**Report**
**of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia**
**on the implementation of the Recommendation against Discrimination in Education**

With regard to the provisions of section I of the Recommendation against Discrimination in Education, Article 3 of Education Law of the Republic of Latvia states that every citizen of Latvia and a person who is entitled to the alien's passport issued by the Republic of Latvia, a person who has received a permanent residence permit, as well as citizens of the European Union countries who have received temporary residence permits, as well as their children shall be equally entitled to acquire education irrespective of his/her social or financial status, race, nationality, sex, membership in religious and political organizations, status of health, occupation and the place of residence.

In accordance with Article 27 of the European Council Directive 2004/83/EC Member States shall grant full access to the education system to all minors granted refugee or subsidiary protection status, under the same conditions as nationals, shall allow adults granted refugee or subsidiary protection status access to the general education system, further training or retraining, under the same conditions as third country nationals legally resident. In this regard the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia in August 9, 2005 issued the Regulations Nr 586 *On order in which education for minor children of refugees or minors granted refugee is provided.* It determines that the Republic of Latvia provides primary and secondary education for refugees, as well as access to learn their mother tongue on the level of primary education in line with the possibilities of the particular educational institution (section III of the Recommendation against Discrimination in Education).

In compliance with section V of the Recommendation against Discrimination in Education issues relating preservation of language and culture of national minorities through education are defined in Education Law of the Republic of Latvia. Article 38 states that one of the special types of education programs that could be run in educational institutions is programs of national minority education. These programs are elaborated by educational institutions including within a relevant content for acquisition of the particular ethnic identity. Education programs for national minorities are available in state, municipal and private educational institutions of Latvia.
The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia implementing education policy of national minorities is open for dialogue with community. In order to facilitate the exchange of different public opinions, encourage discussions, as well as promote the democratic inclusion of the education of national minorities into common educational system of Latvia the Advisory Council on National Minority Educational Issues was created in 2001. The task of the Council is to asses the process of the implementation of programs of national minority education, to work out recommendations for possible improvement and further development of education policy of national minorities and to analyze the reached results.

It is important to emphasize that according to the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia Chapter VIII (adopted in October 15, 1998) it is strictly determined that fundamental human rights should be realized without discrimination of any kind. In particular, under the provisions of Article 112 of the Constitution everyone has the right to education. The State shall ensure that everyone may acquire primary and secondary education without charge. Article 114 of the Constitution sates that persons belonging to ethnic minorities have the right to preserve and develop their language and their ethnic and cultural identity.