

Some aspects of the education policy developments in Latvia

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Ministry of Education and Science (MoES)

Structure of MoES

- The Minister
- State secretary and 2 deputy state secretaries
- 9 departments - with units in them
- Department of Vocational and General Education (DVGE) - 22 employees, 9 dealing with vocational education

Vocational education and training (VET) policy

- Develops VET policy and co-ordinates its implementation
- Co-ordinates the development of the guidance and counselling education
- Implements supervision over 38 vocational education institutions (schools)
- Coordinates the process for the recognition of competences acquired outside the formal education system

Policy documents and approaches

- Guidelines for optimisation of Vocational Education Institutions' Network for 2010-2015
- (January 2010)
- Structural reforms by optimising the number and type of vocational schools
- Important aspects – geographical coverage and differentiating of vocational schools

Type and number of schools according to the Guidelines

- From 59 in 2009/2011 to 30 schools (under MoES supervision) in 2015
- Vocational education competence centres (14)
- Vocational education establishments with specialisation (14)
- Vocational education establishments for acquiring basic competences (2)
- Affiliations of vocational education establishments
- Integrated education establishments (10)

Issues of learners with special needs

- Out of the total number of schools 38 (under MoEs supervision) - one school (Alsviķu vocational school) more specifically envisaged for learners with disabilities
- Jūrmala vocational school – full spectrum of support
- Most vocational schools integrate learners with special needs
- Not all schools have the needed infrastructure and equipment

ERDF project – to address infrastructure problems

- Improvement of infrastructure – support to several vocational school
- 6 schools relatively well equipped
- More support still needed for purchase of costly specialised equipment - to address various needs (for hearing, visual and other impairments)

Learners with special needs

Statistics of January, 2012 (38 MoES schools)

- Total number of learners with disabilities- 241
- With visual impairments – 7
- With hearing impairments – 71
- With limited movement ability – 34
- With other kind of special needs - 129

Activities of MoES DVGE

- Although no particular civil servant responsible for dealing with the problems, these issues are being addressed in the best possible way
- Supervision of ERDF activities, day to day communication by DVGE with schools
- Dealing with each individual case, e.g.
- A recent case with a boy studying ICT systems by externat

Thank you for your attention!