

## Development Co-operation Policy Plan for 2016

### I. Summary of the Plan

The Development Co-operation Policy Plan for 2016 (hereinafter – the Plan) lays down the utilisation of the development co-operation funding allocated in the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Plan has been developed in accordance with Section 6, Clause 1 of the Law On International Assistance.

In planning and implementation of the development co-operation policy the Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-operates with the responsible public administration institutions, non-governmental organisations (hereinafter – NGOs), and social partners. In the course of development of the Plan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a meeting of the Consultative Council for Development Co-operation Policy on 13 November 2015, during which the society “Latvian Platform for Development Co-operation” (hereinafter – the LPDC) expressed objections against non-transparent process for inclusion of measures in the Plan. Members of the Consultative Council do not decide on measures included in the Plan.

EUR 451,400 were allocated in the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for implementation of bilateral development co-operation in 2016.

By using these funds, *firstly*, grant project tenders will be organised. A grant project tender will be organised for implementation of development co-operation projects to support the countries of the European Union (hereinafter – the EU) Eastern Partnership – Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, as well as Central Asian countries – Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan. A tender will also be organised for the allocation of co-funding to development co-operation and development education projects implemented by NGOs, social partners, and local governments, which have obtained funding from the financial instruments provided for external activities of the European Commission (hereinafter – the EC) and other providers of international assistance.

*Secondly*, long-term development co-operation projects will be implemented according to the needs expressed by the partner countries and the Latvian expert-examination and/or projects, for the implementation of which co-funding of other donors in the amount of at least 50 % will be attracted. The project for regional development will be continued in Moldova. By attracting 50% co-funding from the Emerging Donors Challenge Fund of the USA, projects will be implemented for support to Ukraine in the field of agriculture and anti-corruption, as well as for support to Uzbekistan for improving the customs procedures. Support for implementation of training programmes for representatives of the European Neighbourhood Policy countries, Central Asian and Western Balkan countries in Riga Graduate School of Law will be continued; also scholarships for Ukrainian students at the University of Latvia will be funded. A project will be implemented by the State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia for support to Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine to strengthen the Supreme Audit Institutions of these countries in establishment of a transparent and efficient control system of State funds. Funding will also be provided to ensure a wider participation of Latvian experts in other international projects funded by providers of international assistance.

*Thirdly*, to promote public awareness and support to the development co-operation objectives and policy, support will be provided to NGOs and the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments for implementation of measures and projects, including through participation in EU development co-operation platforms.

## II. Characterisation of the Current Situation

The Development Co-operation Policy Plan has been drawn up in accordance with Section 6, Clause 1 of the Law On International Assistance, and it lays down the utilisation of the development co-operation funding allocated in the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 2016. The Plan also includes a description of the measures to be implemented.

**EUR 451,400 were allocated in the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for implementation of bilateral development co-operation in 2016**, which is EUR 37,587 more than in 2015. With the allocated funding the co-operation activities already initiated will be continued and new development co-operation initiatives will be supported.

The Development Co-operation Policy Plan for 2016 prioritises implementation of bilateral and trilateral development co-operation for support to the partner countries by supporting also promotion of public awareness and support to the development co-operation objectives and policy, including involvement of NGOs and social partners, as much as possible.

In order to ensure sustainability and efficiency of the assistance provided by Latvia, it is necessary to continue to focus on certain priority countries and range of priorities, as well as to develop the possibilities of co-operation with other providers of international assistance.

In order to achieve more effective results of the measures implemented and provide a significantly wider target audience of projects and more varied opinions on the problems to be solved, it is necessary to promote implementation of such development co-operation projects and measures that contribute to co-operation of Latvian State institutions, NGOs, private sector, and social partners.

According to the recommendation made in the meeting of 14 October 2015 of the Economic Co-operation and Development Organisation (OECD) Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions, regarding the Latvian official development assistance in implementation of the Development Co-operation Policy Plan for 2016, appropriate measures for prevention of bribery of foreign officials, detection and reporting thereof will be ensured. Also, natural persons who have been convicted of bribery, as well as legal persons who have been applied coercive means due to bribery, will be excluded from implementation of official development assistance projects.

Within the framework of the Development Co-operation Policy Plan for 2016, *firstly*, grant project tenders in the amount of EUR 115,800 will be organised.

In response to the current political developments in the neighbouring region, taking into account the Latvian foreign policy priorities and according to EU and international efficiency principles of assistance, in 2016 it is planned to **announce a grant project tender for the implementation of projects for support to the EU Eastern Partnership countries – Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, as well as to the Central Asian states – Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan**. The priority areas of co-operation are determined on the basis of the previous co-operation of Latvia and recognised experience of reforms, the information provided by the Latvian embassies, and taking into account the areas of co-operation set by the EU in these countries. 50 % of the funding available in the grant project tender are planned to be marked for implementation of projects of NGOs and social partners. The grant project tender will be announced in accordance with the Law On International Assistance and Cabinet Regulation No. 2 of 5 January 2010, Procedures for Implementation of Grant Project Tenders. (If within the scope of the budget for 2016 additional funds are allocated for implementation of grant project tenders, then these funds are intended to be channelled for the implementation of projects for support to Ukraine.)

In 2015 four grant projects were implemented from the State budget programme “Development Co-operation Projects and International Assistance”, of which three projects

were for support to Moldova and one project for support to Georgia. Similarly, in 2015 additional funding was allocated from the State budget funds for unforeseen cases for support to Ukraine, which made it possible to implement six grant projects in this country. The grant projects funded in 2015 covered areas such as promotion of economic development, support for the reform process of local governments and regional development, for strengthening capacity of the border police of partner countries, support to the agricultural sector, strengthening of good governance and the rule of law, support for civil society and public participation.

Ensuring continuation of the practice commenced in 2012, in 2016 **a grant project tender will be organised for allocating co-funding to development co-operation and development education projects implemented by NGOs, social partners, and local governments**, which have acquired funding from financial instruments intended for the EC external actions and from other providers of international assistance. The Plan provides for that the amount of co-funding in 2016 is maintained at the level of the previous year, primarily for support to the development co-operation projects. In 2015 co-funding was allocated to two projects in the field of development of education, which had obtained funding from the EC. In 2015 no projects were submitted for development co-operation projects. The grant project tender will be announced in accordance with the Law On International Assistance and Cabinet Regulation No. 2 of 5 January 2010, Procedures for Implementation of Grant Project Tenders.

*Secondly*, long-term development co-operation projects will be implemented according to the needs expressed by the partner countries and the Latvian expertise and/or projects, for the implementation of which co-funding of other donors in the amount of at least 50 % will be attracted. These projects will be implemented in the amount of EUR 312,600.

The Development Co-operation Plan for 2016 provides for allocation of funding for continuation of the project initiated in 2012 by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development **for support to Moldova in the field of regional development**. The successful results of the previous years in the project implementation and the willingness expressed by Moldova to continue the co-operation confirms the significance of the contribution of Latvia in provision of long-term support to Moldova in its reform process.

It is planned to continue two projects in co-operation with the USA, which were commenced and successfully implemented in 2015 for support to Ukraine – **the project implemented by the Riga Graduate School of Law in the field of anti-corruption, and the project implemented by the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre in the field of agriculture**. It is planned that the USA will participate in these two projects with a 50 % co-funding.

Following up on the current situation in Ukraine, its European integration efforts and processes of democratisation, it is planned to continue the practice of 2015 **by allocating funds for scholarships for Ukrainian students at the University of Latvia**.

On the basis of long-term development co-operation with partner countries implemented by the State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia since 2010, which is highly appreciated and demanded by these countries, in 2016 it is planned **to finance a project for support to Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine to strengthen the capacity of the Supreme Audit Institutions of these countries** in creation of a transparent and efficient control system of public funds.

Taking into account the previous **professional and highly evaluated activity of the Latvian customs experts in Central Asia**, in 2015 it was planned to implement a project of the State Revenue Service Customs Administration in Uzbekistan in co-operation with the USA. Due to unforeseen circumstances with respect to internal administrative procedures of the USA, as well as complex and time-consuming project harmonisation process with the

customs of Uzbekistan, it was not possible to start the project provided for in the Plan in 2015. The USA participates in the project with a 50 % co-funding, therefore, taking into account the situation and the interest of Latvia to implement the project in Uzbekistan, financial support is intended for this activity in the Plan in 2016.

The communique of the First Meeting of **EU and Central Asian Ministers for Education organised within the framework of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU outlines a comprehensive framework for co-operation between the EU and Central Asia in the field of higher and vocational education.** From 2015 to 2018 Latvia carries out the functions of the EU co-ordinating country in the project “Central Asian Education Platform” funded by the EC Directorate-General for Cooperation Development, within the framework of which Latvian experts convey their experience in development of education policy, methodology and process organisation to Central Asian countries. Within the framework of project activities Latvian education institutions, State and private sector co-operation partners, as well as social partners are visited, thereby giving an opportunity to develop further development co-operation projects.

In evaluating the successful results of 2014 and 2015 and substantial interest in the training programme offered by the Riga Graduate School of Law, within the framework of the budget for 2016 it is planned to continue to co-finance the training programme for representatives of the European Neighbourhood Policy countries, Central Asian and Western Balkan countries regarding international policy, economic and legal matters, including theoretical and practical training, as well as exchange of experience in Latvian and EU institutions. The training programme of the Riga Graduate School of Law is a dedicated 3-month programme that includes an intensive training course not only in Riga, but also visits to Brussels and Luxembourg. In 2014 and 2015 already 70 representatives of public administration and civil society were trained within the framework of this programme. During this period of time, Latvia has provided funding in the amount of EUR 319,550 for implementation of the programme, attracting funding of other donors in the amount of EUR 440,000, which accounts for 58 % of the total costs of the programme. The quality of the programme is evaluated on a regular basis and improved accordingly.

To find an opportunity within the framework of 2016 to respond to the needs expressed by the partner countries, **funding is planned for involvement of Latvian experts in broader projects of other donors**, also by continuing the co-operation commenced in 2015 with the representative office of the United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter – the UNDP) in Uzbekistan. In 2015 within the framework of a broader project implemented by the UNDP in Uzbekistan, a visit of Uzbek experts to Latvia took place to get acquainted with the experience of the Ministry of Welfare in social policy issues related to determination of disability and rehabilitation. In 2016 it is intended to extend this type of co-operation to other beneficiary countries for priority areas.

*Thirdly*, to raise public awareness and support to development co-operation objectives and policy, support will be provided to NGOs and the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments in implementation of measures and projects, including through participation in development co-operation platforms. Measures and projects will be implemented in the amount of EUR 23,000.

Taking into account the previous co-operation, it is planned to continue to provide financial support to **NGOs working in the field of development co-operation and for strengthening their capacity** – for operation of the LPDC, evaluating the needs expressed by the LPDC co-relating them with the possibilities of the development co-operation budget. Support will be provided to the LPDC capacity with the aim to organise and co-ordinate thematic measures for informing the public, including for implementation of sustainable development objectives, as well as for continuing the measures undertaken within the framework of the European Year for Development.

In examining the request of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (hereinafter – the LALRG), **funding will be allocated for participation of the LALRG in the European Platform for Local and Regional Governments for Development “PLATFORMA”** to continue awareness-raising of Latvian local governments in development co-operation issues.

In the Development Co-operation Policy Guidelines for 2016-2020 according to Section 5, Clause 6 of the Law On International Assistance, the Latvian foreign policy priorities, and international principles of efficiency of international assistance, it is planned to include the criteria for inclusion of projects and financial support in the annual Development Co-operation Policy Plan.

The Plan has been co-ordinated with Paragraph 62 of the Declaration Regarding Intended Activities of the Cabinet Led by Māris Kučinskis.

The Plan is linked to the priority “Security Capabilities” of the Latvian National Development Plan 2014-2020 (hereinafter – NDP) (Paragraph 339 of the NDP and justification document of the indicative financial framework of NDP priorities, action directions, and tasks), which lays down the following action – tender regarding development co-operation and development education projects and project co-funding for NGOs.

The Plan has been developed according the new global long-term development framework approved by the UN member states in 2015 – 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda replaces the Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000 and includes 17 sustainable development objectives and implementation and monitoring tools thereof. The new framework ensures interdependence of three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, environmental), thus providing for poverty eradication and economic growth that does not harm the environment.

The Plan has also been harmonised with the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community, signed at Lisbon on 13 December 2007 and which states that the Union policy in the field of development co-operation shall be conducted within the framework of the principles and objectives of the Union's external action. The Treaty also states that Union's development cooperation policy and that of the Member States complement and reinforce each other.

The Plan is based on the first European consensus European Consensus on Development, adopted jointly by the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament and the European Commission on 20 December 2005, which is the first common document of the Community institutions and Member States, which lays down the action of the Commission and Member States in the field of development policy.

The Plan is also based on the EU Agenda for Change, adopted in 2011, which is a strategy for poverty reduction, significantly changing the way the EU assistance is provided, including focusing assistance on fewer sectors, provision of assistance to least developed countries, emphasis on human rights, democracy and good governance, etc.

The objectives of the Latvian development co-operation funding arise from the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted by the UN in July 2015, and funding obligations approved within framework of the EU. In conformity with these obligations, the EU and its Member States must by 2030 allocate 0.7 % of gross national income (hereinafter – GNI) to the development co-operation, of which 0.2 % must be allocated to least developed countries. According to the EU obligations Latvia shall allocate 0.33 % of GNI for development co-operation by 2030. Currently the amount of the Official Development Assistance provided by Latvia accounts for 0.08 % of the GNI, which is EUR 19 million.

If, upon implementing the measures laid down in the plan for 2016, a situation arises when it is not possible to implement any of the measures provided for in the Plan or funding from implementation of the relevant measure has remained unutilised, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall decide on utilisation of the available funding in accordance with the Law On

International Assistance, according to the priority directions set out in the Plan, also including the opportunity to provide additional financial support for the co-funding tender, taking into account its results. When deciding on the utilisation of the unutilised funding, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall co-ordinate the decision with the Consultative Council for Development Co-operation Policy.

<i>Objective of the Plan</i>		<b>I. To implement the EU development co-operation objectives according to the Latvian foreign policy priorities and the specified development co-operation partner countries. To promote sustainability of the Latvian development co-operation policy.</b>				
<i>Result(s) and performance indicator(s) of the policy</i>		<p><i>Indicate the results of the policy referred to in the guidelines or other development planning documents, and in parentheses indicate the performance indicators at the end of the activity of the plan</i></p> <p><b>Development co-operation strengthens its role as an integral part of the foreign policy of Latvia</b> (Latvia acquires additional efficient tools and mechanisms for the establishment of bilateral relations with developing countries and economies in transition; bilateral/trilateral assistance funding increases).</p> <p><b>Visibility of Latvia increases in the partner countries and at wider international level</b> (the volume of projects implemented by Latvia in the EU Eastern Partnership and Central Asian countries increases).</p> <p><b>Demand of the partner countries for Latvian expertise increases</b> (Latvian expertise and comparative advantages are used in projects; experience and expertise of the Latvian development co-operation implementers increases, which allows them to successfully build joint projects with other donors and to apply for membership in international donor-funded projects).</p> <p><b>The assistance provided by Latvia leaves a lasting positive effect on sustainable development of the beneficiary countries</b> (the assistance provided by Latvia becomes more efficient and meets the needs and priorities of the beneficiary country; the number of bilateral and trilateral assistance programmes increases (against the proportion of projects); multiannual commitments are introduced in funding of co-operation programmes and projects).</p>				
<i>1. Action direction</i>		<b>Implementation of grant project tenders.</b>				
<i>No.</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<b>Result of the activity</b>	<b>Performance indicator</b>	<b>Responsible institution</b>	<b>Jointly responsible institutions</b>	<b>Term for execution (with accuracy of up to half a year)</b>
<i>Task of guidelines and its no. (if applicable)</i>						
<b>Strengthening the role of Latvia as a bilateral donor, thus implementing the external policy interests of Latvia.</b>						

1.1.	<p><b>Implementation of grant projects for support to the EU Eastern Partnership countries – Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, as well as Central Asian countries - Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.</b></p> <p>Grant funding will be available to all organisations in accordance with Section 9, Clause 5 of the Law On International Assistance. It is planned to mark 50 % of the funding available in the grant project tender for implementation of projects of NGOs and social partners.</p> <p>A representative, well-informed regarding the situation of NGOs, will be involved in the commission for evaluation of grant project tender for the assessment of NGO projects.</p> <p>In cases when the draft by-laws of the tender provide for allocation of grants also to such projects, which will qualify as State aid projects, the by-laws of the tender will include the requirements for State aid control in order to ensure conformity with the legal framework for State aid.</p> <p><u>The following priority countries and sectors have been defined in the grant project tender</u> (the sectors have been selected on</p>	Funding has been allocated for the implementation of 5-6 grant projects.	Number of implemented projects.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Other institutions, depending on the project tender results.	31 December 2016
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<p>the basis of the previous fields of co-operation, the information provided by the embassies of Latvia and the priorities of the EU for co-operation with the relevant countries):</p> <p><b>Georgia</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening of good governance and rule of law (reforms in public administration, acquisition of EU funding, decentralisation of finances, and territorial co-operation, etc.);</li> <li>2. Economic development and agricultural development;</li> <li>3. Social protection and employment.</li> </ol> <p><b>Moldova</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening of good governance and rule of law;</li> <li>2. Regional development, decentralisation of finances, and territorial co-operation;</li> <li>3. Support for development of democratic and civil society; social protection; gender equality;</li> <li>4. Economic development – improvement of the investment climate and strengthening of export abilities, introduction of international standards in export-oriented sectors.</li> </ol>					
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<p><b>Ukraine</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening of good governance and rule of law;</li> <li>2. Support to the development of democratic and civic society;</li> <li>3. Regional development, decentralisation of finances, and territorial co-operation; development of agricultural sector.</li> </ol> <p><b>Kyrgyzstan</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening of good governance and rule of law;</li> <li>2. Economic development; rural development;</li> <li>3. Social protection; gender equality; education;</li> <li>4. Support to the development of democratic and civic society.</li> </ol> <p><b>Tajikistan</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening of good governance and rule of law;</li> <li>2. Economic development; rural development;</li> <li>3. Social protection; gender equality; education;</li> <li>4. Support to the development of democratic and civic society.</li> </ol> <p><b>Uzbekistan</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening of good governance and rule of law;</li> <li>2. Economic development; rural development;</li> <li>3. Social protection; gender equality; education;</li> </ol>					
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	4. Support to the development of democratic and civic society.					
1.2.	<p><b>Allocation of co-funding to NGOs and social partners, which have acquired funding from providers of international assistance, including EC, for implementation of development co-operation and development education projects.</b></p> <p>Priority will be given for support to development co-operation projects. Co-funding for the projects will be allocated by announcing a project tender.</p>	Co-funding has been ensured for 8-10 projects.	Number of implemented projects.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Depending on the tender results.	31 December 2016
<b>2. Action direction</b>		<b>Implementation of long-term development co-operation projects according to the needs expressed by the partner countries and the Latvian expertise and/or projects, for the implementation of which co-funding of other donors in the amount of at least 50 % will be attracted.</b>				
<i>No.</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<b>Result of the activity</b>	<b>Performance indicator</b>	<b>Responsible institution</b>	<b>Jointly responsible institutions</b>	<b>Term for execution (with accuracy of up to half a year)</b>
<i>Task of guidelines and its no. (if applicable)</i>						
<b>Strengthening the role of Latvia as a bilateral donor, thus implementing the external policy interests of Latvia.</b>						
2.1.	<p><b>A project implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development for support to Northern region of Moldova in the field of regional development.</b></p> <p>The project with support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is being implemented since 2012.</p>	<p>1) A mentoring programme for the specialists of Northern region of Moldova and its local governments (provisionally 20 people) has been implemented as regards issues topical to the Moldovan specialists (including water management, waste management, promotion of entrepreneurship, development of tourism, etc.).</p> <p>2) Methodological support has been</p>	Project implemented. Number of the trained representatives of Moldova.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development and other competent authorities (the Investment and Development Agency of	31 December 2016

		<p>ensured for the development of regional tourism development strategies (including attraction material), for the development, implementation and evaluation of the regional development strategy for 2016-2020, exchange of experience in matters of entrepreneurial support at regional and local level has been ensured (purposeful and efficient use of resources).</p> <p>3) In co-operation with the Latvian Rural Forum, support has been provided for activation of non-governmental sector for planning and implementation of development of territories.</p>			Latvia, planning regions), NGOs (including Latvian Rural Forum, the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments), entrepreneurs.	
2.2.	<p><b>A project implemented by the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre for support to Ukraine in the field of agriculture, attracting 50 % co-funding from the Emerging Donors Challenge Fund of the USA.</b></p> <p>Taking into account the current situation in Ukraine, it is important for Latvia to support the reform process in the agricultural sector and the related European integration issues.</p> <p>With this project it is expected to enhance economic development of Ukraine, the</p>	<p>Approximately 24 Ukrainian specialists of agricultural sector management have been trained in five training modules; training was attended by Ukrainian agricultural sector policy-makers, specialists, regional representatives, and non-governmental representatives.</p>	<p>Project implemented. Number of the trained representatives of Ukraine.</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre</p>	<p>31 December 2016</p>

	development of the agricultural sector and export capacity of agricultural products, based on the experience of Latvia in its integration in the EU.					
2.3.	<p><b>A project implemented by the Riga Graduate School of Law for support to Ukraine in the field of anti-corruption, attracting 50 % co-funding from the Emerging Donors Challenge Fund of the USA.</b></p> <p>Corruption issues are one of the most topical and complicated challenges in Ukraine, therefore, it is important to provide support in this area.</p>	<p>1) In co-operation with Ukrainian and Latvian experts a training programme for representatives of the Ukrainian civil society was created with the objective of creating supervisory approaches/mechanisms for the anti-corruption policy of Ukraine.</p> <p>2) The created training programme within the framework of the visit to Latvia will be acquired by approximately 20 persons – representatives of Ukrainian NGOs, the government, parliament and media.</p>	Project implemented. Number of the trained representatives of Ukraine.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Riga Graduate School of Law	31 December 2016
2.4.	<p><b>Scholarships for Ukrainian students at the University of Latvia.</b></p> <p>Taking into account the current situation in Ukraine, it is particularly important for Latvia to support the reform processes in Ukraine and its European integration efforts. Investment in education is to be considered as a long-term investment.</p> <p>The academic and lecturer basis of the University of Latvia provides an opportunity for foreign students, including from Ukraine, to acquire academic programmes of their interest. It is expected to contribute with</p>	Approximately 15 Ukrainian students have been trained.	The number of trained Ukrainian students.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	University of Latvia	31 December 2016

	<p>this project to the development of democracy in Ukraine and professionalism of future implementers of reform, as well as to promote forming of bilateral contacts.</p>					
2.5.	<p><b>A project implemented by the State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia for support to Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine to strengthen the capacity of the Supreme Audit Institutions of these countries in creation of transparent and efficient control system of public funds.</b></p> <p>The project is implemented on the basis of the long-term development co-operation with the partner countries implemented by the State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia since 2010, which is highly appreciated and demanded by these countries. The project is implemented in collaboration with the Supreme Audit Institution of Sweden. The project is co-financed by the State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia.</p>	<p>1) Within the framework of 4 seminars at least 80 representatives of Supreme Audit Institutions of Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine have been trained in adaptation of the International Standards on Auditing (ISSAI); in matters of institutional aspects of supreme audit institutions, etc.</p> <p>2) Forum for Supreme Audit Institutions of Eastern Region was implemented in Riga.</p>	<p>Project implemented. Number of the trained representatives of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia</p>	<p>31 December 2016</p>
2.6.	<p><b>A project implemented by the Customs Board of the State Revenue Service for support to the customs of Uzbekistan, attracting 50% of the co-</b></p>	<p>1) Up to 40 Uzbek customs officials have been trained regarding issues on improvement of customs control risk governance, information systems for the provision of efficient customs</p>	<p>Project implemented. Number of the trained representatives</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>Customs Board of the State Revenue Service</p>	<p>31 December 2016</p>

	<p><b>funding from the Emerging Donors Challenge Fund of the USA.</b></p> <p>The project was approved already in the Plan for 2015, but due to the internal procedures of the USA, allocation of co-funding was delayed, and an official agreement of the Uzbek State Customs Committee for the plan of activities provided for in the project was not received either, thus it will be possible to start the project only in 2016.</p>	<p>control.</p> <p>2) Efficient risk governance system has been developed with the support of the Latvian experts.</p>	<p>of Uzbekistan.</p>			
<p>2.7.</p>	<p><b>A training programme implemented by the Riga Graduate School of Law for representatives of the European Neighbourhood Policy countries, Central Asian and Western Balkan countries.</b></p> <p>The programme is implemented in co-operation with other donors, including with Norway, Sweden, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.</p> <p>In order to increase the presence of Latvia in the priority co-operation regions – in the Eastern Partnership and Central Asian countries, as well as to promote stability and growth of the neighbouring region, a</p>	<p>10 representatives of the Eastern Partnership and Central Asian countries have been trained; four modules have been acquired, which include 12 courses on the EU and international law, economy, politics, and financial issues. EU institutions in Brussels and Luxembourg have been visited within the framework of training.</p>	<p>Number of the trained representatives.</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>Riga Graduate School of Law</p>	<p>31 December 2016</p>

<p>training programme for the studies in Latvia of representatives of public administration and civil society of the Eastern Partnership and Central Asian countries was established in 2014. The training programme includes a course on the EU and international economy, political and legal issues, and ensures conveying of knowledge and experience of Latvia as an EU Member State. The 12-week course includes theoretical and practical training, and exchange of experience in Latvian and EU institutions.</p> <p>The programme is coordinated by the Riga Graduate School of Law, and it is implemented by a consortium of several institutions of higher education – Riga Graduate School of Law, the University of Latvia, Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, the European Institute of Administration (EIPA), and the Latvian Institute of International Affairs.</p> <p>The programme costs include airline tickets for the participants, accommodation expenses, study visits to the EU institutions, costs of preparation and course of the programme</p>					
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	(including Latvian and foreign lecturers), etc.					
2.8.	<p><b>Involvement of Latvian experts in larger-scale projects financed by other donors.</b></p> <p>The funding is intended for finding an opportunity of responding to the needs expressed by the partner countries within the framework of 2016, through involvement of Latvian experts in larger-scale projects of other donors. It is planned to continue the successful co-operation with the representative office of the UNDP Programme in Uzbekistan, started in 2015.</p>	At least one project has been implemented.	Number of implemented projects. Number of the trained representatives of the partner countries.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Depending on the project implemented.	31 December 2016
<b>Objective of the plan</b>		<b>II. To promote public awareness and support to the development co-operation objectives and policy.</b>				
<b>Result(s) and performance indicator(s) of the policy</b>		<p><i>Indicate the results of the policy referred to in the guidelines or other development planning documents, and in parentheses indicate the performance indicators at the end of the activity of the plan</i></p> <p><b>Public awareness of the priorities of the Latvian government in development co-operation is increased</b> (with the assistance of the implemented projects public involvement in defining Latvian development co-operation objectives and priorities is increasing).</p> <p><b>Public support to the Latvian contribution in development co-operation is increasing</b> (the public is informed regarding expenditure of State budget funds for development co-operation, the public is informed regarding the opportunities of participation in government-supported development co-operation activities).</p>				
<b>3. Action direction</b>		<b>Raising of public awareness and support to the development co-operation objectives and policy</b>				
<i>No.</i>	<i>Measure</i>	<i>Result of the activity</i>	<i>Performance indicator</i>	<i>Responsible institution</i>	<i>Jointly responsible institutions</i>	<i>Execution deadline (with accuracy of up to half a year)</i>

*Task of guidelines and its no. (if applicable)*

**To promote public awareness regarding development co-operation and involvement in determination of priority areas and directions.**

3.1.	<b>Support to the participation of the LPDC in the EU NGO platform, support to capacity of the LPDC with the objective to organise and co-ordinate public information activities.</b>	1) annual membership fee of the European Confederation of Relief and Development NGOs – CONCORD – EUR 1000; 2) thematic public information activities, including on implementation of sustainable development objectives, have been organised and co-ordinated, and the measures taken within the framework of the European Year for Development have been continued.	The number of public information measures implemented and co-ordinated. Number of persons informed/involved.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	LPDC	31 December 2016
3.2.	<b>Support to the participation of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments in the EU local government platform, including for implementation of public information measures.</b>	Participation in the EU local government platform, which operates in the field of development co-operation. The number of public (local government) information measures implemented.	The number of public information measures implemented and co-ordinated.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments	31 December 2016
3.3.	<b>Informative, logistical and consular support to activities/measures implemented by State administration institutions, NGOs, and social partners in the field of development co-operation.</b>	Support has been provided to 3-5 measures organised by NGOs and social partners in the field of development co-operation. Also support has been provided to the Ministry of Education and Science, ensuring duties of Latvia as a co-ordinating country of the Central Asian education platform.	The number of measures supported.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	State administration institutions, NGOs, social partners	31 December 2016
3.4.	<b>Regular dialogue with State administrative institutions, NGOs, local governments, and social partners regarding development co-operation objectives and priorities of Latvia:</b>	- Meetings with the LPDC 6-8 times a year. - Two meetings of the Consultative Council for Development Co-operation Policy have been convened. - Expanded forum of the	Number of measures implemented.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Depending on the type of measures.	31 December 2016

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meetings of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the LPDC in order to discuss the current co-operation issues;</li> <li>• discussion events on the current issues of the development co-operation policy, involving NGOs, social partners, State administrative and local government representatives.</li> </ul>	Consultative Council has been convened.				
3.5.	<b>Co-operation with State administration institutions, NGOs, local governments, and social partners in formulation of positions of Latvia on current issues on the agenda of the international development policy.</b>	Positions prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on international development policy issues co-ordinated with the relevant institutions and organisations (4-5 positions).	Number of harmonised positions, informative reports.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs		31 December 2016
3.6.	<b>To maintain a regular dialogue with the Saeima regarding the objectives, priorities and action directions of the development co-operation policy of Latvia.</b>	The <i>Saeima</i> participates in defining of the objectives and priorities of the development co-operation policy (1-2 meetings with representatives of the <i>Saeima</i> ).	The number of meetings with representatives of the <i>Saeima</i> .	Ministry of Foreign Affairs		31 December 2016

### III. Territorial perspective (*not topical*)









	<b>Donors Challenge Fund of the USA.</b>										
	<i>11. Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>										
	<i>Measure 9</i> <b>A training programme implemented by the Riga Graduate School of Law for representatives of the European Neighbourhood Policy countries, Central Asian and Western Balkan countries.</b>	State budget programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 07.00.00 “Development Co-operation Projects and International Assistance”	110,000								2016
	<i>11. Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>										
	<i>Measure 10</i> <b>Involvement of Latvian experts in larger-scale projects financed by other donors.</b>	State budget programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 07.00.00 “Development Co-operation Projects and International Assistance”	8600								2016
	<i>11. Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>										
<b>Task 2</b> <b>Promotion of public awareness and support for the development co-operation objectives</b>			23,000								



and policy.											
	<b>Measure 11</b> <b>Support to membership of the LPDC in the EU NGO platform, support to the LPDC capacity with the objective to organise and co-ordinate public information activities.</b>	State budget programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 07.00.00 “Development Co-operation Projects and International Assistance”	19,000								2016
	<i>11. Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>										
	<b>Measure 12</b> <b>Support to the participation of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments in the EU local government platform, including for implementation of public information measures.</b>	State budget programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 07.00.00 “Development Co-operation Projects and International Assistance”	4,000								2016
	<i>11. Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>										

1 April 2016, 09:00  
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