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LATVIA

Riga June 15, 2005

Cooperation Memorandum between Non-governmental Organizations and the Cabinet of Ministers

Recognizing the role of a civil society in sustainable development of the state and the nation, as well as the impact that cooperation between the state and non-governmental organizations has on the quality of adopted decisions, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia (hereafter – the Cabinet) represented by Prime Minister Aigars Kalvītis, and non-governmental organizations represented by persons undersigned, conclude this cooperation memorandum (hereafter – the Memorandum) on mutual cooperation of non-governmental organizations and the Cabinet (hereafter - the Parties).

I. Objective

1. The objective of the Memorandum is to facilitate operation of an efficient public administration system that meets the interests of the society by ensuring involvement of the civil society in the decision-making process at all levels and stages in public administration, thus promoting development of the basic element of a democratic country – civil society.

II. Achieving of the objective


3. When ensuring achievement of the objective, the Parties respect openness and interests of the whole society. Cooperation of the Parties is based on established legal principles and observes the distribution of competence and scope laid down in regulatory enactments, as well as resources available to the Parties.

4. In order to facilitate implementation of principles and objectives included in the Memorandum, non-governmental organizations and the Cabinet undertake to:
   a) develop an effective mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Memorandum;
b) ensure assessment of implementation of the National Programme "Strengthening of Civil Society 2005–2009", as well as planning and development of necessary changes;

c) implement similar projects providing to the society comprehensive civil education on issues concerning public administration, as well as education of employees of public administration on issues concerning the operation of non-governmental organizations;

d) promote development and practical implementation of a transparent and accessible mechanism for utilization of structural funds of the European Union and other sources of funding;

e) prepare proposals on the amount of funding necessary for achieving the common objectives;

f) prepare proposals on changes in regulatory enactments in order to ensure the channelling of 1 per cent of personal income tax towards public benefit organizations.

5. The Parties undertake to continue the development, implementation and improvement of the necessary mechanisms, in order to ensure that non-governmental organizations are well-informed and able to effectively participate in decision-making processes, by ensuring that:

a) opinions provided by non-governmental organizations are reflected in protocols of coordination of issues;

b) representatives of interested non-governmental organizations can participate in coordination sittings, advisory councils and working groups established for developing particular projects;

c) non-governmental organizations are informed on decisions adopted in relation to proposals submitted by them; substantiation for the adopted decisions is provided;

d) non-governmental organizations have the opportunity to follow the development of draft legal acts and give opinions on them; non-governmental organizations are better informed on the course of processing of draft legal acts and policy planning documents in the Cabinet and ministries.

6. The Cabinet undertakes to facilitate delegation of public administration tasks to societies, establishments and other civil society institutions:

a) by supporting the development of a concept for promoting the delegation of public administration tasks, thus promoting operation of an efficient public administration and implementation of functions assigned to it;
b) by supporting the involvement of non-governmental organizations and their cooperation networks in policy making in the framework of respective programmes and cooperation agreements;

c) by promoting the conclusion of cooperation agreements (both short-term and long-term);

d) by ensuring laying down of precise conditions for performing public administration tasks;

e) by continuing work on establishing unified costs for services provided by public administration, which is one of the criteria for evaluating efficiency of public administration;

f) by promoting the development of necessary regulatory basis to ensure more efficient participation of civil society in decision-making processes concerning issues that are within the competence of local governments.

7. Recognizing that mutual coordination of cooperation of non-governmental organizations and principle of openness is very important in achieving the objective of the Memorandum, non-governmental organizations undertake to promote effective exchange of opinions among non-governmental organizations and ensure constructive cooperation between non-governmental organizations, the society, and the Cabinet.

III. Final Provisions

8. The Memorandum comes into force on the next day after its signing.

9. The Memorandum is open for signing to other organizations that have not been listed here.

10. The Parties, through their representatives, at least twice a year jointly assess the course of implementation of the Memorandum and discuss issues concerning further promotion of cooperation.

11. The Parties settle all disputes concerning the implementation of the Memorandum by means of mutual negotiations.

12. The implementation of the Memorandum is coordinated and technically ensured by the State Chancellery.

13. The Memorandum has been prepared in two copies; each of the Parties receives a copy. Non-governmental organizations inform the State
Chancellery on the keeper of the copy of non-governmental organizations. The State Chancellery keeps the copy of the Cabinet.

14. Other non-governmental organizations can join the Memorandum every six months after the coming into force of the Memorandum.

15. When new non-governmental organizations join the Memorandum, both copies of the Memorandum are signed.

Prime Minister

__________________________
Aigars Kalvītis

Non-governmental organizations:

On behalf of the Open Public Fund "ZĪMES Fonds" On behalf of the Open Public Fund “ATSPULGS”

__________________________  ____________________________
Armands Strazds Vairis Nartišs

On behalf of the Baltic-American Partnership Program in Latvia On behalf of the Orphans’ Society "Saules bērni"

__________________________
Ieva Morica Gunta Užane

On behalf of the Society "Alliance for Sustainable Development" On behalf of the Society "Balgales pagasta "Strops"

__________________________
Agris Bombiza Ilze Kreicberga

On behalf of the Society "Inflanty" On behalf of the Society "Coalition for Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage"

__________________________
Ivans Griņevičs Sandra Jakušonoka
On behalf of the Society "Latvijas bērniem ar kustību traucējumiem"

Ineta Stelbovica

On behalf of the Society “Latvijas pilsoniskā alianse"

Eleonora Brice

On behalf of the Society "Pilsoniskā inicītīva 21"

Rasma Pīpiķe

On behalf of the Society "Latvian Packaging Association"

Aivars Lembergs

On behalf of the Society "Riga Samaritan Association"

Andris Bērziņš

On behalf of the Society "Pilsoniskā inicītīva 21"

Vjačeslavs Vasins

On behalf of the Society "Velku biedrība"

Liāna Velka

On behalf of the Security Business Association

Dace Beināre

On Behalf of the European Movement in Latvia

Andris Gobiņš

On behalf of the Trade Union of Employees of Education and Science

Genādijs Seibūtis

On behalf of the Latvian Chamber of Crafts

Andris Gobiņš

On behalf of the Society "Save the Children"

Astrīda Harbacēviča

On behalf of the Latvian Diabetes Association

Vilnis Kazāks

Valentīna Eihenberga

Jeļena Butikova
On behalf of the Society of Georgians in Latvia "Samšoblo"

Šakro Toliašvili

On behalf of the Latvian Information and Technology Association

Imants Freibergs

On behalf of the Latvian Youth Movement "Tellus"

Mārtiņš Kālis

On behalf of the Latvian Cynological Federation

Vija Klučiniece

On behalf of the Latvian National Commission "West Russians"

Dmitrijs Nikolajevs

On behalf of the Latvian Non-governmental Organization Children’s Rights Network

Inguna Ebela

On behalf of the Latvian Adult Education Association

Ingrīda Mikiško

On behalf of the Latvian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association "Papardes zieds"

Inga Jankauska

On behalf of the Latvian Youth Council

Andris Grafs

On behalf of the Latvian Lawyers Society

Aivars Borovkovs

On behalf of the Latvian Pawnbrokers Association

Alfrēds Ļepānis

On behalf of the Latvian Association of the Deaf

Iveta Lāce-Miezīte

On behalf of the Latvian Federation of Pensioners

Aina Verze

On behalf of the Latvian Red Cross

Dita Mālniece
On behalf of the Latvian Traders Association

Raits Strautņš

On behalf of the Latvian Transatlantic Organization

Ojārs Kalniņš

On behalf of the Latvian Green Movement

Kārlis Gudermanis

On behalf of the Cooperation Council of farmers Organizations

Armands Krauze

On behalf of the LCIVSO SUSTENTO

Rita Paeglīte

On behalf of the Madona Non-Governmental Organizations Support Centre

Lidija Spilberga

On behalf of the Small and Medium Enterprises and Crafts Council

Andris Lasmanis

On behalf of the Establishment "Talsi Women and Children Crisis Centre"

Egita Sudakova

On behalf of the Establishment Environmental Education Fund "Par sakoptu Latviju"

Jānis Matulis

On behalf of the Riga Baltic Germans Association

Jānis Danoss

On behalf of the Public Organization "Minority Nationality Children and Youth Programme "ZELTA KAMOLIŅŠ"

Aleksandrs Brandavs

On behalf of the Public Organization "Strategy"

Inga Jurka
On behalf of the Public Organization
"Latvian Gender Equality Union"

Krisīne Dupate

On behalf of the Public Fund
"Assistant"

Aija Ceriņa

On behalf of the Public Policy Centre
"Providus"

Vita Tērauda

On behalf of the Association of
Public Organizations "Alūksne
Non-Governmental organizations
Support Centre"

Krista Vecāne

On behalf of the Vidzeme Culture
and Arts Society

Solveiga Boicova