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Project target group:

- Asylum seekers;
- Latvian society;
- Personnel, who works with asylum seekers;
- Municipalities, state institutions, nongovernmental organizations.



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ASYLUM SEEKERS SUPPORT SYSTEM



EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INITIATIVE
EQUAL PROJECT «STEP BY STEP»

ASYLUM SEEKER

is a person who has arrived in the country,
in order to get the international protection
in order to escape from:

- persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group;
- death penalty, torture or inhuman, degrading treatment;
- threats of violence caused by international or internal armed conflict.

Asylum seekers in Latvia live very secluded life. Language barrier, different culture, religious traditions, other skin colour, lack of knowledge about local traditions and social customs and society attitude hinder those persons to integrate in social life. Latvia has established asylum seekers reception system what still needs improvements.

Project «Step by step» continues formation of asylum seekers support system by elaborating asylum seekers integration system in social and professional life of Latvian society as well as contributes rising of public knowledge about asylum seekers. Project activities take place in Liepaja and Riga in time frame from April 2005 till December 2007.

PROJECT IS IMPLEMENTED BY:



MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
OFFICE OF CITIZENSHIP AND MIGRATION AFFAIRS

Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia

- Harmonization of legislation with EU legal acts in the field of asylum; evaluation of the national legislation;
- Elaboration of training strategy for personnel who works with asylum seekers and implementation of the strategy;
- Active involvement of Latvian state institutions, municipalities and nongovernmental organizations on international level on asylum issues.

International Organization for Migration



- Identifies and analyses problems which hinder asylum seekers' integration in Latvian society and labour market;
- Informs society about asylum issues;
- Instructs state, municipal and non governmental institutions about specifics in work with asylum seekers.

Liepaja District Council

- Forms working groups which elaborate professional and social integration model of asylum seekers;
- Tests Skill audit;
- Organizes educational youth integration camps in Liepaja district;
- In cooperation with competent experts:
 - Elaborates course for students of Pedagogical Academy of Liepaja «Latvian language as foreign language»;
 - Adapts and implements course for students of Pedagogical Academy of Liepaja «Social work with asylum seekers and refugees».

Latvian Red Cross



- By formation of the Consultative Board on Asylum Issues, develops cooperation network among nongovernmental organizations, state institutions and municipalities on asylum issues.

Establishment «Caritas Latvija»



- Adapts for Latvia situation Skill audit, used in other European Union states;
- Elaborates proposals for utilization of Skill audit method;
- Distributes Skill audit method.