



Ministry of Welfare
Republic of Latvia

Disability policy in Latvia

Aiga Lukašenoka
Senior expert of
Social Inclusion Policy department
Ministry of Welfare of Latvia

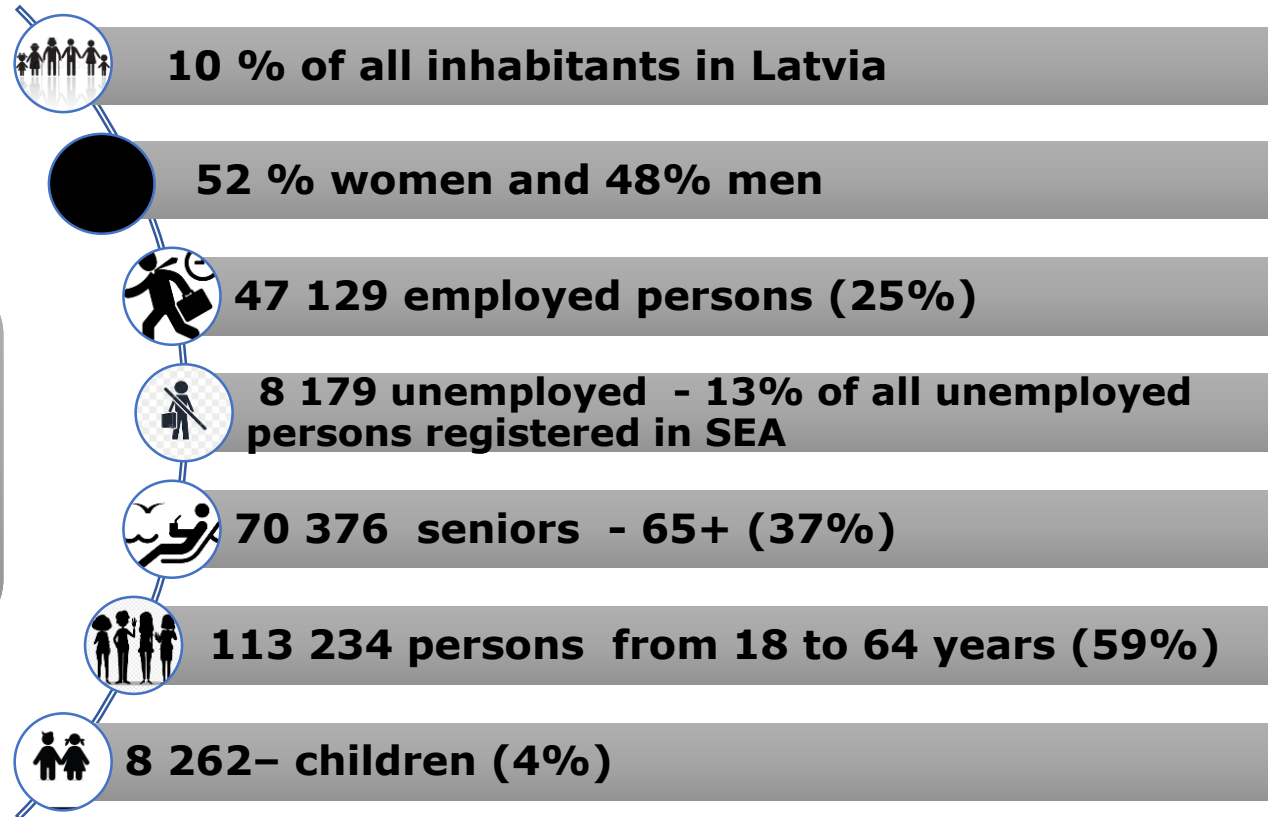
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Statistic of persons with disabilities in Latvia

191 815
persons with
disabilities
(at the end
2018)





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UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

- **In force** in Latvia since 31.03.2010
- The **implementation** of the CRPD is coordinated by the Ministry of Welfare + National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA)
- **Monitoring** responsibility to the Ombudsman
- **NGO involvement** in the monitoring process: NGO's are members in the NCDA; Ombudsman's annual conference together with NGO's
- **Enforcement mechanism** of the CRPD:
 1. Law on the Ratification of the CRPD
 2. Guidelines for the implementation of the CRPD for the period 2014 – 2020.



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Reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities

- First report to the CRPD submitted in Spring 2014
- Civil society organisations, in particular organisations of persons with disabilities, were involved in the preparation of the Report
- NGO opinions incorporated in the Report
- The Initial Report reviewed and the Observations adopted by the Committee at its eighteen session (14 – 31 August 2017)
- The concluding observations of the CRPD to be provided for consideration and action to members of the Government and parliament, officials in relevant ministries, local authorities, organisations of persons with disabilities and members of relevant professional groups, such as education, medical and legal professionals, as well as to the media, using modern social communication strategies
- Next reporting cycle – in 2020



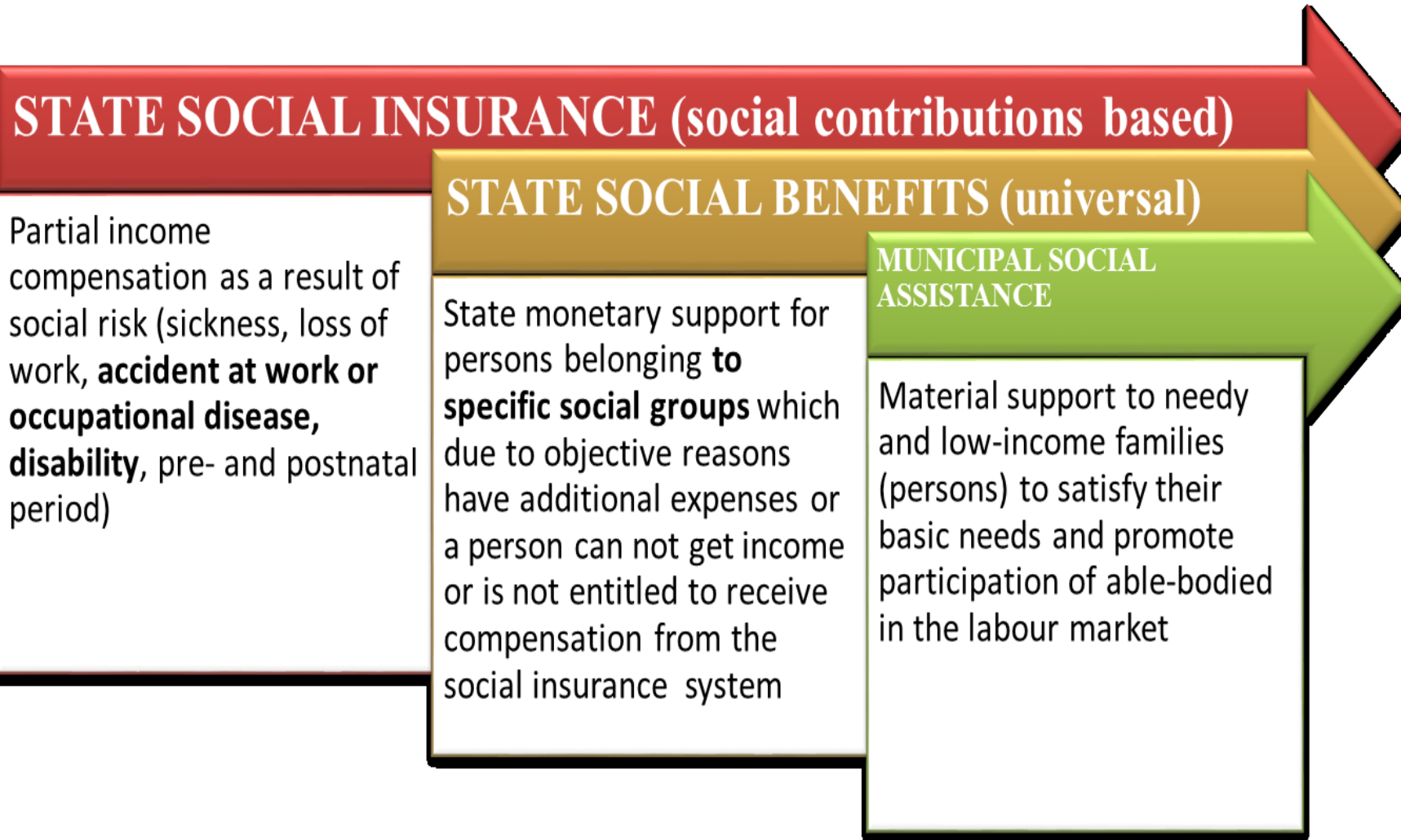
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Disability assessment

- A shift from a medical model **to a human rights approach**
- Since 2015 the disability assessment criteria is based on **International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)**
- For persons aged 18+ up to the age of retirement **loss of work capacity in % is determined alongside the disability assessment:**
 - I group - very severe disability – 80-100% loss of work-capacity
 - II group – severe disability – 60-79% loss of work-capacity
 - III group – moderate disability – 25-59% loss of work-capacity
- For children disability is determined without division in groups



Organisation of support for persons with disabilities





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Support measures for persons with disabilities

Monetary

- Disability pension
- State social security benefit
- Supplement to the State Family benefit for the child with disability
- Benefit for persons with Special Care need
- Benefit for transport cost compensation
- Etc.

Non-monetary

- Assistant service in municipality and education institutions
- Sign language interpreter's service
- Consultations of psychologist in case of child's first time disability
- Technical aids
- Vocational and social rehabilitation
- Group homes
- Free public transport (I and II group, children and their accompanying persons)
- Reliefs for vehicle insurance and road tax payments
- Exemptions from patients payments in health care sector
- Supports provided by SEA and SASI
- DI projects
- Etc.



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Persons with disabilities Participation in decision-making process

- The NCDA– at least 4 times a year
- Regular meetings with NGO's – ad hoc
- Working groups – on new legislative acts or policy planning documents
- Public consultation procedure on legislative acts and policy planning documents
- Exchange of good practice and international cooperation
- Implement decision making mechanisms which respect the autonomy, will and preferences of the individual concerned



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Cooperation between Baltic and Nordic states

- Cooperation is proposed on specific issues, for instance, universal design concept and disability assesment system
- Good practice exchange visits
- Participation of experts in seminars and conferences
- Collaboration with Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Latvia on disability issues



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Challenges and Future steps

- Ageing society and health condition of population → clients with more complex and severe problems
- Persons with disabilities as diverse group of society – need of an individual approach to ensure persons with disabilities needs
- Inter-institutional cooperation and coordination in aim to ensure the needs and rights of persons with disabilities
- Development of inclusive employment and education
- Development of social services, incl. availability of services close to the client's place of residence
- Awareness rising and fighting stereotypes
- Strengthening cooperation between the public and non-governmental sectors



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