
Text consolidated by Valsts valodas centrs (State Language Centre) with amending laws of:

10 December 2020 [shall come into force on 1 January 2021].

If a whole or part of a section has been amended, the date of the amending law appears in square brackets at the end of the section. If a whole section, paragraph or clause has been deleted, the date of the deletion appears in square brackets beside the deleted section, paragraph or clause.

The *Saeima*¹ has adopted and
the President has proclaimed the following law:

Diaspora Law

Chapter I General Provisions

Section 1. Terms Used in this Law

The following terms are used in the Law:

- 1) **diaspora** - citizens of Latvia, Latvians, and others who are permanently residing outside Latvia and have a link with Latvia, and also their family members;
- 2) **remigration** - return or moving of a member of diaspora from permanent life abroad to permanent life in Latvia;
- 3) **diaspora organisation** - an association of persons the main activity of which is directed towards ensuring the interests of diaspora.

Section 2. Purposes of the Law

The Law has the following purposes:

- 1) to strengthen the Latvian identity and affiliation to Latvia of diaspora as an integral part of the society of Latvia;
- 2) to ensure possibilities for diaspora to freely establish, maintain, and strengthen the link with Latvia;
- 3) to promote the preservation of the Latvian language and culture in diaspora;
- 4) to develop and implement a systemic and permanent diaspora support policy and measures which promote the Latvian identity of diaspora and link with the culture, economics, national economy, and science of Latvia, the availability of the Latvian language, culture, and traditions for diaspora and ensure favourable conditions for remigration (hereinafter - the diaspora policy);
- 5) to support and promote the civic and political participation of diaspora.

Section 3. Scope of Application of the Law

The Law prescribes:

- 1) the role of diaspora in the State of Latvia and law system, the basic principles for the cooperation of Latvia and diaspora, the tasks of the diaspora policy and the directions of diaspora support, the ways in which the participation of diaspora in decision-making and social life shall be ensured, and also the persons involved in the implementation of the diaspora policy and their competence in the particular sector of the diaspora policy;
- 2) the basic principles for granting the financing for diaspora and remigration initiatives, for participation in decision-making and social life;

3) the diaspora and remigration support measures.

Chapter II

Diaspora Policy and the Implementation Thereof

Section 4. Tasks of the Diaspora Policy

The tasks of the diaspora policy shall be as follows:

- 1) to support and promote initiatives and cooperation forms directed towards diaspora, creating favourable circumstances for the establishment of diaspora link with Latvia and for remigration;
- 2) to ensure the possibility for diaspora members to acquire the Latvian language, and also to get to know the history of Latvia, State structure and administration, the Latvian culture and traditions through formal and non-formal education;
- 3) to promote the preservation, protection, and development in diaspora of the Latvian language, also the Latgalian written language as historical variation of the Latvian language, and also that of the Livonian language;
- 4) to support strengthening of the Latvian identity, preservation of the intangible cultural heritage of Latvia in diaspora, also preservation of history and cultural heritage of diaspora;
- 5) to promote availability of the manifestations of Latvian and diaspora culture;
- 6) to promote representation of diaspora in public service remit, to ensure availability of public electronic mass media programmes and services to diaspora and to support production and publishing of plots, broadcasts, and other materials related to diaspora abroad;
- 7) to inform diaspora of the diaspora policy and the implementation thereof;
- 8) to support diaspora self-organisation and diaspora organisations;
- 9) to promote involvement of diaspora members and diaspora organisations in the development of the policy planning documents and laws and regulations related to diaspora;
- 10) to ensure availability of the State administration services to diaspora members, and also to inform thereof;
- 11) to support and promote civic and political participation of diaspora in the amount specified in laws and regulations;
- 12) to support cooperation of diaspora with Latvia in the field of national economy, education, and science of Latvia;
- 13) to promote involvement of diaspora in the development and promotion of the national economy, export, and investments of Latvia, knowledge and technology transfer, State administration, research and development.

Section 5. Principles for the Implementation of the Diaspora Policy

- (1) Public persons and the authorities thereof, and also private individuals, when fulfilling the administration tasks delegated thereto, shall conform to the principles for the implementation of the diaspora policy.
- (2) The principles for the implementation of the diaspora policy shall be as follows:
- 1) the principle of Latvian affiliation - to strengthen the Latvian identity of diaspora members and affiliation to Latvia (for example, through preservation of the Latvian language and culture and organising of different measures and camps of non-formal education);
 - 2) the principle of inclusion - to promote the formation of such circumstances in which diaspora members have the possibility to return or move to permanent life to Latvia, and also to support the remigrated diaspora members (for example, to promote export, investments, technology transfer, and also to efficiently integrate diaspora members in the education system and labour market of Latvia in conformity with their capacity, education, and qualification);
 - 3) the principle of respect for interests - when solving issues related to diaspora, to assess the diaspora interests, rights, needs, and possibilities. This principle also requires to assess the impact of policy planning documents and laws and regulations on diaspora;
 - 4) the principle of availability of information - to ensure diaspora with information conforming to its needs;
 - 5) the principle of participation - to ensure diaspora members and diaspora organisations with timely possibility to involve on site or remotely in the development of policy planning documents and laws and regulations related to

diaspora;

6) the principle of equal opportunities - to ensure the possibility for diaspora members to participate freely without any discrimination in public, civic, political, cultural, and economic life activities in Latvia, conforming to the objective circumstances related to permanent residence abroad;

7) the principle of continuity - to ensure continuity of the diaspora policy measures and sustainable State support for the diaspora policy and diaspora organisations.

Section 6. Competence of State Administration Authorities in the Field of the Diaspora Policy

(1) The diaspora policy, by involving diaspora members, diaspora organisations, and other natural and legal persons in accordance with the State Administration Structure Law, shall be implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economics, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry for Culture, the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Health, the Public Electronic Mass Media Council, the planning regions, local governments and other State administration authorities according to their competence by fulfilling the tasks specified in this Law and other laws and regulations.

(2) The competence of ministries in the field of the diaspora policy:

1) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall:

a) ensure the development and coordinated implementation of the unified diaspora policy, thus maintaining the system of measures for work with diaspora;

b) facilitate the cooperation and coherence of action of State administration authorities and private individuals involved in the implementation of the diaspora policy;

c) develop the documents for the diaspora policy planning and submit them to the Cabinet for approval;

d) coordinate the development process of priority diaspora support measures;

e) submit the State budget financing request which is necessary for the implementation of the diaspora policy and which has been prepared by involving the competent authorities;

f) cooperate with diaspora members and support the projects created by diaspora organisations;

g) support researches dedicated to the diaspora policy;

h) improve the cooperation and communication with diaspora;

i) support the measures for diaspora youth and children;

j) by cooperating with the competent authorities of foreign countries and Latvia, coordinate the protection of the rights of diaspora members, especially its minor members, abroad in accordance with that laid down in the Diplomatic and Consular Service Law and the Law on Consular Assistance and Consular Services;

2) the Ministry of Economics shall:

a) promote the involvement of diaspora in the support programmes related to promoting the competitiveness of economic activity;

b) promote the involvement of diaspora in the measures of international level with a view to facilitate increase in export, tourism, attraction of foreign investments, knowledge and technology transfer;

c) promote the involvement of diaspora in the national economy of Latvia, *inter alia*, by informing diaspora on the possibilities of economic activity or cooperation in Latvia;

3) the Ministry of Education and Science shall:

a) implement a unified national policy in respect of diaspora weekend schools, diaspora summer high schools, and other non-formal education activities of diaspora (hereinafter also - the diaspora education);

b) coordinate the acquisition of education of diaspora teachers and educators and the raising of professional skills thereof;

c) coordinate research and methodological work in the field of diaspora education;

d) develop and implement the guidelines of the diaspora education;

e) develop and implement support measures conforming to the guidelines of the diaspora education, *inter alia*,

shall develop methodological teaching aids and ensure the availability thereof;

f) develop and implement support measures which are directed towards the Latvian language, also preservation, protection, and development in diaspora of the Latgalian written language as historical variation of the Latvian language, and also that of the Livonian language;

g) ensure the organisation and availability of the examinations of the proficiency in the official language for diaspora at the permanent places of residence of its members abroad by issuing an appropriate certificate of the proficiency in the official language;

h) organise the public service remit in the field of diaspora research and for cooperation with diaspora in the field of science and research;

i) coordinate and implement cooperation with diaspora in the field of youth policy;

j) control the use of the State budget funds intended for the implementation of the diaspora policy in the authorities under subordination thereof and in diaspora organisations according to the delegated State administration tasks;

k) coordinate cooperation with foreign countries and international organisations in the field of the diaspora education;

l) promote inclusion of remigrated diaspora members in the education system of Latvia;

4) the Ministry of Culture shall:

a) support measures for strengthening of the Latvian identity intended for diaspora members belonging to different age groups;

b) promote the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, *inter alia*, providing methodological and material support for diaspora for ensuring sustainability of the Song and Dance Celebration at the permanent places of residence of its members abroad and for the participation in the Song and Dance Celebration in Latvia;

c) support measures which are directed towards research and preservation of the tangible cultural and historical heritage of diaspora;

d) permanently and systematically promote strengthening of the operation of diaspora organisations;

e) support the production and publishing of diaspora-related plots, broadcasts, and other materials abroad;

5) the Ministry of Welfare shall:

a) cooperate with diaspora in the field of social protection policy;

b) develop and implement support measures for the promotion and integration of diaspora employment in the labour market in Latvia;

c) coordinate and implement cooperation with diaspora in the field of social entrepreneurship;

d) provide information on vacant workplaces and labour market situation in Latvia, ensure the possibility for diaspora members to post their curriculum vitae on the website of the State Employment Agency for the purpose of seeking employment;

6) the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development shall:

a) develop and implement regional diaspora support measures, also remigration promotion and facilitation measures, *inter alia*, establish and supervise the national focal point for remigration issues, and also supervise the network of regional coordinators for remigration to be established by planning regions and local governments;

b) within the framework of its competence, supervise the operation of planning regions and local government in the field of the diaspora policy, prepare an evaluation on the diaspora support measures ensured by the planning regions and local governments, also remigration promotion measures, and proposals for their improvement;

7) the Ministry of the Interior shall:

a) facilitate that diaspora has access to the information on the procedures for the acquisition and renewal of the citizenship of Latvia;

b) ensure the possibility of diaspora members to indicate also one address in Latvia in addition to the address of the place of residence abroad;

8) the Ministry of Health shall ensure the possibility for diaspora members to make voluntary contributions in order to obtain the right to receive health care services within the scope of the State mandatory health insurance.

(3) The Public Electronic Mass Media Council shall:

- 1) promote the representation of diaspora-related events in the public service remit;
- 2) promote the availability of public electronic mass media programmes and services to diaspora.

(4) Planning regions shall plan and implement regional diaspora support measures within the scope of their competence, and also establish a regional remigration coordination network which:

- 1) in cooperation with local governments, establishes the network of specialists of local governments which ensures diaspora support measures, also remigration promotion and facilitation measures;
- 2) prepare proposals for the improvement of diaspora support measures ensured by the State and local government authorities in the territory of certain planning regions.

(5) The State administration authorities shall, according to their competence, when implementing the diaspora policy:

- 1) assess the impact of the relevant sectoral policy on diaspora;
- 2) ensure diaspora members and diaspora organisations with timely possibility to involve in the development of policy planning documents and laws and regulations related to diaspora.

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Section 7. Delegation of the Administrative Tasks Related to Diaspora

State administration authorities may, within the scope of their competence and in accordance with the procedures laid down in the State Administration Structure Law, delegate the administration tasks specified in Section 6 of this Law to other public persons and private individuals.

Section 8. Participation of Diaspora in the Development and Implementation of the Diaspora Policy

(1) Diaspora members and diaspora organisations have the right to participate in the development and implementation of the diaspora policy, *inter alia*:

1) by involving in the development of the diaspora policy-related policy planning documents and laws and regulations in accordance with the procedures laid down in the laws and regulations regarding public participation in the development planning process;

2) by acting in the Diaspora Advisory Council in conformity with the by-laws thereof;

3) by developing and implementing the diaspora policy-related projects and initiatives, and also by participating in other measures of similar type.

(2) The diaspora organisations which are operating abroad and are registered in Latvia shall be equal with diaspora organisations which are operating and are registered in Latvia in terms of the scope of rights within the meaning of those laws and regulations which govern the operation of the relevant organisations in Latvia.

Section 9. Competence of Local Governments in the Field of the Diaspora Policy

(1) A local government may, in conformity with the principles for the implementation of the diaspora policy and State diaspora policy planning documents, plan and implement the diaspora policy of the local government, *inter alia*, ensure the institutional system for the work with diaspora and provide support to the State administration authorities in the implementation of the diaspora policy.

(2) A local government shall ensure diaspora members and diaspora organisations with the possibility to involve in the development of the policy planning documents of the local government and of the laws and regulations.

(3) A local government may establish an advisory committee in diaspora matters or provide for other procedures by which the work with diaspora is to be carried out, and also provide diaspora members with social, material support or support of other type not referred to in this Law for the implementation of the objectives of this Law, also for the promotion or facilitation of remigration.

Section 10. Diaspora Advisory Council

(1) The Diaspora Advisory Council is an advisory body the purpose of which is to promote coordinated development of the diaspora policy and determination of its annual priorities, and also development and assessment of the diaspora policy.

(2) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall be responsible for the organisation of the operation of the Diaspora

Advisory Council and ensuring the secretarial functions thereof.

(3) The representatives delegated by the State administration, local governments, diaspora organisations, associations and foundations shall be included in the composition of the Diaspora Advisory Council.

(4) The Diaspora Advisory Council shall provide proposals to the ministries regarding laws and regulations and policy planning documents concerning diaspora.

(5) The Diaspora Advisory Council shall assess the diaspora policy-related proposals received from diaspora members, diaspora organisations, and State administrative organisations and provide an opinion on proposals which it considers as necessary to be supported.

(6) The composition and by-laws of the Diaspora Advisory Council shall be approved by the Cabinet.

Chapter III

Diaspora Support Measures

Section 11. Strengthening of the Latvian Identity and Affiliation to Latvia, Preservation of the Latvian Language, Research and Preservation of Culture

(1) In order to strengthen the link of diaspora with Latvia, the authorities referred to in Section 6, Paragraph one of this Law shall, according to their competence, ensure permanent and systematic support:

1) with financing and methodology for the operation of diaspora weekend schools and summer high schools, and also for raising of professional qualification of the teachers of such schools;

2) for the organisation of non-formal interest-related education and language camps for diaspora children in Latvia and abroad;

3) for the preservation, protection, and development in diaspora of the Latvian language, also the Latgalian written language as a historical variation of the Latvian language, and also that of the Livonian language;

4) for the operation of interest groups of diaspora children, youth, and adults abroad;

5) for the organisation of intergeneration (three by three) and youth (two by two) meetings or similar meetings in Latvia and abroad;

6) for the preservation, protection, and development of intangible cultural heritage, the availability of the Latvian and diaspora culture, art, and music, and the preservation and maintenance of the Song and Dance Celebration traditions in diaspora;

7) for the exploration and preservation of the history and cultural heritage of diaspora;

8) for diaspora initiatives in Latvia;

9) for the exchange programmes which ensure the possibility for diaspora children and youth to learn in the schools and higher education institutions of Latvia;

10) for other initiatives conforming to the tasks of the diaspora policy specified in Section 4 of this Law.

(2) The State and local government authorities, and also private individuals are entitled to conduct also different diaspora support measures in order to help it to maintain the link with Latvia.

Section 12. Protection of the Rights and Interests of Diaspora Abroad

The State shall ensure the protection of the rights and interests of diaspora within the meaning of the Diplomatic and Consular Service Law and the Law on Consular Assistance and Consular Services and promote availability of consular services and consular assistance for diaspora members at their permanent place of residence abroad.

Section 13. Purposeful Involvement of Diaspora in the Development of National Economy, State Administration, and Science of Latvia

In order to purposefully involve diaspora in the development of national economy, State administration, and science of Latvia, the authorities referred to in Section 6, Paragraph one of this Law, according to their competence, shall:

1) implement measures which promote the involvement of diaspora in the economic activity in Latvia;

2) implement measures which facilitate the involvement of the performers of economic activity, scientists, and other professionals of diaspora in the promotion of export and investments, sectoral development, technology transfer,

research and development;

3) ensure permanent and systemic research of diaspora and remigration issues for the implementation of efficient diaspora policy and remigration;

4) ensure that professional experience of diaspora members which is obtained during service in international organisations is recognised in the State and local government authorities of Latvia.

Section 14. Promotion of Diaspora Civic and Political Participation

In order to promote diaspora civic and political participation, the authorities referred to in Section 6, Paragraph one of this Law shall, according to their competence:

1) promote participation of the citizens of Latvia with voting right in elections and national referendum by creating polling stations abroad the number of which is commensurate to the number of voters, by facilitating the procedures by which postal voting is performed and providing for the possibility for postal voting in local government elections;

2) ensure State support for the strengthening of the activity of diaspora organisations;

3) ensure the possibility for diaspora members and diaspora organisations to involve in the development of policy planning documents and laws and regulations related to diaspora, where necessary, also remotely;

4) ensure that an impact assessment on diaspora is included in the *ex-ante* evaluation (annotation) of laws and regulations;

5) ensure the availability of the information and e-services provided by the State to diaspora.

Section 15. Remigration Support

(1) The State and local governments shall support reunion of the people of Latvia and carry out measures to facilitate the return or move of diaspora members for permanent life to Latvia.

(2) In order to ensure successful integration of diaspora children and youth in the education system of Latvia, the authorities referred to in Section 6, Paragraph one of this Law shall, according to their competence:

1) ensure the possibility for diaspora members to register their children in the general education institutions, also in the pre-school education institutions, and vocational education institutions of Latvia in a timely manner before remigration;

2) ensure permanent and systemic support for the integration of diaspora children in the education system of Latvia;

3) promote attraction of diaspora youth to studies in higher education institutions of Latvia temporarily or permanently, *inter alia*, providing the support necessary for the acquisition of the Latvian language.

(3) In order to ensure successful integration of remigrated diaspora members in the society and labour market of Latvia, the authorities referred to in Section 6, Paragraph one of this Law shall, according to their competence:

1) provide support to diaspora which is necessary for the acquisition of the Latvian language and the involvement in the measures for promoting employment or economic activity;

2) in respect of diaspora members and their family members whose origin is not related to Latvia, determine simplified procedures for the equalisation and recognition of the education, academic degrees, and professional qualification, also in regulated professions, obtained abroad, thus providing for the possibility to work in a particular sector or higher education institution in Latvia.

(4) When determining the rights of those diaspora members who have returned to Latvia and request maternity, paternity, or parental benefit, the time periods of social insurance contributions made in the European Union states and European Economic Area countries shall be taken into account.

(5) The national focal point for remigration issues and the regional network of coordinators for remigration is established for the provision and coordination of remigration support.

(6) For the purpose of facilitation of remigration, the State institutions shall examine the requests of diaspora members for granting social security services and take a decision within the same time periods as in respect of the permanent inhabitants of Latvia if the necessary information from the foreign social security institutions has been received.

(7) The State and local governments shall provide assistance in solving issues of residential premises (apartment) in accordance with the laws and regulations regarding assistance in solving issues of residential premises (apartment).

(8) For a remigrated diaspora member to be regarded as a resident of Latvia for the purpose of taxation, the pension non-taxable minimum in the amount as specified in the relevant foreign country is applied in respect of the taxation of the pension income obtained abroad with the personal income tax.

Section 16. Additional Address of the Place of Residence

(1) In order to facilitate remigration, diaspora members have the right to indicate also one address in Latvia in addition to the address of the place of residence abroad.

(2) Additional address in Latvia in terms of legal consequences shall be regarded to be equivalent to the address of the declared place of residence in Latvia in respect of the admission of children in general education institutions, also in pre-school education institutions, and vocational education institutions, and also in other cases provided for in laws and regulations.

(3) The additional address referred to in Paragraph one of this Section shall not be taken into account, when determining:

- 1) the residence of the person for taxation purposes in accordance with the law On Taxes and Duties;
- 2) the electoral district of the person in accordance with Law on the Election of the *Saeima*;
- 3) the right to social insurance benefits and State benefits and disbursement of such benefits.

Chapter IV Financing for the Implementation of the Diaspora Policy

Section 17. Financing for the Implementation of the Diaspora Policy

The diaspora policy shall be financed from the State budget funds, providing for appropriate financing which may be planned in a long term and is adjustable to the dynamics of numerical composition and activities of diaspora. The diaspora policy may be financed also from other sources.

Transitional Provisions

1. Section 10 of this Law shall come into force on 1 March 2019. The Cabinet shall, by 28 February 2019, approve the by-laws and composition of the Diaspora Advisory Council.

2. Section 6, Paragraph two, Clause 7, Sub-clause "b" of this Law which provides for the competence of the Ministry of the Interior to ensure the possibility for diaspora members to register one address in Latvia in addition to the place of residence abroad, and Section 16 of this Law, Additional Address of the Place of Residence, shall come into force concurrently with amendments to the Declaration of Place of Residence Law.

3. Section 6, Paragraph two, Clause 8 of this Law which provides for the competence of the Ministry of Health to ensure the possibility of diaspora members to make voluntary contributions in order to obtain the right to receive health care services within the scope of the State mandatory health insurance shall come into force concurrently with the relevant amendments to the Health Care Financing Law.

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5. The application of Section 14, Clause 1 of this Law which provides for the promotion of the participation of the citizens of Latvia with voting rights in elections and national referendum by creating polling stations the number of which is commensurate to the number of voters, by facilitating the procedures by which postal voting is performed, and providing for the possibility for postal voting in local government elections, shall be started from the day when the relevant amendments to the Law on the Election of the *Saeima*, the Law on Elections of the Republic City Council and Municipality Council, and the law On National Referendum, Legislative Initiative and European Citizens' Initiative come into force.

6. The application of Section 14, Clause 4 of this Law which provides for ensuring that the impact assessment on diaspora is included in the *ex-ante* evaluation (annotation) of laws and regulation in respect of the laws shall be started from the day when the relevant amendments to the Rules of Procedures of the *Saeima* come into force.

7. Section 15, Paragraph two, Clause 1 of this Law which provides for ensuring the possibility for diaspora members to register their children in general and vocational education institutions of Latvia in a timely manner shall come into force concurrently with the relevant amendments to the Declaration of Place of Residence Law.

8. Section 15, Paragraph three, Clause 2 of this Law which provides for the determination of simplified procedures in respect of diaspora members for equalisation and recognition of the education, academic degrees, and vocational

qualification, also in regulated professions, acquired abroad, thus providing for the possibility to work in a particular sector or higher education institution in Latvia, shall come into force concurrently with the relevant amendments to the law On the Regulated Professions and the Recognition of Professional Qualifications.

9. Section 15, Paragraph four of this Law which provides that, when determining the rights of those diaspora members who have returned to Latvia and request maternity, paternity, or parental benefit, the time periods of social insurance contributions made in the European Union states and European Economic Area countries is to be taken into account, shall come into force concurrently with the relevant amendments to the law On Maternity and Sickness Insurance.

10. Section 15, Paragraph eight of this Law which provides that for a remigrated diaspora member to be regarded as a resident of Latvia for the purpose of taxation the pension non-taxable minimum in the amount as specified in the relevant foreign country is applied in respect of the taxation of the pension income obtained abroad with the personal income tax shall come into force concurrently with the relevant amendments to the law On Personal Income Tax.

11. That laid down in Section 17 of this Law that the diaspora policy is financed from the State budget funds by providing for appropriate financing which may be planned in a long term and is adjustable to the dynamics of numerical composition and activities of diaspora shall be ensured not later than planning the State budget for 2020.

12. The Cabinet shall, by 28 February 2019, prepare and submit to the *Saeima* the necessary draft laws which provide for:

1) promoting the representation of events related to diaspora in the public service remit and the availability of public electronic mass media programmes and services to diaspora;

2) the possibility for diaspora members to indicate also one address in Latvia in addition to the address of the place of residence abroad;

3) the possibility for every diaspora member to make voluntary contributions in order to obtain the right to receive health care services within the scope of the State mandatory health insurance;

4) the preconditions on which and the procedures by which the citizens of Latvian with voting right may participate in the elections of the *Saeima*, the European Parliament, and local governments, national referendum, and legislative initiatives by postal voting;

5) ensuring admission of the children of diaspora members in general and vocational education institutions before remigration;

6) simplification of the procedures by which the education, academic degrees, and professional qualification, also in regulated professions, obtained abroad by diaspora members is equalled and recognised, thus providing for the possibility to work in a particular sector or higher education institutions in Latvia;

7) the preconditions on which and the procedures by which the remigrated diaspora members are entitled to receive maternity, paternity, or parental benefit, taking into account the time periods of social insurance contributions made in the European Economic Area countries;

8) ensuring that requests of diaspora members for granting social security services are examined and decisions are taken within the same time periods as in respect of the permanent inhabitants of Latvia if the necessary information from the foreign social security institutions has been received;

9) the possibility for every diaspora member who has acquired education or work experience abroad, also if he or she has served his or her service in international organisations, to efficiently participate in the activities of the State of Latvia and local governments, and also to perform State civil service according to his or her capacities, education, and qualification;

10) the possibility for every diaspora member to voluntarily join to the State social insurance system in order to receive the old-age pension;

11) ensuring that the pension non-taxable minimum is applied to a remigrated diaspora member in such amount as specified in the relevant foreign country;

12) ensuring that remigrated diaspora members may receive assistance in solving issues of residential premises (apartment).

The Law shall come into force on 1 January 2019.

The Law has been adopted by the *Saeima* on 1 November 2018.

President R. Vējonis

Rīga, 14 November 2018

¹ The Parliament of the Republic of Latvia

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