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Possibilities for third country nationals to learn the state language in Latvia: challenges, problems and solutions

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The proficiency of the state language ensures the individual's ability to integrate more successfully in the local community, offers better possibilities in the labour market, and gives a sense of security and emotional comfort. The acquisition of the language of another country is a complex and time-consuming process. Both the opportunities and support guaranteed by the country as well as the person's own motivation, learning skills, and personal qualities influence successful acquisition of the state language.

The aim of the study is to find out and analyse conditions that promote or hinder successful acquisition of the Latvian language by third country nationals. The study is based on interviews with 50 respondents, the observation and analysis of the language acquisition process in 15 Latvian language lessons, and the analysis of the results of the state language attestation examination.

Keywords: state language, motivation, learning skills, third country nationals