

Youth support organization "Mentor Latvia" is launched

At the beginning of the New Year, Latvian youth organization "Mentor Latvia" will start its operations. It is a non-governmental organization whose primary mission is to promote young people's wellbeing, improve and protect their health and to prevent drug-related adverse effects. Starting 2010, this organization will exist in Latvia, initially working with young people from the center "Dzivesprieks", SEB bank and Stockholm School of Economics in Riga.

The organization "Mentor International" was established in 1994 in Switzerland. Its president is Her Majesty the Queen of Sweden. It is now successfully operating in several countries such as Arabia, Colombia, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Britain and neighboring Lithuania.

"Mentor" Organization's main activities can be defined by Opportunity-Prevention-Protection. It performs to assist and support young people, to prevent drug misuse, allowing young people to learn about healthy lifestyles, to provide an opportunity to engage in these activities and to protect from the risk factors that may contribute to using drugs.

The coordinator of the project "Mentor Latvia" is Baiba Rulle. She is taking the first grand steps to support and establish the organization by actively cooperating with both the Swedish organization and SEB bank, and the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga.

Initial organization collaboration is intended with SEB bank and REA, attracting people who are willing to devote their time to support and assist young people from the health center "Dzivesprieks. These young people need a strong shoulder to help them to integrate into the society, ears keen of hearing, and a friendly support, while learning healthy ways to enhance joy and fill their free time.

The actions of "Mentor Latvia" do not end in establishing the organization and working with young people. We hope that over time more people who are willing to donate their time to help young people will be attracted. To be able to provide support to all young people who need it, we need a lot more people than are currently available. March 18 in SSE Riga premises will be held the first conference, attended by both the representatives of the social organization of Latvia and Swedish "Mentor" representatives, business people, psychologists, as well as young people who are involved in the support program. In the future, "Mentor Latvia" hopes to become a unifying element of all Latvian social organizations, as well as to enlarge the area, including a number of districts throughout Latvia.