

Contribution to the Focus chapter of the Fundamental Rights Report 2022: Social rights and equality in light of the recovery from the COVID- 19 pandemic.

LATVIA

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1 Measures implemented to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic

Name of the measure in English	Reducing inequality (Component 3) Investment: 3.1.2.1.i. Measures to promote access to public services and employment
Name of the measure in the national language(s)	Nevienlīdzības mazināšana (Komponente 3) Investīcija 3.1.2.1.i. Publisko pakalpojumu un nodarbinātības pieejamības veicināšanas pasākumi
Reference document for the measure <i>Include an url, where available</i>	European Union Recover and Resilience Mechanism Plan (EIROPAS SAVIENĪBAS ATVESEĻOŠANAS UN NOTURĪBAS MEHĀNISMA PLĀNS) Latvia 2021-2026 https://likumi.lv/ta/id/322858-par-latvijas-atveselosanas-un-noturibas-mehanismu-planu https://www.esfondi.lv/upload/st10157-ad01.en21.pdf
Social rights covered by the measure <i>Delete as appropriate</i> <i>Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to one discrete right</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - integration of persons with disabilities (Article 26), - right to fair and just working conditions (Article 31)
Population group(s) covered by the measure <i>Delete as appropriate</i> <i>Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - persons with disabilities <p>The foreseen investments will also benefit other persons who face functional restrictions, e.g. elderly people, pregnant women, or persons with any permanent or temporary physical, mental, intellectual, sensory restrictions, impairments connected with ageing or other impairments connected with functions of the human body that in interaction with different</p>

<i>measures that apply to discrete population groups</i>	obstacles restrict their access to services, thus these services have to be adjusted to the special needs of these persons.
Summary description of how the measure applies to the population group(s)	The general objective of this investment measure is to improve access to facilities, jobs and services for people with disabilities thereby contributing to their social inclusion.
Summary description of how the measure will impact (positively or negatively) social rights and equal treatment in the recovery	The measure consists of selecting 63 public and municipal buildings providing welfare sector public services or municipal social services ¹ (these buildings shall already be included in the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers) and retrofitting them to ensure access to the facilities and information for persons with functional impairments (vision, hearing, mobility and mental impairment), including improvement of visual information, adaptation and provision of evacuation systems for persons with disabilities, and the installation of aids, such as 10157/21 ADD 1 FDC/sr 49 ECOMP 1A EN ramps, pans, lifts, easy-opening or automatic doors. The measure also includes the selection, retrofitting and improving the physical accessibility of housing for 259 persons with disabilities (with more severe disabilities) improving their access to employment and services, thereby promoting their human dignity and quality of life.
Summary description of the extent to which the measure foresees the provision of enabling social services	
Entity or organisation responsible to implement the measure	Ministry of Welfare (<i>Labklājības ministrija</i>)
Duration of the measure	The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 31 December 2024.

¹ As of 1 December 2020, 81 public and municipal social service providers were registered in the Social Services Register (social services, day centres, group flats, service flats, etc.) that provide services to groups at risk of social exclusion, including persons with disabilities. There are 11 institutions subordinated to the Ministry of Welfare.

Budget allocated to implement the measure	EUR 10,4 million
Summary description of how any foreseen impact assessment of the measure will be carried out	Construction work completed on 63 state and local government buildings providing services to groups at risk of social exclusion, including persons with disabilities, and handover act signed. The construction work completed on 259 dwellings and handover act signed

Name of the measure in English	3.1.2.5.i. Participation in the labour market of unemployed, jobseekers and people at risk of unemployment
Name of the measure in the national language(s)	Investīcija 3.1.2.5.i. Bezdarbnieku, darba meklētāju un bezdarba riskam pakļauto iedzīvotāju iesaiste darba tirgū
Reference document for the measure <i>Include an url, where available</i>	European Union Recover and Resilience Mechanism Plan (EIROPAS SAVIENĪBAS ATVESEĻOŠANAS UN NOTURĪBAS MEHĀNISMA PLĀNS) Latvia 2021-2026 https://likumi.lv/ta/id/322858-par-latvijas-atveselosanas-un-noturibas-mehanismu https://www.esfondi.lv/upload/st10157-ad01.en21.pdf
Social rights covered by the measure <i>Delete as appropriate</i> <i>Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to one discrete right</i>	- right to fair and just working conditions (Article 31)
Population group(s) covered by the measure <i>Delete as appropriate</i>	Individuals from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds (unemployed, persons at risk of unemployment, jobseekers) Members of ethnic minority groups

<i>Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to discrete population groups</i>	
Summary description of how the measure applies to the population group(s)	The general objective of this investment measure is to improve the upskilling and reskilling of lowskilled workers and unemployed to improve their job opportunities in the labour market.
Summary description of how the measure will impact (positively or negatively) social rights and equal treatment in the recovery	The measure consists of developing a re-training and up-skilling offer with a focus on digital skills for clients (unemployed, jobseekers, persons at risk of unemployment) of the State Employment Agency (SEA), implementing active labour market policy measures, development of digital tools for the assessment of skills, and upskilling at least 20 450 persons. Under the measure, the Agency shall focus on a more in-depth individual approach based on the results of a reformed and adjusted profiling system. The investment will complement the Active Labour Market Policy (ALMP) measures planned under cohesion funds for period 2021-27, which will start after the end of RRP investment.
Summary description of the extent to which the measure foresees the provision of enabling social services	
Entity or organisation responsible to implement the measure	Ministry of Welfare, State Employment Agency
Duration of the measure	The implementation of the investment shall be completed by 31 August 2026.
Budget allocated to implement the measure	EUR 28,7 million

Summary description of how any foreseen impact assessment of the measure will be carried out	<p>20 450 (10 000 in 2025) unemployed, jobseekers, people at risk of unemployment with improved skills as certified by State Employment Agency client accounting system</p> <p>State Employment Agency has developed and implemented digital assessment tools for an improved skills profiling system, which shall ensure the assessment of the skills and competences of the agency clients, to complete an appropriate offer of retraining and acquisition of skills, depending on the individual's level of knowledge and skills. The client profiling method currently used by the agency shall be supplemented by digital skills assessment tools (tests) and the results of the tests shall be used in the client career advice process and in the preparation of the individual training offer.</p>
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Name of the measure in English	2.3.2.3i. Closing the digital divide for socially vulnerable groups and educational institutions
Name of the measure in the national language(s)	2.3.2.3.i. Digitālās plaisas mazināšana sociāli neaizsargātajam grupām un izglītības iestādēs
Reference document for the measure <i>Include an url, where available</i>	<p>European Union Recover and Resilience Mechanism Plan (EIROPAS SAVIENĪBAS ATVESEĻOŠANAS UN NOTURĪBAS MEHĀNISMA PLĀNS) Latvia 2021-2026</p> <p>https://likumi.lv/ta/id/322858-par-latvijas-atveselosanas-un-noturibas-mehanismu</p> <p>https://www.esfondi.lv/upload/st10157-ad01.en21.pdf</p>
Social rights covered by the measure <i>Delete as appropriate</i> <i>Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to one discrete right</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - right to education (Article 14) - the rights of the child (Article 24),
Population group(s) covered by the measure	Children and youth

<p>Delete as appropriate</p> <p>Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to discrete population groups</p>	
<p>Summary description of how the measure applies to the population group(s)</p>	<p>The plan foresees the entry into force of regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers laying down criteria and conditions for the organisation and conduct of remote learning to ensure that remote learning is organised and implemented in all Latvian educational institutions and levels of education (except at pre-school level) by 2021. The educational establishment shall include in its internal rules a framework for the organisation and implementation of remote learning, including: 1. the procedure by which the educational establishment shall identify whether technical means are available to learners for the provision of remote learning, as well as the procedures for providing these technical means if they are not available to learners; 2. the procedure for recording students' participation in remote learning and the performance of the tasks assigned; 10157/21 ADD 1 FDC/sr 43 ECOMP 1A EN 3. in cases where the participation of the learner in remote learning is not possible or is hampered for technical reasons; 4. the procedures for ensuring compliance with safety requirements during remote learning and the procedures for communication with the legal representatives of the learner in the event of safety or health risks; 5. The procedure by which learners make use of educational institution resources and infrastructure (premises, libraries, etc.) as part of remote learning.</p> <p>The objectives of the investment are to provide access to learning content and allow participating in remote learning process for the pupils from socially vulnerable groups. The investment consists of purchasing information and communication technology equipment for general education institutions, with targeted support for pupils from socially vulnerable groups, teachers and the creation of a "computer library" in educational institutions.</p>
<p>Summary description of how the measure will impact (positively or negatively) social rights and equal treatment in the recovery</p>	<p>The "Computer Library" of schools will provide an opportunity for pupils and teachers who need computer to learn and teach it to "borrow" for the duration of their studies, while working on a sustainable system that shall ensure access to technology for every pupil and teachers across Latvia.</p>

Summary description of the extent to which the measure foresees the provision of enabling social services	
Entity or organisation responsible to implement the measure	Ministry of Education (Izglītības ministrija)
Duration of the measure	A framework for organisation and implementation of remote learning in educational institutions will be approved by end of 2021 The investment consists of purchasing information and communication technology equipment for general education institutions, with targeted support for pupils from socially vulnerable groups, teachers and the creation of a "computer library" in educational institutions. The investment shall be implemented by 31 December 2023.
Budget allocated to implement the measure	EUR 11 million (10, 5 Million EUR have also been granted from REACT-EU (Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe) ²)
Summary description of how any foreseen impact assessment of the measure will be carried out	Number of ICT equipment units available for learning from the "computer library", which improves learning efficiency and reduces inequalities. 13 300 (2022), 26 600 (2023)

² LVPORTALS.LV (2021). Ministry of Education Will Start the Investment Programme for the Provision of Computers to Pupils and Teachers, 8 June, at <https://lvportals.lv/dienaskartiba/329178-izm-uzsaks-datoru-nodrosinasanas-investiciju-programmu-skoleniem-un-pedagogiem-2021>

2 Tools or mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness of national schemes to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic

The Ministry of Finance as the Managing authority is in charge of the development of the management and control system of the plan, coordinating the reporting process during the implementation of the plan (a half-yearly report on the compilation and progress of the plan) and other functions. The Central Financing and Contract agency (CFCA) has been designated as an 10157/21 ADD 1 FDC/sr 144 ECOMP 1A EN intermediary body delegated with responsibilities for implementation, control and monitoring of the plan. The Audit Authority, which is independent from the other departments of the Ministry of Finance in its planning, auditing, reporting and opinion, shall develop a plan audit strategy and prepare a summary of the audits carried out to accompany the request for payments. The sectoral ministries and the State Chancellery shall perform the responsibilities related to the implementation of the plan. The necessary administrative resources for the management and monitoring functions of the plan shall be provided within the existing resources of responsible institutions, making use of additional human resources needed. The involvement of the authorities in the implementation of the plan takes place within the defined framework of their core activities and functions. Financing of sectoral ministries for the implementation of the plan shall be allocated in accordance with the relevant national procedures for the financing from the state budget.³

The Resilience and Recovery Plan speaks about internal line ministry control schemes. The ministries and other responsible agencies will use the existing EU fund management and control systems, the ministries list existing control procedures, that will be revised and adjusted to meet the needs of Resilience and Recovery Plan, if necessary. E.g. European Structural Fund Department is the responsible institution at the Ministry of Welfare, 14 decrees, regulations (some of which are internal) used for the management and control of EU funds are listed to in the Plan to ensure the control of the implementation of the measures under RRP that may be revised and adjusted for RRP.⁴

³ Council of the European Union (2021). Interinstitutional File: 2021/0164(NLE), 5 July, Annex to the COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Latvia, p. 144-145, at <https://www.esfondi.lv/upload/st10157-ad01.en21.pdf>

⁴ European Union Recover and Resilience Mechanism Plan (EIROPAS SAVIENĪBAS ATVESEĻOŠANAS UN NOTURĪBAS MEHĀNISMA PLĀNS) Latvia 2021-2026 <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/322858-par-latvijas-atveselosanas-un-noturibas-mehanismu-planu>

Name of the monitoring tool or mechanism in English	Basic scheme for the management and control system
Name of the monitoring tool or mechanism in the national language(s)	ANM kontroles matrica
Reference document for the monitoring tool or mechanism <i>Include an url, where available</i>	European Union Recover and Resilience Mechanism Plan (EIROPAS SAVIENĪBAS ATVESEĻOŠANAS UN NOTURĪBAS MEHĀNISMA PLĀNS) Latvia 2021-2026 (Appendix) https://likumi.lv/ta/id/322858-par-latvijas-atveselosanas-un-noturibas-mehanisma-planu
Organisation(s) involved in the monitoring tool or mechanism <i>Delete as appropriate</i> <i>Multiple answers possible</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Recovery and Resilience Plan does not list any of the organisations (NHRI, CSOs, other) involved in the monitoring mechanism
Summary description of how these organisation(s) are involved in the monitoring tool or mechanism	No description

<p>Summary description of the functioning of the tool or mechanism used to monitor the effectiveness of schemes adopted to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery</p>	<p>Line ministry – responsible for achieving milestones and results, irregularities, monitoring, submission progress reports, complement of the internal control system of the specificity of the RFF</p> <p>Central Financing and Contracting Agency (CFCA) of the Finance Ministry (merchants, public institutions) – on the spot-checks, monitoring of deficiencies, including indicators, progress, double funding, state aid.</p>
<p>Summary description of the obligations, standards and benchmarks against which the effectiveness will be evaluated</p>	<p>Where available, indicate if and how the tool or mechanism references relevant EU instruments (e.g. European Pillar of Social Rights, Social Scoreboard, Child Guarantee, Youth Guarantee, EU Roma Strategic Framework, etc.)</p> <p>Always specify if and how the tool or mechanism references the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</p> <p>Where available always indicate what type of indicators or benchmarks will be used to monitor the implementation of the measures</p> <p>No information available</p>
<p>Summary description of what the tool or mechanism foresees when non-compliance with obligations and standards is identified, with a particular emphasis on enforcement and remedial action</p>	<p>No information available</p>