GUIDANCE AND OUTREACH FOR INACTIVE AND UNEMPLOYED

LATVIA
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The thematic perspectives series complements the general information on vocational education and training (VET) systems provided in ‘VET in Europe’ reports. The themes presented in the series feature high on the European agenda.
Thematic perspectives provide national overviews of specific themes in a common format and offer comparative dimension across the EU Member States, Iceland and Norway. They are available at:

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ReferNet is a network of institutions across Europe representing the 28 Member States, plus Iceland and Norway. The network provides Cedefop with information and analysis on national vocational education and training (VET). ReferNet also disseminates information on European VET and Cedefop’s work to stakeholders in the EU Member States, Iceland and Norway.
Guidance and outreach for inactive and unemployed

Many countries across the European Union (EU) have high levels of unemployment and of inactive adults. These phenomena are frequently associated with low levels of qualification and insufficient basic skills. They may also reflect lack of adjustment between skills demanded in the labour market and skills developed in formal education and training. In both cases up-skilling and re-skilling solutions could be explored to increase the employability of adults.

The national reports developed by ReferNet partners reflect efforts done by Member States to reach vulnerable groups affected by unemployment and inactivity and help them reengage in learning and employment. The reports refer, in particular, to measures which may include young adults not in employment, education or training (NEET) and adults undergoing long term unemployment (LTU), given their persistence in many countries and the high challenges these groups face.

The policy strategies and initiatives in focus shed light over ways to support the most vulnerable to find learning and qualifying solutions. Career guidance and counselling support to people with decaying skills, low levels of motivation and insufficient basic skills are addressed. Its instrumental role in providing information, identifying skills needs, clarifying career options and developing positive attitudes towards learning is made clear.

Whenever possible, outreach measures were described, addressing the ones who fall out of the scope of standard policies to support registered unemployed or recent education drop-outs. Many reports entertain an important discussion on the entitlement to social protection and its effectiveness in addressing the challenges of all demographic groups.

Lastly, Cedefop trusts that these reports will provide an important characterisation of current opportunities and challenges across the EU in establishing appropriate upskilling pathways for adults. Current European policy initiatives urge MS to integrate skills assessment measures with flexible learning and validation solution, where guidance services and outreach will necessarily play a key role.
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CHAPTER 1.
A synopsis of relevant indicators and issues related to the NEET’s and long term unemployed in Latvia

The population of Latvia has declined markedly in recent years, mainly due to the low birth rate and emigration. Consequently, the population of working age is shrinking and the dependency load increases. During the period from 2011 to 2015 the population decreased by 105 thousand. The working-age population has decreased even faster – by 116.8 thousand (Table A 1).

Against this background, from 2011 to 2015 employment rates have increased for the total population aged 15-64 (from 60.8% to 68.1%), as well as for the active population in this age group (from 72.8% to 75.7%) and exceeds EU-28 average (Table A 2). The unemployment has decreased for total population (from 10.4% to 6.7%) and for active population (from 16.2% to 9.9%) but remains higher than EU-28 average (Table A 3). There is also decreasing long-term unemployment (Table A 4) for active population (from 8.8% to 4.5%) reaching the EU-28 level, however, the share of long-term unemployed (LTU) among all the unemployed remains high, although it is slightly decreasing (from 54.5% to 45.3%).

The main groups facing difficulties on the labour market in Latvia are the following: 1) the pre-retirement age (45-61 years old), single persons with low education and chronic illnesses; 2) young (aged 20-29), unmarried men with low education; 3) young women (aged 25-39) with children, etc. (World Bank, 2013).

According to data from the State Employment Agency (SEA), while from 2011 to 2015 the number and share of LTU among the registered unemployed decreased from 43.7% to 29.7% (Table A 5), the LTU is still one of the largest target groups among all unemployed. More than half of the LTU are over 50, half of them have low levels of education (without / with primary or general secondary education). Importantly, the share of LTU who are unemployed for 3 years or more (Table A 6) has increased (from 6.1% in 2010 to 35.1% in 2012 and to 47.2% in 2014).

From 2011 to 2015 the number of young people aged 15 to 29 years has decreased by 68.9 thousand (Table A 1). In this age group youth employment

\(^{1}\) Out of work for more than one year
has increased (from 41.9% to 52.2%) and excess EU-28 average but youth unemployment has decreased (from 23% to 12.9%) and has become lower than EU-28 average (Table A 7). Unlike for EU-28 the youth long-term unemployment rate (Table A 8) has decreased in Latvia for 15-29 year olds (from 9.3% to 4.3%). This applies to both the 15-24-year-olds (from 10.2% to 4.4%) and the 25-29-year-olds (from 8.6% to 4.3%).

The rate of young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET) (for population 15-29 years) during this period has also decreased from 19.1% to 13.8% (Table A 9). Similar to the EU-28 the NEET rate is higher among 25-29 year olds, if compared to the 15-24-year-olds, but unlike in the EU-28 the NEET rate in these age groups is decreasing faster (from 16.0% to 10.5% for 15-24 years and from 24.9% to 18.4% for 25-29 years) in the period from 2011 to 2015.

However, there were 23.6 thousand NEETs (aged 15 to 24) in 2014 (2), but only 8 thousand of them were registered in SEA as unemployed (Cabinet of Ministers, 2015a). Therefore, the social inclusion of these young people is one of the most important issues to be addressed in the near future.

In Latvia, the majority of NEETs are between the ages of 20 to 29 years (OECD, 2015). This is partly explained by the fact that among inactive NEETs there is a large number of women, especially in the age of 25-29 years, 63% of which indicate that the main cause of their inactivity is child care or other family-related factors, and 10% indicate pregnancy. Male NEETs are mostly unemployed, rather than inactive. More than a quarter of the inactive young men indicate that they are suffering from health problems or disabilities. Among inactive NEETs there are often underlying mental health disorders. Approximately one third of NEETs aged 15-29 years old have a low level of education (mainly lower-secondary education), and only half of them received upper-secondary education. Among 25-29-year-olds with low levels of education 38% belong to NEETs. The longest periods of being NEETs are experienced by young women, people with low levels of education and health problems.

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(2) The Labour Force Survey of the Latvian Central Statistical Bureau
CHAPTER 2.
A brief description of existing national strategies in the sectors of education, training and employment which make use of outreach

The key documents of the Latvian development strategy state that solutions must be provided in order to motivate everyone to develop their human capital and competitiveness by developing employment programs (Saeima, 2010); aims to achieve the employment rate of 73% by 2020, inter alia by increasing the economic activation of labour force, encouraging an effective return to the labour market of economically inactive people and social assistance clients, as well as reducing the percentage of early school leavers (Cabinet of Ministers, 2011). The strategical documents set the goal of promoting the competitiveness and labour market access for unemployed and people at risk of social exclusion by providing motivational, skills and competence raising, accessibility of education and social support services, as well as involvement in activities outside the formal education and in voluntary work of those young people who don’t use these opportunities (Saeima, 2012).

In 2007-2013, paid temporary public works (3) was the main LTU support program which successfully reached the poor and disadvantaged persons (Azam, M.; Ferré, C.; Ajwad, M.I., 2012). However, paid public works do not help to increase the qualifications of LTU and they should be complemented by opportunities to acquire marketable skills. In addition, an assessment of professional suitability is needed, taking into account health problems and addictions typical for many LTU. There is also a need for complex solutions to the social problems of unemployed, because many are receiving social assistance (World Bank, 2013).

Therefore, in 2013, SEA implemented a pilot project (State Employment Agency, 2014) to draft a model of individualized approaches to the LTU. SEA

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Registered unemployed who were not receiving unemployment benefits were eligible to participate up to six months in temporary workplaces including public infrastructure maintenance, environmental clean-up or social services (through civil society organizations) and to receive a stipend of about 80% of the binding net minimum monthly wage, or EUR 142 per month.
employment agents and career counsellors determined most frequent obstacles to the LTU for the transition to employment, the most effective methods for working with LTU in job-finding support as well as improved cooperation with municipal social services to support the LTU and motivate them to return to the labour market. Pilot performance indicators were very good - 66% of the involved LTU found a job within six months (for comparison - 2015 by paid public works within six months of work settles 10% of the unemployed (State Employment Agency, 2015)). In 2014 the pilot project was continued in order to develop the model of cooperation with the municipal social services to facilitate the work with the LTU who are receiving social assistance.

Given that the overall long-term unemployment rate is falling, but at the same time for a relatively large part of the LTU the duration of unemployment increases, the employment policy guidelines for 2015-20 (Cabinet of Ministers, 2015b) provide concrete solutions for reducing long-term unemployment, including the implementation of the LTU activation measures. Support mechanisms should be individualized, taking into account the specifics of each client's situation. It was decided to use ESF (Cabinet of Ministers, 2015a) for involving LTU into the labour market by providing targeted activation measures coordinating them with social services and implementing in cooperation with local governments, social service providers, social entrepreneurs, associations, and foundations. When returning to the labour market, LTU need training not only in the specific duties to perform, but also social skills and basic skills.

The new program for activation of LTU (Cabinet of Ministers, 2015d) includes measures like assessing suitability of LTU for the offered work, motivating LTU for job search, solving of addiction problems and social situation, as well as career counselling and consultations of psychologists and psychotherapists. The program is aimed at improving the cooperation between SEA and municipal social services in order to ensure a smooth transition from receiving benefits to earning income from employment, thus contributing to a faster and more targeted involvement into the labour market. It is planned to finance the training for municipal social workers on how to work with the LTU with the help of EU funds (Cabinet of Ministers, 2015e).

A specific strategy for outreaching NEETs and engage them in education and the labour market (Cabinet of Ministers, 2013) is included in the Youth Guarantee scheme.

The Youth Guarantee scheme in Latvia consists of three strands:

(a) Active labour market policy measures provided by SEA targeting the SEA registered unemployed NEETs aged 15-29 years. SEA provides the profiling of registered NEETs, informs about employment and training opportunities
and provides job search support measures, career counselling, activities to raise competitiveness, non-formal education programs, professional continuing education and professional development programs, the first work experience for young people up to 12 months, developing skills required in non-governmental sector up to six months, workshops for young people to explore three vocational education programs, subsidized work places for especially disadvantaged young unemployed and unemployed young people with disabilities, support for entering self-employment and business as well as support for regional mobility of young people.

(b) Short (one to one and a half year) vocational education programs to obtain qualifications, administered by the State Education Development Agency (SEDA) in cooperation with vocational schools. These programs target young people aged 17-29 years (mainly NEET).

(c) A new initiative – NEET outreaching measures in municipalities – targeting the NEETs aged 15-29 years who are not registered in the SEA as unemployed. This strand is implemented by the Agency for International Programs for Youth (AIPY) in cooperation with local municipalities. The local municipalities should provide:

(i) identification of NEETs, checking if they are not registered in the SEA as unemployed, collecting information on their engagement in activities;

(ii) profiling and needs assessment of NEETs;

(iii) implementation of support measures to the NEETs involving mentors and coaches: individual counselling, motivational programs, skills development (social skills, learning to learn, initiative and entrepreneurship skills, support in making career choices and other skills, etc.), working in focus groups or support groups and other similar activities.

NEET outreaching is included in the education development guidelines for 2014-20 (Saeima, 2014) as one of education policy’s tasks. The NEET outreaching measures were started in 2014 (Cabinet of Ministers, 2014) and implemented with the support of European Social Fund (Cabinet of Ministers, 2015a). NEET outreaching, motivation, guidance and activation should develop their skills and to encourage their involvement in education, in the Youth Guarantee activities implemented by SEDA, in active employment or preventative unemployment reduction measures implemented by SEA as well as in activities of non-governmental organizations or youth centres (Cabinet of Ministers, 2015c). Actual involvement of NEETs in the project was planned to start in the second quarter of 2016 (Cabinet of Ministers, 2016).
Overall in strategies of outreaching and activation of LTU and NEET dominates an individualized approach and cooperation with local municipalities.
CHAPTER 3.
Examples of practices

3.1. Adults: SEA project Support for long-term unemployed

The SEA project Support for long-term unemployed (1) (December 2015 to December 2021) aims to promote the integration into society of LTU and facilitate finding a suitable permanent job or a suitable education/training, thereby reducing the risks of social exclusion (Cabinet of Ministers, 2015d).

The project is targeted at the unemployed:
(a) who have been unemployed for at least 12 months;
(b) who have been unemployed for at least 12 months and have at least once refused a suitable job offer or refused to participate in the proposed active employment measures according to an individual job search plan;
(c) who have an alcohol, drugs or psychotropic substances dependence, according to addiction specialist;
(d) with possible alcohol, narcotic or psychotropic substance addiction, but have not received an addiction specialist’s opinion.

During the project, the following support measures are provided:
(a) Counselling by career counsellors, psychologists, psychotherapists individually and in groups, to promote personal self-confidence and motivate to find a job.
(b) In-depth health examination to determine the suitability for the proposed employment and employment measures according to individual job search plans by assessing the suitability regarding harmful factors of work environment. The health examination includes a consultation with specialist of occupational medicine and examinations by other medical specialists, laboratory and functional examinations in accordance with the occupational doctor’s appointment. Health checks are for those LTU who have refused a job offer or to participate in employment measures, without justification (in form of a medical opinion or disability certificate).
(c) Determination of professional suitability serves to clarify the interests and motivation to learn of LTU, evaluate their skills and knowledge as well as compliance of skills with the chosen profession. This measure is intended for

LTU with certified or possible disabilities, LTU with mental disabilities and those who after their health check were recommended to evaluate their professional suitability and suggest appropriate occupations, as well as those who have refused a job offer or to participate in employment measures without justification (a medical opinion or disability). Professional suitability determination is implemented in cooperation with the Social Integration State Agency (SISA).

(d) The motivation program for job search (20 days) consists of motivating measures, support in solving individual social problems, and social mentor services helping the LTU to find permanent employment and providing psychological support after completion of the motivation program.

(e) The support measures for the unemployed with substance abuse problems – receiving an opinion from an addiction specialist, the Minnesota 12-step program (28-30 days), emotional stress therapy (coding) including visits of addiction specialists, psychotherapeutic methods, suggestive therapy and sensitizing medication therapy).

Expected results: the project involves 20,000 LTU. After completion of the support measure 1242 participants are in employment or self-employment. Within six months after completion 4246 participants are engaged in education, training or are employed or self-employed.

The total funding of project is EUR 32,030,112 including EUR 27,225,595 from the ESF and EUR 4,804,517 from the state budget. The project is implemented by the SEA in cooperation with the SISA, which will assess the professional suitability of LTU. They have signed a cooperation agreement on financial flows, including staff costs and transportation, accommodation and subsistence costs of unemployed during the assessment. Minnesota program takes place on contract basis with the program providers and is financed from the state budget. SEA announces procurement procedures to outsource services of psychologists, psychotherapists, addiction specialists, occupational physicians, and social mentors for the motivation program by the unit cost. LTU participating in the motivational program receive a scholarship, calculated from academic hourly rate – EUR 0.94 – and in proportion to the time of engagement (academic hours) every month, not exceeding a total of EUR 150. The maximum cost of job search motivation program is set by EUR 750, including a maximum of EUR 150 for social mentor services for each participant.

The administration of the project is provided by 11 SEA management staff members: project manager, two coordinators, two senior economists, five senior experts, one financial specialist, as well as specialists from accounting, statistical and other departments. The implementation of the project in all 28 SEA branches
is provided by 81 coordinating expert (CE). Their number depends on the number of LTU in the area, usually there are 1-2 CEs, but in major cities or in areas with high unemployment – 4-11 CEs. In addition, eight specialists from the SISA are involved in the project.

The project includes CEs’ internal and external training. The content of the internal training (10 topics) is developed and managed by the SEA staff, till March 2017 there have been trainings on five topics including the project activities and career counselling in groups and individually. External trainings (five topics) are organized in public procurement and three areas are already covered: customer-oriented service provision, work with disabled persons and identifying of persons with addictions.

CEs cooperate with local social services, as a large proportion of LTU are receiving social assistance. This model of cooperation was established in 2014 as a pilot project, when the SEA entered into still valid agreements with 108 of the 119 local social services. SEA organized seminars, provided information about the project, the social services staff attended the SEA information days. The established cooperation enables both services to align activities and exchange information on common clients. Thus, the tracking of the LTU is carried out by the local social services that identify them and motivate them to register and participate in the SEA project. Social services also provide transportation of LTU to activities of Minnesota program and apply for the procurement of the motivation program. During the project, SEA continues to organize regional workshops for social services and NGO workers, as well as employers in order to build public awareness about the project and long-term unemployment problems, to outreach LTU (including non-active persons who are not registered at SEA and local social services) and explain the opportunities to participate in activation measures in order to be able to solve independently their unemployment and social problems. Vacancies fairs, which regularly organizes SEA is one of the possibilities to inform about the project and to bring together both job seekers and employers.

Initial profiling of unemployed occurs with registration at SEA, it was introduced in 2013 to ensure an efficient and sequential application of SEA services to clients. This is done by the employment agent who is also developing an individual job search plan to involve the client in active employment measures in accordance with his needs. During profiling an assessment of skills, attitudes and preferences is carried out. Identification of LTU at SEA is done automatically – the registration and profiling data of unemployed enter a single information system, which notifies employment agents about the unemployed who have been registered as unemployed for more than 12 months.
The employment agent invites identified LTU to an informative career guidance group session provided by project CE who initiates caseload management. During group guidance sessions, the LTU first receive information on the project, its procedures and available activities. Then they receive appointments for individual career counselling with the project CE, during which a "second-level profiling" is done – the CE determines in which project activities the LTU needs to be involved and in what order. During the assessment of professional suitability, the LTU receive recommendations for a suitable occupation, as well as the related active employment measures. For those who need support in their learning and career choices guidance and counselling by SEA staff career consultants are available. These counselling sessions include fostering self-discovery, awareness of their professional orientation, in-depth understanding of the educational and labour market opportunities, and finding a professional direction that best suits the personality, values, and goals. These measures are added to the individual job search plan and the next meeting with the project CE is scheduled. After participating in the required activities, the project CE carries out another profiling during an individual counselling session because the skills and attitudes of the client have changed. The process of re-profiling helps to assess if the client is ready for job search and vacancies should be offered, or there is a need for some active employment measures, for example, upskilling measures in vocational training programs, skills validation process, non-formal education programs or other activities to increase competitiveness and self-employment.

Web services of SEA are used to contact and inform users or their family / friends in a centralized way. A summary of the project Support for long-term unemployed is available in the SEA portal section of the ESF projects (2014-20) (5).

During January 2016 - March 2017, 4216 LTU were involved in the project; 101 of them are in employment after completion of the support measure; within six months after completion 206 participants are engaged in education, training or are employed.

3.2. Young people: The AIPY project *KNOW and DO*

The main aim of the AIPY project *KNOW and DO* (°) (September 2014 to December 2018) is to motivate and activate NEETs aged 15-29 years (who are not registered at the SEA as unemployed) to develop their skills and to encourage their involvement in education, in the Youth Guarantee short vocational education programs implemented by the SEDA or measures and trainings implemented by the SEA, as well as in activities of non-governmental organizations or youth centres (Cabinet of Ministers, 2015c).

Expected results: 5262 NEETs have benefited from the project; 3 684 NEETs have successfully completed the individual activities program (IAP).

The total funding of project is EUR 8 999 975,19 including EUR 7 649 978,91 from ESF and EUR 1 349 996,28 from state budget. The AIPY is the beneficiary of funding and the project is being implemented in collaboration with local municipalities or their associations. AIPY signs partnership agreements with municipalities about funding for NEETs involvement in the project and support measures, using unit cost standard rate calculation, according to the realized operations. At the same time AIPY makes advance payments to partners for the implementation of individual programs of activities in the amount of 80% of the estimated.

The administration of the project is provided by seven AIPY Structural funds department staff members: one head of department, one senior project manager and five project managers.

AIPY implements the project in collaboration with partners – all 119 local municipalities of Latvia. To join the project, the municipality should identify and describe the current situation regarding support to NEETs: the total number of NEETs (according to national statistics available, data of municipal social services or strategic partners); NEET characteristics; description of available support measures at the municipality or municipal association; describe the available human resources and strategic partners who could be involved in the project implementation.

The municipality provides a program manager (PM) who are mainly social services workers or youth workers and who oversee the work with the NEETs in a given municipality and ensures their involvement in the project; and also involves youth mentors. Local municipalities create strategic partnerships, for example, with national and local institutions, NGO’s, youth centres, social partners and other institutions that are engaged within the goal to reach and

support NEETs. In 2015 AIPY has signed cooperation agreements also with SEA and SEDA.

AIPY has developed detailed methodological guidelines for working with NEETs (Agency for International Programs for Youth, 2015), which provided recommendations for municipalities and their strategic partners for carrying out their functions within the project, including information of the social situation of NEETs, methods of basic and advanced profiling and their results interpretation, as well as designing and implementation of IAP, indicating the methods and examples of IAP according to different NEETs' life situations.

Curricula for human resource training were developed. For PMs there are trainings of 32 academic hours (including lectures, seminars and practical work), which are four full working days and 48 hours of independent work. Trainings for NEETs mentors are organized into two parts: 1) three academic hours of online training (webinar); 2) eight academic hours or one day of non-formal training in Riga. Each municipality is provided with two AIPY consultants who are responsible for advising and monitoring the implementation of the project, as well as evaluating the submitted reports. Counselling for PMs and mentors takes place online, by phone and in person throughout the project duration. Supervision - consultative and psychological support to PMs or mentors – is provided by organizing targeted counselling process in solving different situations and professional issues in order to improve the professional competence of PMs and mentors and improve their work with NEETs. Experience exchange events are organized as well.

PMs participate in NEET tracking, undertake NEET profiling and caseload management. They are in charge of up to 10 NEETs and their mentors. Guidance / information is provided to motivate potential program participants to enter the project.

The profiling includes:
(a) basic profiling to assess whether the NEET should rather be offered educational programs at SEDA or activities offered by the SEA if the NEET is ready for them, or to continue providing support in the project;
(b) in-depth profiling (for those who need to receive support in the project) to assess the NEETs’ personality, difficulties, problems and needs by identifying their skills, interests and qualifications. The PM finds out whether the NEET needs further career guidance and counselling, assesses the NEET health, addictions, need for emotional support (lack of family, friends, and acquaintances), formal and informal educational needs, employment activities, life skills level, behaviour and emotional stability, motivation to
solve their problems, means of subsistence, integration into society, values, the amount and nature of problems to be solved.

PM defines development directions of NEET and prepares an IAP, taking into account the results of the profiling, and describes it in the individual NEET card.

The duration of IAP is up to nine months, providing support to the NEET on average 12 hours per week, i.e. at least 48 hours per month, of which not less than 20 hours per month is individual support of mentors, at least four hours per month the PM provides individual support, and at least 24 hours a month is for working in groups, including specialist support.

IAPs consist of four compulsory components (learning pillars developed by UNESCO): personality development, integration into society, employability skills and lifelong learning competences. Other specialists are involved, if necessary (with a specialization in social work, psychology or another related field and relevant competencies and work experience). This methodology helps to estimate the initial length of IAP (two, four or six months). PM prepares an agreement on the participation of NEET in the IAP and it is mutually signed. PM ensures the participation of the NEET in the activities of the IAP; selects and establishes cooperation with mentor suitable for each NEET; explains the rules that the NEET have to follow in the further process of cooperation, what are their rights and obligations; supervises implementation of IAP; advises mentors and others involved in the implementation of the program; if necessary revise the IAP.

IAPs may include the following activities:

(a) regular individual mentor support (at least 20 hours per month) during which mentors provide support to the NEET to implement the individual programs;
(b) formal and informal learning;
(c) consultations with specialists (psychologist, career counsellor and others with the exception of medical staff);
(d) participation in events (camps, workshops, sports activities, cultural events);
(e) volunteering activities;
(f) the engagement in non-governmental organizations and youth centre activities, events and projects;
(g) getting to know the specifics of the profession, including visits to companies / vocational schools to choose a career and the corresponding training;
(h) involvement in local social activities;
(i) specific measures targeting young people with disabilities (with sign language interpreters, assistants, special transport).
Tasks of mentors (each mentor is assigned up to three NEETs) are the following:
(a) to assist the PM to plan and organize NEET's involvement in the IAP and make suggestions for additional necessary activities;
(b) to cooperate with the state, local governments and NGOs in the implementation of IAP;
(c) keep track of the NEET's progress, helping them to achieve the goals, to support them by emphasizing a career-oriented mentoring, and to control their engagement in the IAP;
(d) if necessary provide information to NEETs about the activities in which they are involved;
(e) to carry out some of the planned activities corresponding to mentor’s qualification (lectures, group sessions, individual counselling, bibliotherapy, cinema therapy, art therapy events, etc.).

Web services are used to contact and inform NEETs or their family/friends. Special section of the AIPY website http://jaunatne.gov.lv/lv/launiesu-garantija/par-projektu-proti-un-dari includes information on the project. Information is also disseminated through AIPY social networks: www.draugiem.lv, https://www.facebook.com/Jaunatne/, https://twitter.com/Jaunatne as well as through municipal websites.

Till June 2017, AIPY has signed contracts with 75 municipalities on involvement of 4450 NEETs; 17 regional information seminars on project issues/experience exchange events have been organized for representatives from municipalities; 123 PMs and 309 mentors have been trained. Since July 2016, 328 NEETs have been involved in the project, 20 of them after basic profiling were ready for activities implemented by SEDA or SEA, for other IAPs were prepared (lasting on average four months) and 116 NEETs have already successfully completed IAP.
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http://nva.gov.lv/docs/28.56aa2e20dd1f17.37658194.pdf

## ANNEX 1. Tables

### Table A 1. Population in Latvia on 1 January by age

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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,074,605</td>
<td>2,044,813</td>
<td>2,023,825</td>
<td>2,001,468</td>
<td>1,986,096</td>
<td>1,968,957</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-64 years</td>
<td>1,398,922</td>
<td>1,373,105</td>
<td>1,351,725</td>
<td>1,325,469</td>
<td>1,303,300</td>
<td>1,282,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-29 years</td>
<td>426,037</td>
<td>408,250</td>
<td>392,612</td>
<td>373,082</td>
<td>357,099</td>
<td>341,793</td>
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### Table A 2. Employment by activity (15-64 years), percentage, annual data

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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>EU 28</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td>64.1</td>
<td>64.1</td>
<td>64.8</td>
<td>65.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Latvia</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>66.3</td>
<td>68.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active population</td>
<td>EU 28</td>
<td>71.1</td>
<td>71.7</td>
<td>72.0</td>
<td>72.3</td>
<td>72.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>72.8</td>
<td>74.4</td>
<td>74.0</td>
<td>74.6</td>
<td>75.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Table A 3. Unemployment by activity, percentage, annual average

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>EU 28</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active population</td>
<td>EU 28</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table A 4. Long-term unemployment, percentage, annual average

<table>
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<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Active population</td>
<td>EU 28</td>
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<td>4.6</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>5.0</td>
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<td>Latvia</td>
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<td>7.8</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>EU 28</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>44.3</td>
<td>47.1</td>
<td>49.3</td>
<td>48.1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td>52.1</td>
<td>48.4</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>45.3</td>
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</table>


Table A 5. Long-term unemployed, registered in the State Employment Agency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>56,934</td>
<td>45,981</td>
<td>33,038</td>
<td>27,039</td>
<td>24,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of unemployed</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>29.7</td>
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</table>


Table A 6. Long-term unemployed, registered in the State Employment Agency by unemployment duration, percentage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-3 years</td>
<td>93.9</td>
<td>64.9</td>
<td>53.8</td>
<td>52.8</td>
<td>54.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years and more</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>46.2</td>
<td>47.2</td>
<td>45.3</td>
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</table>


Table A 7. Youth employment and unemployment, age 15-29 years, percentage level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth employment</td>
<td>EU 28</td>
<td>47.2</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td>46.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>45.4</td>
<td>47.9</td>
<td>50.3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>EU 28</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>17.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>16.4</td>
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</table>

### Table A 8. Youth long-term unemployment rate (12 months or longer) by age, Last update: 28-03-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-29</td>
<td>EU 28</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>EU 28</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>EU 28</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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### Table A 9. Young people neither in employment nor in education and training by age (NEET rates), percentage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-29</td>
<td>EU 28</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>15.6</td>
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<td>15-24</td>
<td>EU 28</td>
<td>12.9</td>
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<td>10.5</td>
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<td>21.0</td>
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<td>21.2</td>
<td>19.7</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>18.4</td>
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