

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION SUMMIT

Latvia's National Statement of Commitment to Transform Education

Transforming education in Latvia builds on **the existing reforms**, deepening the transformative dimension of education to **equip individuals with knowledge, skills and attitudes to live and thrive in the world of technological development, increasing complexity and uncertainty** and build a **cohesive, resilient and digitally and ecologically minded society**.

I. COVID-19 learning recovery

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Latvia prioritized the **health and epidemiological safety of students and teachers**, thus a significant part of learning time took place remotely. **The crisis widened the gap in academic achievement among students depending on their self-directed learning and problem-solving skills**. The Latvian schools provided a **focused academic support** to students who needed it more, as well as introduced **measures to strengthen the emotional well-being of students and teachers and to reduce the anxiety caused by the pandemic**.

II. Transforming education

Latvia's key elements of transforming education

Latvia will step up the implementation of the new competency-based general education curriculum *School 2030* by 2023.

- **Renewing curricula and pedagogies**

Latvia will promote **distance learning as effective, high-quality, full-fledged and inclusive part of the face-to-face learning process** and **strengthen the digital skills of teachers**.

- **Renewing curricula and pedagogies**
- **Transforming the teaching profession**

Latvia will continue building a **flexible VET and adult learning system** that focuses on the needs and abilities of an individual, promotes strong partnership with the industry and reduces skills imbalances, as well as promotes **modular vocational education**.

- **Renewing curricula and pedagogies**

Latvia will robustly address **early school leaving and promote the socio and psycho-emotional wellbeing of all students**.

- **Addressing educational exclusion, safety and health (especially mental health)**

Latvia will continue building a **sustainable digital infrastructure and learning platforms**, as well as ensure **high-speed connectivity for all general and professional education institutions**.

- **Steering the digital transformation for just and equitable learning**

Latvia will step up the efforts to promote excellence in research, creation of new knowledge and innovations, as well as provision of high-quality, internationally competitive and research-based higher education.

- **Renewing curricula and pedagogies**
- **Transforming the teaching profession**

Latvia will gradually increase investments in education with the focus on equity and accountability in education spending, including for the teaching profession.

- **Transforming the teaching profession**
- **Financing education as a common good**

III. Financing education as a common good

In 2020, Latvia spent 13.8% of the total public budget and 5.9% of GDP on formal and non-formal education, according to Eurostat data (Eurostat, 2022). In the coming years Latvia will gradually increase **investments in education with the focus on equity and accountability in education spending.**

The country has set a benchmark **to spend 15% of the total public budget on education by both 2025 and 2030.** Latvia's priority is the **gradual increase of teachers' salaries.** As of September 1, 2022, the lowest monthly wage rate (for 30 hours work-week) for a teacher is increased again by **8.4%.** Also, the increase in the lowest wage rate for preschool teachers is **11.2%** (for 40 hours work-week).

From September 1, 2022, **state funding for teachers' salaries will be calculated and transferred to local governments,** which will further distribute it to their schools. It is a transition from the previous model "money follows the student". Local governments are entrusted with the responsibility to decide within their own territories, their development strategies and the use of their funds.

Latvia will continue developing a comprehensive **Education Quality Monitoring System to ensure efficiency of public spending in education and its returns to the economy.**

IV. Next steps

Latvia's National Commitment to Transform Education results from the **National Education and Skills Strategy adopted by the Parliament of Latvia on June 22, 2021 and the TES National consultations held on June 16, 2022.** The present commitment will be followed up within the established process of assessing the progress of national medium-term policy implementation.

On the global scale, **as the Member of the SDG4 High-level Steering Committee Latvia will be actively involved in taking charge of the Summit follow-up process within the new Global Cooperation Mechanism.**