



LABOUR MARKET INTELLIGENCE SOURCES

Country fiche - LATVIA

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Innovating the use of Labour Market Intelligence
within European Universities - LMI-EUniv



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CEDEFOP	European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training
EU	European Union
HEI	Higher Education Institution
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IO	Intellectual Output
LISER	Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research
LMI	Labour Market Intelligence
LMI-EUniv	Innovating the use of Labour Market Intelligence within European Universities
LMO	Labour Market Observatory
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OJA	Online Job Advertisement
OVATE	Skills Online Vacancy Analysis Tool for Europe (Skills OVATE)
PES	Public Employment Service
TU	Tallinn University
WUT	West University of Timisoara

BACKGROUND

LMI-EUniv project

“Innovating the use of Labour Market Intelligence within European Universities - LMI-EUniv”, the project was the subject of a successful application to Key Action 2 - Cooperation among organisations and institutions - of the Erasmus+ programme.

Consortium

The consortium is composed of West University of Timisoara (project leader), University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy), University of Tallinn (Estonia), Prospektiker - (Spain) and Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (Luxembourg).

Aims

The primary focus of the project is to understand how are European Universities using labour market information and labour market intelligence in the planning and delivery of their provision and how can this be improved. Therefore, the project aims to help HEI to develop appropriate skills and competencies through better matching of education supply to demand through innovative learning and teaching practices.

Objectives

The LMI-EUniv project has three main objectives: (1) to map essential LMI sources at national level, (2) to explore how HEI in Europe are using LMI, and (3) to produce a training course, guide and a Labour Market Intelligence Hub. This will be an online platform, aggregating LMI sources and information, and aims to become a reference point for all HEI.

INTRODUCTION

This country fiche provides information concerning the essential LMI sources at national level with a particular focus on LMI sources used by HEI. It was developed within the Intellectual Output 1 of the LMI-EUniv project - Mapping essential LMI sources at national level. The role of the country fiches is to systemize information related to LMI sources and gather them into a LMI Hub. The country fiches will form the basis for the Data (Evidence) Report and in turn, will inform the production of the Final Report.

During the inception phase of the project, we have noticed the existence of a large number of LMI sources but also a lack of information about them. We consider that having access to a single point of information with LMI sources will enable HEI to better use this for their activities. Thus, this research represents the first step in this direction through mapping the LMI sources at the European level.

We believe that this study is the first of its kind focused on LMI sources across Europe and is in itself a considerable innovation. Through this activity, we are seeking to influence how universities in Europe view, analyse, utilise and produce their own LMI to aid with their decision-making. Further, we aim to make this available to help stakeholders such as policymakers in national and regional governments, employers, and regional development agencies to be better able to bring their demand-side knowledge to support universities and ensure higher education supply fits to current and future labour market need.

The Final Report Recommendations given the project's geographical coverage and the pressing need for action on using labour market intelligence should have considerable transferability potential.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Demography

On the 1st of January 2022, Latvia had a population of 1,893,223 inhabitants, being one of the countries with the smallest population in the European Union. In the 2021, 17,420 children were born in Latvia. The number of births have remained relatively stable in last 10 years. The birth rate was rated at 1.57 in 2021, which is below the replacement rate of 2.1.

The number of births has decreased by nearly 5,000 births in the last 5 years. However, the number of deaths has increased by more than 6,000 people at the same time. In 2021, 34,600 people died. More people emigrate from Latvia than settle there. Thus, the migration balance has been negative, but it can still be pointed out as a positive development that if in 2016 more than 10,000 people migrated out of the country, then in 2021 the migration balance was on the negative side with only 286 people. However, population developments in Latvia have led to the fact that the population has decreased since 1990. In 1990, 2,670,000 people lived in Latvia. The population decline was especially rapid in the first half of the 1990s due to emigration and the reduced number of births, but also in 2009 and 2010, and then emigration was the main reason. The share of Latvians in the population has increased slightly and in 2021 it made up 62.4% of the population. Population aging has continued in recent years. The share of people aged up to 14 and 15-64 has decreased, and the share of people older than 65 has increased. At the beginning of 2022, young people up to 14 years of age made up 16%, 15-64 years old 63%, and 65 years and older 21% of the population.

Labour market

The gross domestic product per person in Latvia was 72% of the average of the European Union, which means that it lags significantly behind richer countries in terms of wealth. The rate of economic activity in the age group 15-74 increased in Latvia until 2020 and reached 69.9%. In 2021, the employment rate was 67.7%, which meant a drop in the rate to the 2015 level. The employment rate also fell to the level of 2017. In 2021, the employment rate was 62.5%. The unemployment rate fell practically every year after the economic crisis and reached 6.3% by 2019. In 2021, however, it was somewhat higher - 7.6% in age group 15-74

In 2021 and in age group 20-24 the activity rate was 61%, employment rate 53% and unemployment rate 13%. In age group 25-64 the activity rate was 83%, employment rate 77% and unemployment rate 7%.

According to the occupational distribution, white and blue-collar workers were fairly equal. Most among white-collar workers were employed as a professionals and among blue-collar service workers. The largest number of employees were in industry, wholesale and retail trade, and in the public sector, including education.

Higher education market

In Latvia, the share of tertiary students (Isced 5-8) among the 20-24 years was 41% in 2020. The higher education system in Latvia is similar with the rest of EU through the Bologna Process where degrees are divided into three levels: basic level, advanced level and doctoral level. In some study fields such as medicine, pharmacy, dentistry and veterinary medicine, long studies are still provided.

Higher education is provided as academic and professional programmes in two types of institutions: non-university (up to Masters's degree) and university (up to Doctoral degree) *augstskola*. Most higher education institutions run both academic and professional programmes. Short-cycle professional higher education programmes are offered also by *koledža*. In 2021 there was 29 higher educational institutions and 24 colleges in Latvia. Most known and biggest are University of Latvia, Riga Technical University, Ventspils University, Latvian University of Agriculture and Riga Stradins University. In 2021, a total of 77,376 students studied. Most of them attended studies in social sciences, business and law (26,106), followed by health care and social welfare (13,493) and engineering, manufacturing and construction (11,112).

LMI SOURCES AT NATIONAL LEVEL

LMI providers

LMI comprises any information and knowledge about labour market dynamics. It covers topics such as labour demand and supply, unemployment, employment and earnings, emergence of new occupations, new skills required on labour market, post-graduate path, career expectations, etc.

List of potential providers:

- National institute of statistics
- Public employment service
- Social security
- Ministry of labour
- Ministry of education
- Employer organizations, employees organizations (Chamber of employees), trade unions and professional associations
- Academic and research institute
- Private and public centres of lifelong learning
- Private providers (e.g. job portal, Inomics, AKADEUS ...)

In the following section, there is a brief description of the Latvian LMI sources. A more detailed description of what LMI information source provides can be seen in the form in the Appendix (Table 1).

Statistics Latvia

The CSB is a direct administration body subordinated to the Ministry of Economics, and acting as the main performer and coordinator of the official statistical work in the country. The CSB is responsible for organisation of the statistical work and authenticity of the data it has produced by summarising the information obtained from respondents.

Ministry of Welfare

The Ministry of Welfare is the leading state administrative institution in the field of labor, social protection, children's and family rights, as well as equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and gender equality.

State Employment Agency of Latvia

The mission of the State Employment Agency is to promote employment opportunities for the unemployed and jobseekers and to help employers find the necessary employees. Agency offers services for the unemployed, for job seekers, persons at risk of unemployment, employers. One of their objective is cooperation with employment service providers and other cooperation partners.

Ministry of Economics

The Ministry of Economy is the leading state administrative institution in the field of economic policy. The Ministry develops and implements the structural policy of the national economy , industrial policy, construction policy, energy policy, tourism policy, external economic policy, internal market policy (for goods and services), business development policy, investment policy, consumer rights protection policy and other policies in the areas defined by regulatory acts.

Latvijas Banka

Latvijas Banka is Latvian Central Bank and member of Eurosystem with other central banks. It is responsible for reliable financial system. From cash circulation and convenient payment infrastructure to effective supervision of the financial sector, the Bank of Latvia is the backbone of the financial system. In cooperation with other central banks of the Eurosystem, Latvijas Banka decide on the development policy of Latvian currency - the euro. Latvijas Banka is also the provider of statistics and analysis.

Ministry of Education and Science

The Ministry of Education and Science is the leading state administrative institution in the field of education, science and sports, as well as in the field of youth and national language policy.

Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Finance is the leading state administrative institution in the financial sector. The Ministry creates the state's tax policy, develops the annual state budget, manages the structural funds of the European Union, as well as monitors the country's macroeconomic development.

Assessing the sources of LMI at national level

Once the sources of LMI have been identified, their quality is needed to be assessed. There are many organisations that produce LMI but only through a standardized evaluation process they can be considered as being qualitative. The quality of LMI sources is sustained by their representativeness, validity and reliability.

The **Table 1** below contains a list of LMI sources identified at national level and their rating in accordance with LMI-EUniv methodology.

Table 1: LMI Sources at national level

[SEE THE LMI SOURCES HERE](#)

REFERENCES

Statistics Latvia, URL: <https://stat.gov.lv/> [Accessed March 2023]

Ministry of Welfare, URL: <https://www.lm.gov.lv/> [Accessed March 2023]

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