

## Country: Latvia

Done by Raul Martos, Latvian RC in coop with Latvian NGO "Safe Home", Eberhard Lueder, RC/EU Office

No. Asylum seekers 2007	No. of persons granted protection	No. of Ngos'/GOs'/ projects offering mental health services	No. of NGOs'/GOs'/ projects working with persons with broken family links	No. of NGOs'/GOs'/ projects working with survivors of torture	No. of NGOs'/GOs'/ projects working with the elderly and frail
34	3 alternative status 5 refugee status	None specifically	None	None	None

### Access to health system:

Primary examination services and emergency services are provided.

### Legal Access to mental health care:

Such right is not particularly defined in the law - only the right to receive primary medical assistance and assistance in case of emergency. The state hasn't an agreement with any of the medical institutions.

### Systematic assessment of mental health needs:

In the beginning of the process within person's identification, the seeker undergoes medical examination for numerous diseases and overall state of health. Through it the person's needs are being identified. After the first stage the seekers don't undergo a systematic assessment.

### Main stakeholders in the asylum system:

Customs service; Office of Citizenship and Migration, Refugee Department; Intern Camp for Illegal Immigrants in Olaine; Reception Centre 'Mucenieki'; Secretariat of the Special Assignment Minister for Social Integration, Integration Contact Point for Refugees; NGOs, Court.

### Country specific features: What drew my attention?

Asylum in Latvia appears to be a fairly small operation.

### Difficulties:

Even if the number of asylum seekers is very small, it can be deemed difficult that no mental health care at all is offered.