

**”EXPERIENCE IN GRANTING OF  
NON-EU HARMONISED PROTECTION  
STATUSES IN LATVIA”**

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## ANNOTATION

In accordance with the Work Programme 2009 of the European Migration Network (hereinafter – the Network), the second study in 2009 is “**Different National Practices Concerning Granting of Non-EU Harmonised Protection Statuses**”. The title of the study of the Latvian contact point is “Experience in Granting of Non-EU Harmonised Protection Statuses in Latvia”.

The **aim** of the study is to describe the procedure set in the Latvian legislation in accordance with which refugee and alternative statuses are granted in the Republic of Latvia, as well as to describe the rights of persons who have obtained refugee status or alternative status.

Asylum seeker is a third-country national or stateless person who has submitted an application, in accordance with the procedure provided for in the Asylum Law of the Republic of Latvia, for granting of refugee or alternative status, until a moment when a final decision regarding his or her application has entered into force and is not a subject to appeal<sup>1</sup>.

The study has been prepared in accordance with the specification initially developed by the European Commission and further updated in cooperation with experts of the national contact points of the Network.

The Synthesis Report prepared by the European Commission, using the studies submitted by 26 national contact points of the Network, will summarise the main conclusions regarding the practice of the EU Member States in granting non-EU harmonised protection statuses.

In the **first section** of the study types of international protection that are stipulated in the legislation of the Republic of Latvia, objects of the study, as well as methods applied in elaboration of the paper are mentioned.

The **second section** of the study provides the definitions of a refugee and an asylum seeker as provided for in the national legislation, and short description of the political and legal frameworks that regulate the asylum policy. Statistical data of the Republic of Latvia on asylum seekers from 2002 till August 2009 has been provided.

The **third section** of the study describes the procedure of granting of international protection in the Republic of Latvia, including more detailed description of the asylum procedure and the scope of rights ensured by the State: legal basis to reside, medical assistance, social allowances, education, labour market, travel, family reunification, and naturalisation.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the Asylum Law.

The **fourth section** of the paper provides statistical data on international protection and an analysis of this data.

The view - point of Latvia regarding ensuring of international protection has been provided in the conclusions.

Regulatory enactments, information available on the internet about the rights in the Republic of Latvia of asylum seekers, refugees and persons who have been granted alternative status, as well as information provided by the experts of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs who were involved in the study, were used in the development of this study.

Total volume of the work is 19 pages and it includes 1 scheme, 1 diagram, and 2 tables.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Network Steering Board approved the theme of a study *Non-EU Harmonised Protection Statuses* at its meeting of October 2008, which must be prepared by the Member States within the scope of the Work Programme 2009 of the Network.

In accordance with the national legislation, refugee or alternative status may be granted to a person who needs international protection. For humanitarian reasons, the possibility under the Immigration Law for a person to be granted a temporary residence permit has not been applied within the context of asylum affairs so far. By taking into account the stated above, the **aim** of the study is to describe the procedure provided in the Latvian legislation in accordance with which refugee or alternative status is granted in the Republic of Latvia, as well as to describe the rights of persons who have obtained refugee or alternative status.

The **object** of the study is a third-country national or a stateless person who has submitted an application, in accordance with the procedure provided in the Asylum Law of the Republic of Latvia, for granting of refugee or alternative status.

Target audience of the study is, primarily, national and EU officials responsible for the development of the asylum field, particularly the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The outcome of the study is useful also for NGOs, academic researchers as well as members of the public with an interest in asylum policy.

### 1.1. Methodology

The study has been elaborated in accordance with the specification developed by the European Commission and adopted by the national contact points of the Network.

Quantitative data, normative acts, literature regarding asylum policy has been used in the study, same as information available on Internet web sites of institutions involved in the study: the Ministry of Interior and the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs.

Information provided by experts of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs was used to prepare the study.

## 2. GRANTING OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION STATUS IN THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

The asylum procedure in the Republic of Latvia is a comparatively recent instrument, existing since 1998.

*The Asylum Law*<sup>2</sup> and the subject regulations of the Cabinet of Minister ensure rights of persons to asylum in the Republic of Latvia, to obtain refugee or alternative status, or to receive temporary protection. For humanitarian reasons, the possibility under the Immigration Law for a person to be granted a temporary residence permit has not been applied within the context of asylum affairs so far. In Latvia, a person shall be considered to be an **asylum seeker** if he or she, in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Asylum Law, has submitted an application for granting refugee or alternative status in the Republic of Latvia, until the moment when a final decision regarding his or her application has entered into force and is not subject to appeal.

In accordance with the Asylum Law, **asylum procedure** is the procedure according to which an application of an asylum seeker is examined, for granting of refugee or alternative status, from the moment of their submission till the moment when a final decision regarding his or her application has entered into force and is not subject to appeal.

**Refugee** and **alternative status** in the Republic of Latvia is granted in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Asylum Law that fully complies with the criteria of *Council Directive 2004/83/EC of April 29, 2004*<sup>3</sup> *on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third-country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection, and the content of the protection granted.*

**The Refugee Affairs Department of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs** examines the application of a person and takes a decision to grant or to refuse the granting of refugee or alternative status. In addition to the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, **the State Border Guard, the Administrative District Court, the City (Region) Court, the Custody Court, and the Legal Aid Administration of the Ministry of Justice** are involved in the asylum field.

In 2008, the Integration Contact Point was established for refugees and persons with granted alternative status which provides consultations regarding various daily matters, including information about opportunities to attend the Latvian language and integration courses.

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<sup>2</sup> Asylum Law, the Latvian Herald No.100, 30.06.2009 [valid from 14.07.2009]

<sup>3</sup> Council Directive 2004/83/EC (29 April 2004) on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third-country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection, and the content of the protection granted, OJ L, 304, 30.09.2004, p. 2/2.

### **3. PROCEDURE FOR GRANTING AND ENSURED RIGHTS**

#### **3.1. Asylum procedure**

**The State Border Guard** interviews an asylum seeker, identifies the asylum seeker (if not identified), and accommodates him or her in premises provided for this purpose. The State Border Guard sends the information obtained as a result of the interview to the Asylum Affairs Division of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs.

**The Asylum Affairs Department of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs** shall take a decision, within the terms prescribed by the Asylum Law<sup>4</sup>, to grant or to refuse granting of **refugee** or **alternative** status. The Asylum Affairs Division shall take a decision to accept the application for examination or leaving the same unexamined. If a decision is made to accept the application for examination, the application may be examined, according to the circumstances of the case, under abridged procedure or under standard procedure (the application is examined according to its substance).

An asylum seeker or his or her authorised person may appeal a decision taken by the Asylum Affairs Division of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs to leave an application unexamined and to grant refugee or alternative status or refusal of granting the same to the Administrative District Court.

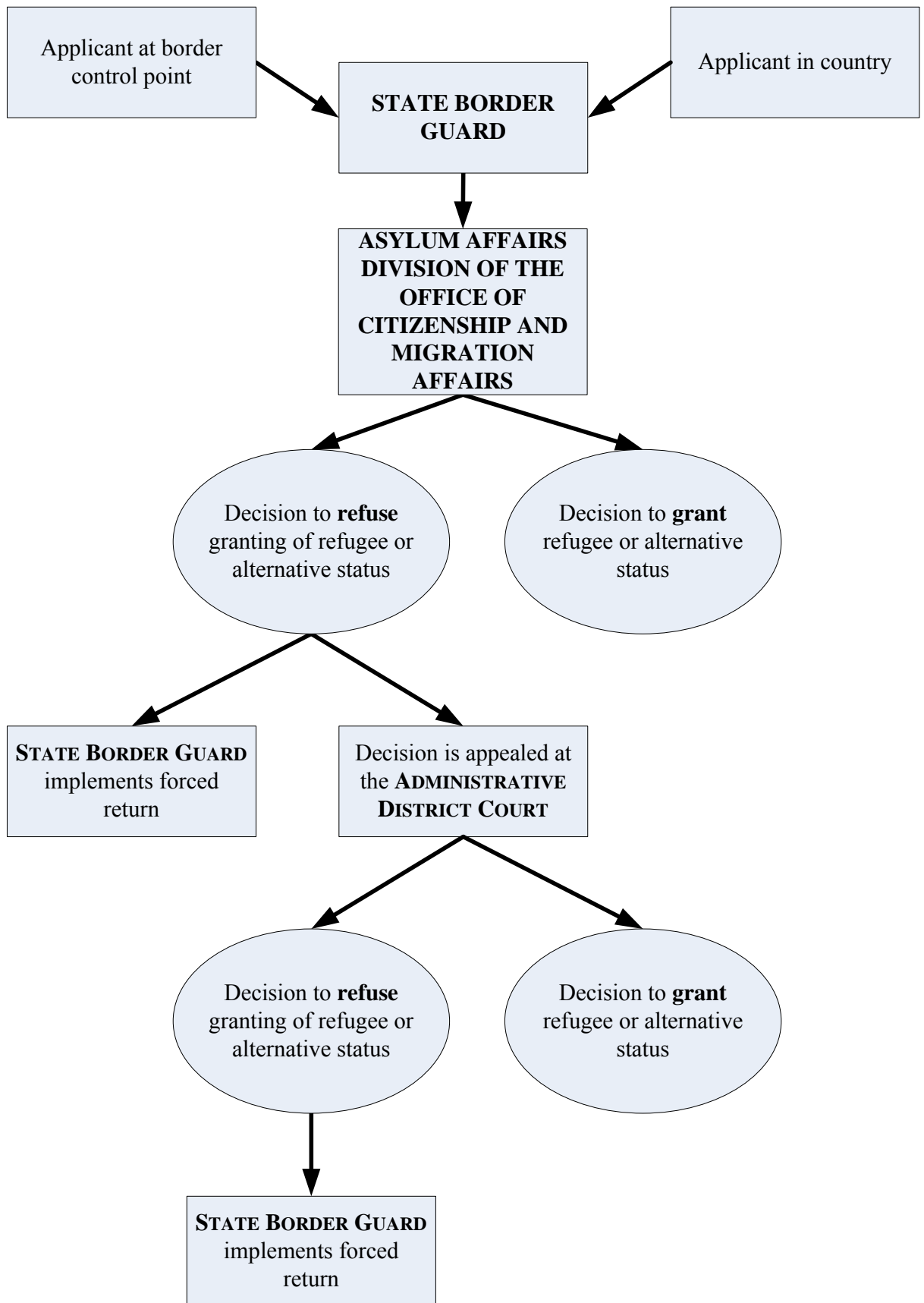
In case, if a decision that is unfavourable to an asylum seeker has entered into force and is not subject to appeal, the person has the right to submit a repeated application when the circumstances that served as the basis for taking the decision have changed to his or her favour. The Asylum Affairs Division shall, after evaluation of the circumstances stated in such a repeated application, take a decision to accept the application for examination or to leave the same unexamined. If a repeated application is accepted for examination, the Asylum Affairs Division shall assess the compliance of the same to the criteria of granting of refugee or alternative status.

A person in relation to whom a decision to refuse the granting of refugee or alternative status has been taken, shall be deported from Latvia in accordance with the procedure provided for by the Cabinet (see: Scheme 1), if the person has no other legal basis to reside in Latvia.

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<sup>4</sup> Terms of examination of an application are prescribed in Section 13 of the Asylum Law.

**Scheme 1**  
**Procedure for granting international protection**



In case, if a person in relation to whom a decision to refuse the granting of refugee or alternative status has been taken, has a valid travel document, the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs shall take decision within one working day regarding deportation of the person from Latvia. A return decision is issued to this person. Upon receipt of a return decision, person must leave the country within five days. In case, if a person has not fulfilled the decision, the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs shall take a decision regarding forced return of the person.

In case, if a person in relation to whom a decision to refuse the granting of refugee or alternative status has been taken, does not hold a valid travel document, the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs shall take decision within one working day regarding forced return of the person from Latvia. Such a person shall be accommodated by the State Border Guard in premises provided for this purpose, until fulfilment of the decision.

### **3.2. Rights ensured by the State**

#### **3.2.1. Legal basis to reside**

A person who has been granted **refugee status** shall be issued with a permanent residence permit free of charge. However, a person who has been granted **alternative status** shall be issued with a temporary residence permit for a period of one year. If the person presents a submission regarding the extension of the residence time period and the conditions that served as the basis to obtain the status still exist, an official of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs shall take a decision regarding the issue of a temporary residence permit for a period of one year<sup>5</sup>. A temporary residence permit with validity of more than one year shall be registered on an annual basis. A permanent residence permit shall be registered once in every five years.

#### **3.2.2. Medical assistance and social allowances**

Clause 5, Paragraph one, Section 17 of the *Medical Treatment Law*<sup>6</sup> stipulates that refugees shall be provided with the amount of medical treatment services paid from the State basic budget and from the funds of the recipient of services in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Cabinet. Children of refugees have the right to receive free of charge medical treatment paid from the State basic budget and from the funds of the recipient of services. Cabinet Regulation No. 1046 adopted on December 19, 2006 “Procedures for the

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<sup>5</sup>In accordance with Section 36 of the Asylum Law.

<sup>6</sup> Medical Treatment Law, Latvian Herald No.167/168 12.06.1997 [valid from 01.10.1997]

Organisation and Financing of Health Care”<sup>7</sup> provide the above-mentioned services in more detail.

Clause 5, Paragraph one, Section 17 of the Medical Treatment Law also stipulates the amount of medical treatment services paid from the State basic budget and from the funds of the recipient of services in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Cabinet to persons who have been granted alternative status. Children of the above-mentioned persons have the right to receive free of charge medical treatment paid from the State basic budget and from the funds of the recipient of services.

If a person has no other sources of income, for the first 12 months after the granting of refugee status, a person shall receive an allowance which shall cover necessary living expenses, as well as expenses necessary for learning the official language<sup>8</sup>.

Section 37 of the Asylum Law prescribes that, if a person who has been granted alternative status, has no other sources of income, he or she shall receive an allowance for not more than nine months after the granting of alternative status which shall cover living expenses. The amount and procedures of granting of the above-mentioned allowances are determined by the Cabinet.

Cabinet Regulation No. 721 adopted on September 20, 2005 “Regulations regarding Allowances for a Refugee and a Person who has been Granted Alternative Status”<sup>9</sup> prescribe the procedures by which an allowance covering subsistence costs and the costs for the acquisition of the official language is granted and paid to a refugee, and the procedures by which an allowance covering subsistence costs is granted and paid to a person who has been granted alternative status, as well as the amount of the allowances referred to.

Cabinet Regulation No. 721 adopted on September 20, 2005 “Regulations regarding Allowances for a Refugee and a Person who has been Granted Alternative Status” prescribe the procedures by which an allowance covering subsistence costs is granted and paid to a person who has been granted alternative status, as well as the amount of the allowances referred to. An allowance covering subsistence costs in the Republic of Latvia is granted to a person who has been granted alternative status. Such an allowance is determined for:

- ✓ person of legal age: the minimum monthly wage specified by the State;
- ✓ minor: 30% of the minimum monthly wage specified by the State.

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<sup>7</sup> Cabinet Regulation No. 1046 adopted on 19.12.2006 „Procedures for the Organisation and Financing of Health Care”, the Latvian Herald No. 208, 30.12.2006 [valid from 01.01.2007]

<sup>8</sup> In accordance with Section 37 of the Asylum Law

<sup>9</sup> Cabinet Regulation No. 721 adopted on 20.09.2005 „Regulations regarding Allowances for a Refugee and a Person who has been Granted Alternative Status”, the Latvian Herald No.152, 23.09.2005 [valid from 24.09.2005]

Refugees or their family members who have permanent residence permits have the right to receive allowance for unemployed persons, persons seeking employment and persons subject to the risk of unemployment.

Refugees and persons who have been granted alternative status have the right to receive social assistance from local government according to their declared place of residence.

Persons who have received a temporary residence permit shall not be among persons who have the right to apply for state social allowances<sup>10</sup>, to receive social services and social assistance<sup>11</sup>. Section 17 of the *Medical Treatment Law* stipulates that third-country nationals who have a permanent residence permit in Latvia shall be provided with the amount of medical treatment services paid from the State basic budget and from the funds of the recipient of services in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Cabinet<sup>12</sup>.

*The Support for Unemployed Persons and Persons Seeking Employment Law*<sup>13</sup> determines the active employment measures and preventive measures for unemployment reduction intended for unemployed persons, persons seeking employment and persons subject to the risk of unemployment, the competence of the State and local governments in the implementation of these measures, as well as the status, rights and duties of unemployed persons and persons seeking employment. A person who has a permanent residence permit in Latvia or the spouse of the referred to person who has a temporary residence permit in Latvia have the right to receive the support specified in the above-mentioned Law for unemployed persons, persons seeking employment and persons subject to the risk of unemployment.

A person who has been granted refugee status has the right to reside in the premises of the accommodation centre also after the granting of refugee status in accordance with a concluded contract on rent of premises.

### **3.2.3. Education**

Section 3 of the *Education Law*<sup>14</sup> stipulates that a third-country national who has received a permanent residence permit has equal rights to acquire education, regardless of their property or social status, race, nationality, gender, religious or political convictions, state

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<sup>10</sup> In accordance with Section 4 of the Law on State Social Allowances.

<sup>11</sup> In accordance with Section 3 of the Law on Social Services and Social Assistance.

<sup>12</sup> Medical Treatment Law, the Latvian Herald No.167/168, 01.07.1997 [valid from 01.10.1997]

<sup>13</sup> Support for Unemployed Persons and Persons Seeking Employment Law, the Latvian Herald No.80, 29.05.2002 [valid from 01.07.2002]

<sup>14</sup> Education Law, Latvian Herald No.343/344, 17.11.1998 [valid from 01.06.1999]

of health, occupation or place of residence. The above-mentioned Section shall also apply to a refugee as receiver of permanent residence permit<sup>15</sup>.

Access to elementary education and general education for persons who have been granted alternative status shall be ensured in accordance with Cabinet Regulation No. 822 adopted on November 1, 2005 “Regulations Regarding Minimum Requirements for Enrolment of Pupils and Transfer of Pupils to the Next Grade at General Educational Establishments (with the exception of boarding-schools and special educational establishments)”.

Refugees have the right to acquire professional training, vocational retraining and qualification improvement services that are accessible to persons who have received status of unemployed.

State aid is provided for a refugee in Latvia for his or her integration in the society<sup>16</sup>. The state grants an allowance for the acquisition of the Latvian language to refugee from the age of 7 years. The allowance shall be determined in an amount, which covers the actual costs of training in the Latvian language, but it shall not be more than 35 LVL per month. The payment of the allowance for the acquisition of the Latvian language shall be discontinued if a refugee has acquired the official language at the first level of proficiency and has received a document attesting thereto.

#### **3.2.4. Access to labour market**

A third-country national who wishes to work shall need a work permit. Since a permanent residence permit is issued to a refugee, a work permit is not required<sup>17</sup>.

The Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs shall issue a work permit, without an employer’s work invitation, to a person who has been granted an alternative status or his or her family member who has received a temporary residence permit and wishes to work<sup>18</sup>.

*The Labour Law*<sup>19</sup> and other regulatory enactments that regulate legal employment relationships shall be binding on all employers irrespective of their legal status and on employees if the mutual legal relationships between employers and employees are based on an employment contract. Accordingly, also persons who have received a permanent residence

<sup>15</sup> Gromovs J., „Patvēruma meklētāju, bēgļu un personu, kam piešķirts alternatīvais statuss, tiesības Latvijas Republikā”, Konspektīvs materiāls LR valsts pārvaldes iestāžu darbiniekiem, Eiropas Bēgļu fonds, Rīga, 2008. [Rights of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Persons who have been granted Alternative Status in the Republic of Latvia. Summary material for employees of state administration institutions of the Republic of Latvia, the European Refugee Fund. Riga, 2008]

<sup>16</sup> In accordance with Cabinet Regulation No. 721 adopted on 20.09.2005 „Regulations regarding Allowances for a Refugee and a Person who has been Granted Alternative Status”.

<sup>17</sup> In accordance with Clause 1, Paragraph two, Section 9 of the Immigration Law.

<sup>18</sup> In accordance with Article 30.2.12 of Cabinet Regulation No.44 adopted on 20.01.2004 “Regulations Regarding Work Permits for Third-country National”.

<sup>19</sup> Labour Law, the Latvian Herald No. 105, 06.07.2001 [valid from 01.06.2002]

permit or a temporary residence permit have the rights stipulated in the above-mentioned Law, if mutual legal relationships between employers and employees are based on an employment contract.

### 3.2.5. Travel

Paragraph one, Section 7 of the *Personal Identification Documents Law*<sup>20</sup> determines that travel documents for refugees and for persons who have been granted **refugee status or alternative status** are issued by the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs. Section 35 of the Asylum Law provides that, in compliance with July 28, 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, a travel document shall be issued to a refugee which at the same time is also a personal identity document of the refugee. The form and procedure for issuing such travel document shall be determined by the Cabinet. Upon receiving the travel document referred to above, a refugee shall hand over to the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs all the travel documents at his or her disposal.

A refugee passport shall be issued to a person, with the following expiry date:

- ✓ for a person of the age up to five years: for a year or for a period of travel if it exceeds one year, however not more than five years;
- ✓ for a person from the age of five years: for five years.

Section 35 of the Asylum Law provides that in case, if a person who has been granted alternative status is unable to receive a travel document issued in his or her country of former residence, a travel document shall be issued to him or her which at the same time is also a personal identity document. The form and procedure for issuing a personal identity document shall be determined by the Cabinet.

A travel document shall be issued to a person who has been granted alternative status, with the following expiry date:

- ✓ for a person of the age up to five years: for a year or for a period of travel if it exceeds one year, however not more than five years;
- ✓ for a person from the age of five years: for five years.

### 3.2.6. Family reunification

A refugee and a person who has been granted alternative status has the right to reunify with their family members who are in a foreign country<sup>21</sup>.

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<sup>20</sup> Personal Identification Documents Law, the Latvian Herald No. 84, 05.06.2002 [valid from 01.07.2002]

<sup>21</sup> In accordance with Section 1 of the Asylum Law, a spouse of an asylum seeker, refugee or a person who has been granted alternative status, any minor unmarried children of an asylum seeker, refugee or a person who has been granted alternative status and such person's spouse, as well as their children who are dependent on both spouses or one of the spouses or are adopted, if such family already existed in the country of origin, shall be considered as family members.

A minor refugee who is not accompanied and is not married has the right to take in his or her mother and father who have arrived from a foreign country. It must be noted that a family may reunify if such family was formed before entry of the person in the Republic of Latvia.

A person who has been granted alternative status and who has resided in the Republic of Latvia for at least two years after the granting of such status has the right to submit a request for reunification with family members who are in a foreign country. Cabinet Regulation No. 652 adopted on August 30, 2005 “Procedures by which Refugee Family Reunification, as well as Family Reunification of Such Person who has been Granted Alternative Status is Performed in the Republic of Latvia” determines the procedure by which refugee family reunification is performed, as well as residence permits to family members are issued in the Republic of Latvia<sup>22</sup>.

### **3.2.7. Naturalisation**

A refugee, same as any other third-country national, shall have the right to acquire citizenship through naturalisation procedures, by observing the requirements of the *Citizenship Law*<sup>23</sup>.

A third-country national may be admitted to Latvian citizenship only in accordance with the naturalisation procedure. One of the main conditions to be admitted to the Latvian citizenship: a non-citizen has been permanently residing in Latvia for not less than five years, as of the date of submission of the application for naturalisation. The five-year period shall be calculated from the day a permanent residence permit is obtained.

However, a person who has been granted alternative status and who resides in the Republic of Latvia on the basis of a temporary residence permit may apply for a permanent residence permit if the person has been permanently residing in the Republic of Latvia under a temporary residence permit for not less than five years<sup>24</sup>.

In order an applicant would be admitted to the Latvian citizenship through naturalisation procedures, he or she must pass the test in fluency of the Latvian language, the basic principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the text of the National Anthem and the history of Latvia.

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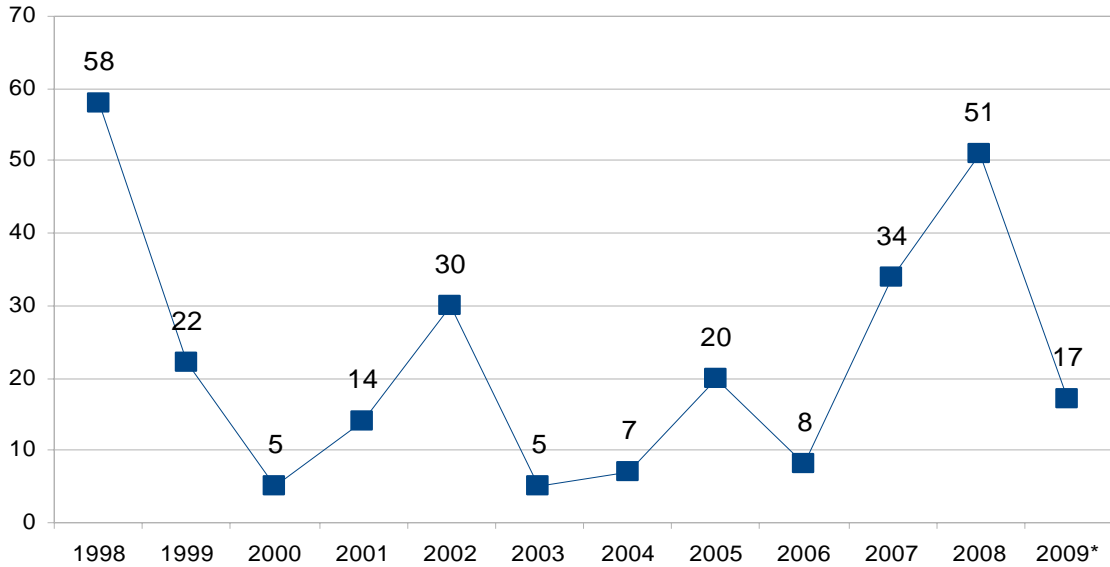
<sup>22</sup> Cabinet Regulation No. 652 adopted on 30.08.2005 „Procedures by which Refugee Family Reunification, as well as Family Reunification of Such Person who has been Granted Alternative Status is Performed in the Republic of Latvia”, the Latvian Herald No.138, 01.09.2005 [valid from 02.09.2005]

<sup>23</sup> Citizenship Law, the Latvian Herald No.93, 11.08.1994 [valid from 25.08.1994]

<sup>24</sup> In accordance with Section 24 of the Immigration Law, Latvian Herald, No. 169, 20.11.2002 [valid from 01.05.2003]

## 4. STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

**Diagram 1**  
**Number of applications from asylum seekers, 1998-2009<sup>25</sup>**



Comparing to the total world statistics, the number of asylum seekers in Latvia is a small part of the total number of European and global number of asylum seekers (see: Diagram 1).

Having analysed the situation, conclusions have been made that the economic situation in Latvia, the geographic location of the country, small allowances and the lack of diaspora make asylum seekers to choose other countries. However, it is forecasted that number of asylum seekers might increase in nearest future. It must be noted that, in 2008, the number of requests from the Member States has increased (from 34 requests in 2007 to 160 requests in 2008)<sup>26</sup> in accordance with Council Regulation No.343/2003 Establishing the Criteria and Mechanisms for Determining the Member State Responsible for Examining an Asylum Application Lodged in One of the Member States by a Third-Country National.

<sup>25</sup> Data on asylum seekers in 2009 are summarised until August 31, 2009.

<sup>26</sup> Data as of 16.09.2009. Source: the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs.

## Number of applications from asylum seekers in 2008

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>number</b>
African countries	3
Asian countries	18
Former Republics of the U.S.S.R.	27
Cuba	2
Turkey	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>

Since 1998 when the asylum procedure was commenced, until August 31, 2009, 271 persons have applied for asylum.

Refugee status in the Republic of Latvia has been granted to totally 17 persons, including 12 adults and 5 minors. One person lost refugee status in 2004 due to acquisition of the citizenship of the Republic of Latvia through naturalisation procedure.

Number of applications from asylum seekers in 2009<sup>27</sup>

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>number</b>
Former Republics of the U.S.S.R.	7
Bangladesh	2
Middle East countries	5
Turkey	2
Eritrea	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

During the period from 2002 till 2008, 21 person has been granted alternative status: 4 persons from Belarus (3 adults, 1 child); 7 from Russia (4 adults, 3 children); 7 from Somalia (5 adults, 2 children), 2 from Cuba (2 adults), 1 from Palestine (1 adult). In 2004, 5 persons have lost alternative status because they returned to their country of origin<sup>28</sup>.

<sup>27</sup> Data until August 31, 2009.

<sup>28</sup> See: data of the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs in the Internet, [www.pmlp.gov.lv](http://www.pmlp.gov.lv)

## 5. VIEW OF LATVIA ON GRANTING OF PROTECTION

In accordance with the national legislation and current practice, international protection in the Republic of Latvia is granted according to the criteria included in the Council Directive 2004/83/EC of April 29, 2004 on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third-country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection, and the content of the protection granted. Thus, if international protection is necessary for a person, he or she may be granted refugee or alternative status. For humanitarian reasons, the possibility under the Immigration Law for a person to be granted a temporary residence permit has not been applied within the context of asylum affairs so far.

According to the assessment of the Latvian experts of asylum policy, introduction of new statuses of national protection or further development of the current statuses shall not be deemed as the most optimum way which would facilitate the wish of the EU Member States to establish the Common European Asylum System.

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