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RACE DISCRIMINATION AT THE LABOUR MARKET

RIGA SECONDARY NIGHT SHIFT SCHOOL #9



ANATALYA(TURKEY) 6th - 13th APRIL, 2016



Definition

Racism - discriminatory or abusive behavior towards members of another race

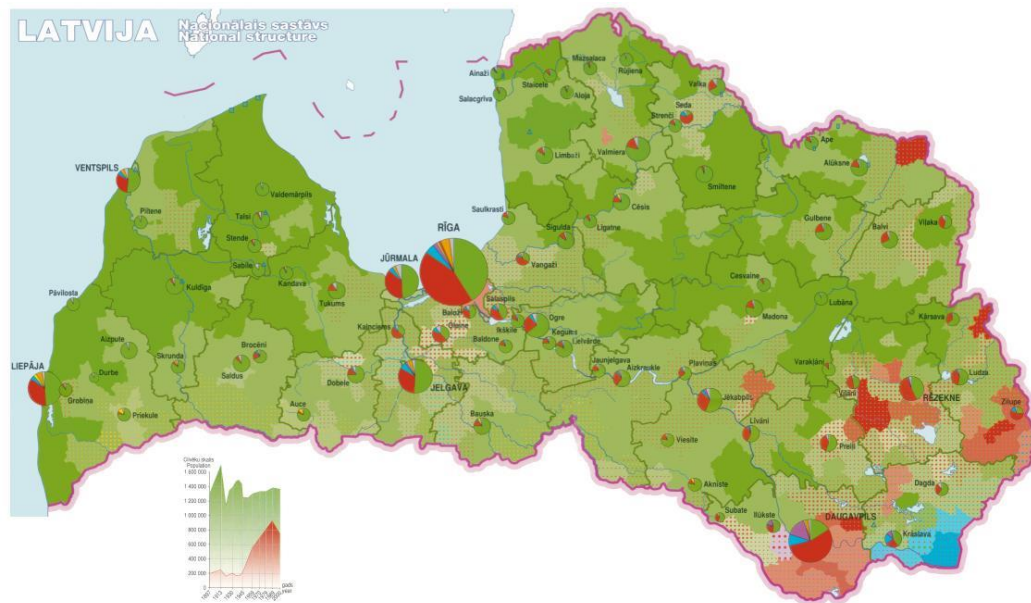
Society has so far been made to believe that racism does not exist in Latvia. These views were based on at least two grounds. Firstly, there are very few Latvian populations whose skin colour is not white

In Latvia many still believe that racism is a problem only in western countries, where are traditionally a lot of Afro-Americans or Asians. Latvian residents would like to assign work only their own ethnic group

There has been research made on public awareness and perception of racism. This study showed that the 79% Latvian people aged 18-30 have admitted that they are aware of racism, but 63% have recognized that racism is a current problem in Latvia



ETHNIC GROUPS IN LATVIA



Latvians	61.1%
Russians	26.2%
Belarusians	3.5%
Ukrainians	2.3%
Polish	2.2%
Lithuanians	1.3%
Jews	0,3%
Roma	0,3%
Germans	0,1%
Estonians	0,1%
Livonians	0,02%

THE ROMA IN LATVIA



The Roma are one of the oldest ethnic minorities in Latvia. Roma have lived in Latvia since 15th - 16th century. Two different groups of Roma have lived in Latvia since ancient times: the Latvian Roma and the Russian Roma. Roma migrated from India to Europe from medieval times, that is why Roma have Indian origin and have different race

Latvian society still maintains negative stereotypes and prejudices towards the Roma community, which fosters discriminatory treatment towards this community in the areas of employment and social assistance

In turn, 53% of Latvian residents surveyed state that they feel uncomfortable or are more likely to feel uncomfortable living next door to ethnic Roma

Surveys show that of all the ethnic minorities in Latvia, Latvian residents are most critical of the Roma's opportunities to obtain work

The reasons for this situation are as follows

- 1) the Roma's low-level of education
- 2) the large number of Roma that are registered and unregistered unemployed
- 3) society's negative stereotypes and prejudices towards the Roma community, which may become the reason for discrimination of the Roma in the labour market



WHAT DOES THE GOVERNMENT DO?

- Ventspils - one of biggest Latvian cities has an evening school where they have created Roma school programme to ensure minority with good education <http://www.vvysk.lv>
- To foster dialogue between representatives of the Roma community and Roma NGOs with employers in order to develop a platform of cooperation for involving the Roma in the labour market
- To support measures to popularise good practice for Roma integration in the labour market, thereby reducing the negative stereotypes against representatives of this community. To foster the development of diversity management approaches with respect to Roma who are able to work
- To broaden the competitiveness of Roma youth by supporting training for Roma career choices and other initiatives aimed at development
- To improve monitoring of the situation in the area of Roma employment, which includes developing a survey on the situation of Roma in the labour market
- To actively involve the registered unemployed Roma in employment measures



REFUGEES



The concept of "racism" is very wide, many of its manifestations is not topical for Latvia, but we could be problematic for a different attitude towards people of his ethnic origin. Is the Latvian is expressed xenophobia - intolerance towards immigrants? It integrates into the European Union, it became a problem

From 1998 until December 2015 Latvia has received applications from more than 1,700 asylum seekers

According to data by the Pew Research Center, among EU countries Latvia has the lowest rate of approving asylum seekers, having accepted only 8.3% of asylum seekers from January to June 2015

The Latvian government and the Latvian parliamentary committee on European affairs have supported the plan by the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, for dealing with the migration crisis in Europe under which Latvia would admit from 531 up to 776 asylum seekers



SURVEY IN LATVIA



In a recent survey in Latvia, about 70% say they would not support the arrival of workers from other countries.

Latvia has indicated that it would like to admit families with children and people with foreign language skills, basic or vocational education, work experience or skills, as well as valid travel documents

Refugees who will register with the Latvian State Employment Agency (NVA) to look for a job will be provided with the Latvian language courses the first refugees might register with the agency next summer (November, 2015)

NVA has planned its work so that it is able to ensure the necessary support to people who will look for jobs after receiving refugee status

The Labour Law provides for an exception to the performance of similar criteria, but a number of specific laws provide for further criteria, including citizenship, and state language skills to be able to operate in the profession State Employment Agency organizes events, Latvian language courses and all possibilities to become citizens

In case of racial discrimination you can contact here:

<http://www.humanrights.lv/>



WE HAVE LEARNED

- ✓ There are very few people of other races in Latvia
- ✓ Roma is the oldest ethnical minority in Latvia
- ✓ We found out that Roma people are ethnically discriminated in Latvia
- ✓ Refugees are interested in Latvia as a transit country
- ✓ It is obvious that ethnicity in Latvia will change and people of other races will be common phenomena
- ✓ The government supports asylum seekers with Latvian language courses and also gives opportunity to get a job



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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