

Labklājības ministrija

Social Services for Seniors in Latvia

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Population in Latvia (01.01.2014.)

Total population - 2 001 468:

Adults (to 60 years) 1 111 585

Seniors (over 60 years) 503 664 (25% of the total population)

Children 386 219

Disabled people– 161 722



Social Services Provision (*general scheme*)





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Legal & financial framework for provision of social services

Law on Social Services and Social Assistance

- **Aim** – to ensure quality of life for a person who have difficulties to take care of themselves due functional disorders or social situation
- **Basic principles**
 - Initiative by the claimant
 - Duty to pay for service
 - Evaluation of the individual needs
 - Responsibilities of state & municipalities
 - Prioritization of services provided at the place of residence (community based services)
 - Rights to appeal
- **Financing** - municipal budget or state budget (depends on the type of service)



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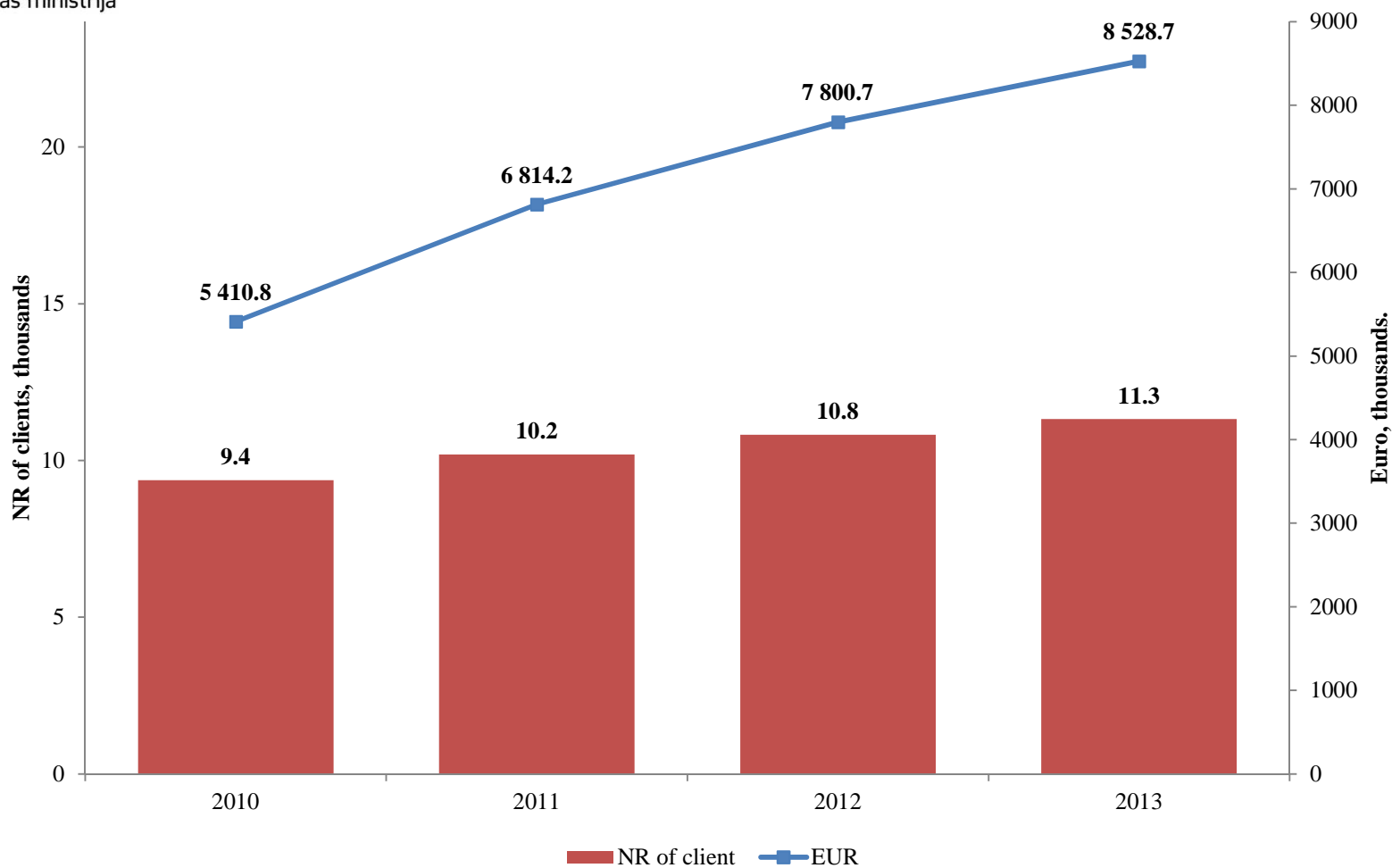
Social Services for Seniors

- **Home care** – 58 municipalities, 11225 clients (9477 seniors)
- **Long-term social care institutions** – 83 (municipal, private, NGO), 4802 clients
- **Safety Buttons** (municipality)
- **Day centers** (municipality)
- **Shelters** (municipality)
- **Social rehabilitation for disabled seniors** (state)
- **Technical aids** (state)
- **Personal assistance** service for disabled seniors (state/municipality)
- etc.



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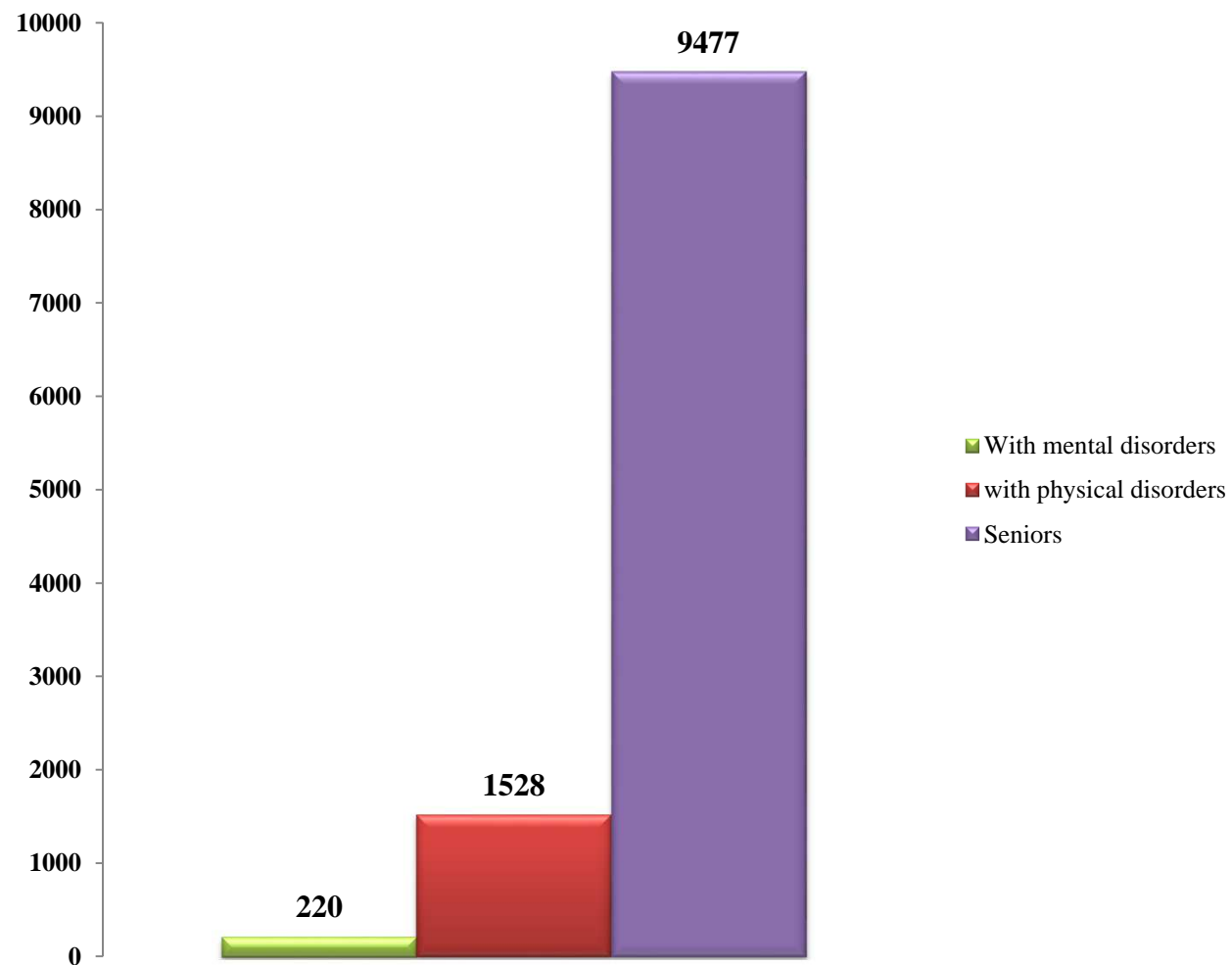
Home care service development (2010 – 2013)





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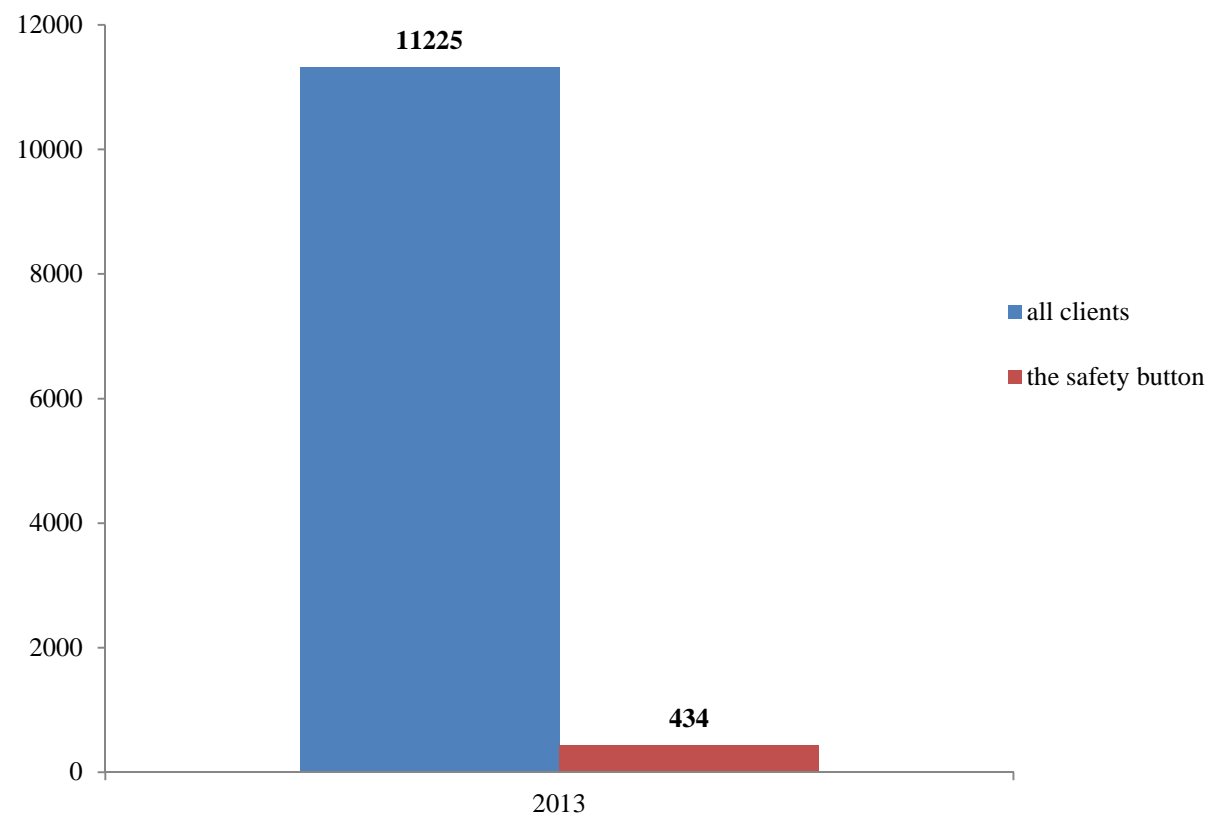
Home care service client's portrait (adults- 11 225 pers.)





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The safety button for home care service users





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Challenges in Social Services Provision

Aging society and health situation of population → clients with more complex and severe problems to solve

Insufficient resources for development of social care services

Proportion of institutional long-term care services too high compared to community based services

Availability of services close to the place of residence

Quality and variety of services

Cross-sectoral coordination in particular with health care services



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Future Prospects

- Development of community based social services as part of *local municipalities development strategies*
- Promoting *development of sustainable* social services:
 - *cost-effective*
 - *adapted to the client's needs*
 - *well-coordinated with health care services*
 - *across municipal boundaries*
- ***Deinstitutionalisation*** - decrease number of clients in long-term care institutions



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