



Education system in Latvia

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Legislation on education

- ▶ **Constitution of the Republic of Latvia**
Everyone is entitled to education
The state provides free of charge basic education and secondary education
Basic education is compulsory
- ▶ **Education Law (1998)**
- ▶ **General Education Law (1999)**
- ▶ **Vocational Education Law (1999)**
- ▶ **Law on Institutions of Higher Education (1995)**

Educational Management in Latvia (I)

Cabinet of Ministers – www.mk.gov.lv

- ▶ Establishes a state-recognized qualification forms, certification criteria and procedures.
- ▶ Establishes, reorganizes and dissolves state educational institutions and state educational support institutions after the proposal of minister for education and science and other ministers.
- ▶ Determines registration and accreditation procedures of educational institutions.
- ▶ Determines licensing and accreditation procedures of educational programs.
- ▶ Approves education requirements and professional qualifications for the teaching staff and forms of teachers' professional development.
- ▶ Determines teachers' salary.
- ▶ Establishes national standards in education.
- ▶ Determines the education development strategy.
- ▶ Determines the financing of state funded primary and secondary education programs implemented by private educational institutions, special education and general education's special education classes and boarding schools, non-formal education programs, vocational education programs implemented by local education authorities, non-formal adult education programs and professional development.



Educational Management in Latvia (II)

Ministry of Education and Science – www.izm.gov.lv

- ▶ Implements national policy and development strategy in education.
- ▶ Develops policy planning documents and draft laws and regulations on education, science, state language, sports and youth policy.
- ▶ Provides public education information system's maintenance and updates.
- ▶ Organizes teachers' professional development.
- ▶ Develops state education standards.
- ▶ Develops proposals and requests state budget financing for education, science, sports and state language development.
- ▶ Hires and dismisses leaders of subordinated educational institutions (except higher educational institutions).
- ▶ Coordinates recruitment of local authorities' subordinated educational institutions' leaders, proposes their dismissal.
- ▶ Controls learning outcomes in state-funded education institutions, develops and implements measures to improve the quality of learning.
- ▶ Approves the register of educational institutions, educational programs and teachers.
- ▶ Submits proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers on founding, reorganizing or liquidating of the public schools and education support institutions in coordination with the relevant authorities



Educational Management in Latvia (III)

Local authorities (municipalities)

- ▶ In coordination with the Ministry of Education and Science, establish, reorganize and liquidate general education institutions, including boarding schools, special schools and classes, as well as pre-school groups for children with special needs and non-formal educational institutions,
- ▶ In coordination with the Ministry of Education and Science and certain sector ministry, establish, reorganize and liquidate vocational education institutions.
- ▶ Determine the procedures for state budget financing of its subordinated educational institutions.



- ▶ Ensure education access for learners with special needs.
- ▶ Ensure children and young people career guidance and career education.
- ▶ Participate in the provision of educational literature and other materials for their subordinated educational institutions.
- ▶ Organize professional skills' development, co-ordinate and ensure methodological work.
- ▶ Ensure the organization of national tests, including centralized examinations.

Cooperation with non-governmental sector

- ▶ Ministry of Education and Science and its subordinated institutions made cooperation agreements with more than 30 organizations, including professional associations.
- ▶ Main cooperation partners of the Ministry of Education and Science are Latvian Association of Education Managers and Latvian Education and Science Workers' Union.
- ▶ Ministry of Education and Science cooperates with sports federations to ensure the development of different types of sport.
- ▶ Ministry of Education and Science invites non-governmental organizations to participate in working groups to develop normative acts and policy planning documents, as well as in consultative councils.

Guidelines for Education Development (2007–2013)

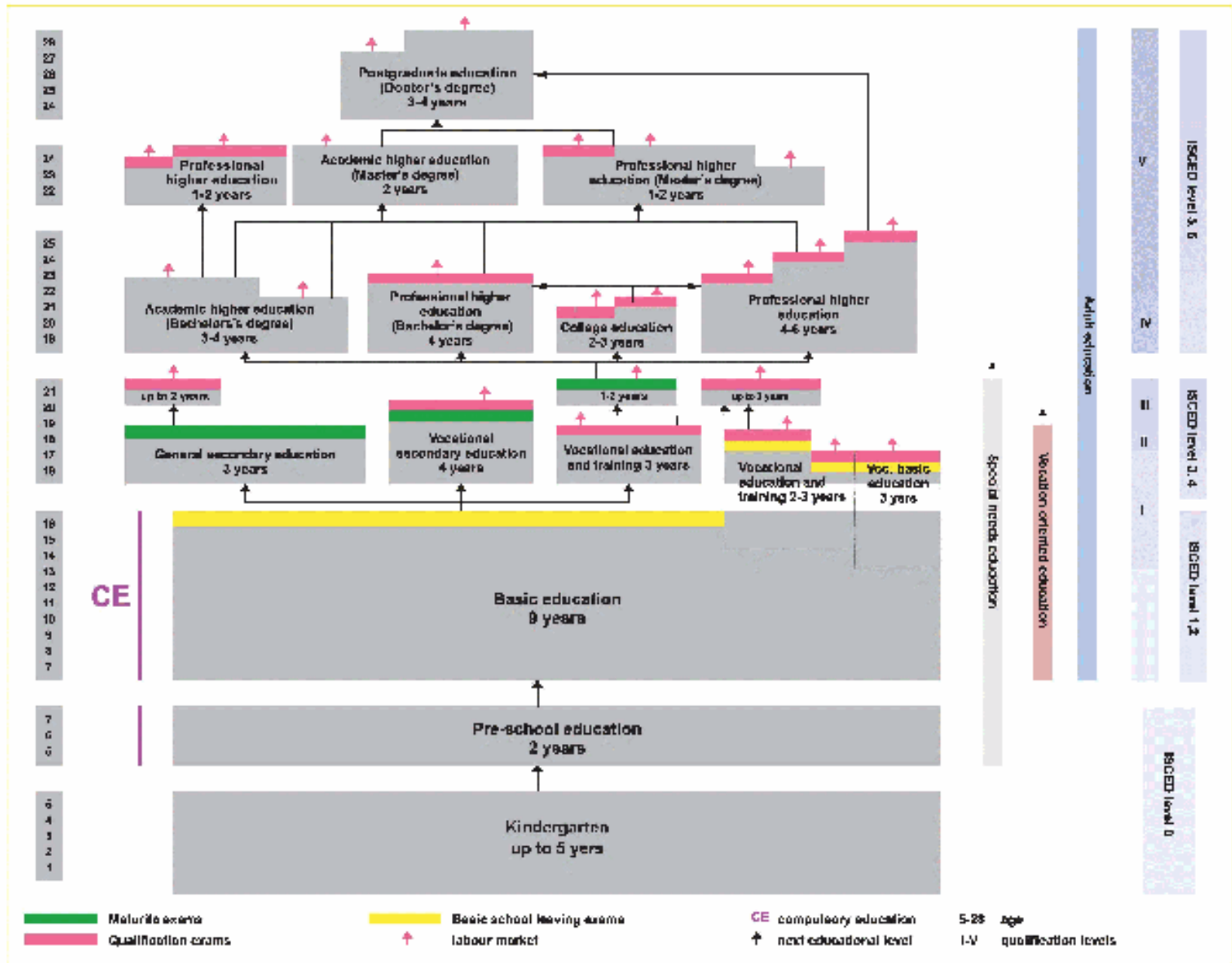
MAIN GOAL

To ensure the opportunity for every person to acquire qualitative education during the course of his/her lifetime in accordance with his/her individual interests, abilities and the needs of national economy development.

IMPLEMENTATION DIRECTIONS

- ▶ To raise the quality of knowledge, skills and competences.
- ▶ To ensure education offer in conformity to the needs of the national economy development.
- ▶ To extend educational opportunities for various groups of population across all regions.
- ▶ To consolidate the capacity of management and control of the quality of education.

The Education System in Latvia



Structure of Education System in Latvia (I)

- ▶ Pre-school education (ISCED level 0)
- ▶ Basic education (ISCED level 1 and 2)
9-year basic education is compulsory for all children.



- ▶ *Special needs education*
Education for children with special needs that correspond to their individual health condition.
- ▶ *Vocation-oriented education*
Vocation oriented education in arts and music is voluntary and provided for a person's individual educational needs and wishes.

Structure of Education System in Latvia (II)

There are two types of secondary education programmes:

- ▶ **General secondary education (ISCED level 3)**

3-year general secondary education programmes

Upon graduation students have to take centralized national exams. They obtain a certificate of the secondary education providing the right to continue education in any higher-level education programme.

- ▶ **Vocational education and training programmes**

4-year vocational secondary education programmes

2-3 year vocational education and training programmes

3 year vocational basic education and training programmes

Depending on the type of vocational education programme, all students who have passed the final subject and qualification exams are awarded a diploma or certificate: a diploma of vocational secondary education, a certificate of vocational basic education and training, a certificate of vocational initial education and training. Only holders of a diploma of the vocational secondary education are eligible for access to tertiary education.

Structure of Education System in Latvia (III)

- ▶ **Post-secondary non-tertiary vocational education (ISCED level 4)**
After graduating general secondary or vocational education and training institutions (duration 1–2 years).
- ▶ **Tertiary Education (ISCED level 4–5)**
From 2004 the entrance examinations are replaced by the results of the national centralised secondary education examinations.
Academic higher education
Professional higher education
- ▶ **Post-graduate education (ISCED level 6)**
Doctoral studies last 3–4 full-time years.



Tuition

- ▶ **Pre-school, basic and secondary education** is funded from the national or municipal budget.
- ▶ **Private educational institutions** may set a tuition fee for providing education.
- ▶ In **higher education programmes** the state covers tuition fees for a certain number of students' places.

All students are entitled to a state credit for their studies in any higher education programme.

Thank you for your attention!