

**YOUTH SUPPORT CENTRE**

<b>Organisation(s):</b> <a href="#">Riga City Council, Department for Welfare</a>		
<b>Country:</b> Latvia		
<b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:policy@esn-eu.org">policy@esn-eu.org</a>		
<b>Theme:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ageing & Care <input type="checkbox"/> Asylum & Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Young People <input type="checkbox"/> Support for children & families <input type="checkbox"/> Community Care <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Production <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Artificial Intelligence <input type="checkbox"/> Digitalisation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Care & Support <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Labour Market Inclusion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Inclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce and Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum Income <input type="checkbox"/> EU Funding <input type="checkbox"/> Social Services Resilience <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
<b>Principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights:</b> <i>Check the 20 principles <a href="#">here</a>.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Education, training, life-long learning <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Gender equality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Equal opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Active support to employment <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Secure and adaptable employment <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Fair Wages <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Transparent Employment conditions <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Social dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Work-life balance <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Healthy, safe work environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11. Childcare and child support <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Social protection <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Unemployment benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Minimum income <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Old age income and pensions <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Health care <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Inclusion of people with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Long-term care <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Housing and assistance to homeless <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20. Access to essential services
<b>Current status of the practice:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Concept and Design Phase <input type="checkbox"/> Execution & Monitoring Phase <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consolidation Phase <input type="checkbox"/> Scaling Up and Transformation Phase <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	
<b>Context/ Social issues addressed</b> <i>Please explain the problem you are attempting to solve</i>	<p>In 2019, 530 young people were in contact with social services, however, social case work was carried out with only 34 or 6% of them. A change in approach was needed because 10% of young people did not apply for social guarantees even though they were all eligible for the help and needed the help.</p>	

	<p>The Youth Support Centre was established at the end of 2019 as part of the plan to change the existing social work practice with young people after out-of-family care.</p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b> Please provide a <b>maximum of three</b> objectives in bullet points.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development and implementation of an independent living plan as well as educating young people about the social guarantees defined in regulatory acts.</li> <li>2. Creating support network and interest groups and engaging in socially responsible events.</li> <li>3. Providing emotional support and representing the young person.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Activities:</b> Please summarise the activities put in place to achieve the objectives (maximum 200 words).</p>	<p>The Youth Support Centre is a structural unit of the Children and Youth Centre, which carries out preventive and social work with young people in the transition period to adult status. The centres are primarily concerned with tackling social issues that revolve around ensuring the well-being of children, facilitating a smooth transition to adulthood, addressing social exclusion, and dealing with challenges arising from family breakdown.</p> <p>The following activities are provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational Seminars and Activities</li> <li>• Sports activities</li> <li>• Creative activities</li> <li>• Develop and implement an independent living plan;</li> <li>• Inform and educate about social guarantees defined in regulatory acts;</li> <li>• Support and interest groups;</li> <li>• Engage in socially responsible events;</li> <li>• Provide emotional support;</li> <li>• Represent the young person;</li> <li>• Strengthen positive self-esteem;</li> <li>• Support in making important decisions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evaluation of practice:</b> Please explain how you evaluate the practice and what the results were/are so far</p>	<p>One key area of success is the better reach of the target group, with a projected number of 987 young people receiving the service in 2022. Another notable strength of the approach is the focus on the needs of young people versus society's expectations. By conducting a needs assessment that takes into account their specific circumstances, the approach is better equipped to tailor services to the young person's individual needs. The provision of a safe environment and a supportive person is of utmost relevance. Finally, Equal relationships, persistence, patience, creativity, and honesty are considered important factors for establishing contact with a young person to increase the probability of success.</p>
<p><b>Links to supporting documents:</b> e.g. website or report of the practice</p>	<p>Home page of the Riga City Council Welfare Department. In Section Researches of the RCC Welfare department: <a href="https://ld.riga.lv/lv/Labklajibas-departamenta-petijumi.html">https://ld.riga.lv/lv/Labklajibas-departamenta-petijumi.html</a></p>

	<p>Research report of the evaluation of the Children and Youth Centre that includes also respondents of the Youth Support Centre: <a href="https://ld.riga.lv/files/Prezentacijas/RPBJC%20izvertejums_apraksts.pdf">https://ld.riga.lv/files/Prezentacijas/RPBJC%20izvertejums_apraksts.pdf</a></p>
<b><u>Comments and Tips</u></b>	<p>The objectives outlined in this plan highlight the need for changes in the approach of social work to working with young people. These changes emphasize the importance of moving away from a distant approach and, instead, focusing on sharing personal experiences and engaging in activities together with young people.</p> <p>Additionally, the importance of developing preventive work with young people, which is an area that is often outside the field of social services, is underlined.</p> <p>Lastly, the need for specialization in social work is clear from this practice.</p>