

# TEMPLATE POLICY PAGE

Category:	Youth Crime
Country:	Latvia
Year:	/

Main policy page:	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1) The national program for Youth Policy 2014</b></p> <p>Main goals of The national Youth Policy program are: development of the youth policy coordination at national and local level, to promote the development of the system and ensure its functioning throughout the territory of Latvia, to provide support to local authorities in work with youth, especially in work with young people at risk of social exclusion, to improve skills and qualification of the specialists involved in implementing youth policy, to encourage cooperation and improve communication among involved specialists as well as provide them with possibility to exchange knowledge on international level; encourage young people to participate in decision-making and to involve actively in public life, to promote the social inclusion of young people, extending the opportunities for them to get a job in the labor market by providing the necessary knowledge and skills and by participating in non-formal learning activities, and volunteer jobs</p> <p><a href="http://jaunatne.gov.lv/sites/default/files/web/JSPA/Noderigi/Jaunatnespol_valsts_progr/jpvp_2014.pdf">http://jaunatne.gov.lv/sites/default/files/web/JSPA/Noderigi/Jaunatnespol_valsts_progr/jpvp_2014.pdf</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2) Youth Policy guidelines for the year 2009-2018.</b></p> <p>Youth policy guidelines for years 2009 - 2018 is a long-term policy planning document for next 10 years, aimed at achieving a coherent youth policy implementation and coordination, and identifying priority action lines and policies, creating a vision of development in relation to the life quality of young people and youth policy. The guidelines identified the key challenges for youth, as well main action directions, main challenges and the policy and operational results of the next 10 years in youth policy field. Within guidelines the youth policy aim is to improve young people's quality of life by promoting their initiatives, participation in decision-making and public life, supporting youth work, and ensuring a smoother transition from child to adult status. Objective of guidelines is to achieve harmonized coordination and implementation of youth policy on state and local level, identifying priority action lines and policy results, creating vision after 10 years connected to youth life quality and realization of youth policy. Tasks of the Youth policy guidelines are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Improvement of the Youth policy and coordination of the youth policy;</li><li>- Political development - youth participation and the efficient use of leisure time ;</li><li>- Young people's socio-economic development - socio-economic growth, increasing competitiveness and promotion of the social inclusion of youth.</li></ul> <p><a href="http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=2994">http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=2994</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>3) Children's crime prevention and protection of children against</b></p>
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	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>criminal offence guidelines 2013 – 2019.</b></p> <p>Aim of the guidelines is to improve inter-institutional cooperation model, to provide the best possible assistance for children at risk and their parents, to improve quality of the preventive measures to ensure that the number of criminal offences committed by minors decreases, as well as re-offending.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>4) NGOs (National non-governmental organization) working with young offenders after their release from prison (manual)</b></p> <p>The guide was developed by the Latvian Red Cross youth project "know more!" and is designed for non-governmental organizations that are involved in working with young offenders. The guide aims to reduce the number of juvenile delinquency among young people, to protect them from the repeated illegal actions and to help young people integrate into society.  <a href="http://lskj.lv/download/rokasgramata_likumparkapeji.pdf">http://lskj.lv/download/rokasgramata_likumparkapeji.pdf</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>5) Conduct of social assistance and social adjustment programme " Children and youth offenders individual deterrence implementation homes (2010) "</b>  <b>( Latvian and Switzerland project. )</b></p> <p>Within the project, a social behavior correction and social assistance program, which according to the Law On Protection of the Rights of the Child of 58 should be implemented in each municipality ( children who have committed violations of the law or engaged in activities that may lead to unlawful conduct should be developed in the program ). The law states that each local government has the responsibility to provide resources for the establishment of a juvenile offender preventive thing and launch of the social adjustment with the aim to change the child's or young person's behavior, thinking, as a result of not making repeated violations.</p> <p>To achieve this , not only the police and the social worker who leads the individual cases must be involved, but also the orphans' court , school, social educator, psychologist, physician , other specialists , as well as the child's parents and other fiduciaries.</p> <p><a href="http://www.sif.lv/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=171&amp;Itemid=122&amp;lang=lv">http://www.sif.lv/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=171&amp;Itemid=122&amp;lang=lv</a></p>
<p><b>Relevant legislation:</b></p>	<p><b>1) Administrative Violations Code and Criminal Law</b></p> <p>Persons, who have attained 14 years of age on the day of the committing an administrative violation, shall be subject to administrative liability.</p> <p>Persons, who have not attained 14 years of age on the day of the committing an administrative violation shall not be subject to administrative liability, however the parents will take responsibility according to Latvian Administrative Violations Code 173 ,which states that in case of failure to fulfil the duty of care of a child a warning shall be issued to the parents or persons substituting for them, or a fine shall be imposed in an amount up to LVL 25.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- - In the case of the same violation, if in the result thereof a child up to the age of 16 years has conducted minor hooliganism or has used narcotic</li> </ul>

substances or psychotropic substances without the direction of a health care practitioner, or has been inebriated, or has begged –

- - a warning shall be issued to the parents or persons substituting for them, or a fine in an amount from LVL 25 up to LVL 50 shall be imposed.
- - In the case of the violation specified in Paragraph one or two of this Section, if recommitted within a year after the imposition of an administrative sanction – a fine in an amount from LVL 25 up to LVL 50 shall be imposed.

## **2) The law on compulsory measures of a correctional nature means**

From 11 – 18 years, in accordance with the law on the application of compulsory measures of a correctional nature to children ' of an administrative violation or a criminal offence, the compulsory measures of a correctional nature may be applied:

- 1) to issue a warning;
- 2) to impose a duty to apologize to the victims if they agree to meet with the guilty party;
- 3) to place a child in the custody of parents or guardians, as well as other persons, authorities or organizations;
- 4) to impose a duty to eliminate by his or her work the consequences of the harm caused;
- 5) for a child who has reached the age of 15 and who has income – to impose a duty to reimburse the harm caused;
- 6) to specify behavior restrictions;
- 7) to impose a duty to perform community services; or
- 8) to place a child in an educational establishment for social correction.

<http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=68489>

## **3) Civil Law**

Section 2352.1 of the Civil Law provides for the right to reputation and dignity if someone unlawfully injures a person's reputation and dignity orally, in writing or by works.

In accordance with Section 1637 of The Civil Law, in such cases, the violations of rights are not to blame for children up to 7 years of age.

<http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=225418>

## **4) Law On Protection of the Rights of the Child**

A child shall be conveyed to a police station, if the child:

- 1) has committed activities for which criminal liability is provided;
- 2) has committed an administrative violation, if it is not possible to otherwise determine the identity of the child and to draw up an administrative violation report;
- 3) is found in a public place in a state of intoxication;
- 4) is begging;
- 5) has not attained 16 years of age and is found in a public place at night without the supervision of parents, guardian, foster family, the manager of the child care institution or their authorised representative of legal age, if the relevant local government has not specified stricter restrictions in relation to the time period;
- 6) is lost or abandoned, or is found in such circumstances as are dangerous for

a child or may harm his or her development;

In the cases provided for in Paragraph one, Clauses 3-6 of this Section, the conveyance of a child to the police is permissible if it is not possible to provide assistance to the child in another way. In cases where the police determine that the child is vagrant, begging, intoxicated with narcotic or toxic substances or alcoholic beverages or there is an unfavorable family environment or that other circumstances exist as may be harmful to the child, they shall inform the relevant Orphan's court and the social service office.

A child conveyed to the police may not be held together with adult violators of the law, and the child shall be provided with constant adult supervision. The child may not be subjected to any physical or mental influence, and may not be forced to testify or to confess guilt.

Explanations of a child who has impaired mental development disorders, may require, with the participation of a person who has specialized knowledge in work with children who have mental development disorders.

If a child with special needs has been conveyed to the police, conditions for satisfying his or her special needs shall be ensured.

<http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=49096>

### 5) Youth Law

The purpose of this Law is to improve the life quality of young people – persons from 13 to 25 years of age – by promoting their initiatives and patriotism, participation in decision-making and social life, as well as by supporting youth work.

Youth policies of all the policy sectors of a state makes a set of targeted actions promoting young people's full and comprehensive development, integration in society and the improvement of the quality of life.

National youth policy implemented by the national regulatory authorities and the local authorities in accordance with the competence thereof, as well as youth organisations and other natural and legal persons in accordance with the treaty.

#### **Basic tasks for working with youth is:**

- to support and promote youth initiatives, creating favorable conditions for their intellectual and creative development;
- providing young people with the opportunity to acquire necessary life skills, knowledge and competencies in non-formal education;
- provide young people the opportunity to take advantage of their free time;
- providing young people with information according to their age, development and needs.

<http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=175920>

#### **Background:**

Young people and children in Latvia is a diverse, dynamic and socially active population, which is particularly exposed to a variety of risks and who are economically dependent on their parents, other adults or State. Work of the State police with youth audience is associated with key youth problem identification, problem analysis, identification of the causes of delinquent behavior and dealing with consequences that are caused by it as well as

changing factors that fosters criminal behavior.

Various causes and conditions can contribute to juvenile crime. Most often mentioned risk factors are low socioeconomic status of the family, domestic violence, alcoholism and drug addiction, criminal environmental direct impact, lack of awareness of the spiritual, social values and norms of a child, low self-esteem, lack of employment, as well as counterproductive leisure.

Preventive work with juveniles has a very important role as it can help to prevent juvenile criminal offenses. The State Police of Latvia implements juvenile prevention in two directions - both as a general prevention (various stock, lectures, etc. raid activities) , as well as individual prevention (applies to certain individuals ) , with the aim to prevent and deter minors from the committing criminal offences.

### **Legislation**

According to article 58 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child work with children for the prevention of violations of law shall be carried out by local governments in collaboration with the parents of children, educational institutions, the State Police, the State Probation Service, if the child is a probation client, public organisations and other institutions.

A local government shall establish a prevention file and draw up a programme for social correction of behaviour for each child who:

- 1) has committed a criminal offence and is not in detention during the pre-trial investigation period;
- 2) is found guilty of the commission of a criminal offence, but whose sentence is not connected with deprivation of liberty;
- 3) is released from criminal liability;
- 4) is released from imprisonment or from the place where they are serving sentence;
- 5) has committed, prior to attaining 14 years of age, illegal acts set out in The Criminal Law;
- 6) has committed illegal acts as set out in the Administrative Violations Code more than two times;
- 7) begs, is vagrant or performs other acts which may lead to illegal actions.

(3) The State police may enter into prevention records children laid down in Paragraph two, Clauses 1 – 6 of this Section and other children, for whom there is a prevention file established at a local government, if the drawn up programme for social correction of behaviour provides for the joint participation of the police in a specific case.

Article 66 defines competence of Local Governments in Regard to Protection of the Rights of the Child. Article states that a municipality local government and a town local government shall analyse the situation in the field of observance of the rights of the child, and shall develop and implement a programme for the protection of the rights of the child in the administrative territory of the municipality or the city. ) In conformity with the law, the local government shall:

- 1) provide assistance and support to families in which there are children, guaranteeing shelter, warmth and clothing, and nutrition appropriate to his or her age and state of health, for each child residing in the local government territory;
- 2) ensure out-of-family care for those children, who for a time or permanently are without their own family, or who for their own best interests may not be left in their own family.
- 3) ensure the rights of the child to acquire a general secondary education and provide children with assistance in vocational training;
- 4) organise primary health care for mothers and children;
- 5) organise parental education;
- 6) provide for primary schools and extracurricular child institutions, public libraries, and organisation of child recreation;
- 7) draw up and implement programmes for work with street-children;
- 8) carry out other measures ensuring the rights of the child.

(3) Orphan's courts as guardianship institutions shall ensure the protection of the personal and property rights of the child.

(4) [29 June 2008]

(5) The local government shall involve the public in ensuring the rights of the child and shall co-ordinate the activities of public organisations.

Statistical data of the State police of Latvia show that the most common juvenile crimes are theft and robbery, however in reality rate of these crimes is even higher as latent crime rate in these cases is significant. People often choose not to report juvenile crime, as they fear of possible revenge, also parents do not want to report on their own children, therefore real situation differs from official data.

**Trends:**

**SKG06. PERSONS CONVICTED BY CRIME AND AGE**

	2004		2005		2006		2007	
	14-17 year (%)	18-24 year (%)	14-17 year (%)	18-24 year (%)	14-17 year (%)	18-24 year (%)	14-17 year (%)	18-24 year (%)
convicted for criminal offenses	13,5	33,1	12,5	32,0	13,5	33,2	11,9	33,9
Murder	5,8	23,9	10,0	20,0	5,9	28,7	9,0	34,4
Serious bodily injury	5,6	20,1	3,5	18,8	8,3	18,5	5,3	21,2
Rape	15,5	20,7	4,5	20,5	7,7	23,1	8,0	24,0
Property theft	23,6	36,3	19,3	37,5	22,6	35,9	21,4	35,8
Hooliganism	21,9	45,5	22,7	40,2	20,6	48,0	21,8	49,4
Illicit drug manufacture, storage or disposal	7,1	43,2	5,4	35,6	3,0	38,8	2,5	38,4
	2008		2009		2010			
	14-17 year (%)	18-24 year (%)	14-17 year (%)	14-17 year (%)	18-24 year (%)	18-24 year (%)		

Convicted for criminal offenses	7,1	28,6	6,7	7,1	28,6	27,0
Murder	1,6	18,8	3,6	1,6	18,8	14,5
Serious bodily injury	1,8	23,9	2,1	1,8	23,9	16,9
Rape	5,0	30,0	0,0	5,0	30,0	18,8
Property theft	10,5	31,9	9,3	10,5	31,9	30,8
Hooliganism	15,7	43,8	19,9	15,7	43,8	34,1
Illicit drug manufacture, storage or disposal	1,9	24,7	2,2	1,9	24,7	22,4
	2011		2012		2013	
	14-17 year (%)	18-24 year (%)	14-17 year (%)	14-17 year (%)	18-24 year (%)	18-24 year (%)
Convicted for criminal offenses	7,1	28,6	6,7	27,3	7,0	27,0
Murder	1,6	18,8	3,6	25,3	4,8	14,5
Serious bodily injury	1,8	23,9	2,1	11,8	3,1	16,9
Rape	5,0	30,0	0,0	21,7	6,2	18,8
Property theft	10,5	31,9	9,3	29,9	10,8	30,8
Hooliganism	15,7	43,8	19,9	45,6	9,6	34,1
Illicit drug manufacture, storage or disposal	1,9	24,7	2,2	26,1	1,7	22,4

- PERSONS CONVICTED BY CRIME AND AGE

[http://data.csb.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/Sociala/Sociala\\_ikgad\\_sabkart/SK0050.px/table/tableViewLayout1/?rxid=70af40b3-dc3d-4f96-9d42-b9fda82ebad0](http://data.csb.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/Sociala/Sociala_ikgad_sabkart/SK0050.px/table/tableViewLayout1/?rxid=70af40b3-dc3d-4f96-9d42-b9fda82ebad0)

Registered juvenile crimes in 2014 (first six month) (compared to 2013 first six months):

<b>Criminal law chapter</b>	<b>2013 year 6 months</b>	<b>2014 year 6 months</b>	<b>+/-</b>
IX. Chapter Crimes against Humanity and Peace, War Crimes and Genocide	0	0	+/-0
X. Chapter Crimes against the State	0	0	+/-0
XI. Chapter Criminal Offences against the	0	0	+/-0

Environment			
XII. Chapter Homicide	1	5	+4
XIII. Chapter Criminal Offences against Health of a Person	4	21	+17
XIV. Chapter Criminal Offences against Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of a Person	1	1	+/-0
XVI. Chapter Criminal Offences against Morals, and Sexual Inviolability	1	13	+12
XVII. Chapter Criminal Offences against the Family and Minors	0	0	+/-0
XVIII. Chapter Criminal Offences against Property	140	435	+295
XIX. Chapter Criminal Offences of an Economic Nature	5	72	+67
XX. Chapter Criminal Offences against General Safety and Public Order	8	28	+20
XXI. Chapter Criminal Offences against Traffic Safety	14	19	+5
XXII. Chapter Criminal Offences against Administrative Order	2	6	+4
XXIII. Chapter Criminal Offences against Administration of Justice	0	0	+/-0

( 2014, 6 months. report)

**1) Juvenile correctional institutions in Latvia:**

- Cēsu instructional institution for minors (men);
- Iļģuciema prison education department (women).

**3) Project "searching for the best European practices in youth crime prevention in Latvia".**

In 2012, the Centre for public policy Providus, in collaboration with professionals from Estonia, Lithuania, Scotland, the Netherlands and Belgium, developed a project whose focus was more on target group: not only the children but also their parents, rather than preventing a general sense, but preventing the application of the methods of early-stage risk in children, including children in this group at risk situations.

The project "In search of the best European practices in crime prevention in



	young people" was launched in 2013 on January 7 and is scheduled to conclude in 2015 on January 6. The wider objective of the project-to find, identify and implement the best practices for European countries working with risk group children and children in situations of risk, to promoting child welfare and social inclusion, minimize risks of crime and exclusion of children, create a safer environment for the successful development of children in Europe as a whole.
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