

Intra EU migration

The case of Latvia

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Migration and asylum at EU and Latvia

- European Pact on Immigration and Asylum (2008) - 5 political commitments
- The Stockholm program (2008) - Europe of responsibility, solidarity and partnership in migration and asylum matters
- Lisbon Treaty (2009): member States share competence in migration and asylum policy, which is part of a broader policy area – freedom, security and justice
- Legislation in migration policy is partially adopted by Latvia, but partially acts as independent legislator on those issues, which are not regulated on the EU level
- The Action Plan of the government – the concept of Immigration policy is developed
- Several policy documents developed, focusing on fostering return migration (target group: potential return migrants); helping to successfully integrate back into the society (actual return migrants), and strengthening ties and developing cooperation with the diaspora (including those who will not return).

History of migration processes in Latvia

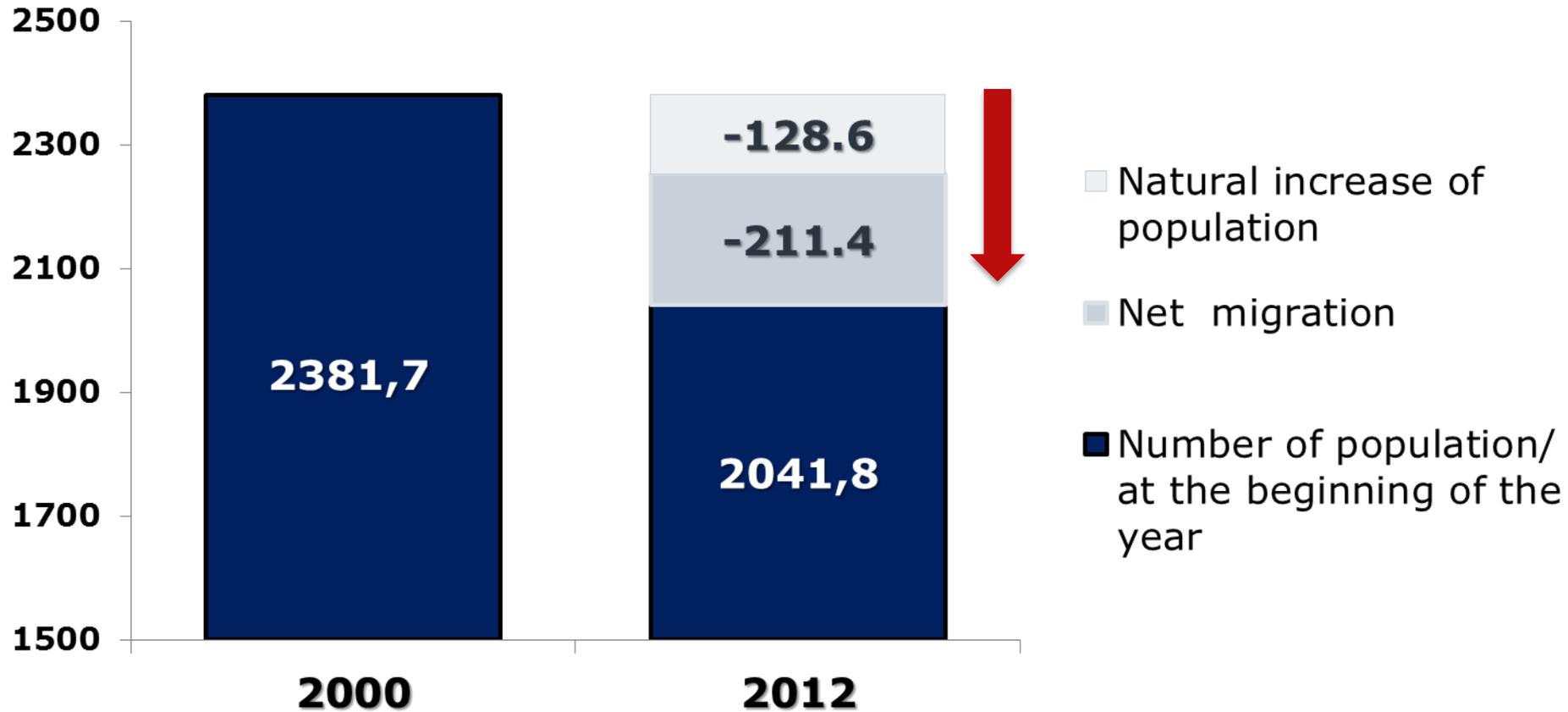
- Late 19th century – the 1stWW: Mass migration to the „New World“ and Russia
- Interwar period – not much labour migration to WE.
- Before, during and after the 2ndWW – refugees, deportations of 100 000
- 1945 - 1991 (socialist regime) international migration restricted, immigration of “Russian speakers”; mutual exchange of labour force (among socialist countries) (Vietnam, Cuba, Angola etc.)
- 1991+ emigration from LV to Russia and EU, USA
- 2004-2007 immigration increase (200 000 vacancies in 2007, shortage of 13-20% of qualified workers)

Emigration

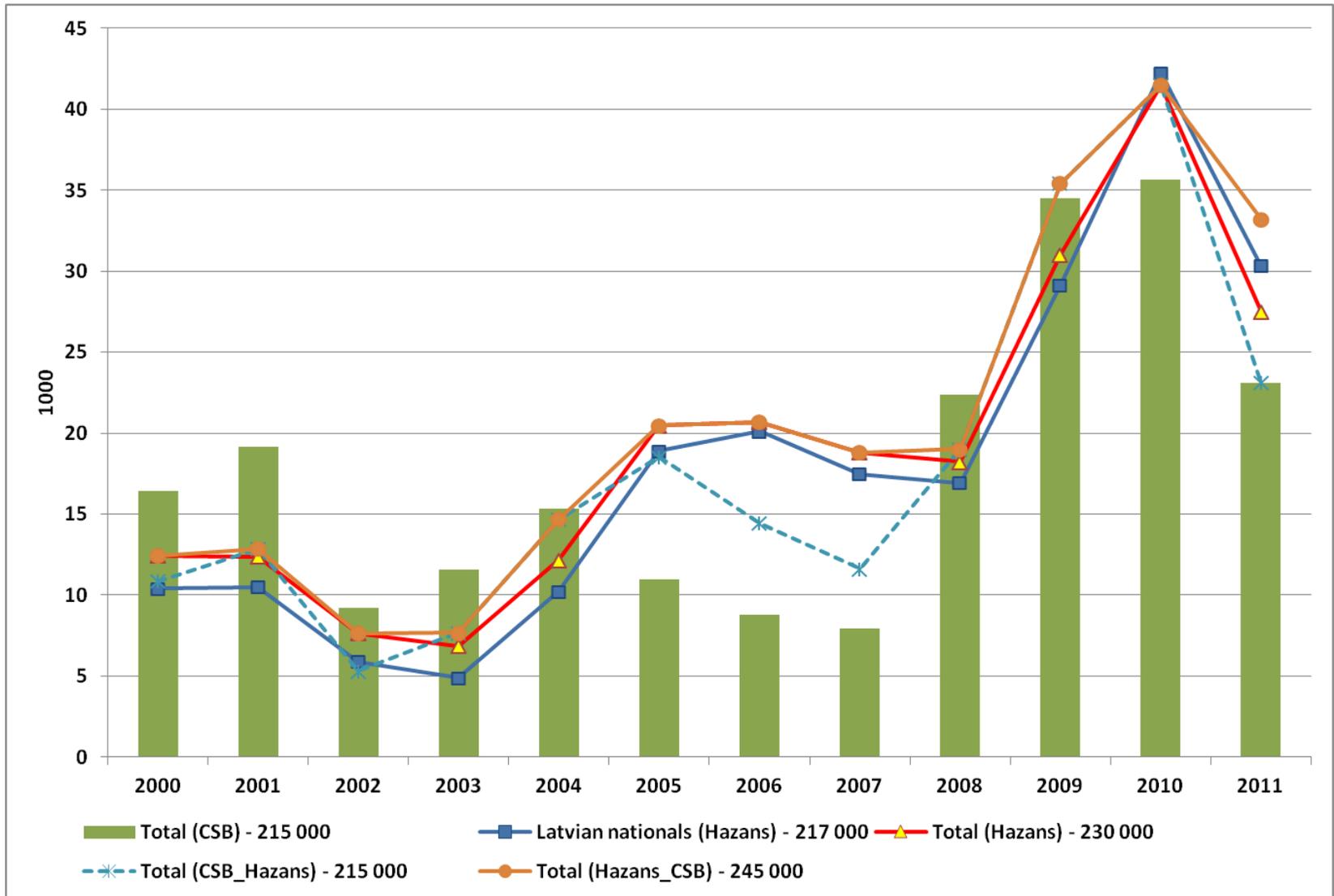
- Since the beginning of the 21st century, Latvia has lost 9% of its population (including 14% of working-age population) in several waves of emigration
- The most recent wave is the strongest migration response to the economic crisis in LV

Population changes

Since 2000, number of population has decreased by **340 thousand** or **14.3% (at least)**

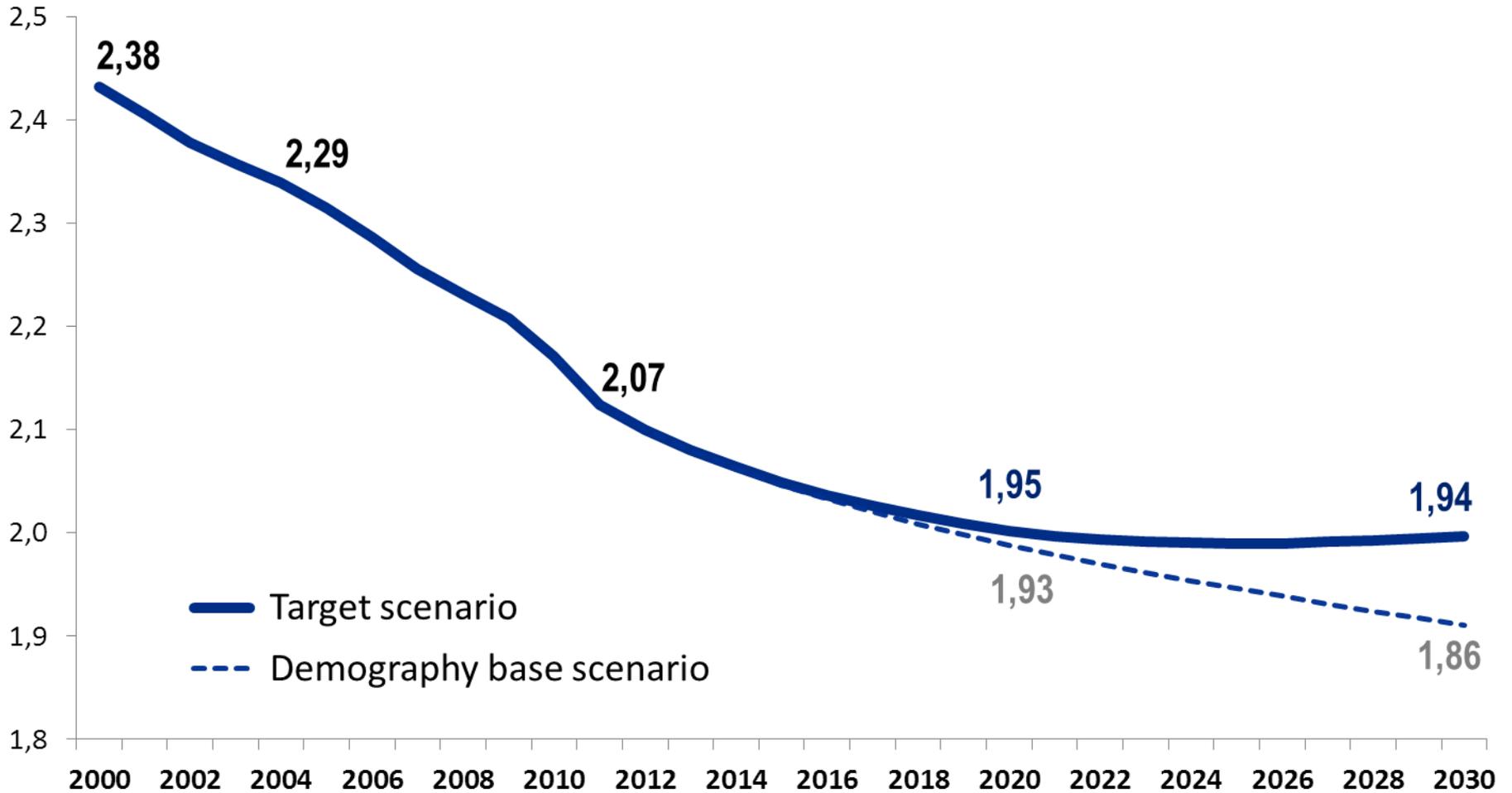


Net emigration from Latvia, 2000-2011



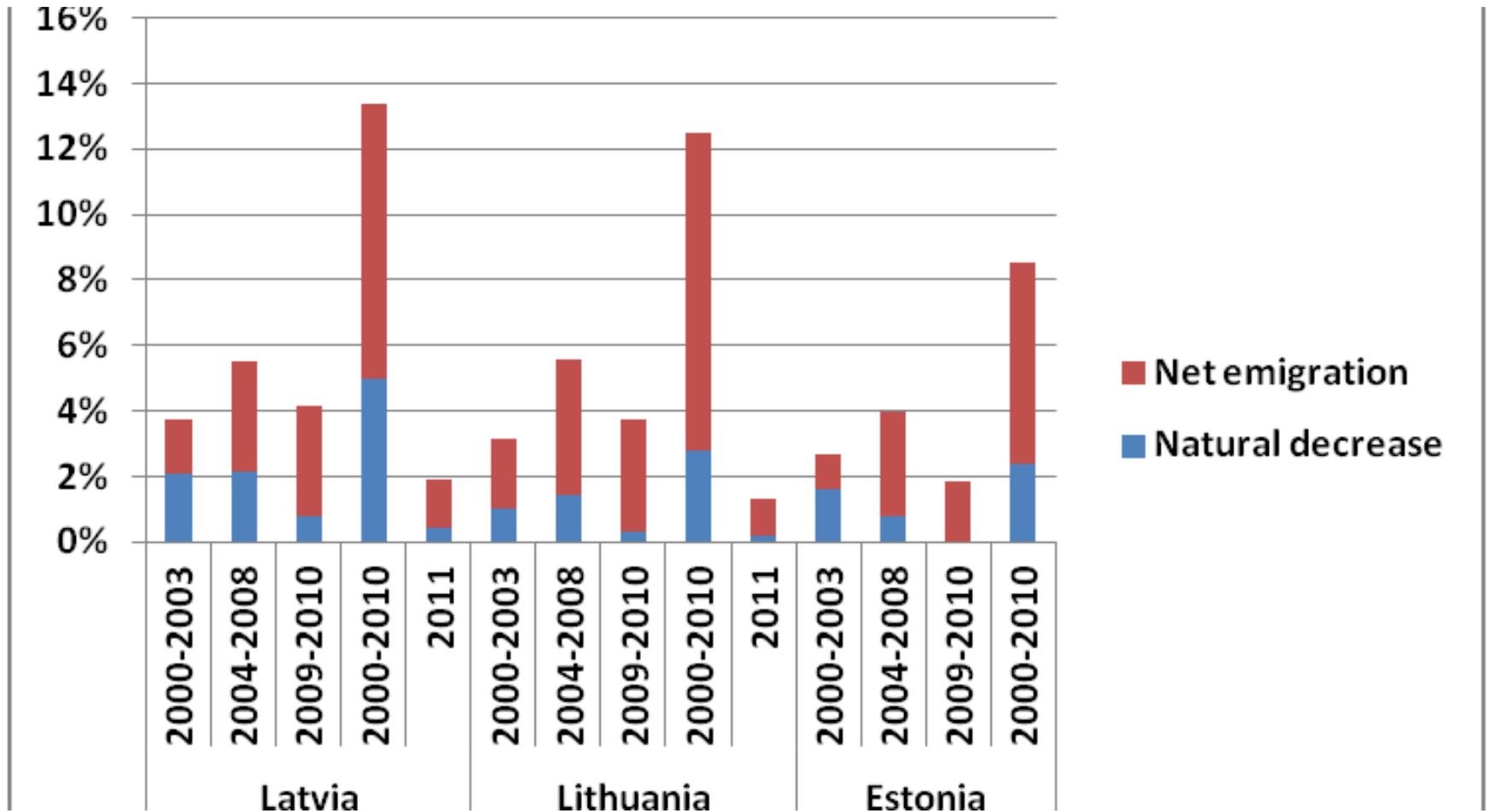
Source: Eurostat, Central Statistical Bureau

Forecast on population changes (ml.)



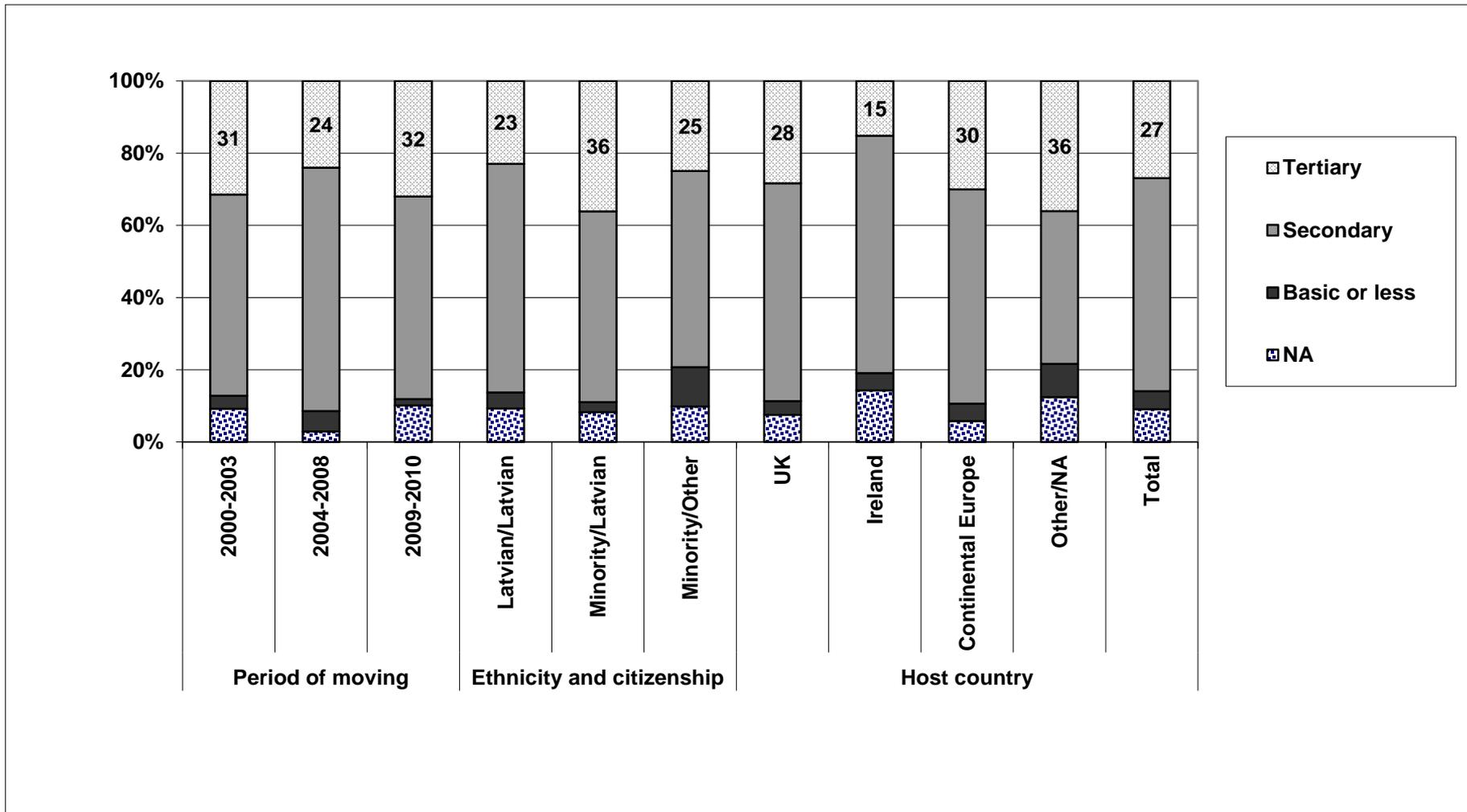
Source: Ministry of Economics

Population change in the Baltics, 2000-2011 (% of the population)



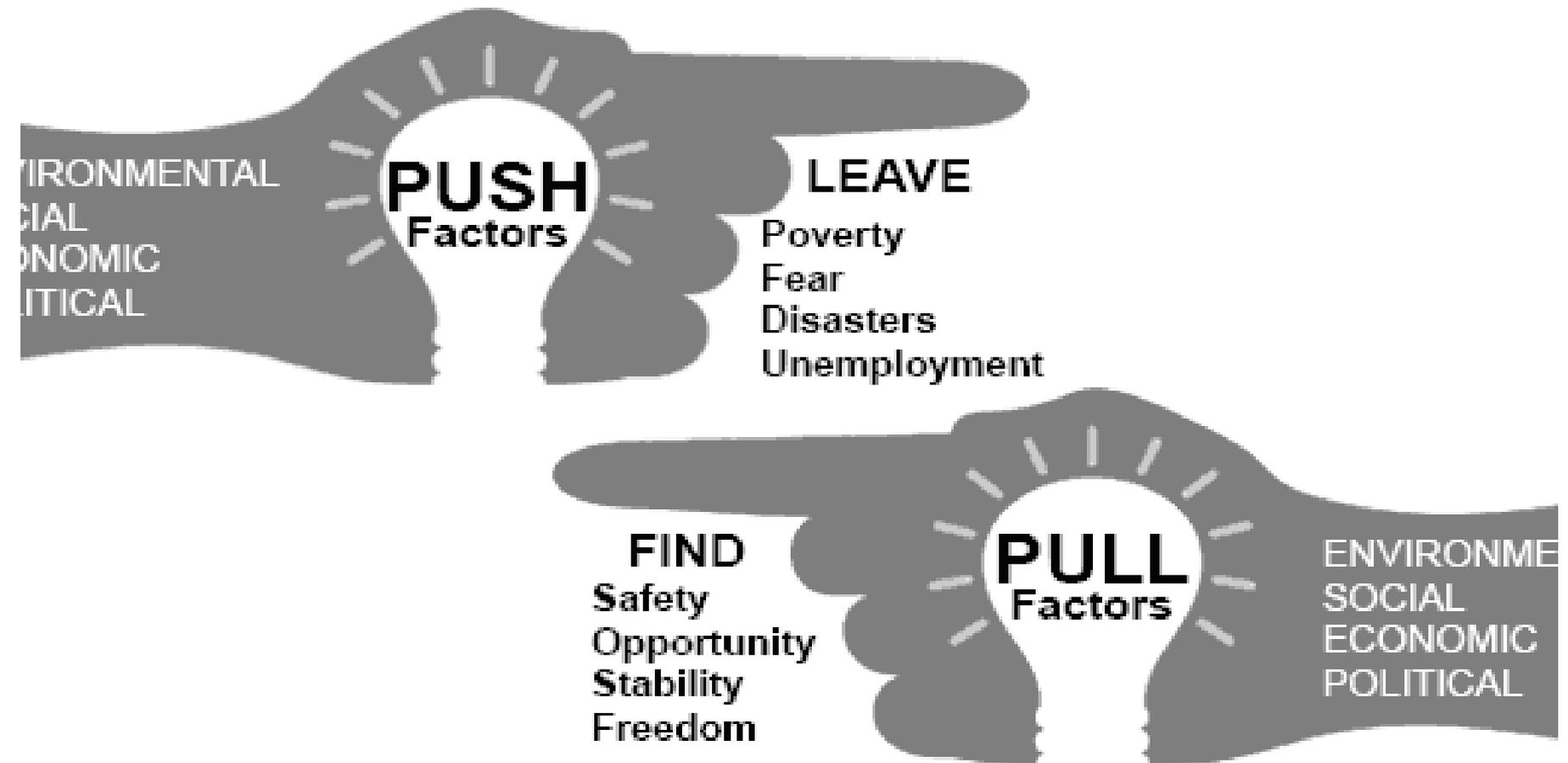
Source: Eurostat, Central Statistical Bureau

Characteristics of emigrants from Latvia (aged 22+) by education



Lee's Push-pull theory of migration

(Everett Lee, 1966)



Main emigration reasons (LU FSI, 2014)

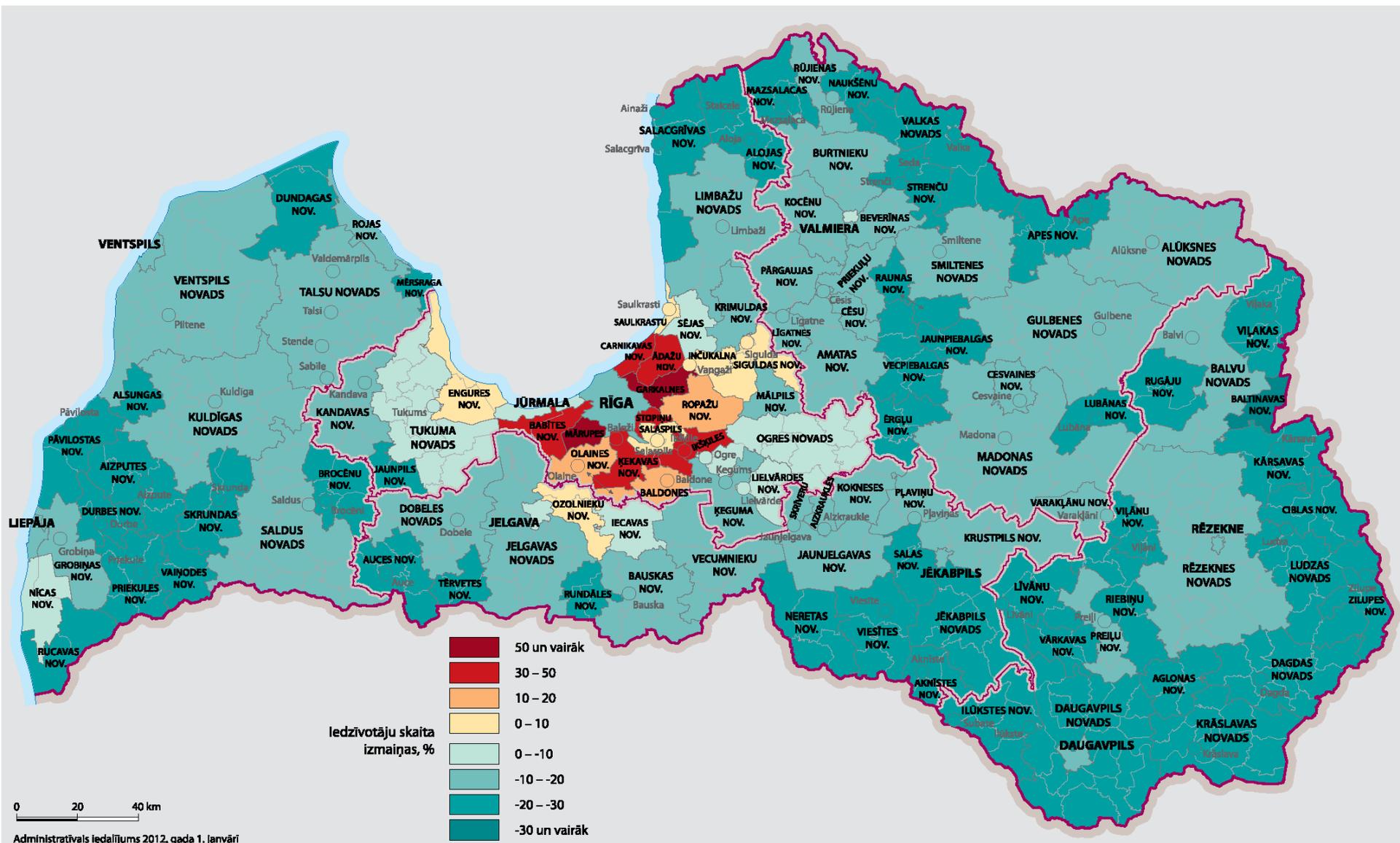
Push factors:

- Difference of wages in the EU free labour market;
- Differences of labour possibilities in Latvia and abroad;
- Differences of working conditions
- Education possibilities and other factors.

Conditions, promoting emigration:

- *'Open door effect'* (easier access to the old EU Member states' labour markets);
- Current diaspora, incl. family members;
- More information on employment possibilities abroad.

Changes in LV population size (Census, 2000-2011)

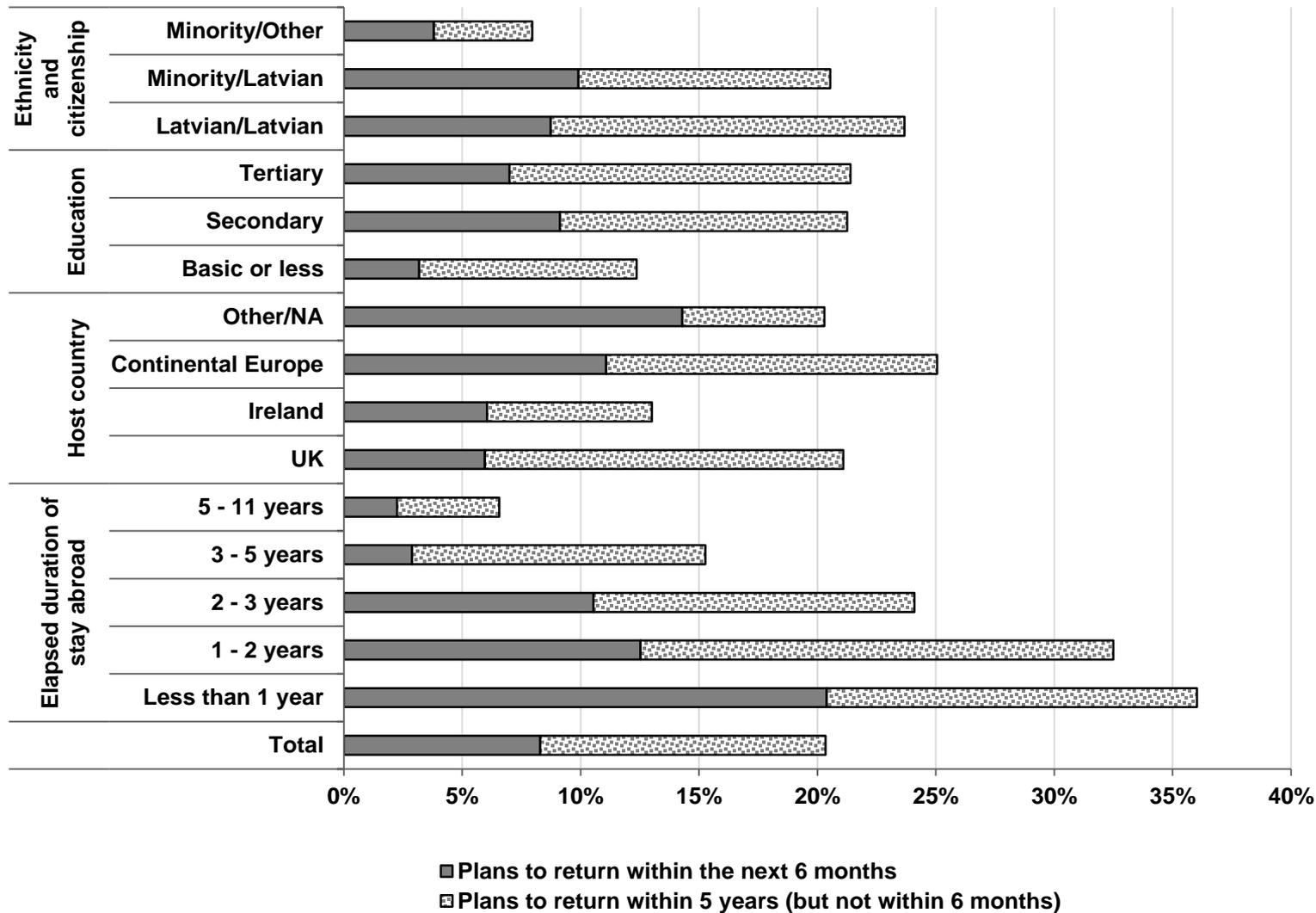


Source: State Regional Development Agency

Emigration

- Emigration shows weak signs of slowing down, despite recovering economy
- Recent emigrants are likely to move in full families and are less likely to return
- Lack of well paid jobs and low earnings remain the leading reasons for emigration,
- Non-economic reasons (uncertainty, general dissatisfaction, etc.) gain importance

Plans of emigrants to return, 2014



Source: project migracija.lv

Immigration

- Latvia hopes to attract highly skilled immigrants
- One of the considerations, which may burden immigrants' daily life in Latvia is rather negative public opinion on immigration
- Comparing 31 countries, regarding immigrants and their children, Latvia shows the worst results concerning social environment for immigrants
- The challenge for Latvia is to create conditions for immigrants to have opportunities to integrate into society (language skills, health care, etc.).

Source: www.migracija.lv

The reasons of immigration

- Before 2008, majority of residence permits issued due to **family** reunification (spouses, parents living in Latvia, Latvian citizens and non-citizens, citizens of other countries)
- 2008 - 2010 the most popular reason for immigration was **employment** (40-45% of all residence permits). Employed in construction sector)
- **Temporary residence permits** - for a limited period of time (max 5 years). They ensure limited rights and access to public services
- Since 2010 residence permits are mostly required regarding **investments** (real estate, share capital or credit institution) - 7000 permits (250 000 EUR in any place in Latvia. First time permit - pay 5% of the real estate value to the national budget (citizens of Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan).

Problems identified on state level

Immigration

- social stress because migrants start to occupy and integrate into the fields that could be occupied by locals
- Ethnic tensions

Emigration

- “brain drain”
- demography
- population aging...

Problems identified on individual level

- Return to homeland is as difficult/complicated as the emigration
- Loneliness, new partnerships
- Abuse (alcohol, drugs)
- Family disruption
- Children left behind

Children left behind

Children left behind are those children, whose parents have emigrated for economical reasons, have left their children behind and are away for at least 6 months.

Are called “Euroorphans”.

Already in 2004 the first teachers reported cases where children who used to be fine suddenly showed a lack of concentration and started to misbehave. It turned out that they no longer had their parents around.

“500,000 children in Europe have at least one parent abroad. Most of them are in Poland and Romania (a result of the size of these countries). N=8000 (LV)

As a percentage of the population, the problem is greater in Lithuania and Latvia. There might be a considerable number of cases in Estonia and Bulgaria, but the numbers are not known.”

“Baltic worlds”, CBEES Södertörn University, Stockholm

Children left behind

Qualitative study in Latvia on *Risks of social exclusion of children left behind, 2012-14*

Methods:

- Policy analyses
- Expert interviews with social workers, teachers
- Interviews with children, parents
- Analyses of documentaries

Theoretical framework: Risk of social exclusion

Three perspectives that have impact on risk of social exclusion

Having, Loving and Being (*E.Allardt, 1993*):

- Having – material deprivation,
- Loving – individual's social relations,
- Being – self-realisation and self-esteem and social perspective

Having dimension

Material deprivation as the main reason of leaving child behind (*parents' views*)

- Material conditions
- Housing
- Modern clothing for family members
- New car
- Possibilities “to live, not to exist”
- Discipline for children
- Health care

Child is far away, parents blaming:

“he/she does not understand that I work hard for him/her”

Loving dimension:

What do children expect from parents

- Friendship and love
- Emotional support
- Listen to children without critics and “clever advices”
- To keep the promises
- Help to solve the conflicts between a child and peers or adults

“Children are not a pair of shoes that one can wear for a while and then leave them”

“Daddy said he would come home... And mummy said she will be back in two months“

“Do you think she will come?”

“Yes”, she nods but wipes a tear from her eyes.

(Interview with M., 11)

Loving dimension: Changing communication when family members are apart

- Successful family functioning is based on instrumental and affective communication
- Includes verbal and nonverbal information exchange between family members.

(Epstein, 1993)

Pattern changes between

- *spouses*

- *children and parents*

- *school and parents.*

Verbal communication

How does the communication change?

Depending on means of communication it occurs once a day or once a week. Fragmented communication. It is not based on many communication episodes on everyday bases.

In space – visualisation on the screen (skype)

Contents – because it is possible to communicate at certain times, not when there is a need of a talk. It becomes more informative, related with school success, discipline, eating habits, health.

Missing main direct nonverbal communication – touching, kissing, etc.

Behavioural changes

Child loves parents but feels **angry** that parents have left him behind, although does not show it openly.

Children **feel anxiety** whether parents still love the child if they have not visited the child; whether they have not left the child forever. The opposite side of the anxiety is aggressiveness with all its consequences.

Children might **feel guilty**, non-loved and abandoned.

Possible consequences:

- problems at school,
- behavioural problems,
- health problems,
- psychological and social difficulties (expert interviews).

“Being” dimension

Positive and significant linkages between social trust and happiness. Develop trust or distrust towards people:

- “Most people can be trusted *or* you can’t be too careful”;
- “Most people try to take advantage of you, or try to be fair”
- “Most of the time people are helpful or mostly looking out for themselves”

Might develop short-term approach to main life events, temporality – living from episode to other, when they still trust parents.

Parental responsibilities (UN Convention on Rights of a child)

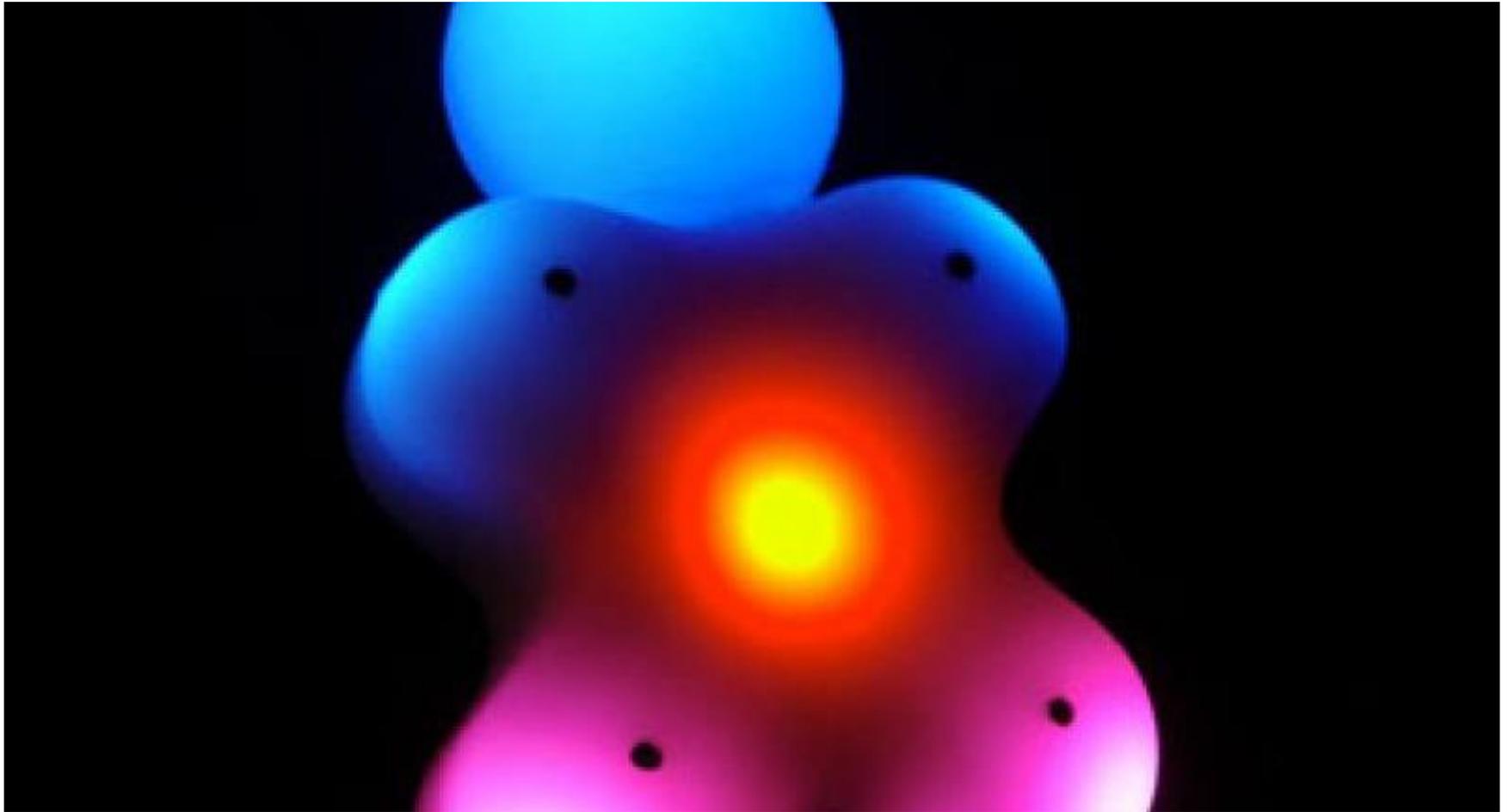
recognises the **rights and responsibilities** of parents to provide appropriate direction and guidance to their children, but requires that this should be undertaken in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of children, and to enable the child to exercise his or her rights.

This Art. is violated in cases of Euroorphans.

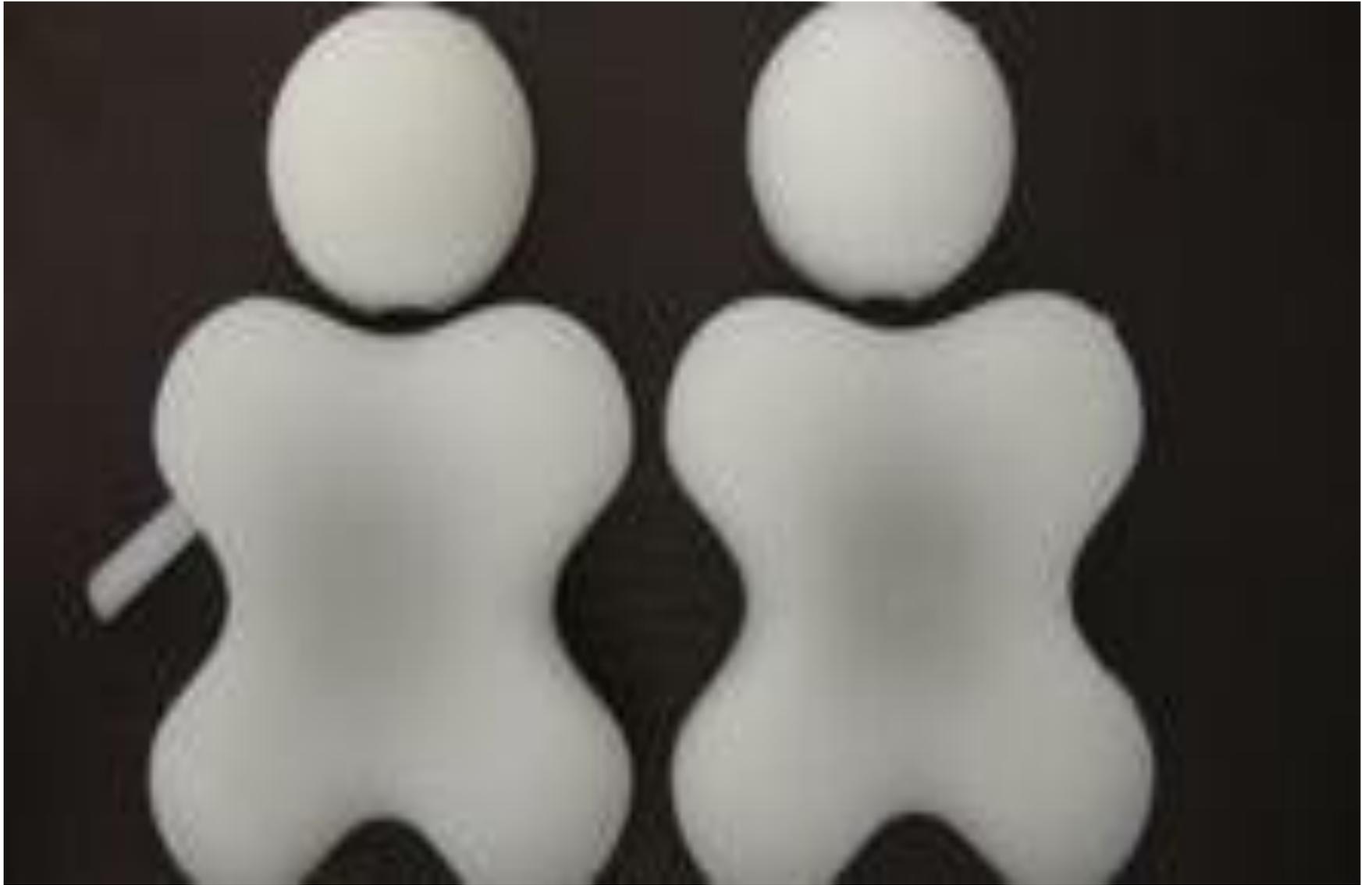
Changes in normative regulations in Latvia

- To inform the school of a child about a longterm absence of parents;
- To register and official proxy (letter of attorney) on a person who is responsible about a child (to define terms, conditions and cases when the proxy is valid, the length of the proxy,, etc,).
- To think what will happen to a child

Scottie Waag as a substitute to social exclusion of children left behind in Latvia?



Source: <https://waag.org/en/project/scottie>



Source:

- Questions?
- Comments?

- Thank you!

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