

Professionalisation in Adult Education – Latvian Perspectives

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Legislation regarding Adult Learning in Latvia

Since independence (1991) there have been many Acts adopted concerning education:

Education Law from October 29, 1998 (section 49) regulates adult education programmes. The amendments to the Law of 1 June 2001, in particular Article 46, stipulate the procedure of implementation of non-formal adult education programmes.

General Education Law from June 10, 1999 regulates general secondary education. There is no specific section for adults, but adults are allowed to acquire general secondary education and receive the same documents as full time students. The regulation No. 383 (2000) of the Cabinet of Ministers "On vocational qualifications which are acquired by passing centralised qualifying examinations" came into force in September 2001.

Professional Education Law from June 10, 1999 determines types of vocational programmes. Amendment in the Law on Vocational Education aims to define the relationship between the content of initial vocational education programmes and of continuing vocational education programmes.

Law on Higher Education Institutions from November 2, 1995 regulates formal education for adults. To ensure the process of lifelong learning higher education institutions are providing part time / distance education and continuing education courses.

In February 2007 the Government accepted "**National Policy on Lifelong Learning 2007 – 2013**". The long-term target of the document is to ensure education throughout the whole of life according to the interests of citizens, as well as their abilities and the socio-economic development needs of the particular region.

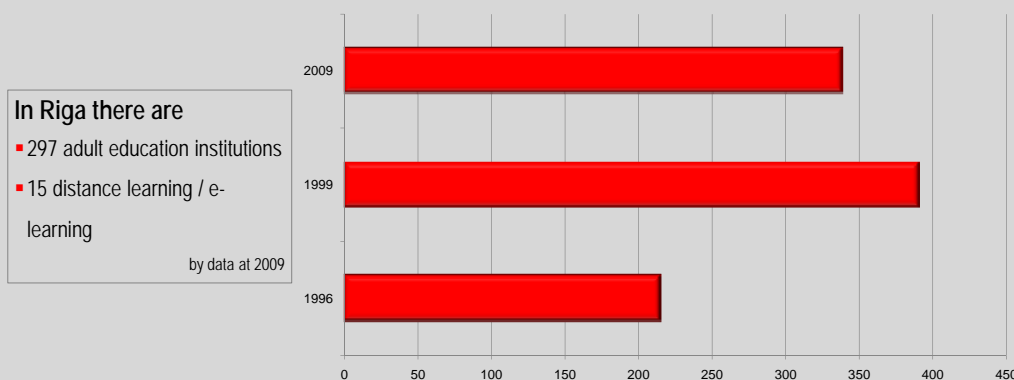
The Government did not adopt a proposed Law on adult education. It has been decided that Latvia will integrate adult education within the "ordinary" Law on Education next year. The more general items of adult education will be implemented in the Law on Education, but the more specific items within the Professional Education Law, General Education Law and Law on Higher Education Institutions (Baika, 2007).

Adult education actuality in Latvia

The significance of continuing education increases every year due that people should acquire new technologies and adjust themselves to the changing labor market. It is not possible to maintain competitiveness without knowledge improvement, so continuing education in Latvia become more popular.

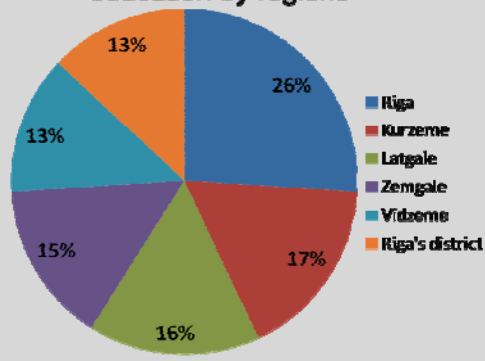
Each year increases number of institutions and organisations involved in adult education:

Latvian institutions and organisations involved in adult education

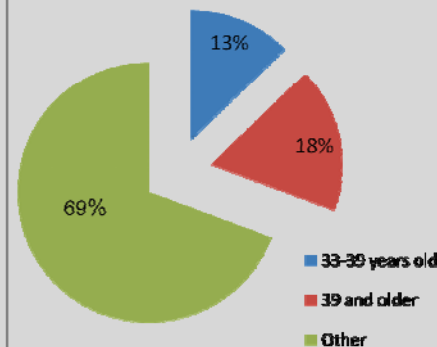


Latvian adult involvement in lifelong learning

Adult involved in lifelong learning education by regions



Adult graduated in year 2007-2008



Concept of continuing education in Latvia

The concept of continuing education adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia in February 1998 foresees an opportunity for continuing education for all by stressing it as one of the major tasks to be implemented in accordance with everyone's interests and needs, irrespective of age and previous education; thereby compensating for the gaps in previous education caused by structural changes in society. It also envisages solving social adaptation and integration problems by developing continuing education in accordance with lifelong learning objectives adopted all over the world (Gudakovska, 2001).

Institutions provided continuing education in Latvia

Latvian Adult Education Association (LAEA), is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation, which unites adult education providers in Latvia – both individuals and organisations.

The aim of LAEA – to promote development of non-formal adult education systems and to participate in life-long learning policy making, thereby promoting development of a civic, democratic and open society in Latvia.

LAEA have established the **Latvian Universities Continuing Education Network (LUCEN)**. It is an informal and voluntary union of Latvian higher education establishments.

The Aims of LUCEN are the following:

- To promote the idea of the important role of university continuing education (UCE) in Latvian universities through cooperation among universities' management, academic staff, joint conferences and seminars.
- To enhance staff development and continuing education through joint projects, exchange of ideas and teachers.
- To facilitate links between UCE and society.

The main lifelong learning / continuing education institutions in Latvia are the following:

- The Continuing Education Department of the University of Latvia;
- The Distance Education Centre of Riga Technical University;
- Ventspils University College Continuing Education Institute (TII) and Lifelong Learning Department;
- Vidzeme University Centre of Lifelong Learning;
- The Continuing Education Centre for Librarians of Latvia (CECLL) etc.