

Marrakesh Treaty Questionnaire – Latvia

1. Please indicate the relevant provisions in your national legislation providing for or regulating the limitations and exceptions to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled.

Latvian Copyright Law, Section 22.¹ Use of Certain Works for the Benefit of Persons who are Blind or with Other Reading Difficulties

[Link to the Copyright Law](#)

2. Does your national legislation permit the cross-border exchange (i.e. exportation) of “accessible format copies”, as defined in Article 2 b)1 MVT? If yes, under which conditions?

Yes.

The conditions for cross-border exchange (exportation) between Latvia and other European Union Member States are defined under Latvian Copyright Law, Section 22.¹ paragraph 4 and 7.

“(4) The competent authority may, without the consent of the author and payment of remuneration, in accordance with the provisions of Section 18, Paragraph two of this Law, for non-commercial purposes:

(..)

2) communicate, make available, distribute, or lend an accessible format copy to a person residing in a European Union Member State who is blind or with other reading difficulties or to the competent authority established in a European Union Member State.

(7) The competent authority established in Latvia which carries out the activities specified in Paragraph four or six of this Section with accessible format copies in respect of persons residing in other European Union Member States who are blind or with other reading difficulties or the competent authorities established in a European Union Member State:

1) shall take the appropriate measures to discourage the unauthorised reproduction, distribution, communication to the public or making available to the public of accessible format copies;

2) shall handle works and their accessible format copies with due diligence and maintain records of the activities carried out therewith;

3) shall publish and update on its website or through other forms of public disclosure information on how it fulfils the obligations laid down in Clauses 1 and 2 of this Paragraph;

4) upon request shall submit the following information to the persons who are blind or with other reading difficulties, to other competent authorities, or to copyright holders:

- a) the list of the works held thereby in accessible format copies and the available formats of these works,
- b) the names and contact information of the competent authorities with which it exchanges accessible format copies.”

[Likumi Website](#)

The conditions for cross-border exchange (exportation) between Latvia and third countries are defined under Regulation (EU) 2017/1563 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2017 on the cross-border exchange between the Union and third countries of accessible format copies of certain works and other subject matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print-disabled, Article 3 and 5.

[Eur lex europa Website](#)

3. Does your national legislation allow the importation of “accessible format copies”, as defined in Article 2 b)2 MVT? If yes, under which conditions?

Yes.

The conditions for cross-border exchange (importation) between Latvia and other European Union Member States are defined under Latvian Copyright Law, Section 22.¹ paragraph 6 and 7.

“(6) A person who is blind or with other reading difficulties and the competent authority are entitled to obtain or access an accessible format copy from any competent authority established in a European Union Member State.”

[Link to the Copyright Law](#)

The conditions for cross-border exchange (importation) between Latvia and third countries are defined under Regulation (EU) 2017/1563 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2017 on the cross-border exchange between the Union and third countries of accessible format copies of certain works and other subject matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print-disabled, Article 4 and 5.

[Eur lex europa Website](#)

4. Does your national legislation provide a definition of “authorized entity”, as defined in Article 2 c)3 MVT? If yes, please provide the reference.

Yes, Latvian Copyright Law, Section 22.¹ Paragraph 2:

“The competent authority within the meaning of the Latvian Copyright Law is an authority which provides education or access to information for persons who are blind or with other reading difficulties on a non-profit basis. Public authorities and non-profit organisations which provide educational and information access services to persons who are blind or

with other reading difficulties, and such services are one of the main activities or obligations of the abovementioned authorities or one of the tasks they perform in the public interest, are also recognised as competent authorities.”

[Link to the Copyright Law](#)

5. Please provide a list with contact details of entities that can operate as authorized entities in your territory, and any further information that you can provide, such as number of accessible titles in the catalogue of the authorized entity and the languages covered.

According to the Latvian Copyright Law the competent authority is not obliged to send information to the Ministry of Culture to be recognized as a competent authority, therefore we are not able to provide such a list.

However, to our knowledge, the Latvian Library for the Blind is a competent authority, that is also participating in cross-border exchange. For further details about their catalogue and covered languages, please contact them:

Address: Strazdumuižas iela 80, Riga, Latvia

Phone: +371 6751 4513

E-mail: info@neredzigobiblioteka.lv

[Latvian Library For The Blind Website](#)