

## National recommendations on how to ensure alternative care is provided with a focus on the rights of children and their best interests

### Country: **LATVIA**

<p><b>Expand target group of training participants</b> – Child rights should be introduced as part of an obligatory training for a wider target group – social workers, police, public prosecutors, etc., with particular emphasis on orphan's court personnel</p>	<p>In the assessments of participants and trainers, it was emphasized that this training should be acquired by a broader circle of specialists, thus creating a unified approach to the rights of children and its practice among different specialists who often have to cooperate with each other. This recommendation also aligns with the 2016 recommendations to Latvia of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, where it is recommended to strengthen knowledge of orphan's court personnel on Protection of the Rights of the Child Law and Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p> <p>State Inspectorate for Protection of Children's Rights in 2016 start to implement national project ""Improvement of support system for children with communication difficulties, behavioral disorders and domestic violence". The project aims to develop methodologies and train 5825 specialists in the field of children's rights protection focusing on specific professional target groups and issues. In accordance with the project time schedule, at the end of 2016 and during 2017, it is planned to start the work on the development of methodology and piloting of the training. It is very important to include a wider target group for the training in the frame of this project.</p>
<p><b>Guide strengthening, implementation and wider application of the method developed within the project</b> (particularly distinguishing training target group – specialists working in out-of-family care)</p>	<p>Interactive methods, case studies and discussions were evaluated with very high approval for gaining a better understanding of the rights of the child, particularly in order to go deep into and understand the perspective of the child. This recommendation also aligns with the 2016 recommendations to Latvia of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, where it is emphasized that respecting the interests of a child is a priority, and one of the ways to ensure understanding is to improve methodological recommendations of the State Inspectorate for Protection of Children's Rights.</p>
<p><b>Strengthen the principle of participation of children and young people in the training of care professionals</b></p>	<p>In the assessments and in the discussion of the focus group, the issue emphasized was how children themselves understand child's rights; how communication between specialists and children takes place. Participation in particular and its understanding need to be explored, including expanding the variety of participation forms so that the mutual desire to communicate and to listen to each other is strengthened. State should consider children and youth participation in child care policy and specifically in the training of professionals working with</p>

	children in care.
<b>Establish more frequent trainings on the rights of children</b>	<p>In accordance with Protection of the Rights of the Child Law, specialists shall acquire training on the protection of the rights of children within one year after taking up employment and henceforth shall educate once every five years.</p> <p>The recommendation is to do this once every two years.</p> <p>In the assessments of training participants, it was often emphasized that it is very important to “refresh” child’s rights topics and to find a place for discussions, exchange of information and highlights. The theme of child’s rights is not a training which is acquired once – It should be a regular, ongoing and integrated approach. This recommendation also aligns with the 2016 recommendations to Latvia of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, where it is recommended to refresh training once every two years.</p>