

ENIL Personal Assistance Template

Country: Latvia

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<p>Background of the legislation for PA services</p>	<p>It took relatively long time until the legislation for PA services in Latvia was approved. The work started in 2006 when Latvia approved the Council of Europe Disability Action plan 2006 – 2015 and its implementation at the State level. Some non-governmental organizations “started to fight” for personal assistance to be given to people with disabilities. The Cabinet of Ministers during 2012 reviewed the informative report “About disability statutory provisions and implementation options for 2013 - 2015”. The Ministry of Welfare was asked to submit a draft law “Amendments to the Disability Law” for the 24th august 2012 to the Cabinet of Ministers. A discussion with persons with disabilities interest’s representatives and social services about implementation of the assistant service also took place. It should be pointed out that many non-governmental organizations that were representing disabled people interests, including People with disabilities and their friends “APEIRONS” and Latvian people with disabilities Cooperation Organization “SUSTENTO”, proposed the priority of service to persons with disabilities, who are studying, attending school, working or attending day-care centers or an evaluation of social activities. Latvia ratified on January 3, 2010 the United Nations Convention “About People with disability rights” that entered into force March 31, 2010. In addition, Latvia on June 3rd 2010 ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention, giving people with disabilities the right to submit an application to the UN Committee in case of violations of the rights of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The law comes under the Ministry of Welfare. For the project execution at local level, local municipality social services are involved and the State Commission.</p> <p>Unfortunately until now there is no official IL movement in Latvia to gather different organizations from the disability field to work together and be associated with the IL movement. Of all the non - governmental organizations in Latvia connected with people with</p>
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	<p>disabilities there were only two who played a role in the lobby process of the legislation (People with disabilities and their friends “APEIRONS” and Latvian people with disabilities Cooperation Organization “SUSTENTO”).</p> <p>During the law promotion process there was a conflict between lawmakers and non-governmental organizations, which was resolved through the adoption of common decisions.</p> <p>The Latvian PA Law is only partially consistent with the ENIL and IL principles, as the current PA Law does not cover several disability groups. The main criteria is gathered through the evaluation of how many hours a person needs assistance per week, and this only for certain disability groups. This helps very little the process of inclusion and integration in society.</p>
Type of legislation	Employment and social policy , came in to force 01.01.2013
Administrator of PA services	Local municipality
Funder of services	State gives money to Local municipality
Disabilities covered	Adult people with I -blind and visual impairment, mobility impairment or mental/learning impairment II -severe mental impairment Children with impairment from 5 – 18 year old.
Amount of hours per day/week possible	Up to 40 hours per week
Assessment of needs: tool and how often	Adults are assessed on the basis of the opinion of the health and work state commission on the need for assistance. Children from 5 – 18 years old are assessed on the basis of the opinion of the health and work state commission on their need for special care due to severe functional impairment
Hourly rate funded	1,20 LVL (1,70 EUR) per hour paid to the PA chosen through the municipality or someone suggested by the individual in need.
Age requirement	Adults. Children from 5 – 18 year old.
Total of Registered Users in the country	Approximately 100 000 people with disabilities may be affected by the law. But the government statistics show that PA services are provided to 540 children attending school and 1100 disabled adults from I group and 854 disabled adults from the II group. Statistics include only socially active disabled people.