

Policy Recommendations – Latvia

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Policy Level:

National

Policy Issue:

Proper digital skills for young people

Recommendations:

Digital skills as transversal skills for life and employment should be promoted in formal and non-formal education and training environments as a key tool for young people education and further employment perspectives. IT skills should be combined with communication and working competencies, including critical thinking, problem solving skills, creativity, communication in mother tongue and foreign languages, civic competencies and cultural expression.

Rationale:

What:

Even if Media and information literacy is a complex set of 21st century literacy practices; a means of enhancing inclusion, knowledge, skills and critical attitudes to information, culture and co-operation and a mechanism for all people to access, create and innovate.

Why:

With the rapid rise of digital technology and its increasing use in business, education and culture, it is important to ensure everyone can understand and engage with digital media, digital tools and services. Digital skills are vital for economic growth and job creation. Digital technologies are a key driver of competitiveness and innovation in the media, information, and communication technology sectors. Although digital competences are essential for employment, a great part of today's young people lack the ability to use them creatively and critically.

Who:

Public bodies such as Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional development of Latvia, as well as NGO's should be responsible for policy development and implementation with the help of Formal educational institutions – Universities and Higher educational institutions. Implementation should be done by telecentres, schools, formal and informal facilitators.

Where:

Media and information literacy activities and coding could be implemented in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, universities, libraries, telecentres, education and training centres. In every possible way to attract young generation to ICT.

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How:

The following activities are recommended by the current analysis of Digital Agenda implementation in Latvia.

- There is a strong need to support teachers at formal education system, so that they can provide innovative and up –to date Training of Computing and ICT skills
- Creative initiatives for non-formal ICT training have to be easier mainstreamed and introduced to formal education system
- Efforts to motivate young people to learn Computing and choose ICT careers have to be increased
- In order to attract young people to ICT trainings like Generation 0101, the training has to be attractive, based on latest technologies and applying the devices young people use most often
- Awareness raising campaigns about ICT skills and profession for young people should be extended to parents, teachers and career consultants
- ICT training initiatives like Generation0101 modules should include not only training of young people into these areas, but also provide roadmap how they can use acquired skills for their first job experience. For example, developing small projects for communities, sharing the knowledge with classmates (as trainers) etc.

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