

Sexual and reproductive health is one of the Latvian public health priorities. Therefore, the Ministry of Health has launched a series of initiatives to encourage children's and adolescent's knowledge on how to have safe sexual relationships. This year, the Latvian Government has approved a new policy planning document - Maternal and Child Health Improvement Plan for 2018-2020. Using the EU funding support, this Plan provides the development of a single/unitary training programme on sexual and reproductive health issues. The aim of this training programme is informing the youth about this issue using the same standards and teaching methods and it is done in accordance with the most recent scientific evidence. Promoting youth and school children's sexual and reproductive education, we draw attention to those children who are prone to social exclusion, for example, those from social care institutions.

Likewise, we also have been focusing our attention on women facing social exclusion because these women due to the lack of financial resources are not always able to choose the most appropriate method for family planning. Therefore, the above-mentioned policy planning document contains a measure to ensure women, who are subjected to social risk, with state funded contraceptives.

One of the public health problems is the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Therefore, in 2017, the Latvian Government approved an Action Plan for the Elimination of HIV Infection, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Hepatitis B and C for 2018-2020. This policy planning document also includes several measures regarding school children's and youth education on sexually transmitted diseases' risk factors and prevention measures as well as provide the education for teachers in order to improve school education programmes.

Already in this year, we have introduced measures improving the availability of HIV diagnostic tests to people who **are** at high **risk** for **HIV infection**, thus promoting easier access to infectologist. Starting from the 1st of October, any restrictions for ARV (*antiretroviral*) therapy are removed and the principle of "test and treat" is introduced.

Consequently, I can say that Latvia has taken many significant steps in improving the situation in sexual and reproductive health area and we expect that in future these measures will result in improvement of public health situation.