

# **Strategic and Policy Objectives in Latvia Higher Education**

## **- Context for Higher Education Funding Reform**

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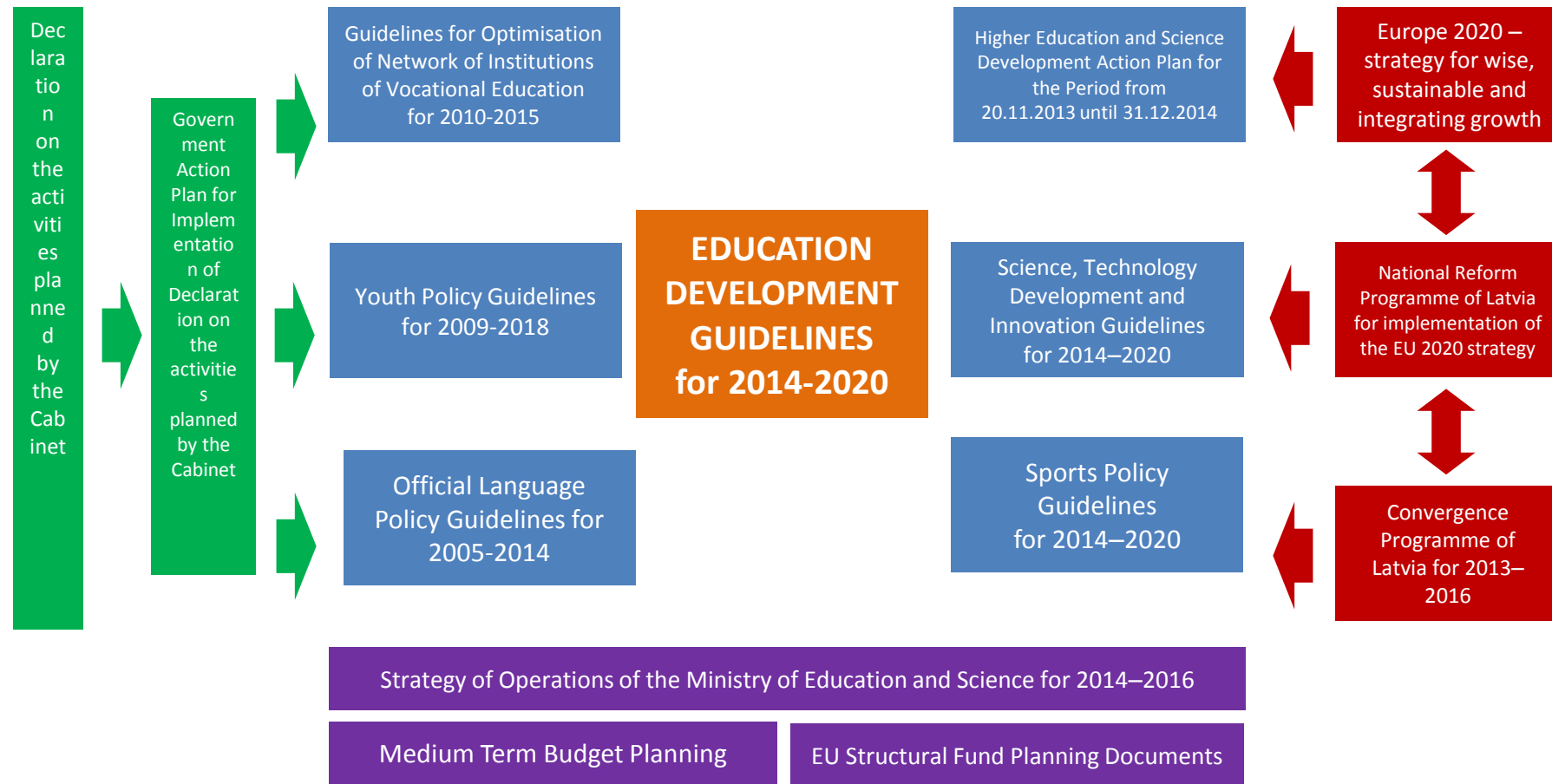
**Ministry of Education and Science**

# Policy Planning Documents

Long-term conceptual document “The Model for Growth of Latvia: Human Being in the First Place”

Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030

National Development Plan for 2014–2020



# Main Policy Planning Documents and Projects for Higher Education

- **Declaration of the Intended Activities of the Cabinet of Ministers** stating the Government's priorities and policy measures until the parliamentary elections in October, 2014.
- **Guidelines for the Development of Education 2014 – 2020** defining the mid-term policy directions and targets in education as a whole.
- **Action Plan for the Development of Higher Education and Science** (for the Period of November 1, 2013 – December 31, 2014) stating the short-term policy measures and results in higher education and science.

# Goals stated in Guidelines for the Development of Education 2014 – 2020

(project approved by the CoM on January 7, 2014)

1. To increase the quality of education environment by **improvement of contents and development of appropriate infrastructure.**
2. To facilitate **development of individual's professional and social skills** for life and competitiveness in the work environment.
3. To improve the **efficiency of resource management** through the development of institutional excellence of education institutions.

# Goal and Policy Directions stated in Action Plan for the Development of Higher Education and Science

- **Goal:** To ensure high-quality, internationally competitive and science-based higher education carried out by efficiently managed institutions with consolidated resources.

## **Policy Directions:**

1. Improvement of **quality of studies and research activity.**
2. **Efficient use of the resources** of higher education and R&D sector and their integration.
3. Internationalization and **increase of international competitiveness** of higher education and research.

# GDE 1.1: Improvement of Education Contents focused on Competences required by Knowledge Society and Facilitating Creativity, Innovative and Healthy Lifestyle

Policy result	Performance indicator	Base value (year)	2017	2020
Restructured state support to HE and science sectors (study directions) according to medium-term labour market forecasts	Proportion of study places financed by the state budget in STEM (%) of the total number of study places financed by the state budget	44% (2013)	50%	55%
	Proportion of students in the 1 <sup>st</sup> level professional higher education programmes (college level programmes) (%)	18% (2013)	21%	24%
Ensured education process according to the changing requirements of labour market	Level of unemployment of graduates (Bachelors, Masters and Doctors) 18 months after graduation, as a percentage of the level of unemployment of graduates of all education institutions	7,5% (2013)	6,5%	5,2%
	Proportion of graduates (ISCED-5/6) in the STEM areas of the total number of graduates (%)	19% 4028 (2012)	25%	27%

## GDE 1.2: Increase of the Motivation and Professional Capacity of Teachers and Academic Staff

Policy result	Performance indicator	Base value (year)	2017	2020
Improved professional competence of teachers and academic staff according to modern education requirements	Proportion of academic staff (excluding colleges) with a doctoral degree (%)	54% (2012)	60%	65%
Increased capacity of human resources in education	Proportion of the number of foreign teaching staff at the ISCED 5-6 level of the total number of academic staff (%)	0,5% (2012)	5%	7%
Increased professional competitiveness of academic staff	Age structure of academic staff (proportion of those of 30-49 of age (% of the total academic staff))	45% (2012. /2013.)	50%	55%
	Proportion of academic staff having obtained a doctoral degree (%) of the total number of those having a degree or qualification	1% (2012. /2013.)	2%	3%
	The proportion of the lowest salary level of professors of institutions of higher education to the amount of average monthly work remuneration of employees in the country during the year before last, published in the official statistical report of the CBS, multiplied by a certain coefficient	1,5 (2012)	2,5	2,8

## GDE 1.3: Ensuring Education Environment and Education Process Compliant with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Policy result	Performance indicator	Base value (year)	2017	2020
Improved infrastructure of institutions of higher education for the implementation of modern study process	Number of doctoral students in the joint doctoral study programmes	138 (2012)	200	405
	Increased number of students in the STEM programmes of the first level vocational higher education in colleges	5270 (2012)	5480	6060
	Proportion of institutions of higher education (%) of the total number, where the equipment and technical infrastructure have been modernised using EFRD funds	45% (31 December 2012)	10%	50%

## GDE 3.1: Improvement of the Monitoring System of Education Quality

Policy result	Performance indicator	Base value (year)	2017	2020
Improved state information systems	Established and maintained a unified database (study programme database, expert database, etc.) necessary for the assessment of external and internal quality of higher education	0 (2013)	1	1
	Established a system for monitoring the professional experience of graduates of institutions of higher education	0 (2013)	1	1
	Established unified higher education information system, which includes registers of academic and scientific staff, student, diploma registers, as well as the database required for accreditation	0 (2013)	0	1
Established national study quality assessment agency registered with EQAR	Established and maintained national agency for higher education quality assessment	0 (2013)	1	1

## GDE 3.2: Efficient Management of Education Financial Resources

Policy result	Performance indicator	Base value (year)	2017	2020
Increased investments of financial resources in education	Annual state expenditure for education as % of GDP	ISCED-0 0.8% ISCED-1 1.4% ISCED-2-4 1.9% ISCED-5-6 0.6% (2010)	3,7%	5%
Developed and implemented a new model for financing of higher education	Amendments to the technical regulation in the Law on Institutions of Higher Education and other regulatory enactments	-	1	1
	Sustainable model for financing higher education allowing to attain the goals of NDP 2020	-	1	1
Support to improvement of HEIs study direction management, including in colleges, and to establishment/development of the system for monitoring the introduction of efficient HEIs policy and ensuring education quality, which is aimed at the development of policy analysis capacity in HEIs and scientific institutions	Established and operating study direction councils	-	20	40

Policy result	Performance indicator	Base value (year)	2017	2020
Increased accessibility of education services	Higher education (percentage of the population aged 30 to 34 with higher education)	37,2% (2012)	38%	40%
Provided support for acquiring higher education to socially less protected groups of inhabitants, including scholarships and grants for covering tuition fee	Total number of recipients of financial aid.	-	1500	3000

## GDE 3.4: International Competitiveness of Education

Policy result	Performance indicator	Base value (year)	2017	2020
Ensured internationally competitive higher education environment	Proportion of foreign students (within the framework of mobility) of the total number of students (%)	0,8% 736/94474 (2012)	1,5%	2%
	Proportion of foreign students studying for obtaining a degree, qualification of the total number of students (%)	2,9% 2757/94474 (2012)	6%	8%
Ensured possibility to be involved in the internationally recognised accreditation of higher education	Number of study programmes that have acquired documents proving quality at international level (international accreditation)	n/a	10	20

## GDE 3.4: International Competitiveness of Education (continued)

Policy result	Performance indicator	Base value (year)	2017	2020
Attracted foreign students	Number of scholarships provided to foreign students, per annum	80 (2012)	150	150
Ensured professional perfection and international exchange of experience of teachers, academic staff, adult education personnel	Number of academic staff that have participated in the mobility activities	1035	1035	1345
Ensured international practice for learning and studies	Number of students of HEIs that have participated in the mobility activities	1960	1960	2548
	Proportion (%) of graduates of HEIs who have studied or have had internships abroad of the total number of graduates	13,7% (2012)	15%	20%

## Declaration of the Intended Activities of the Cabinet of Ministers, 2014

- Prepare proposals for development of a model for financing the higher education that would promote the development of the **state, accessibility** of higher education in regions of Latvia, its **eligibility** to the needs of the **labour market** and competitiveness at international level.
- Prevent duplication of programmes among HEIs within one region. **Motivate the regional HEIs** to participate in ensuring regional development. Develop the model of HEIs net, by implementing the principle of **strategic specialization** of the state HEIs.
- By preparing the budget 2015, assess **the real costs** to finance the study places.
- Continue work to develop **a single register of graduates.**

**Thank you!**