ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES FOR RUSSIAN MINORITY IN RIGA

Part I. Context and background

Introduction

Latvian Republic is ethnically and linguistically heterogeneous state. Latvia has about 2,380,000 inhabitants, and minorities constitute more than 42% of population (about 1,010,000 inhabitants). Ethnic Russians constitute about 30% of population, while Russian linguistic minority is bigger: Russian-speakers are about 40% of population. It is necessary to note, that both number and percentage of minorities, as well as number of Latvians, have decreased since 1991, while percentage of Latvians has increased:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latvians</td>
<td>1,387,000</td>
<td>1,385,000</td>
<td>1,372,000</td>
<td>1,370,000</td>
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<td>%</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td>55.3</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minorities</td>
<td>1,280,000</td>
<td>1,145,000</td>
<td>1,108,000</td>
<td>1,010,000</td>
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<td>%</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>45.2</td>
<td>44.7</td>
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<td>incl. Russians</td>
<td>905,000</td>
<td>830,000</td>
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<td>32.8</td>
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Some issues related to participation in public life and access to public services are important for Russian minority. But first, it is should be taken into account that issues for Russian minority are not necessary the same for other minorities. Minority groups sometimes have different issues or different attitude towards common issues. For instance, in education the reduction of education through the medium of Russian is very important for Russians, while the absence of education or possible ways to establish education through the medium of their languages are important for other minorities. Concerning statelessness the attitude of Roma, who have only about 8% stateless persons, Russians, who have about 57% stateless persons, and Tatars, who have about 93% stateless persons, obviously is different.

The main issue for Russian minority is a mass statelessness among ethnic Russians and Russian-speakers (and other minorities) in Latvia. After Latvia restored its independence about one third of citizens of Latvian SSR became stateless, as citizenship of Latvian Republic was also “restored” for persons, who were citizens of Latvia before 1940, and their descendants. In 1995 Latvian authorities officially recognised them as Aliens of Latvia, but did not recognised them as stateless persons, despite Aliens of Latvia are not citizens of any state. Now Aliens are about 25% of Latvian population. More than 99% of Aliens of Latvia are persons belonging to minorities. Russians constitute about 67% of Aliens, while 57% of Russians are Aliens of Latvia. Aliens constitute about 32% of population in Daugavpils, 33% in Jelgava, 32% in Jurmala, 39% in Liepaja, 13% in Rezekne, 37% in Ventspils. Aliens of Latvia can not participate in any (parliament and local) elections, can not work in certain jobs, can not travel without visas to the states, where citizens of Latvia can, etc.

The usage and knowledge of languages is another main issue. From one hand, there are still problems with knowledge of the Latvian language among Russian-speakers. In 1991 about 21% of Russians spoke Latvian, and in 2001 more than 55% of Russian spoke Latvian well. From another hand, there is no official usage of minority languages even in areas, where minorities are in substantial numbers. According to legislation it is impossible to apply to or to receive information in minority languages from any governmental body.

These issues create indirect discrimination against persons belonging to Russian minority on the grounds of national origin and language. This leads to other social, political and economical problems. For instance, the under-representation in governmental bodies and higher level of unemployment are other important issues concerning public participation and access to public services for Russian minority. For instance, Russians are about 30% of population and about 17% of citizens of Latvia, while in the beginning of 2000 only 9% of MPs were ethnic Russians. The percentage of Russians among unemployed persons (38% in 1994) is higher than their percentage in population (33% in 1994).

In this way basic special needs of Russian minority are: obtaining Latvian citizenship, learning the Latvian language, official usage of the Russian language in areas, where Russians are in substantial number.
Legal and Institutional Environment

As I stated before, Latvia is ethnically and linguistically heterogeneous state, where ethnic minorities constitute more than 42% of population\textsuperscript{9}. However there is no comprehensive legislation related to minority rights protection in Latvia. General anti-discrimination legislation is absent, and some single anti-discrimination provisions are dispersed among other documents.

The Constitution of Latvia (\textit{Satversme}) mentions minorities only once in the Article 114 (was added in 1998), which provides that “persons belonging to minorities have the right to preserve and develop their language and their ethnic and cultural identity”. The Article 91 (was added in 1998) declares that “all human beings in Latvia shall be equal before the law and the courts. Human rights shall be realised without discrimination of any kind”\textsuperscript{10}.

The Law on Unrestricted Development of National and Ethnic Groups of Latvia and the Right to Cultural Autonomy (passed in 1991) has purely declarative nature. It contains no concrete mechanisms for the implementation of declared principles and goals. Concerning anti-discrimination the Article 3 of the law states that “any direct or indirect actions to restrict, depending on ethnicity, the opportunities of permanent residents to choose their profession or to hold a position according to their abilities and qualification, are prohibited”\textsuperscript{11}.

The Article 78 of the Criminal Code provides punishment for “conscious direct or indirect restriction of person’s economic, political or social rights or creation of indirect advantages on the grounds of person’s racial or national belonging”\textsuperscript{12}.

Some other laws relate to minority issues in Latvia. The Law on the State Language (passed in 1999) recognises only one minority language (Liv) and considers all other languages to be “foreign” (i.e. Russian, Belarusian, Polish, Ukrainian, Lithuanian and others)\textsuperscript{13}. Meanwhile there are less than 200 Liv-speakers and about 950,000 Russian-speakers in Latvia\textsuperscript{14}. The law considers the Latvian language to be the only state language and explicitly prohibits all governmental (national and local) bodies from usage of any language other than Latvian. The law does not provide usage of minority or “foreign” languages even in areas, where persons belonging to linguistic minorities (with minority or “foreign” mother tongues) are sufficiently representative or form a majority of population\textsuperscript{15}.

The Law on Education (passed in 1998) provides reduction of the public secondary and professional minority education since 2004 in fact, as it will be allowed to have not more than 25% of subjects through the medium of minority languages. Furthermore, according to the law private minority schools are also in unfavourable position, as public funding may only be allocated to those private schools where “state accredited education programs in the state language are implemented”\textsuperscript{16}.

The Law on Radio and Television obliges broadcasters to conduct TV and radio programs predominantly in the state language. One of the two public TV-channels must broadcast only in the state language, while the second channel can broadcast up to 20% of time in other languages. In 1998 the law was amended, and the total permitted airtime in non-Latvian languages for private radio and television broadcasts was reduced from 30% to 25%\textsuperscript{17}.

Latvia has signed and ratified such international and regional human rights instruments as the \textit{International Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination}, the \textit{International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights}, the \textit{International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights}, the \textit{Convention against Discrimination in Education}, the \textit{Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness}, the \textit{European Convention of Human Rights}. However international and regional proper minority rights instruments do not influence Latvian legislation considerably. Latvia signed the \textit{Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities} in 1995, but has not ratified it yet. Ruling coalition MPs, taking into account “special demographic situation”, state that Latvian legislation already guarantees equal right to all ethnic groups living in the state\textsuperscript{18}. Latvia did not sign the \textit{European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages}, while more than 40% of population speak other languages than Latvian, as well as very important in case of Latvia the \textit{European Convention on Nationality}, taking into account that more than 25% of population are stateless persons or foreign citizens.

Some governmental bodies currently deal with minorities and human rights (in particular minority rights) protection. The \textit{National Human Rights Bureau} was established in 1995 as an ombudsman-type institution\textsuperscript{19}. Originally the bureau had special employee, who dealt with minority rights protection, but then this appointment was abolished due to the very small number of complaints concerning minority rights violation\textsuperscript{20}.

The \textit{Naturalisation Board} was established in 1994\textsuperscript{21}. It deals with issues concerning citizenship and naturalisation. From one hand, the activity of the board is very important for minorities as more than a half of minorities do not have Latvian citizenship\textsuperscript{22}. From another hand, since 2000 the board
includes the **National Minorities Affairs Section** (since 1991 the National Minorities Department, since 1993 National Affairs Department of the Justice Ministry). The aims of the section are to assist national minorities and minority NGOs, co-ordinate their activities and contacts with governmental institutions, provide financial support for minority NGOs. The **Naturalisation Board** has been involved in the development of the **National Program on the Integration of Society** since 1999.

The President’s Minority Advisory Council was established in 1996. But unclear legal status, a lack of executive power, and an absence of clearly defined decision-making procedures paralysed its activity. Besides, the council has not operated since the inauguration of the president Vaira Vike-Freiberga in 1999.

There are some major governmental initiatives to promote inclusion of minorities within such legal and institutional frameworks. Thus the Cabinet of Ministers, Latvian government, approved two national programmes in order to promote integration of minorities.

The **National Programme for Latvian Language Training** was approved in 1995. It focuses on teaching Latvian to minority schools’ teachers (to enable them to teach minority pupils through the medium of Latvian), as well as to all adults, on development of study materials, on promoting Latvian in the media, etc.

The **National Programme on the Integration of Society** was worked out in 1999. Its aims are to integrate minorities into the Latvian society. A lot of representatives of minority NGOs criticised the programme as in whole as in its different parts because of the lack of consultation with minorities, uncertain use of the term “integration”, unequal approach to interests of minorities and majority, discrepancy with international minority rights instruments. Nevertheless, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the programme with some revisions in 1999 and established the **Societal Integration Department within the Ministry of Justice** in order to implement the programme.

**Public Service Provision**

Latvian legislation recognises the division of powers between the national and local governments. In the early 90s several laws concerning local governance were adopted, such as the **Law on Urban Local Governments** (1991) or the **Law on Local Government in the Capital Riga** (1992). In 1994 the government of Latvia approved the **Law on Local Governments** (with several amendments in 1995-2001), which replaced previous legislation on local governance. The law determines types of local governmental bodies, areas of their competence, rights and duties of local bodies, principles of co-operation with the Government, etc. It gives a list of permanent spheres of activity of local bodies: to care of child, allowance for large families, etc. The law determines conditions of granting and sums of allowances. For example, the allowance on care of child is 6.10 Ls since 1999 (4.25 Ls before). In order to receive allowance a child must be under 15 years old. If a person is older and up to 21 years old, it is necessary to have a reference from a place of studying and a reference that person is unmarried. The distribution of allowances accomplishes through the district branches of the **State Agency of Social Insurance**. The social allowances, provided by the law, are extended to all permanent
residents, both Citizens and Aliens of Latvia. The law contains no limits on the base of ethnicity or race.

Role of local governments to provide public services is important. Local governments are responsible for providing social assistance benefits, home care for people who are not able to take care of themselves, social rehabilitation for risk groups, etc. Local governments can establish social allowances additional to state provided. From one hand, the structure of a local government’s social benefits payments reflects the social priorities in a municipality and urgent needs of its residents. From another hand, local governments are on different levels of economical development, what is reflected on different list and sums of social allowances in different municipalities. It creates necessity for local governments to inform residents about public services provided. However not all local governments are active in this way.

Part 2. City Study

Local Context

Riga is the capital of Latvia. It is situated in the central Latvia on the banks of the River Daugava near the Riga Gulf. Riga is a political, economical, financial, transport, cultural and educational center of Latvia. Economical situation in Riga is much favourable than is whole Latvia. For example, Riga has the biggest number of Active Enterprises in Latvia – 38 per 1000 inhabitants (1997). About 54% of the most economically active enterprises are situated in Riga. In Latvia the highest Industrial Production level is in Riga (1,186 lats per capita, 1997). In 1997 the unemployment rate in Riga was about 2.9%, while the figure for Latvia was about 7% (and it was about 18.5% in Rezekne and 25.8% in Rezeknes rajons). Riga is the biggest city in Latvia. It is a center of Riga agglomeration, which has about 1,000,000 inhabitants, while proper Riga has more than 760,000 inhabitants (almost one third of Latvian population). Minorities are more than 61% of population. They are mostly Aliens of Latvia. Some of them are foreign citizens. Russians are more than 47% of population of Riga and form a relative majority. Meanwhile Russian-speakers are more than 55% and form an absolute majority in Riga. Riga actually is a center for Russian minority as more than a half of Russians live there. Since 1991 number of Latvians and minorities is decreasing in Riga, while percentage of Latvians and minorities has not changed a lot.

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<th>Ethnic composition of Riga</th>
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<td>Latvians</td>
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<td>Latvians</td>
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<td>36.5 %</td>
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<td>314,500</td>
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<td>38.5 %</td>
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<td>38.7 %</td>
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<td>309,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>38.8 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minorities</td>
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<td>Minorities</td>
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<tr>
<td>578,600</td>
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<td>63.5 %</td>
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<td>501,400</td>
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<td>61.5 %</td>
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<td>494,100</td>
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<td>61.3 %</td>
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<td>487,700</td>
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<td>incl. Russians</td>
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<td>incl. Russians</td>
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<td>430,500</td>
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<td>375,900</td>
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The Riga City Council is the local governmental body. It has 60 members, who are elected by permanent residents (Latvian Citizens only) of Riga. The head of the Riga City Council is a Chairman, elected by Council’s members. Riga City Councils includes some Commissions (for instance, Electoral Commission) and Committees (such as Financial Committee or Committee on Communication and Transport Affairs). Committees control work of corresponding departments. Thus, Environmental Committee controls work of Environmental Department. Riga consists of 6 districts: 3 rajoni (Centra, Kurzemes, Ziemelu), districts, and 3 priekspilsetas (Latgales, Vidzemes, Zemgales), suburbs, (the difference between terms is historical and does not connected with functioning). Each district has its Executive Director, elected by the Council’s members.

There is no special body dealing with minorities in Riga. However some Committees deals with minorities as well. The Committee on Social Affairs (controls Welfare Department) deals with social protection of residents, including persons belonging to minorities. One of the general tasks of the Committee on Cultural, Art and Religion Affairs (controls Cultural Department) is to co-operate with national cultural societies, including minority NGOs. Moreover, the Committee on Educational and Youth Affairs and on Sport (controls Riga Schools Board and Riga Center of Children Rights Protection) deals with minority schools in Riga.
The municipal budget of Riga is 164,750,259 Ls in 2001. It foresees 6,082,108 Ls (3.7%) for Cultural Department and 10,375,552 Ls (6.3%) for Welfare department. Riga Schools Board will receive 56,230,535 (34.1%) Ls. Meanwhile the budget of Riga does not give an idea of which funds it provides for support of minority cultural activities, minority schools, etc. The municipal budget of Riga also foresees financial support for different programmes. For instance, funds were provided for celebration of the 800 anniversary of Riga (2,733,404 Ls), support of the International regatta (11,400 Ls), organisation of the “Arsenals” film festival (5,000 Ls). Meanwhile no financing was provided for programmes for promotion minority participation and integration, protection of minority rights or elimination of discrimination on the local level.

The main issues related to access to public services for Russian minority in Riga are generally determined by state policy and legislation and are the same as in whole Latvia: mass statelessness and usage and knowledge of languages.

About 37.8% of population of Riga (about 287,000 inhabitants) are Aliens of Latvia. Percentage of Aliens of Latvia is almost the same in 5 districts (from 34.4% in Vidzemes district till 42.4% in Kurzemes district), while they are 25% of residents in Centra district. As a result up to 60% of persons belonging to minorities can not participate in local elections and directly influence the policy of the Riga City Council. Meanwhile Aliens of Latvia pay the same taxes as Citizens of Latvia.

According to Latvian legislation Russian is not officially used in Riga. Topographical indicators are in Latvian only. It is still possible to see bilingual topographical indicators of the Soviet times, where Russian inscriptions are effaced, painted over, and only Latvian inscriptions are left visible. It is impossible officially to apply to or to receive information in Russian from local bodies. Meanwhile, usually it is possible to communicate with functionaries orally in Russian. However a lot of young functionaries speak Russian badly or do not speak it at all, as Russian is not taught in schools with Latvian language of instruction since 1991.

Russian-speakers are under-represented in the Riga City Council. There are about 14 (or 23%) Russian-speakers among members of the Riga City Council, while Russian-speakers are more than 55% of Riga populations. The percentage of Russians among unemployed persons in Riga (57.5% in 1994, 51.7% in 1996, 51.7% in 1998) is higher than their percentage among population.

Furthermore, it is also necessary to note that image of Russians as “non-indigenous people”, “occupants”, “colonists”, “aliens” was cultivated in Latvian society in the late 80s – early 90s. Still some Latvian media freely publish nationalistic materials insulting for minorities.

Unfavourable for minorities national legislation, existing indirect discrimination and expulsion from political life, strengthened by such ideas, create a sense of estrangement from political and social activity among persons belonging to Russian minority. Lots of Russians do not trust Latvian authorities, both national and local.

On 11 March 2001 the local elections were in Riga. During elections campaign most of political parties used the Russian language. Although only 2 (from 17) parties stated in their programmes that they would promote minority schools and official usage of the Russian language. Some initiatives towards promotion inclusion of minorities into the social and political life were announced additionally. Thus, Mr. Dolgopolovs, leading candidate from political union “For Human Rights in Indivisible Latvia”, announced an initiative to establish special Committee on Non-Citizens Affairs in Riga in order to promote participation among Aliens of Latvia and encourage them to go for naturalisation. Tacking into account that most of politicians in the Riga City Councils do not support official usage of the Russian language, politicians from the union “For Human Rights in Indivisible Latvia” also suggested establishing the consultative legal service in Russian within the Riga City Council. The question of necessity to allow Aliens of Latvia participate in local elections also was repeatedly arisen.

By the middle of April there were “post-election” series of political negotiations between parties, successful in elections, process of creation ruling majority, as no one party received absolute majority of votes, and distribution of positions among new members of the Riga City Council. So, now it is too early to say, what will be changed in policy towards minorities, and which initiatives will come true.

Characteristics of service delivery

In 2000 the Riga City Council approved Riga City Council’s Rules on Social Allowances. It provides social allowances additional to state provided. They are: basic allowance, housing allowance, funeral allowance, family allowance and transport allowance. The rules determine procedure, conditions for receiving allowances, sums of allowances. The rules focus on level of income: main groups of residents, which can receive allowances, are single pensioners, disabled persons, large
families, etc. The criteria for receiving allowances do not contain any provisions, which discriminate against persons on the ground of racial, ethnic or linguistic belonging.

The distribution of the social allowances is accomplished through the District Social Assistance Services, working under the Welfare Department of the Riga City Council. The reasons, why it can be denied to grant an allowance, are absence of necessary documents, false data, refuse of an applicant to take part in improvement of its social conditions. Human Rights NGOs do not have any record of facts, when social allowances were denied because of ethnicity or nationality of an applicant. For instance, according to data of the Latvian Human Rights Committee, reasons of denying are predominantly connected with absence of necessary documents. Despite all papers must be in Latvian, usually it is possible to communicate orally with a functionary in Russian. However absence of official information in Russian and official usage of Russian is a barrier for a lot of persons belonging to minorities. For example, concerning social allowances people usually visit the Latvian Human Right Committee for consultation on very simple questions, which they actually could discuss within local bodies, or just to ask for translation of necessary papers.

Meanwhile local authorities of Riga started to publish information in Russian as well. In 2000 Welfare Department of the Riga City Council published some leaflets about its work and Riga City Council’s Rules on Social Allowances. The leaflets were in Latvian, in Russian and bilingual in Latvian and Russian. It gave a general idea about social allowances in Riga and contact information for more information. Russian texts of the leaflets contained a lot of grammar mistakes. For instance, Russian text (about 15 sentences) of the leaflet about Riga night asylum contained 7 grammar mistakes, including even in the title. Russian leaflet (about 35 sentences) about the basic and housing allowance contained 10 mistakes.

Representatives of Russian minority NGOs admit that there is no any direct discrimination against persons belonging to minorities for receiving social allowances. But being Aliens of Latvia majority of persons belonging to minorities can not vote and directly influence policy of the Riga City Council. Official Latvian unilingualism in predominantly Russian-speaking Riga does not encourage Russians to co-operate actively with local governments. Publishing of some basic materials about activity of the Riga local authorities in Russian is not enough, especially when those materials contain a lot of mistakes (furthermore Russian person can be punished for making such mistakes in Latvian text). Russian NGOs agree that Russian-speakers can usually communicate orally with functionaries in Russian. Meanwhile they note that for some Russians (especially pensioners) it is hard to collect or fill all necessary papers in Latvian.

**Patterns of Access**

Housing allowance is one of general social allowances in Riga according to the Riga City Council’s Rules on Social Allowances. For instance, in 2000 in Zemgales district about 7,000 persons received 266,800 Ls as housing allowance, what composed about 40% of all persons, received allowances, and 40% of all allowances sum. Welfare Department published some materials in Latvian and Russian in order to inform residents about this allowance.

Housing allowance is a pecuniary aid for rent payment, communal payment or fuel purchase. This allowance is monthly provided for a person (family) in order to provide a living wage for a person (family) after paying the rent and communal payment. The criteria are: incomes per person were not higher than 83.13 Ls for last three months, a person (family) does not have a property (except the house or flat where a person (family) lives), which costs more than 3,000 Ls, a person (family) do not have a bread-winner, who can support a person (family). Criteria do not mention ethnicity or mother tongue.

In order to prove that a person (family) needs to receive the allowance, a person (family) have to collect necessary papers (reference about income for last three months, reference from a State Job Placement Service about the status of unemployed, quits on rent payment, etc.) and apply to Social Inspector in a District Social Assistance Service, where an applicant fills a standard declaration on income and outlay of a person (family). All papers must be in Latvian.

The Social Commission of the Social Assistance Service examines an application. In order to receive additional information a Social Inspector can visit a person (family). If a Commission approves an application, Social Assistance Service transfers housing allowance directly to home manager or owner. After it a person (family) should declare income every 3 months (a pensioner – every 6 months).

Additionally a person (family) can apply for assistance in paying debts on rent and communal payments off, if they were made because of valid reasons (unemployment, lingering illness, etc.). If a Commission approves such application, it signs an agreement with an applicant, where a term of agreement and a sum, provided by the Social Assistance Service, are indicated.
Commission can deny granting an allowance, because of general grounds: absence of necessary documents, false data or refuse of an applicant to take part in improvement of its social conditions. Ethnicity and mother tongue are not taken into account in such question. If an application is denied, the applicant can apply to Welfare Department of the Riga City Council, which makes a final solution.

Part 3. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusion

Latvian national legislation, as well as documents on public services of the Riga City Council, does not contain provisions, discriminating against persons on the ground of ethnicity or race. Persons belonging to Russian minority pay the same taxes and access to the same public services as majority of population.

Meanwhile access to public services for persons belonging to Russian (and Russian-speaking) minority is made difficult because of indirect discrimination on the ground of national origin and language. More than a half of permanent residents belonging to minorities, as Aliens of Latvia, can not participate in local elections and directly influence the policy of the Riga City Council. Russian-speakers can not officially use their mother tongue in communication with local government and do not receive enough information in it.

From one hand, existing indirect discrimination is generally stipulated by national legislation on citizenship and state language. From another hand, Riga City Council did not give enough consideration to minority issues, although some positive steps in publishing information in Russian were made.

Local elections were in Riga in March 2001. Some initiatives to remedy non-equitable situation and to encourage minority participation were announced during the election campaign. But by the middle of April the process of creation a ruling majority and distribution of positions among new members of the Riga City Council is continuing. So, now it is too early to say, what will be changed in policy of local authorities of Riga towards minorities.

Meanwhile representatives of Russian minority NGOs expect local government of Riga to work more actively with minorities, promote and encourage their participation in social and political life of Riga.

Recommendations

Taking into account multiethnic composition of population of Riga, existence of indirect discrimination against minorities and special needs of minorities and in order to eliminate indirect discrimination against minorities some measures can be recommend to Riga City Council:

- Establish a special body on Minority Affairs or determine additional functions for existing Committees, connected with minority issues, in order to take into account in the work of the Riga City Council special needs of persons belonging to minorities.
- Establish a special body on Aliens of Latvia Affairs in order to take into account in the work of the Riga City Council special needs of permanent residents and tax-payers, who can not directly influence work of local authorities
- In contacts with national authorities raise a question of participation of Aliens of Latvia in local elections
- In contacts with national authorities raise a question of official usage of minority languages in a territories, where minorities are in substantial number.
- To intensify co-operation with minority NGOs

1 Statistics at: http://www.pid.bkc.lv
3 Statistics at: http://www.pid.bkc.lv
Chislo dnya (A number of a day). // Vesti Segodnya, #90, 18.04.2001.

Latvijas Republikas Saeimas Statistika (The Statistics of the Saeima of the Latvian Republic) // http://www.saeima.lv/Lapas/7_Saeima_Visa.htm


Ethnic composition of Latvia is viewable at: http://www.pid.bkc.lv

Satversme, Chapter 8, Article 114

Law on Unrestricted Development of National and Ethnic Groups of Latvia and the Right to Cultural Autonomy

Criminal Code

Law on the State Language, Article 5

Statistics at: http://www.pid.bkc.lv

Law on the State Language, Paragraph 2, Article 10

Law on Education, Article 59

Law on Radio and Television.

http://racoon.riga.lv/minelres/archive/05222000-20:04:24-4590.html

Government Regulation No 204 “On the National Human Rights Bureau”.

Personal communication with Mr. Bravers, the head of the National Human Rights Bureau, in August 2000.

The department website is viewable at: http://www.np.gov.lv/

Statistics at: http://www.pid.bkc.lv

The section website is viewable at: http://www.pid.gov.lv/fjas/mazakumtaut.htm


Law on Education

Personal communications with Mr. Astahovs, the president of the Russian Community of Latvia, Mrs. Favoras, the chairwoman of the Russian Society in Latvia, in March 2001.

The National Programme for Latvian Language Training website: http://www.lvavp.lv

Program is viewable at: http://www.pid.bkc.lv


Law on Social Assistance

Personal communications with Mr. Gorba, the jurist of the Latvian Human Rights Committee, in April 2001.


Information about the Riga City Council is at: http://www.rcc.lv

http://www.rcc.lv/structure.htm

http://www.rcc.lv/about/komitejas.asp?id=2

Information about Riga budget is at: http://www.rcc.lv/budget01.asp


Personal communications with Mr. Astahovs, the president of the Russian Community of Latvia, Mrs. Favoras, the chairwoman of the Russian Society in Latvia, in March 2001.

Personal communications to Mr. Gilmans, member of the Riga City Council, in March 2001.

52 Personal communications with Mr. Astahovs, the president of the Russian Community of Latvia, Mrs. Favorska, the chairwoman of the Russian Society in Latvia, in March 2001.

53 Naslednichki (Heirs). // Vesty Segodnya, #57, 08.03.2001.

54 Personal communications with Mr. Astahovs, the president of the Russian Community of Latvia, Mrs. Favorska, the chairwoman of the Russian Society in Latvia, in March 2001.

55 http://www.velesanas.lv


57 Personal communications with Mr. Gorba, the jurist of the Latvian Human Rights Committee, in April 2001.


59 Riga City Council’s Rules on Social Allowances.

60 Personal communications with Mr. Gorba, the jurist of the Latvian Human Rights Committee, in April 2001.


62 Personal communications with Mr. Astahovs, the president of the Russian Community of Latvia, Mrs. Favorska, the chairwoman of the Russian Society in Latvia, in March 2001.

63 Riga City Council’s Rules on Social Allowances.

64 Personal communications with Mr. Gorba, the jurist of the Latvian Human Rights Committee, in April 2001.

65 Osnovnoye posobie i zhilischnoye posobie (Basic allowance and housing allowance). Riga: Welfare Department of the Riga City Council, 2000.