Latvian Development Cooperation Policy in 2013

In 2013 Latvia’s total ODA (official development assistance) amounted to 17.9 mil. EUR, representing 0.08% ODA of GNI. In absolute numbers the aid volume rose by 22% compared to 2012.

According to the Latvian Development Cooperation Policy Strategy (2011-2015), the main goals of Latvian development cooperation are: 1) strengthening the role of Latvia as the bilateral donor; 2) promotion of public awareness and support for development cooperation’s goals and policy; 3) raising role of Latvia in achieving development goals and implementing international obligations.

The specific targets for Latvian development cooperation policy in 2013 are the following ones: 1) implementing the projects in Moldova; 2) participation of Latvia within the civilian projects in Afghanistan; 3) co-financing the projects and capacity building activities of NGO’s and social partners; 4) promotion of public awareness on development cooperation and participation within defining the development policy goals, priorities.

Around 90% of Latvia’s ODA has been disbursed through multilateral channels (EC, UN agencies, IDA, EDF etc.). The rest of ODA has been implemented bilaterally mainly through different technical assistance projects. The total bilateral aid in 2013 was 1 082 561 EUR. All aid is grants.

The bilateral ODA was distributed for the following activities:

- The project “Support for strengthening the institutional capacity of justice system in Moldova”
  The implementer: the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Latvia
  Dates: May-December 2013
  Status: finished
  Location: Moldova and Latvia
  Aid type: technical assistance
  Sector: legal and judicial development
  Planned/actual expenditures: 28 457 EUR
  Contact information: dace.freimane@tm.gov.lv
  Objective: to promote effective, transparent and accountable Moldova’s justice system
  Description: This project is the continuation of the similar project in 2012 within the USAID’s support program for Moldova’s justice system based on the memorandum of understanding between Latvia and USA. The support program is 4 years long, thus also in 2014 the Ministry of Justice of Latvia will continue to support the institutional capacity of Moldova’s justice system.
  Results: 1) the public authorities got the essential information to improve Moldova’s justice system; 2) the capacity of Moldova’s Probation Service has been strengthen by receiving recommendations for normative regulations; 3) Moldova will be able to implement sooner the EU’s recommendations.
• The project “Support for the Moldova’s Northern Regional Development Agency to elaborate socio-economic development strategy until 2020”
The implementer: the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia
Dates: May-December 2013
Status: finished
Location: Moldova and Latvia
Aid type: technical assistance
Sector: regional development
Planned/actual expenditures: 14 229 EUR
Contact information: ilona.raugze@varam.gov.lv
Objective: to raise the capacity of the Moldova’s Northern Regional Development Agency for elaborating the socio-economic development strategy until 2020
Description: As the previous one, also this project is the continuation of the similar project in 2012 within the USAID’s support program for Moldova’s regional development. The support program is 4 years long, thus also in 2014 the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia will continue to promote the Moldova’s regional development.
Results: 1) deliberated the prospective entrepreneurial areas for the regions in Moldova; 2) the methodology for developing the strategy on regional development has been prepared; 3) updated the Northern Regional Development program, which serves as a model for other regions of Moldova.

• The civilian project in Afghanistan
The implementer: the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Latvia
Dates: 29th of September-4th of October 2013
Status: finished
Location: Afghanistan and Latvia
Aid type: technical assistance
Sector: Education and training in transport and storage
Planned/actual expenditures: 7 114 EUR
Objective: to sing cooperation contracts and prepare the trainings for transport professionals
Description: The cooperation between the Ministry of Transport of Latvia, Latvian training institutions at transport industry and Kabul’s Polytechnic University has been implemented since 2012. The main aim is to prepare the trainings for transport (railway, aviation) professionals.
Results: The cooperation contract between Kabul’s Polytechnic University, Riga Technical University and Daugavpils Vocational Secondary-School has been signed. The aim of the cooperation is to implement exchange programs and training programs for railway professionals.

• Co-financing development cooperation, development education and development awareness projects by NGO’s and social partners, who have already got the funding from international donors.
The total funding amounted to 19 920 EUR. The priority partner countries for the funded projects were countries from EU’s Eastern Partnership’s and Central Asia regions, and Latvia (as also development awareness was one of the main priorities for the submitted projects). In total, eight projects were funded:
1. NGO’s “Latvian Transatlantic Organization” (LATO) project “Young Diplomacy Professionals Forum” - 1,587 EUR;
2. NGO’s “Latvian Association of the Portage Training System” project “The Development of the Portage’s early adjustment program in Azerbaijan” – 3,496 EUR;
3. The Family Planning and Sexual Health Association’s “Fern Flower” project “Equal Rights to Health for Everyone – Action for Development” – 1,232 EUR;
4. Latvian Association of Municipalities’ project “The Platform” – 630 EUR;
5. NGO’s “The Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation” (LAPAS) project “TRIALOG V: The Strengthening Civil Society Organizations in EU12 and Candidate States for Active Participation in Global Development” – 1,190 EUR;
6. Latvian Association of Municipalities’ project “Cooperating for Development: New Challenge for Associations of Municipalities and NGOs’ Networks” – 917 EUR;
7. NGO’s “Education Development Centre” project “The Global Dimension in Social Sciences Subjects” – 8,979 EUR;
8. NGO’s “Baltic Environmental Forum” project “Raising Stakeholders’ Awareness on the Energy Efficiency of Buildings in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine” – 1,889 EUR.

More information (objective, aide type, location etc.) on the projects is further (attachment no.1).

- The grant projects funded by MFA in EU Eastern Partnership’s and Central Asian countries. The total funding amounted to 35,572 EUR. The funded projects (both of them are still in action) are the following ones:
  1. NGO’s “Latvian Association of the Portage Training System” project “Development and Implementation of Team Working Model for Social Rehabilitation at the youth centre ‘Oriqami’ in Azerbaijan” – 20,328 EUR.
  2. NGO’s “Women Resource Centre” “Marta” project “The Capacity Building for Civil Society and Local Administration in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan with participatory action research” – 15,243 EUR.

More information (objective, aide type, location etc.) on the projects is further (attachment no.2).

- Financial support for the NGO “The Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation” (LAPAS) for participation at EU’s NGOs’ Platform and for capacity building. Total funding for LAPAS amounted to 1,806 EUR.

Taking into account that LAPAS is the main platform for Latvian NGO’s working with development cooperation and it represents their interests at European level, MFA decided to give financial support for strengthening LAPAS capacity. In addition, LAPAS will take significant role within Latvia’s presidency of the Council of EU in 2015, thus it is important to financially support LAPAS and its members in order to give them opportunity to visit exchange programs, study visits, trainings for their capacity building.

- Financial support for the NGO “The Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation” (LAPAS) in order to promote organization of events, researches on the priority areas of Latvian development cooperation. Total funding for LAPAS amounted to 11,383 EUR.

Owing to the funding LAPAS have faced the following outcomes:
- The manual for the communities on human safety within the framework of research
‘Mainstreaming of human security concept at the community level: the role of the NGOs’

- The Research ‘Latvian Development Cooperation: Good practice from the South Caucasus and Central Asian Countries with the Objective of Developing New Innovative Projects’
- Organized several events such as seminars, workshops, working groups for strengthening the capacity of LAPAS’ member organizations
- The conference on the partnership with Central Asian and Caucasus countries which resulted in 1) strategy for representation of interests on the development cooperation in Central Asia; 2) strategy for cooperation between MFA and LAPAS; 3) LAPAS’ operational strategy.

• Financial support for the expert missions (2 846 EUR):
  - The Georgian Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs’ expert visits to Latvia;
  - The Food and Veterinary Service’s visit to Uzbekistan.

During both visits Latvia provided technical assistance to Georgian and Uzbek partners for in order to strengthen their capacity.

Attachment no.1

1. Project „Young Diplomacy Professionals Forum” (ID: ĀM/GPK-6/2013)
The implementer: NGO „Latvian Transatlantic Organization” (LATO)
Dates: 01.06.-15.10.2013.
Status: finished
Location: Latvia
Aid type: Other technical assistance
Sectors: educations, civil society
Planned/actual expenditures: 1 587 EUR
Contact information: elina@lato.lv
Objectives: 1) to promote young people’s awareness of international relations, security issues as well as development cooperation; 2) to promote experience exchange; 3) to promote the long-term cooperation among youth.
Description: The Youth Diplomacy Professionals Forum was organized within the Riga Conference 2013. The participants (60) of the forum were mainly students from EU Eastern Partnership’s and Central Asian countries, thus during the discussions on various topics (for instance, ‘Women in Action: Integration of a Gender Perspective in the International Arena’) it was possible to hear also about real needs, opinions on the development of Eastern Europe and Central Asia region.
Results: After the forum the young participants made the team of peers (using Facebook as the platform), where they are exchanging views on different issues, including, development cooperation, as well as exchanging information on researches, conferences etc. Some of the participants are now working together on projects related to global challenges.

2. Project ‘The Development of the Portage’s early adjustment program in Azerbaijan’ (ID: ĀM/GPK-7/2013)
The implementer: NGO ‘Latvian Association of the Portage Training System’
Status: finished
Location: Azerbaijan  
**Aid type:** technical assistance  
**Sector:** education  
**Planned/actual expenditures:** 3 496 EUR  
**Contact information:** ineta.kursiete@gmail.com  
**Objective:** to phase in Portage’s early adjustment program for pre-school children (0-7/8) with intellectual disabilities and their families in Azerbaijan.  
**Description:** To achieve the objective project’s implementer consulted and trained new Portage’s early adjustment program’s professionals from different regions in Azerbaijan.  
**Results:** Several Azerbaijan professionals got certificated in Portage’s early adjustment program and now are working at the three new centres for children with intellectual disabilities and their families.

**The implementer:** The Family Planning and Sexual Health Association ‘’Fern Flower’’  
**Dates:** 06.06.-30.11.2013.  
**Status:** finished  
**Location:** Latvia  
**Aid type:** development awareness  
**Sector:** Medical education/training  
**Planned/actual expenditures:** 1 232 EUR  
**Contact information:** solvita@papardeszieds.lv  
**Objective:** To promote European healthcare professionals’ awareness on the close link between health and development and to encourage them to act within these issues.  
**Description:** Not only healthcare professionals were involved within the project’s activities but students, academics, NGO’s and journalists as well. For instance, the project’s implementer organized seminar for journalists from regions in order to promote discussions on global health issues in public space.  
**Results:** In the result of seminar for journalists, three publications were made on global health, thus indirectly reaching 59 200 Latvian inhabitants. In addition, after the postgraduate training course, 23 healthcare professionals received the certificates in global health. During the project several public discussions and campaigns were made as well to reach wider public.

4. **Project ‘’The Platform’’ (ID: ĀM/GPK-8/2013)**  
**The implementer:** Latvian Association of Municipalities  
**Dates:** 29.10.-09.12.2013.  
**Status:** being implemented (the end date of the project is June 2016)  
**Location:** Latvia  
**Aid type:** other in donor expenditures  
**Sector:** not specified  
**Planned/actual expenditures:** 630 EUR  
**Contact information:** mudite.priede@lps.lv  
**Objective:** To support the members of Latvian Association of Municipalities, which implement development cooperation and development education projects, to increase their effectiveness within development cooperation at the EU level.
Description: During the project several working groups were organized in order to prepare the united position of Latvian municipalities on the European Commission’s legislation on development cooperation issues. The positions were presented and forwarded to the representative of the Commission. In addition, the Latvian Association of Municipalities also took part in organizing the seminar “Goal beyond 2015 – Peace”.

Results: 1) The position of Latvian municipalities on development cooperation issues was forwarded to European Commission; 2) The seminar “Goal beyond 2015 – Peace” was organized during European Development Days 2013.

5. Project ‘TRIÁLOG V: The Strengthening Civil Society Organizations in EU12 and Candidate States for Active Participation in Global Development’ (ĀM/GPK-9/2013)
   The implementer: NGO “The Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation” (LAPAS)
   Status: being implemented (the end date of the project is September 2015)
   Location: Latvia
   Aid type: other in donor expenditures
   Sector: not specified
   Planned/actual expenditures: 1 190 EUR
   Contact information: info@lapas.lv
   Objective: To strengthen the role of municipalities in implementing development cooperation and to promote their participation at the international level.
   Description: During the project the implementer informed Latvian municipalities about the EU’s development cooperation policy and their involvement opportunities by organizing informative events, training visits.

6. Project ‘Cooperating for Development: New Challenge for Associations of Municipalities and NGOs’ Networks’ (ID: ĀM/GPK-2/2013)
   The implementer: Latvian Association of Municipalities
   Status: being implemented (the end date of the project is June 2014)
   Location: Latvia
   Aid type: other in donor expenditures
   Sector: democratic participation and civil society
   Planned/actual expenditures: 917 EUR
   Contact information: elita@lps.lv
   Objective: To strengthen the role of municipalities in implementing development cooperation and to promote their participation at the international level.
   Description: During the project the implementer informed Latvian municipalities about the EU’s development cooperation policy and their involvement opportunities by organizing informative events, training visits.
Results: 1) The international seminar on the role of civil society in development cooperation and the municipalities’ understanding on civil participation; 2) the international conference on the role of NGO in development cooperation and the municipalities’ understanding on NGO’s participation; 3) the contest on mini-grant projects for Latvian municipalities – in the result Bauska municipality organized a project with Georgia, Gulbene municipality – with Belarus, Jelgava municipality – with Moldova.

The implementer: NGO ‘Education Development Centre’
Status: being implemented (the end date of the project is December 2015)
Location: Latvia, Estonia and Northern Ireland
Aid type: development awareness/ other in donor expenditures
Sector: education
Planned/actual expenditures: 8 979 EUR
Contact information: iveta.verse@latnet.lv
Objective: To promote public interest and participation in development education and public awareness on development issues in Latvia, Estonia and Northern Ireland.
Description: The implementer mainly focused on development education, for instance, researching values, principles of global educations within social science subjects.
Results: 1) The research on the global education within social science subjects; 2) methodological materials on global education issues; 3) educational events for teachers, policy makers and pupils.

The implementer: NGO ‘Baltic Environmental Forum’
Status: being implemented (the end date of the project is February 2015)
Location: Russia, Belarus and Ukraine
Aid type: technical assistance
Sector: energy education/training
Planned/actual expenditures: 1 889 EUR
Contact information: daina.indriksone@bef.lv
Objective: To raise knowledge on energy saving and energy efficiency events.
Description: The project includes various target groups such as NGOs, architects, local communities, associations of apartment owners, educational institutions. The implementers organized several trainings, events for raising awareness on energy efficiency.
Results: 1) the implementers have given consultations on building and reconstructing buildings based on energy efficiency approach; 2) informative materials on energy saving; 3) guidelines for NGOs and municipalities for raising awareness on energy efficiency among society; 4) the training course and teaching block within learning program for apartment owners, house managers.
Attachment no.2

1. Project ‘‘Development and Implementation of Team Working Model for Social Rehabilitation at the youth centre ‘‘Oriqami’’ in Azerbaijan’’ (ID: ĀM/GPK-10/2013)
   The implementer: NGO ‘‘Latvian Association of the Portage Training System’’
   Dates: 06.01.-31.05.2014.
   Status: being implemented (the end date of the project is May 2014)
   Location: Azerbaijan
   Aid type: technical assistance
   Sector: education
   Planned/actual expenditures: 20 328 EUR
   Contact information: ineta.kursiete@gmail.com
   Objective: To develop modern social rehabilitation centre’s operating model for children and youth with special needs, which would be based on united team work.
   Description: The operating model, which is being developed within the project, includes 1) individual rehabilitation plan for each client and its marketing; 2) the introduction of uniform method for increasing the ability of customer communication.
   Expected results: 1) the program for the working team of rehabilitation centre ‘‘Oriqami’’; 2) the working team of rehabilitation centre will have the necessary skills, knowledge for work with children’s individual evaluation table for their individual rehabilitation plan.

2. Project ‘‘The Capacity Building for Civil Society and Local Administration in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan with participatory action research’’ (ID: ĀM/GPK-11/2013)
   The implementer: NGO ‘‘Women Resource Centre’’ ‘‘Marta’’
   Status: being implemented (the end date of the project is June 2014)
   Location: Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
   Aid type: technical assistance
   Sector: democratic participation and civil society
   Planned expenditures: 15 939 EUR
   Actual expenditures: 15 243 EUR
   Contact information: dita@marta.lv
   Objectives: To raise the capacity of NGOs and local public administration in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and to promote cooperation between NGOs and local public administration in joint training.
   Description: The project will be based on the seminars, trainings, for instance, the seminars on participatory action research for NGOs and representatives of public administration. Participatory action research can be used to tackle the social problems.
   Expected results: 1) 20 trained representatives from NGOs and public administration (4 of them will be trainers, who will spread the methodology further); 2) at least 10 NGO’s and 2 administrative territories’’ capacity will be strengthen;