) Foundation in 2006 and 2008, under which 12 seminars were held in Riga and five regional cities on issues related to fundraising, accounting and records management. In 2006 the seminars were attended by 162 participants, in 2008 – by 266 participants, mainly from regional NGOs. The aim of the seminars was to raise the competitiveness of NGOs and improve the quality of NGO reporting.
92. As from October 2009, the Society Integration Fund (hereinafter – SIF) offers national minority NGOs to use, free of charge, the SIF seminar facilities for holding various training sessions and meetings. This opportunity has been used by seven national minority societies, representing Ukrainians, Russians, Livs, Baltic Slavs, Georgians and Germans. On average, two NGOs use the premises each week.
93. Following calls for project applications, the SIF organises informative seminars in each region of Latvia. In these seminars themes, opportunities and conditions of respective call for proposals are explained to potential project

applicants. After the approval of projects and signing of financing contracts, the SIF holds a project launching event where the contract conditions and other implementation-related topics are clarified, including in the Russian language. During project implementation, information on implementation-related issues is regularly provided on the SIF website, including links to binding legislation, reporting blanks and reporting methodology prepared by the SIF, including also in Russian, as well as FAQs and answers.

94. As part of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism Grant Scheme "Strengthening civil society and promoting society integration", the SIF also organised two additional events:
 - i. a one-day experience sharing workshop at which project implementers presented their project ideas, discussed and reviewed current issues;
 - ii. a ceremonial final event of the programme, during which participants could exchange experiences and best practices on social, cultural and information integration possibilities for Latvia's national minorities. The evaluation of the grant scheme was presented, readings of books published under the programme, and a song and dance concert took place, featuring amateur groups of organisations involved in the project. The outcomes of sub-projects were exhibited and the participants could see audiovisual works produced as part of the projects.
95. In 2010 and 2011, under project competitions held by the Riga City Council, funding was granted to 52 NGO projects, including national minority NGOs. Through involving national minorities and NGOs, people with disabilities, senior citizens, young people, young mothers, persons under the risk of social exclusion and discrimination and others, implementation of projects facilitates society integration and social cohesion in Riga City, encourages civil participation and raises the level of co-operation.
96. In 2011, the Riga City Council held an additional competition for society integration projects among the institutions subordinated to the Riga City Council's Education, Culture and Sports Department and the Welfare Department. As the result of 21 projects supported under this competition, Riga's schools, pre-school and interest education institutions, social service branches and the municipal shelter [for the homeless] will carry out activities to promote co-operation among the city neighbourhoods, the involvement of various social groups, learning about cultural traditions of various ethnic groups, civic education, cleaning up the environment, promoting co-operation among different generations and active lifestyles, supporting young parents, organising concerts and events etc.
97. In order to engage civil society in reducing social and economic disparities, in the framework of the EEA Financial Mechanism, providing grants under the agreement between the Republic of Latvia and Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Principality of Liechtenstein, an NGO Fund has been set up to provide financial support to NGO activities. The EEA Financial Mechanism for the period of 2009-2014 will devote particular attention to promoting

social justice, democracy and sustainable development. The total funding under the programme 'NGO Fund' is EUR 10 365 000 expected to be made available starting from the second semester of 2012. NGOs will be able to apply for funding to implement society integration activities and the development of culture, language, history and traditions, including those of national minorities. Eligible activities under the NGO Fund are also those that facilitate public participation (incl. national minority participation) in decision making and interest representation processes, innovative ways of implementing intercultural communication measures and NGO capacity building activities encouraging co-operation between organisations and facilitating establishment of interethnic NGO co-operation networks.

98. In February 2012 the Prime Minister requested the line ministries to provide proposals for promotion of society integration. Consequently, the State budget funding is envisaged for proposals in the following areas: maintaining a direct dialogue with national minority NGOs, civic education programmes, organising Latvian language training, availability of Latvian culture and education abroad, ensuring qualitative information space in the territory of Latvia. On 29 May 2012 the Cabinet of Ministers decided to allocate already in 2012 additional funding up to LVL 203 500 for measures related to extra-curricular activities, family exchange programme for Latvian and national minority children and youth, and measures aimed at promotion of reading, including in the national minority schools. Further State support is envisaged for the creation of a Latvian NGO fund to ensure State support to NGOs in promoting identity, cultural maintenance and civic participation.

Article 6

1. The Parties shall encourage a spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue and take effective measures to promote mutual respect and understanding and co-operation among all persons living on their territory, irrespective of those persons' ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, in particular in the fields of education, culture and the media.

2. The Parties undertake to take appropriate measures to protect persons who may be subject to threats or acts of discrimination, hostility or violence as a result of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.

99. Latvia wishes to refer to the information provided in Paragraphs 79, 80, 84, 86 of its Initial State Report.

Policy planning documents for society integration and promotion of tolerance

100. Latvia wishes to refer to the information provided in Paragraph 69 of its Initial State Report regarding the State Programme "Society integration in Latvia".

101. The first government policy document on society integration was the national programme "Society Integration in Latvia" approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2001. The programme was adopted as an open-ended document and a number of society integration directions defined therein have evolved

into separate policies (life-long learning, social inclusion, culture, State language).

102. The National Programme for the Promotion of Tolerance (hereinafter – NPPT) for 2004-2009 was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 25 August 2004. The goal of the NPPT was to establish a tolerant Latvian society, eliminate intolerance and further develop the multicultural society of Latvia, as well as eliminate all forms of intolerance and discrimination and disseminate quality, accessible and comprehensive information on manifestations of intolerance and tolerance promotion measures.
103. In 2011, the Ministry of Culture elaborated the National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy Guidelines for 2012-2018 (hereinafter – Guidelines) in which also measures contained in the NPPT were included. The Guidelines define specific measures aimed at development of civic education and participation, improvement of Latvian language proficiency and position in the society, strengthening the Latvian cultural space as a foundation of society integration, development of Latvian and European belonging etc. During the elaboration process of the draft Guidelines a wide public outreach and public discussions were ensured. As a part of the public discussions, meetings with society representatives and experts took place in a number of cities and towns of Latvia¹⁴, as well as within the framework of the advisory mechanisms set up by the Ministry of Culture. The draft Guidelines were approved by the Cabinet of Ministers meeting of 11 October 2011. It is foreseen to establish a Cabinet-level council for the implementation of the Guidelines.
104. The Guidelines define society integration as the inclusion of all people living in Latvia into society irrespective of their national identity and self-identification. The common ground for integration is the Latvian language, the sense of belonging to the State of Latvia, respect for the unique cultural space of Latvia, formation of a common social memory, civil participation. At the same time, integration means the openness of Latvians and respect for the uniqueness of national minorities, as well as their rights to preserve their distinct identity. The purpose of integration is also to facilitate the inclusion of immigrants into society by offering incentives and possibilities to master the basics of an inclusive society.
105. The fundamental principles of national identity, civil society and society integration policy are belonging to Europe, preserving the identity of national minorities. It has been also stressed in the document that identities are mutually complementary, not excluding, and that the free choice of each person is respected and human rights are observed.
106. Priorities for action have been defined as follows: developing civic education; enhancing forms of civic participation; reducing discrimination of socially marginalised groups and promotion of their inclusion into society; increasing the role of the media in integration through support for diverse, modern and

¹⁴ In Bauska, Daugavpils, Liepāja, Madona and Rīga.

quality journalism; enhancing the Latvian language proficiency among national minorities, non-citizens, recent immigrants and the Latvian diaspora abroad.

Public awareness on ethnic identity issues

107. In order to establish the level of public awareness on ethnic identity issues in the process of education, in 2008 the Ministry of Education and Science in cooperation with regional bilingual centres in Daigavpils, Liepāja, Rēzekne and Riga undertook a study, "Promotion of Ethnic Identity of National Minorities in Schools of General Education Implementing National Minority Education Programmes" and interviewed students of grades 3, 6, 9 and 12. The analysis of questionnaires filled in by pupils and teachers show that multicultural aspects are set out in the national subject standards and sample subject programmes, and schools include those aspects in their subject contents.
108. The results of the research show that 94% of pupils choose to engage themselves in informal education activities offered by the education institutions in order to learn about the culture, history and language, popular traditions, art, dance, theatre and local history of national minorities.¹⁵

Society Integration Fund

109. Latvia would like to refer to the information on the Society Integration Fund (hereinafter – SIF) provided in Paragraph 20 of the Initial State Report.
110. During a decade of its work, the SIF has been recurrently accredited and has gathered experience in implementing financial instruments of the European Union, PHARE Programme and Transition Facility programmes, the European Social Fund (2004-2006, 2007-2013), the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Bilateral Financial Mechanism, the Latvia-Switzerland Co-operation Programme and others.
111. Until 2011 the SIF has supported almost 2000 projects aimed at promoting society integration, strengthening civil society and supporting activities of public and non-governmental sector. Main beneficiaries from the SIF support are NGOs, local authorities and their institutions, and government institutions.
112. Since 2002, the SIF has been awarding the Society Unity Prize to express recognition to individuals or organisations which have contributed significantly to society integration. At the award ceremony for the Society Unity Prize, the public can get to know about persons who help others to develop feeling of belonging to our diverse community and ensure equal

¹⁵ Studies „Promoting Ethnic Identity of National Minorities in Schools of General Education Implementing Minority Education Programmes in Grades 3, 6, 9, 12”, Education Contents and Examination Centre, 2007, <http://visc.gov.lv/visc/projekti.html>.

opportunities for everyone. Until 2011 the Society Unity Prize has been awarded to 30 persons and organisations.

113. The SIF has been promoting a Goodwill Memorandum since 2008. The memorandum calls on organisations and individuals to be tolerant, accept and respect diversity, prevent discrimination and differential treatment, thus advancing a united and integrated society. The Goodwill Memorandum can be joined at events and online, on the SIF website at www.lsif.lv (in Latvian). More than 500 organisations and individuals have joined the memorandum so far.

Promotion of tolerance towards the Roma as a group vulnerable to social exclusion

114. According to official data as of 1 January 2012, there were 8482 Roma in Latvia, constituting 0,4% of the total population. However, the leaders of the Roma societies and researchers assume there might be around 12 thousand Roma in Latvia.
115. According to official data, during the 2011/2012 school year, there were 1128 Roma pupils in institutions of general education in Latvia, 812 out of them attended schools with Latvian as the language of instruction while 316 Roma were enrolled in national minority education programmes. During the period from 2000 to 2007, on average 68% Roma pupils had chosen to attend general education schools in Latvia.
116. For information on education opportunities for Roma students, see paragraphs 203-209 of this Report.
117. The aim of the national programme "Gypsies (Roma) in Latvia" for 2007-2009 (hereinafter – the Roma Programme) was to facilitate the inclusion of Roma into Latvian society, by ensuring fight against discrimination and effective provision of equal opportunities for Roma in the fields of education, employment and human rights according to their special needs. The Roma Programme was elaborated and implemented in a close co-operation with the Roma NGOs of Latvia and experts in Roma integration. Several State-funded projects in the areas of education, employment and human rights, as well as projects aimed at preservation of Roma culture and ethnic identity were carried out under the Roma Programme.
118. Upon the completion of the Roma programme in 2009, henceforth, the issues related to Roma integration will be addressed in the framework of the society integration policy as a whole, as laid down in the National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Guidelines for 2012-2018 adopted in 2011.
119. To facilitate the inclusion of Roma by attracting funding available under the EU funds, in 2010 the Ministry of Welfare announced a project competition in the framework of the second round of the sub-activity 1.4.1.2.4 'Social rehabilitation and development in the regions of alternative social care

services to institutions' of the European Social Fund with one of the target groups – the Roma. In the framework of the abovementioned sub-activity two projects were implemented aimed at facilitation of Roma social inclusion, particularly of those in socially disadvantaged situation, poverty and social exclusion:

- 1) "Health and Social Care Centre 'Sloka' Ltd.", a Jūrmala City municipality institution, launched in 2011 a project 'Elaboration and implementation of a social rehabilitation programme in the day centre for Roma living in Jūrmala City' (total amount of the EU funding comprises LVL 100 000). The aim of the project is to encourage revival of their social functions, acquire knowledge and social skills by providing opportunities to spend their spare time actively and purposefully, to reduce Roma social exclusion and facilitate their successful integration into society and inclusion in the labour market;
- 2) In 2011 the Education Board of the Ventspils City Council in cooperation with the 'Corporate Services, Ltd.' launched a project "Alternative social rehabilitation and support services for pupils and youth of the Ventspils Evening Highschool, including the Roma" (total amount of the EU funding comprises LVL 100 000). The aim of the project is to develop social rehabilitation services in the Ventspils City in order to facilitate employment and integration of children from low-income and poor families, including the Roma, and persons with insufficient, low or improper for the labour market knowledge and skills. The cost of the project is LVL 100 000.

120. For data on State budget funding for the fulfillment of Roma integration tasks from 2006 to 2011, see Table 10 in Annex I.

Projects on promotion of society integration, tolerance and intercultural dialogue

121. The concept of a digital cultural map of Latvia was developed in 2005 under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. The map, launched in 2006¹⁶, is a public database containing detailed information on cultural processes in Latvia's regions, the diversity of cultural institutions, their geographical coverage, access to culture, as well as the technical condition of cultural infrastructure and the trends of prospective development. The Cultural Map also contains information on national minority NGOs. For instance, 31 national minority NGOs joined the database in 2011.

122. From 2006 to 2009, an EU Transition Facility project entitled "Promoting Society Integration in Latvia" was implemented with the aim of advancing mutual understanding and co-operation between ethnic and social groups living in Latvia. The project consisted of two components:

- Component I: support to implementation of Latvian language teaching programmes under a direct grant contract with the National Agency for Latvian Language Training (allocation of EUR 300 000). The target

¹⁶ Digital Cultural Map of Latvia <http://www.kulturaskarte.lv/>.

audience of the project were teachers and parents of pupils in national minority schools. In order to bridge the gap between the part of the society for whom Latvian is not the native language and public administration institutions of Latvia, a free bilingual paper "*Atslēgas*" (Keys) was published as part of the project (24 issues x 50,000 copies) and distributed via all post offices in Latvia, as well as public institutions (libraries, municipal councils etc.). Articles for the paper were selected taking into account interests of various social and ethnic groups, while highlighting what was topical for all the people of Latvia.

- Component II: implementation of the national programme "Society Integration in Latvia", which was put into operation as a grant scheme (allocation of EUR 2 883 580). The grant scheme operated across three thematic directions:
 - i. promoting ethnic integration in society and acquisition of citizenship – 20 projects with 86 activities were carried out, aimed at improving contacts and dialogue between ethnic groups (enhance civil participation between the people of Latvia belonging to different ethnic groups and facilitate a free circulation of information). As part of this thematic direction, special attention was paid to naturalisation issues, which was of a high importance, since the intensity of acquisition of citizenship was slowing down in 2007-2008 due to various domestic and external factors;
 - ii. eliminating any forms of discrimination and intolerance – 24 projects with 146 activities were carried out aimed at reducing discrimination and intolerance;
 - iii. support to studies and researches (regarding the first two thematic directions) – 7 projects were carried out on issues related to national minorities and discrimination and intolerance.

123. Overall, the EU Transition Facility project "Promoting Society Integration in Latvia"¹⁷, has encompassed over 27 different social and ethnic groups and contributed considerably to achieving the aim of the programme – to facilitate mutual understanding and co-operation among various ethnic and social groups in Latvia.
124. For the results of the EU Transition Facility project "Promoting Society Integration in Latvia", see Table 11 in Annex I.
125. From 2006 to 2009, with financial support from the SSAMSI a number of various activities were carried out as part of the NPPT:
 - events to observe the International Day for Tolerance on 16 November were organised annually with an aim to draw the attention of society to tolerance issues.
 - Eight studies were carried out on the history and current situation of national minorities in Latvia, the identity of Russians of Latvia, religious diversity and strategy for promoting tolerance; two studies on topical

¹⁷ Assessment of programmes by the Society Integration Fund
http://www.sif.lv/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17&Itemid=28&lang=lv.

- issues of society integration; and a study on the impact of the National Programme "Gypsies (Roma) in Latvia" for 2007-2009 on Latvia's Gypsies (Roma).
- The Advanced Social and Political Research Institute of the University of Latvia carried out a study "Implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Latvia – preventing discrimination and preserving identity" in order to establish whether there is a need for amending legislation, reforming institutions that have contact with or are responsible for national minorities, streamline the current programmes/practice, clarify priorities for funding national minority policies by the central and local government institutions. The study established the need to revise the notion of ethnic culture and redefine it to include, beside the traditional understanding of culture, also the diverse manifestations of contemporary culture and the principle of cultural interaction. It was emphasised in the conclusions of the study that there are few credible data, notably, on the representation of national minorities in the government structures, the ethnic aspects of housing and criminal law sectors as well as on the academic performance of national minority pupils and university students. It was indicated that, in order to enforce the current non-discrimination provisions, informative and educational measures should be organised for certain groups of professionals and for the general public.
 - In 2006 and 2009, workshops were organised for police officers about observation of human rights in the work of the State Police and the experience of other countries in dealing with racial and ethnic hatred. The events were attended by approximately 230 police officers.
 - A course of lectures entitled "Cultural diversity, cultural dialogue and cultural competence" was elaborated for students of different higher education programmes – social workers, police officers, teachers, educators, journalists (in 2007). A course of lectures on holocaust in Latvia was elaborated and approved in several secondary schools.
 - As part of the European Commission project "Latvia – equal in diversity" (LED), four conferences were held on tolerance issues, religious diversity in Latgale and the media coverage of diversity issues. In 2008 within a LED sub-project hate speech monitoring on the internet was carried out. More than seven training sessions and series of workshops were held over four years, including seminars for judges, media, trade unions and journalists on fighting discrimination in Latvia and other EU member states, diversity in the media, visual minorities and islamophobia. A summer school for journalists and students of journalism, "Spreading diversity", was held in 2007. Several publications were produced: brochures and posters on discrimination, description of the forms of discrimination, information on discrimination prevention policy and organisations of the EU, a brochure "Internet Without Hatred" about the hate speech problem and the EU approach to address it. For funding allocations to LED projects in 2006-2008, see Table 13 in Annex I.
 - A handbook for work with the youth, "Kompass" (Compass), was translated into Latvian and released in 2009. The book is a source of ideas for and descriptions of practical activities to engage and motivate young

people to be conscious of human rights both in their own actions and in society as a whole.

126. For allocations of national budget funding for the implementation of the action plan of the National Programme for the Promotion of Tolerance, see Table 14 in Annex I.
127. In 2007-2008, the "Šamir" Association, with financial assistance from the SSAMSI, carried out a project entitled "Teaching about Holocaust in Latvia's Schools". More than 1000 pupils and teachers from several cities of Latvia took part in the project and heard a course of lectures on Holocaust, participated in a thematic excursion and a creative competition. The aim of the project was to commemorate 90,000 Jews killed in Latvia during the World War II and to promote mutual tolerance.
128. In 2007, as part of the project of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, 13 projects financially supported by the European Commission and the SSAMSI were implemented, the aim of which was to offer educational, awareness raising and informative activities, to facilitate co-operation between the society and public institutions, and to build a dialogue among individuals, groups of society and public officials on the matters related to discrimination and equal opportunities. Three of the projects dealt with the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin:
 - i. the project "Racial prejudice in Latvia – the path from rejection to understanding": the largest national TV channel, LTV 1, broadcasted three programmes on the experience of people of different races living in Latvia, tolerance and openness for the different, and multiculturalism. The programmes were viewed by about 140,000 viewers aged from 15 to 65;
 - ii. the project "Understanding of the different – possibilities for co-existence of various religions in Latvia": the national TV channel, LTV 1, broadcasted three programmes;
 - iii. as part of the project "Understanding – respect – recognition" media and communication materials were developed and advertising banners of informative and educational contents were displayed on 55 municipal transport vehicles.
129. For the breakdown of funding for the activities under the project "The Year of Equal Opportunities for All", see Table 15 in Annex I.
130. By the decision of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, the year 2008 was declared the Year of Intercultural Dialogue, and the SSAMSI was appointed the institution responsible for implementation of the activities of the Year of Intercultural Dialogue in Latvia. Five activities were carried out:
 - i. an essay competition on pupils' experience in the field of intercultural dialogue in their daily lives and public life;

- ii. a competition, "Journalists' Prize 2008", with the aim of identifying and awarding those media workers who have voiced ideas of unity in diversity;
 - iii. a conference on the intercultural dialogue in Latvia, the role and commitments of the State in preserving national minority identities;
 - iv. a round table discussion, "Dialogue in a multiethnic national State: changing participants, permanent priorities?";
 - v. a collection of research articles, "Cultural Dialogue in Latvia: borders and interaction".
131. A series of four seminars, "Cultural Diversity in Latvia: significance and development", was held in Riga and regional centres. Taking part in the seminars and acting as moderators were experts – representatives of Jewish and Gypsy (Roma) ethnic groups, who modelled everyday situations and identified most common prejudices among pupils and their stereotypes of "the others". Educators and pupils were introduced to the history, activities and traditions of Jews and Gypsies (Roma) in Latvia and held a discussion on teacher's role in developing ideas of cultural diversity among pupils.
132. For the breakdown of funding for the activities of the Year of Intercultural Dialogue, see Table 16 in Annex I.
133. In order to implement the provisions related to the protection of the rights of national minorities as set out in the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, a grant scheme "The Development of Intercultural Dialogue 2010" was implemented in the said year. The aim of the grant scheme was to support national minority efforts to preserve their ethnic identity and develop culture through the promotion of tolerance and intercultural dialogue in the society of Latvia. The grant scheme received 51 project applications, out of which 17 projects were supported. 12 projects were implemented by national minority associations, 5 projects were carried out by organisations dealing with national minority issues. The projects were supported across three different themes:
- i. educational activities encouraging co-operation between students of different ethnic backgrounds and promoting knowledge about culture, history, language and religion of both the national minorities and the majority – 22 different events for pupils were organised (competitions, series of lectures, creative workshops, folklore performances etc.) with an active involvement of more than 1400 pupils and 190 teachers, as well as parents. Three teaching aids, two informative materials and a book were published, and one study programme was developed during the projects;
 - ii. activities promoting the protection of national minority interests, including promotion of national affiliation (for instance, the acquisition of citizenship etc.) – several training sessions were held to teach the Latvian language, history and the Constitution to 69 persons belonging to national minorities. Several thematic events were held (marking the Day of Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia, a Latvian poetry evening, a visit to a museum) with participation of 81 persons

belonging to national minorities. A booklet on citizenship issues, "Citizenship. Your Opportunity in Latvia and the European Union" (2000 copies) was issued; and a Latvian-Georgian Conversation Dictionary was elaborated;

- iii. activities promoting the preservation and popularisation of ethnic identity, language and cultural heritage of national minorities among the broader public thus contributing to the intercultural dialogue – 24 different events were held (concerts, series of lectures, competitions for young people, language training, excursions, exhibitions etc.), actively involving more than 6470 participants (incl. more than 630 pupils and 680 pupils' parents and teachers). As a part of the project one museum catalogue, one informative material on Liv culture, one informative and educational newspaper (three issues) were published; one website was designed; one excursion route was developed; one Liv language teaching aid and 15 presentations were elaborated; choreography was designed for one dance and one play; two new songs were composed; three music instruments, four flags, ten national costumes and 12 pairs of footwear for folk-dancing, as well as 36 books were purchased.
134. All 17 projects were successfully implemented and contributed significantly to the achievement of the objectives of the grant scheme. The total amount of State budget funding spent under the grant scheme was LVL 44 057.
 135. In 2011, the Ministry of Culture supported three national minorities NGO's projects under which a folk festival of various ethnic groups was organised, competitions for high school pupils on the culture of national minorities living in Latvia was held, as well as an informative material to educational institutions for work with pupils of various ethnic origin, including Roma children, was elaborated. Further, LVL 2200 were allocated by the Ministry of Culture from the State budget sub-programme, "Cultural events, co-operation agreements and programmes", to the translation from Georgian to Latvian of a study by the Georgian researcher N.Dzhugashvili "The History of Relations between Georgia and the Baltics"; LVL 2000 were allocated for organising a photography exhibition "Latvia through the Eyes of Georgian Photographers. Georgia through the Eyes of Latvian Photographers". For information on State financial support to the national minorities NGOs, see Table 10 of Appendix 1.
 136. Projects promoting intercultural dialogue were also carried out within the framework of the programmes under the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals for 2007 and 2008:
 - i. a study programme, "Enhancing teachers' professional competence in intercultural education" was developed and approved, and more than 30 teachers were trained in each of the five regions of Latvia. The programme provides knowledge on the principles of psychological interaction with people belonging to other cultures and religions, on values in other cultures and religions, on establishment of support groups and organisational skills;

- ii. six methodological materials for teachers on multicultural communication were developed, published and distributed to be used by educators – teachers, class teachers, and school support staff – in various stages of education (primary, general secondary and vocational) and in schools with various languages of instruction (Latvian and national minority languages). Methodologies developed within some projects are computerised and made available in an autonomous digital version;
 - iii. a teaching material on the prevention of, and fighting racism and intolerance and promoting tolerance against third country nationals was elaborated for the staff of law enforcement authorities and the media;
 - iv. several education events and seminars took place.
137. The funding allocated for implementation of projects related to the promotion of tolerance under the 2007 programme of the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals comprised LVL 325 825 (co-financing by the Fund and the State). In 2009-2010, the Ministry of Education and Science and the LLA implemented a project "Development of adaptation programmes and materials for third-country nationals' children aged 6 to 12". Teaching aids and methodological materials were elaborated under the project to help the children of third country nationals to adapt to Latvian environment and learn the Latvian language. Informative booklets for parents were also published.¹⁸
138. Under the 2010 programme of the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals a project of the Riga Latvian Society "Establishment of cooperation platform and intercultural dialogue in Latvia" the aim of which was to establish a platform for discussions with third country nationals, for dialogue between communities of various cultures, beliefs and religions, as well as to ensure informative resources and increase the potential and competence of national minorities' and other organisations. The budget of the project was LVL 34 000.
139. In the continuation of the project in 2011, the LLA issued a Latvian language teaching aid for third country nationals' children aged 13 to 18.¹⁹
140. The EEA Financial mechanism Grant Scheme "Strengthening the Civil Society and Promoting Society Integration" was implemented in 2009-2010. The aim of the grant scheme was to facilitate understanding and co-operation among persons of different ethnicities, to develop favourable social, cultural and informational conditions for national minorities in Latvia, as well as to promote the development of national minority associations and foundations through financing projects in the following six areas:

¹⁸ Ministry of Education and Science: Latvia can become a bridge for the integration of children of third country nationals into the European Union <http://izm.izm.gov.lv/nozares-politika/izglitiba/vispareja-izglitiba/aktualitates/7023.html>.

¹⁹ Project „Elaboration of a study programme and teaching aids to promote Latvian language learning and implementation to children of third country nationals aged 13 to 18”, Latvian Language Agency, http://www.valoda.lv/downloadDoc_480/mid_521.

- i. capacity building of national minority associations and foundations;
 - ii. support to national minority cultural events;
 - iii. support to measures aimed at informing the general public about national minority culture, traditions and religion;
 - iv. support to translations of literary works from national minority languages into Latvian and from Latvian into national minority languages;
 - v. support to measures aimed at informing the general public on issues of ethnic integration of society;
 - vi. support to programmes of extra-curricular activities for promoting co-operation among pupils of different ethnic backgrounds.
141. In total, 85 project applications were submitted and, out of those, 32 projects were supported. 15 projects were carried out by national minority NGOs, six projects – by other NGOs, six – by schools, and another five – by companies. Project activities targeted 15 different national minorities, and six of those national minority groups (Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Poles, Jews, Gypsies (Roma)) were the target audience for five and more projects. As the result of project activities, 15 national minority NGOs increased their capacity, 81 cultural events for national minorities were organised, 29 informative events were held (books, newspapers and magazines published, TV programmes produced), during which the society was informed about national minority culture, traditions and religion; 19 extracurricular programmes were implemented to promote co-operation between pupils of different ethnic background.
142. All the 32 projects were successfully implemented and contributed significantly to achieving the objectives of the grant scheme. Total funding used for the grant scheme was EUR 654 756.47, of which, EUR 556 543 was financed by the EEA and EUR 98 213.47 was co-financed from the State budget.
143. For data on the results of the EEA Financial Mechanism Grant Scheme "Strengthening Civil Society and Promoting Society Integration", see Table 17 in Annex I.
144. In November 2010 Latvian company SAFEGE Baltija carried out an assessment of the grant scheme "Strengthening Civil Society and the Promotion of Society Integration". The assessment indicates that the most substantial contribution to promoting understanding and co-operation among persons of different ethnicities was achieved through direct and long-lasting contacts, largely enabled by extracurricular activities for school students under the grant scheme. It was also concluded that the activities related to preserving national minority culture and traditions were, for the most part, aimed at self-demonstration, which should, on the whole, be viewed positively as it contributes to enhance self-esteem and identity awareness among the ethnic group. Considering realisation of similar grant scheme in the future, it should be taken into account that organisations are interested in continuing previous activities – promoting the preservation of culture and

traditions and learning the language of their ethnic homeland. Recommendations produced as a result of the assessment are aimed at satisfying the needs of the target groups also in the future, as the outputs show that the target groups' needs have not significantly changed and national minority organisations need further support to promote preservation of their culture and traditions, learning the language of their ethnic homeland, as well as opportunities for learning Latvian.

145. On the basis of information provided in the assessment it can be concluded that a more effective development of the intercultural dialogue should require a broader public involvement in the activities carried out within projects. So far, the majority of projects were targeting the improvement of the situation of a specific national minority and holding national minority-related events, while involvement of the general public was, in most cases, ensured via media, websites, concerts and exhibitions. Therefore, when planning grant schemes of similar contents in the future, a broader outreach to the general public and the engagement thereof in project activities should be considered, and the co-operation should be promoted between national minority NGOs and other organisations.²⁰

Religious freedom

146. For information on religious freedom in Latvia, see Paragraphs 82-84 of this Report.

Article 7

The Parties shall ensure respect for the right of every person belonging to a national minority to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, freedom of expression, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

147. Latvia wishes to refer to the information provided in Paragraphs 104, 105, 107, and 108 of the Initial State Report.
148. Latvia continues to ensure the right of every person to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, as well as freedom of opinion, thought, conscience and religion.
149. See also information in paragraphs 85-97 of this Report.
150. For information on religious organisations and membership numbers, see Table 9 in Annex I.

Article 8

²⁰ *Grantu shēmas „Pilsoniskās sabiedrības stiprināšana un sabiedrības integrācijas veicināšana” izvērtējums* (The assessment report on the Grant Scheme “Strengthening Civil Society and the Promotion of Society Integration”) http://isif.lv/files/pics/Atbalstite_projekti/EEZ/0061_Izvertesanas_Zinojums_FINAL.pdf.

The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to manifest his or her religion or belief and to establish religious institutions, organisations and associations.

151. For information on religious organisations and membership numbers, see Table 9 in Annex I.

Article 9

1. The Parties undertake to recognise that the right to freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas in the minority language, without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers. The Parties shall ensure, within the framework of their legal systems, that persons belonging to a national minority are not discriminated against in their access to the media.

2. Paragraph 1 shall not prevent Parties from requiring the licensing, without discrimination and based on objective criteria, of sound radio and television broadcasting, or cinema enterprises.

3. The Parties shall not hinder the creation and the use of printed media by persons belonging to national minorities. In the legal framework of sound radio and television broadcasting, they shall ensure, as far as possible, and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1, that persons belonging to national minorities are granted the possibility of creating and using their own media.

4. In the framework of their legal systems, the Parties shall adopt adequate measures in order to facilitate access to the media for persons belonging to national minorities and in order to promote tolerance and permit cultural pluralism.

152. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided in Paragraphs 111 and 112 of the Initial State Report.

153. The Electronic Mass Media Law (hereinafter – EMM Law) was adopted in 2010 to supersede the Radio and Television Law of 1995. Paragraphs two and three of Article 32 prescribe the minimum share of audiovisual works in the State language:

(2) National and regional electronic mass media shall ensure that in the television programmes produced by them at least 40 per cent of the transmission time of European audiovisual works, except for the games, advertising, teleshopping and teleshopping windows, is provided for audiovisual works in the State language.

(3) National and regional electronic mass media shall ensure that in the programmes produced by them at least 65 per cent of all broadcasts, except for the advertising, teleshopping and teleshopping windows, are in the State language and that such broadcasts in the State language take up at least 65 per cent of the transmission time.

154. Thereby electronic mass media are free to broadcast in other languages, including national minority languages, for at least 35 per cent of the transmission time. Article 66 of the EMM Law, in turn, ensures that a part of the transmission time of Channel Two of the Latvian Television may be

provided for broadcasts in other languages, including films and theatre performances subtitled in the State language.

155. Article 28 of the EMM Law lays down detailed provisions regarding the language of broadcasts and advertisement. For instance, it prescribes that films to be demonstrated shall be voiced-over, dubbed or subtitled in the State language. The dubbed and voice-over text together with the original soundtrack and subtitles in the State language shall be made in quality that ensures sufficiently precise understanding of the text of the original language. Films intended for children shall be dubbed or voiced-over in the State language. TV broadcasts in foreign languages, except for live broadcasts, the news and language learning broadcasts, shall be provided with subtitles in Latvian language. This provision does not apply to retransmission as well as to the programmes which, in accordance with the broadcasting permit and principal conditions of activity of the relevant electronic mass medium submitted to the National Electronic Mass Media Council, are transmitted for the target audience other than inhabitants of Latvia.
156. According to the provisions of the EMM Law, the National Electronic Mass Media Council (hereinafter – NEMMC) is an independent, autonomous institution, which, within its competence, shall represent the interests of the public in the field of electronic mass media and supervise the latter so that in their operations the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the EMM Law and other regulatory enactments are observed.
157. Article 24 of the EMM Law stipulates that the electronic mass media are free and independent in the production and distribution of programmes and broadcasts, as well as in the editorial activity. The EMM Law also stipulates that the electronic mass media, respecting the variety of opinions, protects the idea of an independent and democratic State of Latvia that respects rule of law, observes human rights and operates in the interests of the society of Latvia.
158. Channel Four of the national broadcaster Latvian Radio, regarded as an integration channel broadcasts, for the most part, in Russian. Nevertheless, programmes of national minority cultural associations are also produced on this channel in 12 languages, including Estonian, Lithuanian, Polish, Belarusian, Ukrainian, Hebrew, Georgian and German. The main topics are cultural issues, national traditions, latest news from associations and contacts with the ethnic homeland. Three times a week, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8.15 pm to 8.45 pm, Latvian Radio 4 airs national cultural association programmes. The average weekly audience of Latvian Radio 4 amounts to 164,000 listeners.²¹
159. As regards languages used in the electronic mass media programmes, there is a clear tendency for the share of the Latvian language to diminish, while we

²¹ Radio stations by total numbers of weekly audiences in Latvia, summer and autumn 2011, TNS Latvia, <http://www.tns.lv/?lang=lv&fullarticle=true&category=showuid&id=3675> (in Latvian).

see an absolute and proportional increase in the use of Russian and other languages. See Figures 3 and 4 in Annex II.

160. Non-commercial newspapers and magazines of six national minorities are published in Latvia:
- The society “*Rīgas Armēņu kopiēna*” (Riga Armenian Community), assisted by local businesses, publishes a newspaper “*Ararat*” 7 to 10 times per year with a circulation of 1000 copies.
 - The circulation of the Ukrainian newspaper “*Visņik*”, published since 2001, has been reduced from four issues in 2006-2008 to 1-2 issues in 2009-2011.
 - The Belarusian newspaper “*Prameņ*” is being published since 1994. Until 2010, the paper was published monthly, with a circulation of 1000 copies. Four issues were published in 2011. The paper’s publishing is ensured by own funds and support from local businesses.
 - The Polish magazine “*Polak na Lotve*”, published since 1991, is supported by the Polish Foundation Aid to Poles in the East. The magazine is issued four times a year with a circulation of 500 copies.
 - An Old Believers’ magazine «*Поморский вестник*» and newspaper «*Меч духовный*» have been published from 1999 and 2000 respectively. From 2006 to 2008, they were published three to four times per year with a circulation of 1000 and 2500 copies respectively. During the period from 2009 to 2011, publication frequency reduced to 1-2 times per year. Both publications are funded by the community and separate issues were financed by the SSAMSI, the SIF, the Riga City Council.

Article 10

1. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.

2. In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.

3. The Parties undertake to guarantee the right of every person belonging to a national minority to be informed promptly, in a language which he or she understands, of the reasons for his or her arrest, and of the nature and cause of any accusation against him or her, and to defend himself or herself in this language, if necessary with the free assistance of an interpreter.

161. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided in Paragraphs 122-124, 127-135, 137, 138, 140, 141 of the Initial State Report.
162. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided in its comments on Paragraphs 108, 117-118, 122, 123 of the opinion by the Advisory Committee.

Use of languages in communication with public institutions

163. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided in Paragraphs 142, 143, 144 of the Initial State Report.
164. Latvia would like to refer to information provided in its comments on Paragraphs 112, 115, 116 of the opinion by the Advisory Committee.
165. The Law on the Rights of Patients provides that “a patient shall be provided with information in a comprehensible manner, explaining medical terms and taking into account the age, maturity and experience of the patient”.
166. Article 321¹ of the Criminal Procedure Law provides that the court shall ensure the possibility to the accused and the victim to read the judgement with the assistance of an interpreter. For an accused person in custody, under house arrest or in a social correctional educational institution, the day of availability of a court judgment shall be the day when a copy thereof is issued to him or her in a language comprehensible to him or her.
167. As of 18 June 2012, there were a total of 6414 prisoners in 12 prisons of Latvia (including 5933 men (out of which 52 serve life-time sentence and 7 are sentenced to life imprisonment, however, the judgement has not yet taken effect), 439 women, 2 girls, 40 boys). Among prisoners, 2519 were ethnic Latvians, while no information is available about the ethnic origin of 710 prisoners (including 696 men (one of which serves life-time sentence), 14 boys). See Tables 18, 19 and 20 in Annex I.

State language requirements for the performance of professional and job duties

168. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided in Paragraph 125 of the Initial State Report.
169. On 7 July 2009, the Cabinet of Ministers approved Cabinet Regulations No.733 "Regulations of the Level of Proficiency in the State Language and the Procedure of Testing the Level of Language Proficiency for Professional Duries and Duties of Office for Receiving of Permanent Residence Permit and Obtaining the Status of Permanent Resident of the European Community, and State Fee for the State Language Proficiency Examination", with annexed list of occupations for which a required level of proficiency in the State language had been established. A transition period until 1 September 2011 was applied to introduce those requirements. As of that date, the requirements in the field of language use set out by the Cabinet are also applied to persons who need language skills at the highest, C level (managers of company structural units, experts, housing managers, records managers etc.). Professionals in these positions must know and use the language at a specific level during the performance of their duties, if they are involved in providing services to customers or supplying information and their activities affect the

lawful interests of the public (provisions of Paragraph two and three of Article 6 of the State Language Law).

170. The number of professions and positions, to which an exact State language proficiency level was established, had also to be increased because employers and self-employed persons, in the absence of a respective regulation, very often established low language skills requirements or did not demand any State language fluency, although the activities of employees or self-employed persons actually affected lawful interests of the public. A clear legal framework allows persons belonging to national minorities to avoid a subjective interpretation of the State language proficiency standards, because thus far employers, more often than not, and without justification, had set differing requirements for persons of the same occupations under comparable working conditions.
171. For language use in the education process, see Paragraphs 187-202 of this Report on minority education in Latvia.

Libraries as centres for promoting the use of national minority languages

172. Libraries function as centres for society integration and social communication by meeting the needs for reading and cultural interaction in national minority languages and promoting national minority literature and culture among a broader public. At the same time, libraries facilitate a systematic and thorough learning of the Latvian language and culture both individually and during various events and interest groups (many libraries host Latvian language courses). Through the access to internet, libraries also enable access to information resources of the ethnic homeland of a national minority and, via international online library subscription, provide an opportunity to subscribe to publications from libraries in that ethnic homeland.
173. Library collections in Latvia traditionally contain books and other publications in national minority languages. Publications in Russian have traditionally represented the largest share constituting around 40 per cent of the total holdings. Public libraries working in local authority territories in the border areas of Lithuania, Estonia and Russia provide a broader offer of books in the languages of the respective neighbouring countries. Publications in various languages to the residents and guests of Riga are offered by a specialised public library – the Foreign Language Library of the Riga Central Library. In cities with Roma (Gypsy) population, libraries have become centres for popularising the Roma language and culture.

Article 11

1. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use his or her surname (patronym) and first names in the minority language and the right to official recognition of them, according to modalities provided for in their legal system.

2. *The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to display in his or her minority language signs, inscriptions and other information of a private nature visible to the public.*

3. *In areas traditionally inhabited by substantial numbers of persons belonging to a national minority, the Parties shall endeavour, in the framework of their legal system, including, where appropriate, agreements with other States, and taking into account their specific conditions, to display traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications intended for the public also in the minority language when there is a sufficient demand for such indications.*

174. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided in Paragraph 146 of the Initial State Report.

Language use in personal names

175. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided in Paragraphs 147-151 of the Initial State Report.

176. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided in its comments on Paragraphs 119-121 of the Opinion by the Advisory Committee.

177. On 11 May 2011, the Court of Justice of the European Union announced judgment in the *Case C-391/09: Malgožata Runevič-Vardyn and Łukasz Paweł Wardyn v the Civil Registry Division of the Legal Affairs Department of the Municipal Government Administration of the City of Vilnius*, in which it ruled that national legislation which provides that a person's surnames and forenames on the certificates of civil status of that State may be written only in a form compatible with the rules on the spelling of the official language relates to a situation which is not covered by the Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin. It was also stated in the judgment that the State authorities, when applying national legislation on writing of personal names on certificates of civil status, do not need to comply with the spelling rules of another State, on condition that it does not give rise, for the person in question, to serious inconvenience on administrative, professional and private levels. Consequently, it is assumed that personal names on marriage certificates are written in accordance with the spelling rules of the issuing State, and not those of the State of origin of the person in question. This judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union is in line with the conclusions of the European Court of Human Rights in cases *Mencena v Latvia*²² and *Kuhareca v Latvia*²³.

Language use in place names

178. Article 18 of the Geospatial Information Law adopted in 2009 provides that the Cabinet of Ministers shall determine "the procedures for the creation,

²² Application No.71074/01, decision of 7 December 2004.

²³ Application No.71557/01, decision of 7 December 2004.

assigning, approval, accumulation, publication, use, preservation and protection of place names".

Language use in publicly accessible information

179. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided in Paragraph 152 of the Initial State Report on the use of language in titles, signs, posters, and notices.

Article 12

- 1. The Parties shall, where appropriate, take measures in the fields of education and research to foster knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of their national minorities and of the majority.*
- 2. In this context the Parties shall inter alia provide adequate opportunities for teacher training and access to textbooks, and facilitate contacts among students and teachers of different communities.*
- 3. The Parties undertake to promote equal opportunities for access to education at all levels for persons belonging to national minorities.*

180. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided in Paragraphs 155 and 183 of the Initial State Report.

181. Latvia would like to refer to the information in its comments on Paragraph 126 of the Opinion of the Advisory Committee.

Sunday schools

182. According to information of the Ministry of Culture, in 2011 there were approximately 11 Sunday schools in Latvia. Sunday schools are run by Jewish, Ukrainian, Belarusian ethnic groups, as well as Old Believers. Jewish Sunday School in Liepāja is attended by 19 children, and the one in Daugavpils has six pupils.
183. In 2010, the Armenian Sunday School resumed its work in Riga, following a 22-year interruption. The school has 20 pupils, who attend language, culture, singing and dance classes. The classes are held on the premises of the Armenian Church of Saint Gregory the Enlightener.
184. Since 1993, Daugavpils is home to the Belarusian Sunday School, where language and culture is taught and an amateur theater group is working. The school is attended by 10 to 15 children.
185. A Ukrainian Sunday School was working in Liepāja until 2010 and was attended by 30 children from Ukrainian and mixed families.
186. The Old Believers of Latvia also run permanent Sunday schools in the parishes of Riga, Rēzekne, Daugavpils, Līvāni, Viļāni and Jēkabpils. Each school is attended by about 20 young people and adults. The Sunday schools are run on the parish funds and voluntary work.

National minority education

187. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided in Paragraphs 158-160, 163, 169, 171, 173, 174 of the Initial State Report.
188. Latvia would like to refer to its comments on Paragraph 143 of the Opinion of the Advisory Committee.
189. Education programmes in State and municipal education institutions implementing national minority education programmes are implemented in accordance with the provisions set out in Article 41 of the Education Law.²⁴ This means that not only learning of the ethnic culture and language in the national minority language is ensured in these educational establishments, but also of other subjects, for example, history math, biology etc (see also Paragraphs 194-195 of this Report). Further, the State provides also optional classes in national minority educational establishments promoting acquisition of ethnic identity, culture and national minority language. In accordance with the law, in private education institutions, education may be acquired also in other languages, for instance, in English, French etc.²⁵ All schools of general education in Latvia receive State funding. Thus in the 2011/2012 school year, the State funding was provided to 644 schools of general education with Latvian as the language of instruction, 99 education establishment implementing national minority education programmes and 65 two-flow schools. The State also provides funding to four schools implementing education programmes in Polish, one school with Ukrainian, and one with Belarusian as the language of instruction, as well as one Jewish, one Estonian, and one Lithuanian school. One private Jewish school implements the national minority education programme. Several schools provide education to Gypsy (Roma) pupils. Private education establishments receive earmarked subsidies from the State budget for teachers' salaries.
190. Children until the age of 7 receive pre-school education. Depending on the parents' wishes starting from two years children may acquire pre-school

²⁴ Article 41. Educational Programmes for Ethnic Minorities

(1) Educational programmes for ethnic minorities shall be developed by educational institutions in accordance with State educational standards on the basis of general educational programme models approved by the Ministry of Education and Science.

(2) Educational programmes for ethnic minorities shall include content necessary for acquisition of the relevant ethnic culture and for integration of ethnic minorities in Latvia.

²⁵ Article 9. Language of Acquisition of Education

(1) Education shall be acquired in the State language in State and local government education institutions.

(2) Education may be acquired in another language:

1) in private educational institutions;

2) in State and local government educational institutions in which educational programmes for ethnic minorities are implemented. The Ministry of Education and Science shall specify in such educational programmes the subjects of study which are to be acquired in the State language; and

3) in educational institutions specified in other laws.

education programmes in Latvian on national minority language (Russian and Polish). Training of children beginning with the age of five for acquisition of basic education is compulsory. National minority pre-school education programmes are implemented in national minority language and they include game-classes aimed at Latvian language learning. For data on numbers of education institutions implementing pre-school education programmes, see Table 21 and 22 in Annex 1.

191. For data on the numbers of students by language of instruction (%), see Table 23 in Annex I.
192. For data on the numbers of students in day schools by language of instruction (%), see Table 24 in Annex I.
193. In 2008-2010, the Ministry of Education and Science supported the proposal by school administrations, pupils, parents and the Polish Culture Society and restored the original names of two Polish secondary schools, now called Rēzekne State Polish Gymnasium and J.Pilsudsky Daugavpils State Polish Gymnasium.
194. National minority education ensures a possibility to learn the Latvian language and culture, while preserving acquisition of subjects related to ethnic identity – national minority language, culture and traditions. Education establishments develop their education programmes, including the learning of certain subjects in Latvian along with the contents required for the acquisition of ethnic culture. A basis for this are general education programme models approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, which differ according to the proportion of the number of subjects taught in national minority language or in Latvian, and as to subjects taught bilingually. Schools can choose one of the education programme models.
195. Education establishments implement the following models of minority education programmes:
 - Model One (subjects mainly taught in Latvian) – 5 % of schools;
 - Model Two (50% of subjects in Latvian or bilingually) – 41% of schools;
 - Model Three (number of subjects taught in Latvian increases gradually) – 34% of schools;
 - Model Four (subjects taught mainly in Latvian and national minority language) – 5% of schools;
 - Model Five (model developed by the school itself) – 15% of schools.
196. National standards for basic education and general secondary education are identical for all education establishments.
197. In order to evaluate changes as regards national minority schools under the Education Law of 2004, stipulating that three fifths (60%) of educational content in secondary school must be in Latvian, in 2010 the Ministry of Education and Science commissioned a study “Civic and linguistic attitudes

of secondary school students in acquiring national minority education programmes” from the Baltic Institute of Social Sciences.²⁶

198. The results of the study show that the attitude towards the national minority education reform has improved. According to the study, in 2004 39 per cent of pupils stated that they knew Latvian, whereas in 2008 61% per cent of pupils said they used Latvian outside school. The number of pupils wishing to study bilingually has increased from 41 per cent in 2004 to 58 per cent in 2010. It was found that pupils’ motivation to learn Latvian has increased; thus, 63 per cent of pupils recognise that good knowledge of Latvian is necessary in higher education. Such a result has been achieved thanks to the successful introduction of a bilingual model in basic schools, when in parallel to subjects taught in Latvian, bilingual learning and the use of national minority language is also permitted.²⁷
199. As from 2007, the pupils who acquire general secondary education in a national minority language programme can choose between Latvian and Russian as the language for sitting national exams in grade 12. It has been concluded that the number of pupils who choose to answer in Latvian at centralised exams is increasing (see Figure 1 in Annex II).
200. Amendments to the National Standard of General Education and subject standards envisage that, as from 2012, unified requirements are applied in the centralised Latvian language exam for Grade 12. To establish whether pupils were prepared for these requirements, in 2010 the Ministry of Education and Science ordered a study to the Baltic Institute of Social Sciences entitled “Analysis of the results of centralised exams of the past three years and the assessment of preparedness for transition to a joint Latvian language exam in 2012”. The findings show that unified requirements for the Latvian language exam are being introduced gradually, over a three year period. The study concludes that academic attainment of national minority pupils in bilingual learning is higher than the average scores for the country, notably, in physical sciences (mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology).²⁸
201. As the result of the education reform, the level of Latvian language proficiency among national minority pupils has improved considerably. If in

²⁶ Research report „Civic and linguistic attitudes of secondary school students in acquiring national minority education programmes”, Baltic Institute of Social Sciences, 2010, http://izm.izm.gov.lv/upload_file/BISS_pet_skolnieku_attieksmes.pdf.

²⁷ In 2008, the Baltic Institute of Social Sciences conducted a study „Language” commissioned by the LLA. Its results show a gradual increase in the Latvian language skills among people of other ethnicities: 57% persons of other ethnicity had good Latvian language skills in 2008 (47% in 2004). The number of persons with little, or no knowledge of Latvian is gradually decreasing (in 2004 – 10%, in 2008 – 7%). Report „Language”, Baltic Institute of Social Sciences, 2008, http://www.bszi.lv/downloads/resources/valoda/valoda2008_lv.pdf.

²⁸ Study „Analysis of the results of centralised exams of the past three years and the assessment of preparedness for transition to a joint Latvian language exam in 2012”, Baltic Institute of Social Sciences, 2009, http://izm.izm.gov.lv/upload_file/Registri_statistika/IZM-petijums-pareja-uz-vienotu-latv-val-eksamenu.pdf.

1996 49 per cent of young people of national minorities rated their knowledge of Latvian as good, then in 2011 61 per cent of young members of national minorities stated that their knowledge of Latvian was “very good” or “good”, as shown in a study commissioned by the LLA, “Factors influencing Latvian language learning, and the language use environment”.²⁹

202. During his working visit to Latvia in 2011 the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Knut Vollebaeck recognised that Latvia was a success story as regards learning the State language. High Commissioner mentioned Latvia as an outstanding example in this field for other countries in not only promoting the learning of the State language but also in building mutual understanding and integration of society.

Education possibilities for Gypsy (Roma) pupils

203. In co-operation with the education administration, education institutions and NGOs of rural and city municipalities, the Ministry of Education and Science gathers information on academic attainment of Gypsy (Roma) pupils. During the 2009/2010 school year it was established that reading and writing skills of 26.2 per cent of Gypsy (Roma) pupils were improved by means of supplementary teaching measures (an extended study year). Data on the attendance levels of Roma pupils and integration and educational measures involving them are being compiled. In the 2010/2011 school year, 10.2 per cent of Roma pupils did not complete compulsory education due to various reasons (families left the country, unfavourable social conditions in families etc.), which is a constant figure.
204. For data on the number of Roma pupils in general education institutions, see table 25 in Annex I.
205. A significant project, implemented under the National Programme “Gypsies (Roma) in Latvia 2007-2009”, was “Teachers’ Assistants of Roma Background in Education Institutions”, aimed at creating special opportunities for Roma to increase their level of education, as well as enhancing the application of inclusive education principles in the system of general education. A post of a teacher assistant was set up for inclusive classes where Roma children study together with children of other ethnicities. This approach helped a more successful integration of Roma children in the school’s social environment. Teacher assistants of Roma background are the link between the school, family, Roma and society. As a result of the project 20 teacher assistants were trained for work in schools.
206. Eight out of 20 Roma teacher assistants trained during the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 school years within the Action Plan of the National Programme

²⁹ Study „Factors influencing Latvian language learning, and the language use environment”, Laboratory of Analytical Research and Strategies, 2010, http://www.bilingvals.lv/uploads_docs/A1_PETIJUMS_LATVIESU_VALODAS_APGUVI_IETEKMEJOSIES_FAKTORI_UN_LIETOJUMA_VIDE_1305276230.pdf.

“Gypsies (Roma) in Latvia 2007-2009” worked in regional schools. Seven Roma teacher assistants were also employed during the 2011/2012 school year; one of them received salary from the municipal budget, and six from the State budget.

207. As the implementation of the Roma teacher assistant programme was assessed, an enquiry was carried out among directors of schools, teachers and Roma parents. The outputs showed that the results of Roma teacher assistants were evaluated as „good” and „excellent”. This leads to the conclusion that the efforts of teacher assistants contributes significantly to academic performance of Roma children and to the change in the opinions of the Roma community on the need for education and as to supporting their children in the education process. The Council of Europe has noted the practice of Latvia as an example of good practice. Also in the future, to facilitate the inclusion of Roma integration policy into the context of sectoral policies, issues related to the Roma integration will be considered in the overall framework of society integration policy.
208. In 2011, the Education Initiative Centre carried out a study “Rights of Roma to education: situation with implementation in Latvia”. The study concludes that monitoring should be made on the inclusion of Gypsy (Roma) pupils in the general education process to ensure the acquisition of basic compulsory education and follow up on the positive results of the work by teacher assistants of Roma origin.³⁰
209. For information on measures to promote tolerance towards Roma, see Paragraphs 114 to 120 of this Report.

Support for national minority schools

210. Thanks to funding from the State budget, the European Social Fund and foreign donors, national minority schools receive significant assistance. The Ministry of Education and Science highly appreciates support from Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Israel for supplying national minority schools with teaching aids, organising summer camps, providing guest teachers and contributing to renovation of schools.
211. Having introduced the "money follows the student" model (see also Paragraph 228 of this Report), in order to ensure the existence of national minority schools (Riga Lithuanian Secondary School, Riga Ukrainian Secondary School, Ita Kozakēviča Rīga Polish Secondary School, Sh.Dubnov Rīga Jewish Secondary School, Rīga Belarusian Primary School, Rīga Estonian Primary School), in 2009 the Riga City Council, through reallocation of State budget subsidies earmarked for teachers' remuneration, increased funding for national minority school teachers by one fourth if compared to other schools.

³⁰ Study „Rights of Roma to education: situation with implementation in Latvia”, Education Initiatives Centre, 2011, http://www.iic.lv/lv/projekti/rti_petijums_isl.pdf.

212. Ukraine has provided financial aid to the Ukrainian school for repairing classrooms, improving the territory and purchase equipment for the computer class. Building and repair works in the Riga Ukrainian Secondary School were completed in December 2011 with assistance from the Riga City Council; it is envisaged that the Ukrainian government will help with supplying the school with furniture and equipment.
213. In 2010, the Riga Belarusian Primary School was moved to premises suitable for an education institution. The new premises were repaired with funds from the Riga City Council and furnished with support from the Belarusian government.
214. In 2010, Sh.Dubnov Riga Jewish Secondary School was relocated to new premises repaired and furnished with Riga City Council's funds. The State of Israel has provided a guest teacher, and the World Jewish Education Organisation – technical equipment.
215. In 2009, the Interest Education Centre at the Riga Lithuanian Secondary School was opened; one third of the costs of the centre's renovation works were covered by the Lithuanian government. Lithuania also provides teaching aids and guest teachers.
216. Support for supplying teaching aids is provided in association with the Embassy of Russia in Latvia.
217. With assistance from the Embassy of Belarus, the Belarusian Primary School has been receiving books and teaching aids since 1994. Teachers improve their professional qualifications in courses offered by Belarusian universities.
218. Since 1989, the Estonian Secondary School has been receiving assistance from Estonia for purchase of computers and teaching aids, as well as in providing a guest teacher.
219. From 1992 onwards, Polish education institutions receive notable support from the Polish State: for maintenance and renovation of school buildings, diverse teaching aids, information sciences classrooms, computers, interactive whiteboards, audiovisual aids, scholarships. Up to 25 Polish educators are appointed to work as guest teachers in Latvia each year. Further education courses, as well as teacher exchange is organised to increase the teachers' professional qualifications.

National Authority for Quality of Education

220. The National Authority for the Quality of Education performs the accreditation of general education institutions and programmes. Until 2009, this task was carried out by the National Agency for Evaluation of General Education Quality, the Vocational Education Administration and the Centre for the Evaluation of Quality in Higher Education.

221. From among general education institutions accredited in the 2009/2010 school year, nine national minority schools were certified, including one primary school and eight secondary schools, founded both by local authorities and private entities. According to the evaluation criteria, national minority schools received total scores from 61 to 76 points (maximum scores being 76 and 80 respectively)³¹. The average score of education institutions per criterion was 3.7 points (out of a maximum of 4 points).
222. In 2010/2011 school year 92 institutions of general education were accredited, including 29 education institutions accredited in the first semester by the expert commission for accreditation. Out of the accredited education institutions, two were national minority education institutions, including one secondary school and one State Gymnasium, out of which one is municipality founded and one private education institution.

National Centre for Education

223. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided in Paragraph 181 of the Initial State Report and inform that the National Centre for Education successfully continues to perform its functions.

Latvian Language Agency

224. The LLA ensures up-to-date and diverse training (integrated acquisition of teaching contents and language) for a continued professional development of teachers of bilingual education at all levels (see also Paragraph 71 of this Report).
225. The LLA publishes teaching aids for bilingual education: teaching materials for pupils in maths, physics, chemistry, biology, history, the basics of economics, geography; teaching aids for pupils and teachers in Latvian language and biligual learning in secondary schools. In the 2010/2011 school year, audio-visual aids and learning materials for e-environment were elaborated (self-learning materials for recapitulation; materials for work with the interactive whiteboard; electronic dictionary for pupils; instructional movies on the Latvian language, literature and culture; and an interactive teaching aid in geography, history and cultural history).

Equal access to education

226. For rights to education laid down in the Education law, see Paragraph 56 of this Report.

³¹ If a school of basic education has implemented special education programmes, the operation of the said school was assessed against 20 quality criteria (the maximum total score to be recieved – 80 points). If the school did not implement any special education programmes, the operation of the said school was assessed against 19 quality criteria (the maximum total score to be received – 76 points).

227. Article 12 of the Education Law stipulates that fees for the acquisition of pre-school, basic and secondary education at an institution established by the State or local government shall be covered from the State budget or local government budgets in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Cabinet of Ministers, while a private educational institution may set fees for acquisition of education.
228. Due to demographic situation, the number of pupils is decreasing (see Table 26 in Annex I on pupils in general education day schools by ethnicity and Table 27 on general education day schools by flow), and with the aim of optimising the education system under economic crisis, the principle "money follows the student" was introduced in the education system. In applying this principle, a part of education institutions were reorganised and sometimes closed since 2008. In the reorganised schools, the rural and city municipalities for the most part have retained the existing education programmes, for instance, national minority education programmes can be further implemented in a two-flow school. In compliance with the principle "money follows the student", several municipalities, for instance, Riga and Daugavpils City Councils, apply advantageous treatment in the funding of national minority education institutions. Schools with the bilingual model of education are provided for, drawing on the same standard as schools with only Latvian as the language of instruction.
229. For information on closing establishments of general education, see Table 28 in Annex I.
230. For information on the reorganisation of establishments of general education, see Table 29 in Annex I.
231. In accordance with amendments of 14 July 2011 to Article 45 of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education of 1995, equal rights to study in institutions of higher education and colleges are guaranteed to any citizen of Latvia, a non-citizen of Latvia, a citizen of the European Union, a citizen of the European Economic Area or a citizen of Swiss Confederation and a permanent resident of the European Community holding a valid permanent residence permit.

Article 13

1. Within the framework of their education systems, the Parties shall recognise that persons belonging to a national minority have the right to set up and to manage their own private educational and training establishments.

2. The exercise of this right shall not entail any financial obligation for the Parties.

232. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided in Paragraphs 184 and 186 of the Initial State Report.
233. In the 2011/2012 school year, out of 37 private education institutions implementing day education programmes, 14 private schools were

implementing education programmes in national minority languages, and three education institutions were two-flow schools. Total State budget funding for national minority private schools in 2010 was LVL 505 440 and in 2011 – LVL 501 420.

Article 14

- 1. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to learn his or her minority language.*
- 2. In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if there is sufficient demand, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible and within the framework of their education systems, that persons belonging to those minorities have adequate opportunities for being taught the minority language or for receiving instruction in this language.*
- 3. Paragraph 2 of this article shall be implemented without prejudice to the learning of the official language or the teaching in this language.*

234. See Paragraphs 182-186, as well as Paragraph 187-202 of this Report.

Article 15

The Parties shall create the conditions necessary for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs, in particular those affecting them.

235. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided its comments on Paragraphs 159, 162, 168-171, 172 of the Opinion of the Advisory Committee.
236. Information on advisory mechanisms in public institutions, on the possibilities for NGOs and national minority NGOs to participate in national policy making process and the possibilities for national minorities to participate in cultural, social and economic life is provided in Paragraphs 23 to 36 of this Report.
237. From 2005 to 2009, five State-funded NGOs operating in Riga and the regions of Latvia fulfilled functions of regional resource centres:
- offered free advice to NGOs and provided premises and office facilities for NGO events free of charge;
 - organised training, workshops and other activities on regional issues of importance (drawing up annual reports, the essence of the public good etc.);
 - compiled information on NGOs in the region and disseminated current information;
 - developed close co-operation between NGOs and local and central government institutions through enabling regional NGO participation in implementation of regional policy planning;
 - encouraged partnership and co-operation among the region's NGOs;
 - promoted participation of regional NGOs in various NGO cooperation networks.

238. The Council for Implementation of the Memorandum of Co-operation between Non-Governmental Organisations and the Cabinet of Ministers (hereinafter – Memorandum Council) started working in 2006. During the period from 2006 till present:
- i. on two occasions, the Memorandum Council advanced the adoption of significant amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Cabinet of Ministers concerning public participation. New amendments are currently pending adoption, and again NGOs are actively involved in the drafting process;
 - ii. Cabinet of Ministers Regulation on procedure for public participation in development planning process was drafted and adopted;
 - iii. the Memorandum Council was a forum for NGOs to voice their willingness to actively participate in the process of budget planning, the drafting of Structural Funds documentation for the following planning period, the process of delegation of public administration tasks. NGOs are actively debating the related matters;
 - iv. currently, the Memorandum Council is evaluating the participation practices implemented by the ministries against criteria agreed upon by all the NGOs and line ministries. The purpose of the evaluation is to identify and eliminate deficiencies in public participation;
 - v. on the Memorandum Council's initiative, each ministry has appointed an NGO contact person, who facilitates collaboration of NGOs at the level of ministries and their subordinated institutions. The State Chancellery has launched events of methodological management and coordination for the NGO contact persons;
 - vi. increasingly more often, ministries entrust the Memorandum Council to delegate NGO representatives for inclusion in specific working groups/advisory councils. The Memorandum Council is a body that has gained authority among NGOs, is working in a transparent and open manner and helps to reduce administrative obstacles encountered by NGOs and public administration in the process of selecting partners for inclusion in working groups.
239. The Memorandum Council co-ordinated NGO participation in the assessment of public administration functions (in both of its stages) and in elaboration of the Government Action Plan. Representatives delegated by the Memorandum Council are currently participating in the meetings of State Secretaries, the sittings of the Committee of the Cabinet of Ministers, the functional audit commission, the EU Structural Funds Monitoring Committee, the Monitoring Committee for the addendum 1.5.2 “Strengthening Capacity of Human Resources” of the Programme "Human Resources and Employment", and the Steering Committee of the European Year of Volunteering.
240. Implementation of the Memorandum and the work of the Memorandum Council is evaluated two times per year. The ministries submit reports on the subject to the State Chancellery, which prepares and issues the summarised information and analysis thereof. These assessments, as well as minutes of the

Memorandum Council's meetings are accessible on the Cabinet of Ministers website.³²

Civic Alliance of Latvia

241. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided in Paragraph 194 of the Initial State Report.
242. The Civic Alliance of Latvia (hereinafter – CAL) currently has 127 members: legal entities active in the NGO sector, eight out of which are national minority NGOs, and private individuals. The CAL is working as a representative of NGO interests, keeping track of decision making in public administration. Representatives from the CAL are present at the Cabinet of Ministers and ministry working groups, weekly meetings of the State Secretaries and the meetings of the *Saeima* (Parliament) committees.
243. In the course of one year, the organisation gets acquainted with more than 1500 proposals for amendments to laws, Cabinet of Ministers regulations and development planning documents. In 2010, the CAL provided opinions for the *Saeima* committees and ministries on amendments to legislation affecting the work of NGOs. The association has provided opinions on laws affecting the work of NGOs, for example, on the Law on Associations and Foundations, the Law on Organisations for the Public Good, the Law on Local Governments, the Law On Accounting, as well as on other draft laws.
244. As part of the CAL programme "NGO Resource Centre of Riga Region", the association offers advice and training to organisation in the Riga Planning Region on issues related to founding and operation of societies and foundations, legal matters of NGO operation, interest protection, fundraising and other issues.

The Association of National Cultural Associations of Latvia (ANKAL)

245. The LNKBA unites cultural societies representing more than 20 different ethnicities living in Latvia. The Ministry of Culture continues providing annual financial support for the maintenance of the LNKBA building, the ownership of which has been transferred to the LNKBA by a decision of the *Saeima*. The LNKBA arranges traditional festivities of various ethnic minorities which attract broad public involvement. Two projects for children, "Friends' Stories" and "Fairytale Bridge", were implemented together with the UNESCO National Commission in 2008 and 2010 respectively.
246. The LNKBA co-ordinates monthly programmes (12 half-an-hour programmes each month) in national minority languages on *Latvijas Radio*, introducing audiences with the latest activities, plans, traditions, people and specific events of various cultural societies.

³² Evaluations [in Latvian] are available at <http://mk.gov.lv/lv/sabiedribas-lidzdaliba/sadarbibas-memorands/>.

247. For State funding to the Association of National Cultural Societies of Latvia see Table 30 in Annex I.

Provision of the Latvian language training

248. The LLA provides Latvian language courses for various target audiences free of charge (to teachers, pre-school teachers, police officers, medical staff, recruits, the unemployed and other groups). Starting from 2006, the LLA has been providing Latvian language courses for parents and teachers (5576 teachers and parents of national minority students have been taught from 2007 to 2010). Professional skills development has been provided to 38 educators for adults all over Latvia in 2010. An e-learning course of the Latvian language for beginners has been elaborated and is accessible on the internet (www.valoda.lv). Overall, more than one hundred textbooks and methodological aids for adults have been published since 2000.
249. The “Latvian Language Learning for Adults”, an ethnic integration programme financed from the State budget and administered by the SIF, was continued through 2007 and 2008. The aim of the programme was to increase Latvian language proficiency among adult population of Latvia and gave an opportunity for any adult resident of Latvia disregarding age, occupation or social status to apply for State support in attending high quality Latvian language courses and achieve B2 level of the State language proficiency. As the result of each supported project, at least 70% of trainees improved their language skills by one proficiency level.
250. Due to shortage of State budget funds the national programme “Latvian Language Learning for Adults” has been temporarily suspended in 2009. In total, LVL 1.24 million had been allocated from the State budget from 2002 to 2009 to enable training to more than 17 000 persons within the programme.
251. For data on Latvian language learning for adults, see Tables 31 and 32 in Annex I.
252. From 2006 to 2008 a project “Learning Latvian as the State Language in Secondary Education Stage” was implemented under the National Programme “Latvian Language Learning” of the European Union Structural Funds. LVL 72 000 were used for elaboration of textbooks and methodological aids – thematic plans, methodological literature for teachers, learning aids for students, learning materials on DVDs.
253. Currently (2009-2011) under the European Union Structural Funds, the LLA is carrying out a project “Support for the Learning of the State Language and Bilingual Education”, in the framework of which textbooks and methodological aids, including teaching films, digital resources, materials for the interactive whiteboard, are developed and introduced from grades 7 to 12 in national minority schools and schools where teachers work in a linguistically heterogeneous environment.

254. For information on the amount of the State budget funding for the elaboration and provision of textbooks and methodological literature see Table 33 in Annex I.
255. In 2007 the State budget funding for LAT2 courses for adults was LVL 63 984 and funding from the European Community Transition facility amounted to LVL 55 662, in 2008 – LVL 67 741 , in 2009 – LVL 11 633, and in 2010 – LVL 3 930 (see also Paragraph 122 of this Report).
256. Latvian language courses free of charge are also available at the level of separate local authorities. The local authorities of Riga, Jelgava and others are active in this field. Due to the complicated economic circumstances, there is no provision for language learning in the State budget.
257. In 2011 the Riga City Council, as part of the project competition “Organisation and Implementation of Latvian Language Learning Courses for Residents of Riga” provided funding for four projects (for a total of LVL 30 987), thus giving an opportunity for 507 adult Rigans (except the unemployed and students) residing legally in Latvia and whose native language (first language) is not Latvian, to learn Latvian free of charge until the end of 2011.
258. To encourage employment, and as part of active job market measures, the Employment State Agency ensures Latvian language training for the unemployed whose native language is not Latvian, in order to help their job placement or further vocational training. Furthermore, informational and methodological materials on the rights and obligations of the unemployed and the services provided by the State Employment Agency are published not only in Latvian but also in Russian.

Promotion of the naturalisation process

259. To promote the naturalisation process, the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (hereinafter – the OCMA) holds monthly information days at exam centres in Riga, Liepāja and Daugavpils, where persons seeking naturalisation can receive information on the requirements for obtaining Latvian citizenship and are offered an opportunity to test their Latvian language skills and fill in samples of tests on the history of Latvia and the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia. The attendance rate is high: on average, 32 % of the persons who file naturalisation applications during a month attend the information days.
260. The OCMA has a free of charge telephone line, where those interested can obtain information also on the acquisition of Latvian citizenship through naturalisation. The hotline 0037167588675 works in two modes: from 9 am to 11:30 am and from 2:30 pm to 4 pm when specially-trained operators answer the calls; and in between these periods, the line works in the answering machine mode, when the caller can hear the main information about the service of his or her interest, by pressing the necessary key. During

the first 6 months of 2011, the hotline/answering machine has registered 724 calls concerning naturalisation.

261. On the OCMA web site www.pmlp.gov.lv, everybody interested can receive answers in Latvian, Russian and English languages to queries regarding the acquisition of Latvian citizenship through naturalisation and put queries online in the Forum section to competent officials concerning the possibility to acquire Latvian citizenship through naturalisation and receive relevant answers.
262. In 2011, the web site www.pmlp.gov.lv was visited 655 152 times. Web site section on information for citizenship applicants concerning naturalisation exams was viewed 8901 times. Web page containing Cabinet of Ministers decrees on admission to Latvian citizenship was requested 17 881 times.
263. In 2011, the Forum section registered 203 entries on naturalisation and acquisition of citizenship. Queries are mostly linked with citizenship applicants' wish to find out when the next draft decree concerning the names of persons to be granted citizenship will be processed.
264. In order to ensure a direct link with applicants for citizenship, information days are held monthly at the OCMA exam centres in Rīga, Liepāja and Daugavpilsand, and, whenever necessary, also in other Latvian cities³³. On information days, those interested are welcome to learn about the procedure of tests specified in the Citizenship Law and to test, whether their knowledge is sufficient for naturalisation tests. The attendance rate of information days held by the OCMA is constant.
265. In 2010, 193 press releases on current events in the work of the OCMA, including press releases concerning naturalisation issues, were sent to both national and regional mass media. The OCMA Head, his deputy heads and the Head of the Naturalisation Board have given interviews and comments both on the TV and radio, making the operation of the institution well-known. On 27 April 2011, a press conference was held, where a study on the attitudes of non-citizens towards Latvian citizenship and key obstacles to naturalisation was presented.
266. In 2006-2008, the Secretariat of the Special Assignments Minister for Society Integration allocated LVL 15 856 to projects, as part of which preparatory naturalisation courses and motivation events were organised and the existence of the Informative-Consultative Naturalisation Bureau was co-financed. In 2007, the courses were attended by 311 persons.
267. In addition to exemptions from the testing of knowledge specified in Article 21 of the Citizenship Law, according to the Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No.522 of 5 July 2011 "Regulations Regarding Testing of Latvian

³³ If there is an interest regarding naturalisation issues in other cities of Latvia where there are no exam centres, the OCMA holds information days also in those other cities of Latvia.

Language Proficiency and the Knowledge of the Basic Principles of the Constitution, the Text of the National Anthem and the History of Latvia as prescribed by the Citizenship Law" (hereinafter – Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No.522), the test of proficiency in the Latvian language in the OCMA is not taken by an applicant who presents one of the following documents:

- i. a State language proficiency certificate, which has been issued after 1 September 2009, and certifies that the applicant has acquired a Level B or C in s State language test for the performance of professional and official duties, receipt of a permanent residence permit or acquisition of the status of a European Community permanent resident;
- ii. a document, which certifies passing of the centralised examination of the Latvian language (under accredited national minority education programmes for Grade 9) or the centralised examination of the Latvian language and literature (under accredited national minority education programmes for Grade 12) at the Level A, B, C or D;
- iii. a document, which certifies that the person has acquired a primary, secondary or higher education in an educational institution where the language of instruction is Latvian.

268. The following waivers have been established:

- i. waived from the test of proficiency in the Latvian language and the test of the knowledge of the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the text of the National Anthem and the history of Latvia (hereinafter – knowledge) are:
 - persons with a Group I disability;
 - persons with a Group II disability and advanced mental illness;
 - persons with Group II and III disability with bilateral deafness or deaf-muteness;
- ii. visually impaired persons with Group II and III disability are waived from the knowledge test;
- iii. waived from the written section of the language proficiency test are:
 - persons with a Group II and III disability who do not have the right arm or right hand (for a left-handed person – left arm or left hand accordingly);
 - visually impaired persons with Group II and III disability;
- iv. speech-impaired persons with Group II and III disability are waived from the section of the language proficiency test containing a conversation on topics of a social nature;
- v. hearing-impaired persons with Group II and III disability are waived from the sections of the language fluency test containing listening to and understanding speech, as well as a conversation on topics of a social nature.

269. Paragraph 36 of the Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No.522 establishes the right for the Head of the OCMA or person authorised by him or her, under the regulatory enactments in the field of language proficiency tests, to specify exemption from the language proficiency and knowledge test for applicants who have been declared disabled and who have submitted a certificate

regarding health impairments issued by the State Medical Commission for Expert-Examination of Health and Working Ability, which may be deemed as the basis for granting exemption.

270. Children born after the restoration of the independence of Latvia (after 21 August 1991) have the opportunity to be registered as Latvian citizens on the basis of an application by their parents. To reduce the number of children-non-citizens born after 21 August 1991, on 5 July 2011, new Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No.520 "Procedures for Submission and Evaluation of Application for Acknowledgement of a Child as a Latvian Citizen" was adopted. This Regulation minimises the number of documents to be submitted for the acknowledgement of a child as a Latvian citizen, i.e. the parents have to write an application and present a personal identification document. Furthermore, the new Regulation provides that parents can submit the application for the acknowledgement of a child as a Latvian citizen already at the registry office, when registering the birth of the child, which means that parents do not have to spend time to go to the OCMA to submit the application. In addition, it has to be noted that after the Naturalisation Board was merged with the OCMA on 1 March 2010, the application for the acknowledgement of a child as a Latvian citizen can be submitted to 30 OCMA regional offices instead of the previous 7 regional offices of the Naturalisation Board. Thus, this process has become more accessible throughout the territory of Latvia.
271. The main reasons behind the slow-down of the pace of naturalisation are the social and economic situation in the country, a debate on possibly of holding dual citizenship (the available information shows that many Latvian non-citizens actually possess the citizenship of the Russian Federation, Ukraine or some other State) and on granting non-citizens the right to vote in local government elections, as well as the introduction of a visa-free regime for the travel of non-citizens to the European Union member States and to the Russian Federation, addressing the pension issues of the citizens of the Russian Federation and other States and insufficient Latvian language skills.
272. On 21 December 2007, the Naturalisation Board received a report by an auditor of the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) on the compliance of the test of proficiency in the Latvian language for naturalisation with the 17 minimum standards of the ALTE language proficiency test quality requirements including the evaluation of each standard and recommendations. It was the security and logistics of the testing process that the ALTE auditor evaluated as very good. The auditor commended the test of proficiency in the Latvian language; however, there were recommendations for the improvement of the work.
273. In 2009 due to the difficult financial situation in the country and the low administrative capacity of the Naturalization Board, the Naturalisation Board became an ALTE partner of co-operation. In February 2010, as a result of the reorganisation of the Naturalisation Board the co-operation with the ALTE was fully terminated.

274. In 2011, 3028 citizenship applicants took the Latvian language proficiency test, 58 % of the applicants passed the test, whereas 41 % failed. When analysing this data, the information on the composition of Latvian non-citizens (place of birth and age) provided in Table 1 and Table 2 in Annex I of this Report has to be taken into account.
275. Between 1995 and 31 December 2011, 3859 applicants for citizenship were waived from language proficiency and the test of the knowledge of the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the text of the National Anthem and the history of Latvia and further 9842 applicants for citizenship were waived from language proficiency tests.
276. The Appeal Commission of the Naturalisation Board existed from the establishment of the Naturalisation Board in 1995 until 1 March 2010, when the latter was merged with the OCMA. As of 1 March 2010, an administrative act issued by an official of the Naturalisation Board of the OCMA can be contested before the Head of the OCMA, the decision of the latter, however, can be appealed against in court. Between 1995 and 31 December 2011, 67 contesting applications were submitted, in 37 cases of which, the decision of the testing commission was left unchanged.
277. The Naturalization Board undertakes regular research of its target audience. In 2010, a study was conducted to seek the opinion of non-citizens regarding the acquisition of Latvian citizenship.³⁴ The study data were collected by polling 1128 Latvian non-citizens (aged 15 to 86) and 1012 applicants for Latvian citizenship (aged 15 to 73) upon submission of naturalisation applications. The polling method applied was the surveying of respondents at OCMA regional offices. The study provided information on the attitude of non-citizens living in Latvia towards Latvian citizenship, the introduction of dual citizenship in Latvia, the level of Latvian language proficiency and the use of the Latvian language.
278. For the reasons given during the research on why non-citizens do not submit applications for the acquisition of Latvian citizenship, see Figure 2 of Annex 2.
279. The following key findings were revealed by the study:
- i. non-citizens have a 'wait-and-see' attitude towards the acquisition of Latvian citizenship: they hope for exemptions from the naturalisation process;
 - ii. one of the most important reasons for naturalisation is the acquisition of the EU citizenship;

³⁴ Study "Opinion of Non-citizens regarding Acquisition of Latvian Citizenship", the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, 2011, http://www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/par_pmlp/publikacijas/petijumi.html (in Latvian).

- iii. the most active applicants for citizenship are young people. Older non-citizens lack motivation and many of them do not intend to apply for Latvian citizenship (see Paragraph 285 and Table 2 of Annex 1);
 - iv. non-citizens support the introduction of dual citizenship in Latvia.
280. For statistical data on the acquisition of Latvian citizenship through naturalisation, see Paragraph 284 of this Report, as well as the OCMA website www.pmlp.gov.lv, Statistics section.
281. In 2008, the Naturalisation Board conducted an informal study on criteria for acquisition of citizenship in other States. It was established that in a number of States the citizenship applicant is required to show a good conduct (for example, Croatia, Norway, Sweden), a good reputation (for example, the USA, Australia, Iceland, Malta, Nigeria), a good character reference (for example, Ireland, the UK, Malta, Sudan); in separate cases it is also important, whether the applicant has integrated him or herself into the society (for example, Portugal, Switzerland).
282. In Lithuania, the Netherlands and Finland a State fee for taking the knowledge test must also be paid in addition to the naturalisation fee. In Cyprus, Croatia and Portugal, an additional fee must be paid for the certificate of naturalization/citizenship. To acquire the citizenship of the UK or the Netherlands, it is mandatory to participate in an official oath ceremony. All states, just like Latvia, demand permanent residence status, while the time period varies – from 3 to 10 years; the official language proficiency are also required. In most cases, a limitation to the acquisition of citizenship is the requirement of the absence of a criminal record of the applicant.
283. These data indicate that the requirements for the acquisition of Latvian citizenship are very liberal and fully correspond to the current State practice.
284. From the beginning of the naturalisation process on 1 February 1995 until 1 February 2012, 137 943 persons have been admitted to Latvian citizenship, including 14 065 minors, who were naturalised together with their parents³⁵. Through this procedure, people of more than 70 different ethnic origins have become Latvian citizens. The majority of them are Russians: more than 68 %. In total, 60.3 % of 603 125 Russians living in the country are Latvian citizens (see Table 1 of Annex 1).
285. According to the OCMA data, as of 1 January 2012, 312 189 non-citizens were registered in Latvia. When evaluating the current ratio of Latvian non-citizens, it has to be noted that, according to the data as of 1 September 2011, 59.21 % of non-citizens (189 544 persons) were more than 50 years old³⁶. 81.53 % of them were born outside Latvia. 59.12 % (189 267 persons) of all

³⁵ Naturalization statistics <http://www.pmlp.gov.lv/en/statistics/citizen.html>.

³⁶ The composition of the population of Latvia by year of birth and citizenship http://www.pmlp.gov.lv/lv/statistika/dokuments/2012/ISVG_Latvija_pec_DZGada_VPD.pdf (in Latvian).

the registered non-citizens were born outside Latvia (see Table 2 of Annex 1).

286. Information on projects promoting society integration is provided in Paragraphs 122 and 133-134 of this Report.

Children's rights protection and promotion of youth involvement

287. In addition to legislation on protection of children's rights and youth listed in Paragraph 208 of the Initial State Report of Latvia, the following legislation has been adopted:

- amendments to the Education Law (entered into force on 26 March 2010) include corrections regarding the right to education, the principle of equal treatment, the rights and responsibilities of a student, the rights and responsibilities of parents etc;
- the purpose of the Youth Law (entered into force on 1 January 2009) is to improve the living standards of young people, namely, those aged between 13 to 25, promoting their initiatives, participation in decision making and social life, as well as supporting work with youth;
- amendments to the Youth Law (entered into force on 3 November 2010) clarify the definition of the youth policy and the work with the youth, identify key objectives in the work with the youth and the basic principles of the youth policy and broaden the scope of operation of local governments regarding the implementation of the youth policy and the work with the youth;
- the Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No.985 of 2 December 2008 "Terms of reference of the Youth Advisory Council" establishes the Youth Advisory Council, the aim of which is to promote the development and implementation of a harmonised youth policy, as well as to encourage youth participation in decision making and social life;
- on 16 December 2008, Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No.1018 "Procedures for Allocation of State Budget Resources Intended to Promote Youth Initiatives and Participation in Decision Making and Social Life, as well as for Work with Youth" was adopted to improve State support system for work with the youth (became void on 16 April 2011);
- the Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No.1047 of 16 December 2008 "Procedures for the Training of Youth Affairs Specialists" establishes the procedures for acquisition of the basic training programmes of a youth affairs specialist;
- on 12 April 2011, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Regulation No.277 "Procedures for Allocation of State Budget Resources for Promotion of Youth Initiative and Participation in Decision Making and Social Life, for Work with Youth and Support of Operation of Youth Organisations, as well as Procedures for Administration and Monitoring of Supported Projects";
- on 15 March 2011, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Regulation No.188 "Regulations Regarding Procedures for Registering Societies in Youth

Organisations List and Information to be Included in the List" to ensure efficient expenditure of State budget resources allocated to youth organisations and to reduce administrative burden for societies applying for State budget funding intended for the work with youth.

288. In addition to the action planning documents in the field of children's rights protection listed in Paragraph 208 of the Initial State Report of Latvia, the following action planning documents have been adopted:
- State Programme for the Improvement of Children and Family Situation (approved annually by the Minister for Welfare) is a development planning document, the aim of which is to advance the improvement of the situation of children and family, as well as to implement targeted measures aimed at protecting and ensuring children's rights;
 - the Education Development Guidelines for 2007-2013 determine the aim to provide every inhabitant the opportunity to receive life-long quality education corresponding to individual interests, abilities and the economic development needs of the State and set measures that envisage the provision of quality pre-school education, increasing the efficiency of the pedagogic process in the primary education stage, enhancement of the evaluation system of secondary education content and the learning results, provision of the education opportunities of national minorities of Latvia, modernisation of professional education system and improvement of its prestige etc.
 - the Youth Policy Guidelines for 2009-2018 are a long-term policy planning document with the aim of achieving implementation of a harmonised State youth policy and its coordination, by identifying priority directions of action and policy results, creating a State development vision relates to the life quality of the youth and implementation of youth policy;
 - the Youth Policy State Programme 2009-2013, developed on the basis of the Youth Policy Guidelines for 2009-2018, specifies policy results to be reached by 2013 and result indicators. Since 2010, the Ministry of Education and Science approves the Programme annually;
 - the plan "Latvia – Suitable for Children 2010-2012" is a policy planning document drawn up in order to specify measures for the protection of children's rights during this period in line with the objectives set out in the "Latvia – Suitable for Children" guidelines of 2004 regarding the protection of children from violence, improvement of child health and the accessibility of quality education.
289. In order to implement recommendations to Latvia of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child of 2 June 2006 (see Paragraphs 207 and 211 of the Initial State Report), the following measures have been taken:
- i. on 19 October 2006, amendments to the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child were adopted envisaging the establishment of the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Children's Rights, the scope of action of which includes monitoring and controlling the compliance with the legislation in the field of children's rights protection (Article 65.¹). The Inspectorate performs inspections in child care, educational

and other institutions for children, and, if necessary, provides recommendations as to compliance with laws and regulations on children's rights. Particular attention of the Inspectorate is paid to the rights of children who are least protected, for example, children left without parental care. The State Inspectorate for the Protection of Children's Rights ensures the operation of the hotline 116111 for children and teenagers, where every child has the right to receive anonymous consultations from qualified psychologists. Children and teenagers can call the hotline every day from 8 am to 11 pm, on Saturdays from 8 am to 10 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 10 pm;

- ii. the State Inspectorate for Protection of Children's Rights organises regular society information and education events on children's rights protection issues, promoting a non-discriminatory observation of the children's rights provisions determined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and in other international instruments binding to Latvia. The Inspectorate consults children's rights protection experts, as well as individuals and legal persons on childrens' rights protection issues and holds seminars, lectures, conferences and meetings.

290. The study "Research on Out-of-Family Care and Adoption System and Recommendations for its Improvement" performed in 2008 should be highlighted as a significant study regarding children outside the family care³⁷. A comprehensive research of the out-of-family care system was carried out, identifying current problems, deficiencies and recommendations for the elimination of deficiencies and improvement of the out-of-family care system.

Article 16

The Parties shall refrain from measures which alter the proportions of the population in areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities and are aimed at restricting the rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention.

291. Along with the adoption of the Law on Administrative Territories and Populated Areas in 2008, the administrative and territorial reform in Latvia was concluded: new units in administrative territories were created and new boundaries of administrative territories and municipalities were delineated. Latvia notes that the administrative and territorial reform implemented did not limit the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to national minorities.

Article 17

1. The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to establish and maintain free and peaceful contacts across frontiers with persons lawfully staying in other States, in particular those with whom

³⁷ Study "Research on Out-of-Family Care and Adoption System and Recommendations for its Enhancement", Laboratory of Analytical Research and Strategies, 2008 http://www.bti.gov.lv/lat/arpusgimenes_aprupe/statistika_un_petijumi/?doc=1877&page (in Latvian).

they share an ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, or a common cultural heritage.

2. The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to participate in the activities of non-governmental organisations, both at the national and international levels.

292. Latvia would like to refer to the information provided in Paragraph 237 of the Initial State Report.

Article 18

1. The Parties shall endeavour to conclude, where necessary, bilateral and multilateral agreements with other States, in particular neighbouring States, in order to ensure the protection of persons belonging to the national minorities concerned.

2. Where relevant, the Parties shall take measures to encourage transfrontier co-operation.

293. In the period covered by the report, several bilateral agreements related to cross-border co-operation were concluded, including the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on Co-operation in Training of Master Level Management Professionals of 23 September 2010.

Article 19

The Parties undertake to respect and implement the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention making, where necessary, only those limitations, restrictions or derogations which are provided for in international legal instruments, in particular the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in so far as they are relevant to the rights and freedoms flowing from the said principles.

294. Latvia would like to refer to Paragraph 239 of the Initial State Report.

Annex I

Table No.1

Population of Latvia by ethnicity and citizenship as of 1 January 2012

	Population	%	Citizens	%	Non-citizens	%
Latvians	1 319 552	59.5	1 317 478	99.8	998	0.1
Russians	603 125	27.2	363 921	60.3	205 305	34.0
Belarusians	77 423	3.5	30 945	40.0	42 284	54.6
Ukrainians	54 041	2.4	18 457	34.2	30 020	55.6
Poles	50 498	2.3	38 637	76.5	10 601	21.0
Lithuanians	28 946	1.3	18 267	63.1	8181	28.3
Jews	9418	0.4	6192	65.7	2719	28.9
Roma	8482	0.4	7980	94.1	452	5.3
Germans	4630	0.2	2212	47.8	1206	26.0
Armenians	2680	0.1	1161	43.3	1047	39.1
Estonians	2327	0.1	1407	60.5	461	19.8
Georgians	1172	0.1	474	40.4	433	36.9
Others	51 731	2.3	36 902	71.3	6460	12.5
Total	2 217 053	100.0	1 844 741	83.2	312 189	14.1

Source: Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs

Table No.2

Non-citizens of Latvia by place of birth and age as of 1 January 2012

Age	born in Latvia			born abroad			Total
	address in Latvia	address abroad	Total	address in Latvia	address abroad	Total	
0-18 years	12 721	412	13 133	199	42	241	13 374
19-20 years	2820	88	2908	112	5	117	3025
21-49 years	76 771	949	77 720	32 321	493	32 814	110 534
50 years and older	35 166	135	35 301	152 079	991	153 070	188 371
Total	127 478	1584	129 062	184 711	1531	186 242	315 304

Source: Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs

Table Nr.3

Statistical data on criminal proceedings, legal proceedings in criminal cases related to hate crimes: Number of criminal proceedings initiated/decision on refusal to initiate criminal proceedings under Article 78 (incitement to national, ethnic and racial hatred) of Criminal Law (CL) in 2008-2010.

Year	Instances of possible crime under Article 78 of CL examined	Criminal proceedings initiated	Decision on refusal to initiate criminal proceedings under Article 78 of CL
2008	18	9	9
2009	14	6	8
2010	26	6	20
2011		12	

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Table No.4

Statistical data on criminal proceedings, legal proceedings in criminal cases related to hate crimes: Number of hate crimes under Articles of Criminal Law heard at first instance by the courts of the Republic of Latvia in 2008-2012

Article of CL*	2008			2009			2010		
	Number of cases heard	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons acquitted	Number of cases heard	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons acquitted	Number of cases heard	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons acquitted
78	2	2	-	4	9*	1	2	2	-
149 ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
151	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
71 ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
71 ²	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
74 ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Article of CL*	2011			as of 17 May 2012		
	Number of cases heard	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons acquitted	Number of cases heard	Number of persons convicted	Number of persons acquitted
78	2	4**	1	1	-	-

149 ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-
150	-	-	-	-	-	-
151	-	-	-	-	-	-
71	-	-	-	-	-	-
71 ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-
71 ²	-	-	-	-	-	-
74 ¹	-	-	-	-	-	-

(*) Convicted persons include those persons criminal proceeding against whom had been instituted during the previous periods.

Article 78 of CL – triggering of national, ethnic and racial hatred

Article 149¹ of CL – violation of discrimination prohibitions

Article 150 of CL – incitement of religious hatred

Article 151 of CL – interference with religious rituals

Article 71 of CL – genocide

Article 71¹ of CL – invitation to genocide

Article 71² of CL – crimes against humanity

Article 74 of CL – war crimes

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Table No.5

Applications received and processed by the Ombudsman in 2007-2010

2010		
Discrimination	Written applications	Cases of investigation initiated
Discrimination on the grounds of race or ethnicity	9	3
Discrimination on the grounds of language	4	1
Discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief	0	0
2009		
Discrimination	Written applications	Investigation cases initiated
Discrimination on the grounds of race or ethnicity	14	9
Discrimination on the grounds of language	14	2
Discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief	0	0
2008		
Discrimination	Written applications	Investigation cases initiated
Discrimination on the grounds of race or ethnicity	23	16

Discrimination on the grounds of language	20	7
Discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief	1	1
2007		
Discrimination	Written applications	Investigation cases initiated on the Ombudsman's initiative
Discrimination on the grounds of race or ethnicity	13	0
Discrimination on the grounds of language	17	0
Discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief	11	0

Source: Ombudsman's Office

Table No.6

Inspections by the Latvian Language Centre*

2006	2 308
2007	3 803
2008	5 400
2009	4 700
2010	3 940
2011	4 775

**Differences in the number of inspections are directly related to the Centre's funding and the number of inspectors*

Source: Ministry of Justice

Table No.7

Applications on violations of the State Language Law received at the State Language Centre

2006	414
2007	579
2008	810
2009	812
2010	815
2011	825

Source: Ministry of Justice

Table No.8

Number and substance of cases of administrative violations (1 January 2005 – 31 December 2011)

Section of Latvian Administrative Violations Code	2005-2009	2010	2011	Total
201 ²⁶ (1) Failure to use the official language in the required amount for performance of professional or office duties	2645	425	583	3653
201 ³⁵ (1) Failure to provide printing, signboards, posters, placards, notifications or other notifications in the official language	113	48	63	224
201 ³⁵ (2) The use of the official language in public information intended for public notification, not complying with the official language norms in force	62	52	62	176
201 ³⁵ (4) Marketing of goods without ensuring a full and accurate translation into the official language of the information indicated on goods labelling, instructions for use, guarantee documents or technical documentation	686	226	293	1205

Source: Ministry of Justice

Table No.9

Number of members of religious organisations 2009-2011

No.	Denomination	Number of members of congregations (2006)	Number of members of congregations (2007)	Number of members of congregations (2008)
1.	Catholics	500 000	500 000	500 000*
2.	[Evangelic] Lutheran	431 402	431 447	708 773
3.	Augsburg Confession Lutheran	591	600	581
4.	German Lutheran	292	315	308
5.	Russian Orthodox	370 000	370 000	370 000
6.	Old Believer	2 398	2 336*	2 373
7.	Baptist	6 931	6 970	6 930
8.	Seventh Day Adventist	3 977	4 028	4 046

9.	Methodist	686	690	751
10.	Judaism	455	419	416
11.	Muslims	267	263	319
12.	Vaishnavas (Krishna devotees)	133	153	146
13.	New Apostolic	1 250	1 262	1 268
14.	Pentacostal [<i>Vasarsvētku</i>]	3 321	3 132	3 268
15.	Christians of Evangelic Faith	3 305	3 155	3 717
16.	Young Generation Church	4 000	3 025	3 020
17.	Evangelical Christian	1 078	1310	1 471
18.	Evangelical Followers of the Messiah	45	60	86
19.	Buddhists	110	115	130
20.	<i>Dievturi</i> [God Keepers]	567	581	663
21.	Jehovah's Witnesses	156	195	290
22.	Latter Day Saints (Mormons)	609	880	852
23.	Old Eastern Apostolic	263	276	287
24.	Reformed Church	148	145	145
25.	Bahaian	42	42	42
26.	Presbyterian	-	20	18
27.	Vissarionites	38	37	37
28.	Salvation Army	370	430	464
29.	Anglican	41	35	50
30.	Apostles	58	56	65
31.	Branhamism	27	27	27
32.	Sūkyo Mahikari	60	64	65
33.	Evangelic God's Congregation	-	-	-
34.	Hinduism	42	42	44
35.	Christian Science	23	24	23
Total:				1 610 129

* Information on the number of members of the catholic church Latvia is approximate and is provided by the representatives of the Roman Catholic church in Latvia, given that the religious organisations „Liepāja Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church”, „Jelgava Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church”, „Roman Catholic Curia of Rīga Metropoly”, „Rēzekne-Aglona Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church” did not report on their activities.

Table „Number of members of religious organisations 2009-2011” does not contain information regarding religious organizations, which have not submitted reports on their activities, and they are: „Rīga drikung nganden choling”, “Parish of Evangelic Christians ‘Parish of love of the Christ’”, “Muslim Congregation ‘IMAN’”, “Jewish Religious Parish ‘Talsi’” and “Latvian Congregation of the Young People’s Christian Union”.

Source: Ministry of Justice

Table No.10

State support to national minority NGOs in 2006-2011

Year	Number of the projects supported	Funding, in LVL	Responsible institution
2006	336	145 146	SSAMSI
2007	316	152 822	SSAMSI
2008	98	91 520	SSAMSI
2009			For support to Roma projects, see Table No.11
2010	1	7785.71	Ministry of Justice
2011	5	8897.74	Ministry of Culture

Source: Ministry of Culture

Table No.11

State budget allocations for implementation of Roma integration measures in 2006-2011

Direction	Funding allocated, LVL					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Education		25 125	22 220	16 172	10 265	2651
Employment		2 260				
Human rights and protection of interests		26 370	22 604	5000		
		(of those, LVL 18000 on grants)	(of those, LVL 20 000 on grants)	(only on grants)		
Other (research)			4 500			
Total funding	30 000 (no breakdown provided)	53 755	49 324	21 172	10 265	2651

Source: Ministry of Culture

Table No.12

Results of the EU Transition Facility project “Promotion of Integration of Society in Latvia”

Component I		
Target audience	Persons involved in the project	Activity/result
parents of national	1458	learned Latvian, completing a

minority pupils		course of 120 academic hours
teachers of national minority schools	168	raised their professional skills in courses for bilingual education teachers
teachers	23	completed a course in methodology of teaching Latvian as a second language
1st thematic direction of Component II		
sector professionals	486	improved their social, cultural and informational conditions
active participants in training/activities	13 263 (incl. 5437 members of national minority NGOs)	improved their social, cultural and informational conditions
society as a whole	~440 000 TV viewers and radio listeners	informed about social inclusion issues
non-citizens	925	provided with access to informational activities and training to prepare for the naturalisation process
2nd thematic direction of Component II		
sector professionals	1916	increased their competence on anti-discrimination issues
active participants in training/activities	~1200	increased their competence on anti-discrimination issues
society as a whole	~117 000 TV viewers	informed about the reduction of discrimination and intolerance

Source: Society Integration Fund

Table No.13

LED (Project of the European Commission “Latvia – Equal in Diversity”) project funding from 2006 to 2008

LED I – 2005/2006 The project was supported in the framework of the “European Community Action Programme to Combat Discrimination (2001 – 2006)”	State budget	EUR 16 925.44
	European Commission funding	EUR 67 701.75
	Total	EUR 84 627.19
LED II – 2006/2007 The project was supported in the framework of the “European Community	State budget	EUR 16 925.44
	EC funding	EUR 67 701.75

Action Programme to Combat Discrimination (2001 – 2006)”	Total	EUR 84 627.19
LED III – 2007/2008 The project was supported in the framework of the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity, PROGRESS 2007-2013	State budget	EUR 33 608.40
	EC funding	EUR 134 433.60
	Total	EUR 168 042.00
LED IV – 2008/2009 The project was supported in the framework of the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity, PROGRESS 2007-2013	State budget	EUR 73 914.08
	EC funding	EUR 295 656.32
	Total	EUR 369 570.40

Source: Ministry of Culture

Table No.14

State budget allocations for the implementation of the Action plan of the National Programme for the Promotion of Tolerance

2005	LVL 30 000
2006	LVL 34 000
2007	LVL 6 667
2008	LVL 14 999
2009	(Funding from LED IV and the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals)

Source: Ministry of Culture

Table No.15

Funding for activities of the project, “The Year of Equal Opportunities for Everyone” (2007)

State budget	LVL 68 383
EC budget	LVL 68 383
Total:	LVL 136 766

Source: Ministry of Culture

Table No.16

Funding for activities of the project, “The Year of Intercultural Dialogue” (2008)

State budget	EUR 32 182
EC budget	EUR 32 182
Total:	EUR 64 363

Source: Ministry of Culture

Table No.17

Results of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism Grant Scheme, "Strengthening of the civil society and promotion of integration of society" implemented in 2009–2010

Activity	Number of persons involved in Grant Scheme
readers of the translated works	639 000
persons informed about various issues related to ethnic integration of society	331 264
persons having benefited from capacity building measures	2513
persons involved in cultural events	3788
persons involved in activities aimed at informing broader society about national minority culture, traditions and religion	14 104
persons involved in extracurricular programmes	1518
	Total: 992 187

Source: Ministry of Culture

Table No.18

Number of persons of Latvian ethnic origin in prisons

Male	2308	
Female	161	
juveniles	boy	22
	girl	0
Imprisoned for life (only males)	2	
Sentenced to life imprisonment (only males)	26	
Total:	2519	

Source: Ministry of Justice

Table No.19

Number of members of different ethnic groups in Latvia's prisons as at 18 June 2012

	Male	Female	juveniles		Imprisoned for life (only males)	Sentenced to life imprisonment (only males)	Total:
			boy	girl			
Armenian	4	1	0	0	0	1	6
Belarusian	143	15	0	0	1	0	159
Roma	172	59	3	1	0	3	238
Jewish	8	0	0	0	0	0	8
Georgian	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Estonian	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Russian	2216	171	1	1	2	19	2410
Lithuanian	83	8	0	0	2	1	94
Polish	80	9	0	0	0	0	89
Ukrainian	94	12	0	0	0	1	107
Other	60	3	0	0	0	0	63
TOTAL	2871	278	4	2	5	25	3185

Source: Ministry of Justice

Table No.20

Information regarding citizenship of prisoners for 2006 – 2012

	Citizens	Permanent residents	Foreigners	Stateless persons
01.01.2006.	3229	1425	29	67
01.01.2007.	3345	1355	39	31
01.01.2008.	3405	1339	42	20
01.01.2009.	3614	1280	47	40
01.01.2010.	3678	1329	48	x*
01.01.2011.	3445	1255	49	x*
01.07.2011.	3493	1233	41	x*
01.01.2012.	4727	1751	83	x*
01.04.2012.	4659	1749	74	x*

* until 01.07.2009 statistics contained a category of “stateless persons”; as from 01.07.2009 (amendments to CL) stateless persons were included under the category of “permanent residents”

Source: Ministry of Justice

Table No.21

Number of establishments implementing pre-school education programmes

School year	Number of establishments in total	Latvian	Russian	Two-flow	Polish	Ukrainian	English	French
2011/2012	1005	768	124	104	5	1	1	2
2010/2011	974	749	119	98	5	1	1	1
2009/2010	952	731	118	97	4	1	1	0

Source: Ministry of Education and Science

Table No.22

Pre-school education classes in breakdown by flows

School year	Number of Pre-school education classes in total	Latvian	Russian	Two-flow	Polish	Ukrainian	English	French
2011/2012	4859	3718	1117	-	13	1	4	6
2010/2011	4686	3574	1091	-	14	1	4	2
2009/2010	4406	3318	1070	-	12	1	5	0

Source: Ministry of Education and Science

Table No.23

Pupils in breakdown by language of instruction in day-time education programmes (%)

School year	Number of students, of those:	Total	Latvian (%)	Russian (%)	Polish (%)
2010/2011	Latvian	135 564	94.9	5.02	0.13
	Belarusian	2135	22.5	74.3	0.60
	Gypsy	1182	74.0	25.6	0.33
	Jewish	451	3.10	97	
	Estonian	85	67.0	31.8	
	Russian	41 020	16.7	83.1	0.10
	Lithuanian	933	51.13	48.7	0.21
	Polish	2554	17.8	64.5	17.6
	Ukrainian	1582	16.6	83.0	0.31
	German	192	39.6	59.0	0.52
	Other	972	18	79.3	0.61
Not specified	29 637	67.1	31.0	1.5	

2009/2010					
	Latvian	141 238	95.0	5.01	0.04
	Belarusian	2433	20.0	77.5	0.41
	Gypsy	1204	72.1	27.5	0.33
	Jewish	444	4.05	96.0	
	Estonian	97	64.0	36.0	
	Russian	42 639	17.1	83.0	0.08
	Lithuanian	1086	55.0	45.0	
	Polish	2528	18.4	73.0	8.50
	Ukrainian	1660	16.7	83.0	
	German	198	45.0	52.5	0.50
	Other	1530	45.4	52.4	
	Not specified	30 977	68.0	29.0	2.53
2008/2009					
	Latvian	148 219	95.0	5.01	0.07
	Belarusian	2514	21.5	77.0	0.55
	Gypsy	1328	70.4	29.0	0.90
	Jewish	496	3.23	97.0	
	Estonian	83	52.0	47.0	
	Russian	47 075	16.5	83.2	0.08
	Lithuanian	1142	57.0	43.2	
	Polish	2659	18.6	71.3	10.0
	Ukrainian	1871	13.5	86.1	0.10
	German	197	40.6	56.3	1.01
	Other	1560	13.2	84.2	
	Not specified	29 079	76.0		2.20
2007/2008					
	Latvian	160 757	95.0	4.92	0.08
	Belarusian	3078	22.5	76.0	0.97
	Gypsy	1333	72.0	28.0	0.37
	Jewish	567	2.47	98.0	
	Estonian	83	38.5	61.4	
	Russian	51 849	15.5	84.0	0.13
	Lithuanian	1334	58.0	42.0	0.37
	Polish	3286	18.9	67.2	13.9
	Ukrainian	2380	14.0	80.7	0,08
	German	213	42.2	54.4	3.28
	Other	1583	18.0	82.0	0.12
	Not specified	24 478	80.0	18.4	1.62
2006/2007					
	Latvian	172 283	94.7	5.10	0.07
	Belarusian	3611	25.0	73.2	0.88
	Gypsy	1318	72.1	27.3	0.53
	Jewish	556	3.06	96.7	

	Estonian	98	51.0	46.9	
	Russian	56 154	15.5	84.0	0.13
	Lithuanian	1802	46.4	53.2	0.27
	Polish	3638	18.4	66.6	14.7
	Ukrainian	2673	15.0	80.4	0.03
	German	251	34.2	61.3	3.18
	Other	1439	17.0	80.5	0.20
	Not specified	22 288	81.0	19.1	0.04

Source: Ministry of Education and Science

Table No.24

Number of pupils (%) in day schools in breakdown by language of instruction

Number of pupils, of those learning in	2010/2011	2009/2010	2008/2009	2007/2008	2006/2007
		216 307	226 034	236 223	250 941
Latvian	158 137 (73.1%)	166 073 (73.5%)	173 712 (73.5%)	184 107 (73.4%)	194 230 (73.0%)
Russian	56 636 (26.2%)	58 456 (25.9%)	61 022 (25.8%)	65 402 (26.1%)	70 683 (26.6%)
Polish	1147 (0.53 %)	1112 (0.5 %)	1073 (0.45 %)	1111 (0,44%)	788 (0.3%)
Ukrainian	203 (0.09 %)	220 (0.09 %)	225 (0.09 %)	239 (0.09%)	252 (0.09%)
Belarusian	108 (0.05 %)	100 (0.44 %)	95 (0.04 %)	82 (0.03%)	76 (0.03%)

Source: Ministry of Education and Science

Table No.25

Number of Gypsy (Roma) pupils in schools of general education in day-time education programmes

School year	Number of Gypsy (Roma) pupils	Number of Gypsy (Roma) pupils (% of total number of pupils)
2011/2012	1128	0.55
2010/2011	1182	0.55
2009/2010	1204	0.53
2008/2009	1328	0.56
2007/2008	1333	0.53

Source: Ministry of Education and Science

Table No.26

Pupils of general education day schools by ethnicity

	2011/2012	2010/2011	2009/2010	2008/2009	2007/2008	2006/2007
Total number of pupils, of those:	206 440	216 307	226 034	236 223	250 941	266 111
Latvian	129838	135 564	141 238	148 219	160 757	172 283
Belarusian	2158	2135	2433	2514	3078	3611
Gypsy	1128	1182	1204	1328	1333	1318
Jewish	459	451	444	496	567	556
Estonian	107	85	97	83	83	98
Russian	39238	41 020	42 639	47 075	51 849	56 154
Lithuanian	970	933	1086	1142	1334	1802
Polish	2446	2554	2528	2659	3286	3638
Ukrainian	1399	1582	1660	1871	2380	2673
German	211	192	198	197	213	251
Other	864	972	1530	1560	1583	1439
Not specified	27622	29 637	30 977	29 079	24 478	22 288

Source: Ministry of Education and Science

Table No.27

Number of day schools of general education by flows

School year	Total number of schools	Latvian	Russian	Two flow	Polish	Ukrainian	Belarusian	English	French	Latvian/Polish
2011/2012	814	641	99	65	4	1	1	1	1	1
2010/2011	830	646	103	73	5	1	1	1	-	-
2009/2010	846	648	114	76	5	1	1	1	-	-
2008/2009	948	724	135	81	5	1	1	1	-	-
2007/2008	958	722	141	88	5	1	1	0	-	-
2006/2007	974	727	148	92	4	1	1	1	-	-

Source: Ministry of Education and Science

Table No.28

Closure of general education establishments

School year	Schools with national minority education programme (number/%)	Schools with education programme in Latvian (number/%)	Total number of existing schools
2011/2012	1 (0.1%)	4 (0.5%)	814
2010/2011	2 (0.2%)	2 (0.2%)	830
2009/2010	2 (0.2%)	4 (0.4%)	846
2008/2009	11 (1.2%)	42 (4.4%)	948
2007/2008	4 (0.4%)	6 (0.6%)	958
2006/2007	2 (0.2%)	5 (0.5%)	974

Source: Ministry of Education and Science

Table No.29

Reorganisation of general education establishments

School year	Schools with national minority education programme (number/%)	Schools with education programme in Latvian (number/%)	Total number of existing schools
2011/2012	-	4 (0.5%)	814
2010/2011	2 (0.2%)	17 (2.0%)	830
2009/2010	10 (1.1%)	24 (2.8%)	846
2008/2009	15 (1.5%)	65 (6.8%)	948
2007/2008	3 (0.3%)	5 (0.5%)	958
2006/2007	2 (0.2%)	6 (0.6%)	974

Source: Ministry of Education and Science

Table No.30

Financial support for the Association of National Cultural Societies of Latvia in 2006 – 2011

Year	Funding allocated (LVL)
2006	12 400
2007	15 000
2008	17 526
2009	11 715
2010	12 315
2011	15 000

Source: Ministry of Culture

Table No.31

Results of Latvian language courses for adults organised by the Latvian Language Agency (1996-2011)

Year	Number of trainees
1996-2000	17269
2001	8206
2002	5913
2003	7965
2004	7856
2005	2621
2006	2125
2007	2089
2008	978
2009	383
2010	101
2011	105
Total:	55 611

Source: Ministry of Education and Science

Table No.32

Results of the Latvian language learning programme for adults administered by the Society Integration Fund in 2007-2008

Year	Projects supported	Number of trainees	Funding allocated (LVL)
2007	22	2483	196 163
2008	11	1244	101 675

Source: Society Integration Fund

Table No.33

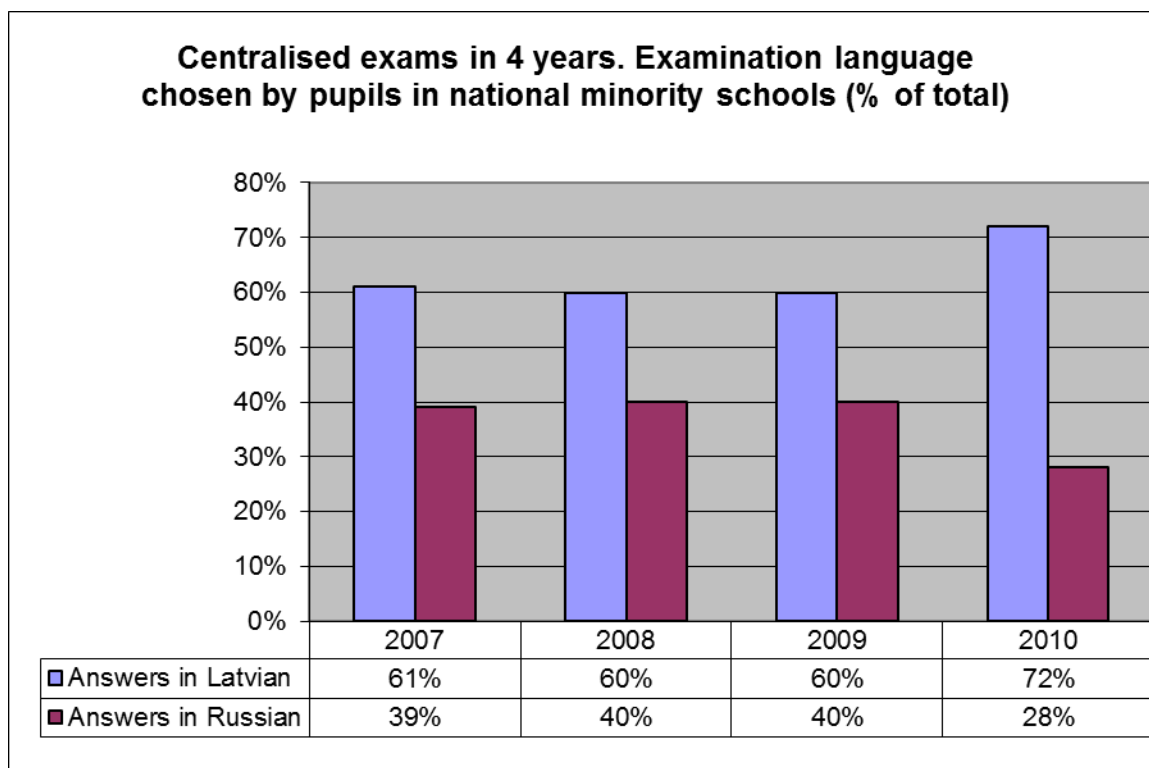
Latvian State budget allocations for development and provision of textbooks and methodological literature

2008	21 345 LVL
2009	72 000 LVL
2010	30 397 LVL

Source: Ministry of Education and Science

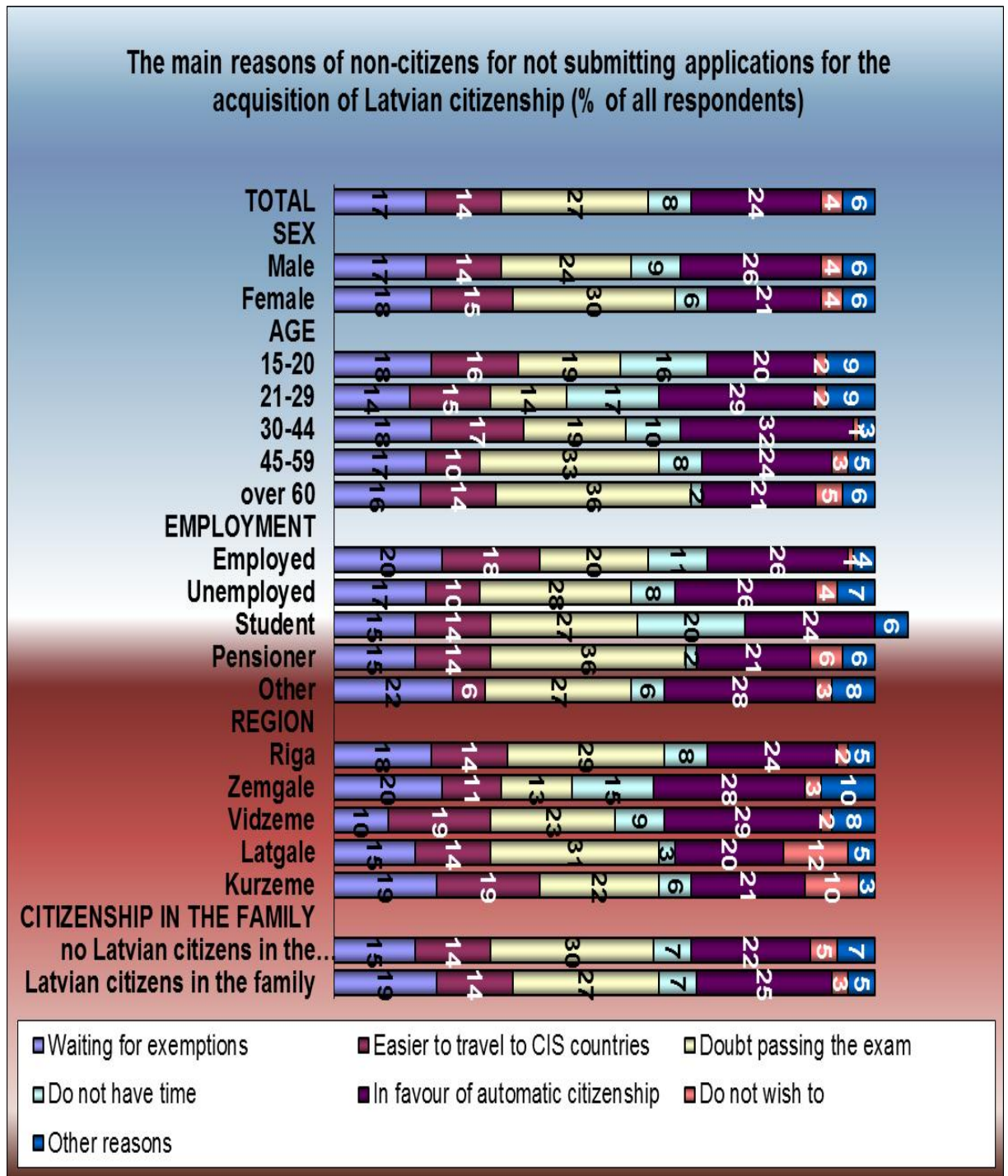
Annex II

Figure No.1



Source: Ministry of Education and Science

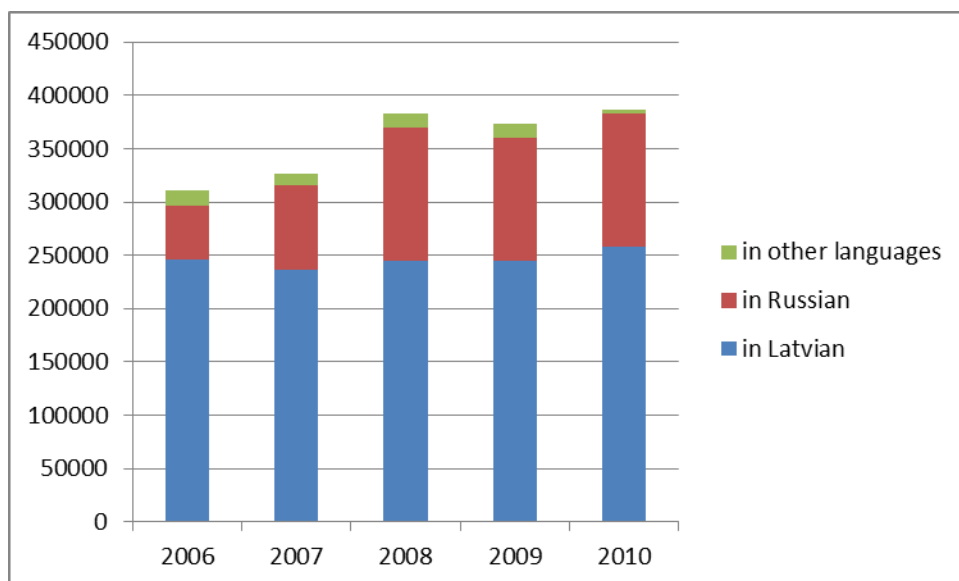
Figure No.2



Source: Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs

Figure No.3

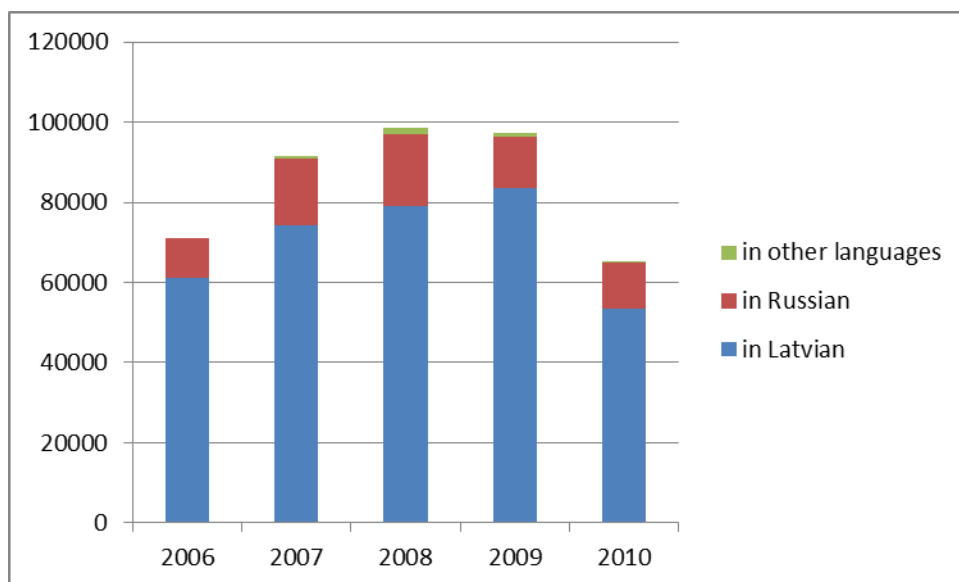
Radio broadcasters by language in programmes in 2006-2010 (in broadcasting hours)



Source: Central Statistical Bureau

Figure No.4

Television broadcasters by language in programmes in 2006-2010 (in broadcasting hours)



Source: Central Statistical Bureau