

OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

LATVIAN NCP

REPORT TO THE OECD

2015

COMMON FRAMEWORK FOR ANNUAL REPORTING BY NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS TO THE OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

June 2014-December 2015¹

The role of National Contact Points is to further the effectiveness of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (the Guidelines) by undertaking promotional activities, handling enquiries and contributing to the resolution of issues that arise from the alleged non-observance of the Guidelines in specific instances by individual companies. NCPs will operate in accordance with core criteria of visibility, accessibility, transparency and accountability to further the objective of functional equivalence.

National Contact Points must regularly report to the OECD Investment Committee on the nature and results of their activities to further the effectiveness of the Guidelines including implementation activities in specific instances.

This Common Reporting Framework, based on the Implementation Procedures of the Guidelines, assists NCPs in the preparation of these reports. The information provided by NCPs is the basis for the Annual Report to the OECD Council on the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. It is also used to produce Annual reports of individual NCPs (NCP Annual reports).

¹ Until 2014, the reporting period for NCPs covered activities undertaken from June to June. From 2015 the reporting period will cover the period from January to December of each year. For practical reasons, the 2015 reporting period will also cover activities between June and December 2014.

COMMON REPORTING FRAMEWORK

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A. NCP contact information

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in Latvian: <http://www.mfa.gov.lv/arpolitika/ekonomiskas-attiecibas/starptautiskas-ekonomiskas-organizacijas/ekonomiskas-sadarbibas-un-attistibas-organizacija-esao/latvijas-nacionalais-kontaktpunkts-oecd-vadlinijas-multinacionalajiem-uznemumiem>

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B. Institutional arrangements

Adhering governments have flexibility in organising their NCPs as long as the institutional arrangements meet the objective of functional equivalence and help further the effectiveness of the Guidelines. NCPs have to seek the active support of social partners, including the business community, worker organisations, NGOs and other interested parties as relevant.

1. In which governmental agency (ministry) is the NCP located?

The Latvian NCP, established in 2004, has a tripartite structure: it includes representatives of Ministries and other governmental institutions, Employers' Confederation of Latvia and Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia. The NCP Secretariat is staffed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of Economic Relations and Development Cooperation Policy.

2. In the case of independent NCPs, how has the NCPs been set up?

3. Does the NCP include representatives from:

- Government agencies: Yes/No. If yes, please specify

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economics, Ministry of Environment and Regional Development, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Agriculture, Latvian Investment and Development Agency, State Revenue

Service, Financial and Capital Market Commission, Competition Council, Central Statistical Bureau, Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau.

- Non-governmental bodies. Yes/No. If yes, please specify which:

- business ✓ Employers' Confederation of Latvia,
- trade unions ✓ Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia
- civil society
- other ✓ Public Utilities Commission

4. What are the main considerations that have determined the current structure of the NCP? (check all that apply).

- Increase the relevance of the Guidelines to the ministries/government bodies involved ✓
- Ensure the independence of the NCP vis-à-vis the government
- Ensure accessibility of the NCP to stakeholders ✓
- Involve relevant stakeholders in the NCP ✓

5. Does the NCP have an advisory body? Please indicate composition and functions.

No

6. Does the NCP have an oversight body? Please indicate composition and functions.

No

7. Please provide any other information on how its structure enables the NCP to operate in accordance with the core criteria of visibility, accessibility, transparency and accountability.

Multi-stakeholder approach in the implementation of the Guidelines ensures common ground and understanding of the principles of the Guidelines. Dialogue with the key stakeholders is maintained on a regular basis during the meetings as well as via e-mails. Information on the implementation of the promotional plan on the Guidelines as well as the latest developments related to the Guidelines is shared among the members of the NCP, who are responsible for a broad range of issues.

8. How is the NCP funded? (check all that apply)

- government budget ✓

NCP operates within the framework of existing human resources and budget arrangements of the institutions, which are members of NCP. Financial resources required to enhance NCP's activities aimed at promotion of the awareness and implementation of the Guidelines have been allocated in 2014 and 2015.

- other (please specify) ✓ Non-governmental bodies of the NCP operate within the framework of existing budget arrangements.

9. Does the NCP have dedicated staff? Yes/No. If yes: Yes

- How many full time staff members?
- How many part time staff members? ✓

Secretariat is staffed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of Economic Relations and Development Cooperation Policy. 2 part time staff members in the MFA.

- No dedicated staff members

10. Are the financial and human resources provided to the NCP sufficient for the NCP to carry out its mandate? Yes/No Yes

11. What challenges does the NCP face in fulfilling its mandate? (check all that apply)

- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of capacity ✓
- Lack of support from the government
- Difficulties in engaging the business community, worker organisations, other non-governmental organisations, other interested parties.
- Other

12. Please explain these challenges, and elaborate on additional elements that would be needed for the NCP to fulfil its mandate and functions.

The NCP will continue to engage with the relevant stakeholders to ensure that they fully understand the role and functions of the NCP. Participation in horizontal peer learning sessions is important. It offers an opportunity to share experience and learn from each other, as well as from experts in particular areas (e.g. mediation, rules of procedures and other issues).

13. Does the NCP report to the government on its activities? Yes/No. If yes: Yes

- Through regular meetings
- Through established reporting channels
- In an ad hoc manner
- Other ✓

Ministry of Foreign Affairs is required to annually report on its activities related to the cooperation with the OECD (including NCP) to the Cabinet of Ministers.

14. Please specify to whom the NCP reports (ex. Parliament, governmental body, etc.)

The NCP annually reports to the Cabinet of Ministers.

15. Does the NCP coordinate with other domestic government bodies or representatives with regard to activities on responsible business conduct? Yes/No. If yes, please elaborate Yes

Partners involved in responsible business practice support and interested in the development of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) signed a Memorandum in 2010. In 2011, Annex “Public Sector Support of CSR” was added to the Memorandum. At present, 33 public institutions (including representatives of the Latvian NCP) and NGO have joined the Memorandum as partners. One of the Memorandum Annexes includes “International Standards and Initiatives” which has the reference to the OECD Guidelines, OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and OECD Principles of Corporate Governance and other relevant international documents and standards.

CSR platform (annual since 2010) is the main forum of responsible business conduct experts, created within CSR Memorandum. Its main task is to facilitate experience sharing among the experts and to promote employers’ responsible business practice as well as to give recommendations to the public institutions according to best practices from the private sector. The CSR platform provides an opportunity to share data and surveys conducted by the members of the Memorandum and use them in the NCP activities. The recent examples include:

- Research on disclosure, transparency, clear financial and nonfinancial information of major (largest) 500 enterprises in Latvia;
- NGO “CSR Latvia” research “Comparing State of CSR in Baltics and Finland”.

Many events are directly organised by the CSR platform partners, which enable the NCP representatives to participate in various fora and diversify target audience. Our experience confirms that greater impact is posed by the NCP participation in a variety of events focused on broader themes (such as responsible business conduct, sustainable development, development cooperation) or seminars related to the specific topics covered in the Guidelines (due diligence, environment, taxation, anti-bribery, corporate governance etc.). During these events, the NCP representatives inform about the OECD Guidelines, their implementation procedures, Proactive Agenda projects and discuss with entrepreneurs the benefits of responsible business conduct. Printed summary leaflets on the Guidelines and the Latvian NCP are distributed in the Latvian and English languages.

C. Information and Promotion

16. Does the NCP have a dedicated website or dedicated webpages? If yes, please provide link.

<http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/policy/economic-affairs/oecd/latvian-national-contact-point-for-the-oecd-guidelines-for-multinational-enterprises>

17. Are the Guidelines available online? Yes/No Yes

18. Are the Guidelines available in print? Yes/No Yes

19. Is the NCPs Annual Report available online or in print? Yes/No Yes

The Latvian NCP Annual Report is available online

20. Does the NCP have a promotional plan on the Guidelines? If yes, please provide details.

The NCP has a promotional plan. The Latvian NCP has been engaged in:

1. Promotion activities– Arrangement and participation in seminars, meetings, training sessions in Riga and in regions where we inform about the Guidelines and their implementation procedures, Proactive agenda projects; printed brochure on the Guidelines and Latvian NCP are being distributed.
2. Information dissemination activities – Improving the NCP website through:
 - Latvian and English translation of the documents and information;
 - Dissemination of the NCP report to the OECD;
 - Dissemination of the annual reports on the OECD Guidelines published by the OECD;
 - Dissemination of the electronic version of the OECD brochure “The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises – Responsible Business Conduct Matters” translated into the Latvian language;
 - Dissemination of the video and presentations of promotional events and seminars in the Latvian and English languages.

21. Has the NCP implemented the actions identified in the promotional plan? Why or why not?

Yes

22. How does the NCP inform investors about the Guidelines and their implementation? Through (check all that apply):

- Embassies
- Export credits agency
- Overseas investment guarantee body
- Investment promotion agencies_✓ the OECD Guidelines are available on the website of the Latvian Investment and Development Agency.
- Other (please specify) ✓ Investors (including members of the Foreign Investors Council) participated in the promotion activities where NCP informed about the OECD Guidelines and Proactive agenda projects. Printed brochure on the Guidelines and Latvian NCP are being distributed.

23. Has the NCP done any studies to assess awareness of enterprises on the Guidelines and the NCP? No
If yes, through:

- Survey(s)
- Regular meetings
- Other

24. What were the results of these studies/surveys?

25. Has the NCP organised any events to promote the Guidelines and their implementation procedure?

Title/subject of the event -“Transparency and Disclosure in Business – an Opportunity or Risk?”

- **Place, date-** 24 November 2015, Rīga
- **Organiser(s)** - Employers’ Confederation of Latvia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Institute for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility and companies *Latvijas Dzelzceļš* (Latvian Railway) and Lursoft IT.
- **Number of participants and type of audience** – 120 persons (government, business, NGOs, academia).
- **Highlights and key outcomes** - Representatives of businesses and experts in various fields discussed the influence of transparency and visibility on the business environment and share best practices. Global Reporting Initiative representative addressed non-financial reporting issues and explained GRI guidelines and requirements. The conference was also dealt with policies and best practices of the international organisations including the OECD Guidelines, the United Nations and the European Union. Recommendations were made on how to introduce responsible business policies in Latvia. The Foreign Minister’s Advisor presented the OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises to the conference participants. Leaflets on the OECD Guidelines and Latvian NCP were distributed.

Title/subject of the event -“Earn today or invest tomorrow? Business solutions and experience”

- **Place, date-** 6 November 2014, Rīga
- **Organiser(s)** - Employers’ Confederation of Latvia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Institute for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility.
- **Number of participants and type of audience (e.g. government, business, worker organisations, NGOs, academia, or other parties)** – 130 persons (government, entrepreneurs, members of the Foreign Investors Council, participants of the Sustainability Index, NGOs, academia).
- **Highlights and key outcomes** – raising awareness of the OECD Guidelines, the issues discussed: the implementation of responsible business conduct policy in Latvia, examples of the companies implementing responsible business conduct. The Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs presented the OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises to the conference participants. Leaflets on the OECD Guidelines and Latvian NCP were distributed.

26. Did the NCP participate in any event organised by stakeholders or other entities to promote the Guidelines and their implementation procedures?

- **Title of the event** Discussion "Role of internal control in promoting corruption free entrepreneurship"
- **Place, date** - 9 December 2015, Rīga
- **Organiser(s)** – Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau
- **Number of participants and type of audience** - 61 person - representatives of state and local government owned companies, representatives of small and medium enterprises, multinational company (Ernst&Young), representatives of business associations, NGO.
- **Highlights and key outcomes** - Discussion included recommendations on implementation of business integrity measures in practice, including OECD Guidelines and other OECD governance standards. Government plans to adopt standards and regulation regarding the internal control, anti-corruption measures and prevention of conflict of interest in state owned and private companies were presented during the discussion. Implementation impact of the EU Directive on Non-Financial Reporting was also discussed. On the occasion of this event KNAB had prepared informative leaflet addressing prevention of foreign bribery and role of internal control measures in companies, including also updates of legislation in this area. The leaflet was distributed during the discussion and is available on the website of KNAB. Leaflets on the OECD Guidelines and Latvian NCP were distributed.

Title of the event “Sustainability Week”

- **Place, date** 8- 14 June 2015, Rīga
- **Organiser(s) Events were organised** jointly with the Ministry of Welfare, Institute for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility, the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia and the Employers’ Confederation of Latvia.
- **Number of participants and type of audience (e.g. government, business, worker organisations, NGOs, academia, or other parties)** 200 - government, business, worker organisations, Free Trade Union Confederation NGOs, academia.
- **Highlights and key outcomes** - This year events on responsible conduct matters were focused on the sustainable development and responsible business conduct in Latvian regions. This year for the first time the Ministry of Foreign Affairs handed in the “Fair Trade award” to the best enterprise which is in line with international fair trade principles, economic, social and environmental standards in the foreign trade. Conference for entrepreneurs to exchange responsible business practices took place. The exhibition was held on sustainable development issues in the Central Railway station. The Award Ceremony was organised in the framework of the annual programme “Sustainability Index” aimed at evaluating business responsibility. On this occasion information materials were developed to raise awareness of the Guidelines: “Responsible Ideas”

catalogue on the “Sustainability Week”. Brochures on the Programme “Sustainability Index” “Responsible Business Conduct 2015” (circulated like Special edition of the Latvian Journal “Ir”) have been published. Leaflets on the OECD Guidelines and the NCP were distributed.

Title of the event - the project „Profit. Planet. People. How Development Cooperation can Influence Business Sustainability in Latvia?”

- **Place, date** – 4, 13, 27 November 2015, Rīga.
- **Organiser(s)** – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Institute for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility
- **Number of participants and type of audience** 60 high-level managers of multinational companies and business association.
- **Highlights and key outcomes** - Project activities included three business breakfasts to discuss the role of the private sector in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth in the developing countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives informed entrepreneurs about the OECD Guidelines. Leaflets on the OECD Guidelines and the NCP were distributed.

Title of the event: 4 multi-stakeholder regional seminars on responsible business conduct

- **Place, date** – 4 August 2015 in Daugavpils, 11 August in Jelgava, 18 August in Ventspils, 27 August in Valmiera.
- **Organiser(s)** the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Institute for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility.
- **Number of participants and type of audience** – 80 persons (business, local government)
- **Highlights and key outcomes** - During these events NCP representative from MFA informed participants about the OECD Guidelines and discussed with entrepreneurs the benefits of responsible business conduct. Printed summary leaflets on the OECD Guidelines and the Latvian NCP were distributed during the events.

Title of the event - seminar on Responsible Supply Chain Management

- **Place, date** – 10 July in Riga
- **Organiser(s)** the Employers’ Confederation of Latvia with the Institute for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility.
- **Number of participants and type of audience** – 20 persons (business).
- **Highlights and key outcomes** - Participants of the seminar were informed about international policy trends, implementation of principles of responsibility in their business strategy, as well as good practice examples. Printed summary leaflets on the Guidelines and the Latvian NCP were distributed during the events.

Title of the event: “Business Corporate Social Responsibility in Conflict Times”

- **Place, date** 8 April, Rīga
- **Organiser(s)** NGO "KSA Latvija" (CSR Latvia is a national partner organization of the CSR Europe)
- **Number of participants and type of audience** – 40 persons (government, business, NGOs, academia, “CSR Ukraine” representatives)
- **Highlights and key outcomes** - Recommendations for business in conflict times were discussed. Recommendations for governments to protect investments in conflict times were stressed. Cooperation Agreement between “KSA Latvija” and “CSR Ukraine” was signed. Printed summary leaflets on the Guidelines and the Latvian NCP were distributed during the events.

Title of the event: “Social Innovations for Business Development

- **Place, date:** 14 December, Rīga
- **Organiser(s):** NGO "KSA Latvija"
- **Number of participants and type of audience** – 40 persons (government, business, NGOs, academia)
- **Highlights and key outcomes** - Latvian enterprises and multinational company (“Danone”) shared ideas and best practices of social innovations for responsible business conduct. Participants discussed the role of the private sector in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth in the developing countries. Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed entrepreneurs about the importance of the OECD Guidelines in the global context.

27. Does the NCP cooperate with OECD partner organisations and/or other leading organisations working on responsible business conduct? Please check all that apply and provide further details on the nature of the cooperation.

- ILO ✓

The Employers’ Confederation of Latvia (LDDK) is a member of the IOE and acts in line with the ILO Convention and ILO Tripartite Declaration on Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy.

- UN Global Compact and its local networks ✓

LDDK coordinates the UN Global Compact Local Network promoting Global Compact principles and encouraging companies to report on the CSR. Members of Latvia UN Global Compact network are regularly informed about local, national and international events, CSR policies and actual methods of CSR implementation in business strategies. In 2011, the Council

of UN Global Compact Local Network Latvia was renewed. At present, the Council consists of 12 members and several associate members from different NGOs

- UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights
- National Institution for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights
- Global Reporting Initiative ✓

Latvia has introduced evaluation programme “Sustainability Index” (which follows international guidelines such as Global Reporting Initiative and ISO 26000) to enable businesses to complete reporting more effectively. In Latvia 20 companies have started to report according to the Global Reporting Initiative guidelines.

On 24 November 2015 the Employers’ Confederation of Latvia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised the conference “Transparency and Disclosure in Business – an Opportunity or Risk?”. Global Reporting Initiative representative addressed non-financial reporting issues and explained GRI guidelines and requirements.

- ISO ✓
- Other, please provide details.

28. Did the NCP receive enquiries about the Guidelines and the NCP? No

From (check all that apply):

- Business
- Labour organisations
- Non-governmental organisations
- Government agencies
- Other government (e.g. via embassies)
- Other (individuals, press, academia)

29. If available please provide web statistics regarding your NCP’s website:

- How many visitors did the website(s) receive in the reporting period?

The NCP website received 1560 visitors in the reporting period.

- How many downloads of materials on the NCP website (e.g. the Guidelines, brochures, other materials) occurred during the reporting period?

D. Specific instances

According to the Procedural Guidance, NCPs are expected to contribute to the resolution of issues that arise relating to the implementation of the Guidelines in specific instances in a manner that is impartial, predictable, equitable and compatible with the principles and standards of the Guidelines.

30. What are the NCP's procedures for handling specific instances? Please attach the procedures

The elaboration of the Rules of Procedure to deal with specific instances is being continued by consulting with social partners and other relevant stakeholders, including representatives of Ministries, Employers' Confederation of Latvia, Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia, SME Association of Latvia, Institute for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility, NGOs. Rules of Procedure are expected to be finalised by March 2016. In order to have the OECD Secretariat team's opinion and comments, we will provide a draft of the Rules of Procedure of the Latvian NCP.

Where applicable please elaborate or note an absence of NCP procedures regarding:

- Requirements on submitting a complaint in a specific instance- No
- Standing requirements for participating in a specific instance (e.g. rules around who is allowed to bring complaints to an NCP mechanism, who is allowed to participate in mediation)- No.
- Confidentiality provisions- No
- Indicative timeframes for the different steps of the procedure- No
- Existence of a statute of limitations- No
- Publication and availability online of initial assessments- No

31. How many new specific instance(s) did the NCP receive in the reporting period?

0 (so far, the NCP has not dealt with any specific instances)

See Annex (template for reporting specific instances)

32. What are the main challenges the NCP encountered in handling specific instances during the reporting period? (check all that apply).

- Parallel legal proceedings

- Parallel public campaigning by complainant
- Unrealistic expectations regarding possible outcomes
- Unwillingness of the company to engage
- Unwillingness of the complainant(s) to engage
- Other (please elaborate)
- No specific instances ✓

E. Proactive Agenda

In accordance with the Investment Committee's proactive agenda, NCPs should maintain regular contact, including meetings, with social partners and other stakeholders in order to: a) consider new developments and emerging practices concerning responsible business conduct; b) support the positive contributions enterprises can make to identify and respond to risks of adverse impacts associated with particular products, regions, sectors or industries.

33. Does the NCP engage in any of the multi-stakeholder advisory groups under the proactive agenda?

- Responsible Mineral Supply Chains? Yes/No. Please specify. No
- Stakeholder Engagement in the Extractive Industries? Yes/No. Please specify. No
- Responsible Business Conduct in the Financial Sector? Yes/No. Please specify. No
- Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains? Yes/No. Please specify. No
- Responsible Supply Chains in the Textile and Garment Sector? Yes/No. Please specify.No

34. How does the NCP use and rely on guidance developed as part of the proactive agenda projects mentioned above? (check all that apply).

- Promotion and awareness raising activities-✓

On 4 November 2015 during the business breakfast with entrepreneurs (including managers of supermarkets) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives informed about the OECD Guidelines, the NCP and OECD guidelines on Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains.

Responsible Supply Chains in the Textile and Garment Sector and the Responsible Mineral Supply Chains Guidance are being promoted by informative measures. The summary of the Guidance and the text (in English) are available on the NCP website

- Dealing with specific instances

- Handling enquiries
- Developing guidance at the national level ✓

In 2015 the Association of Commercial Banks of Latvia developed best practice guidelines “Social Charter” for the financial sector in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders. NCP representative (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) took part in the development of this document and informed about the OECD Guidelines and Proactive agenda projects.

The “Social Charter” aims to support banks in applying best policy recommendations for reliable, responsible and sustainable development of the Latvian banking sector.

It covers all major areas of business ethics including anti-corruption and prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing.

The “Social Charter” includes the following topics:

- Safeguarding of consumer rights;
- Integrated long-term development of banking sector;
- Business ethics;
- Sustainable business;
- Guidance for the clients for better cooperation with their banks.

- Other

F. Co-operation and peer learning

In addition to contributing to the Committee's work to enhance the effectiveness of the Guidelines, NCPs are encouraged to cooperate and engage in horizontal, thematic peer reviews and voluntary peer evaluations. Cooperation and experience sharing can be carried out through meetings at the OECD or hosted by a government and can include mentoring and coaching, direct co-operation between individual NCP on specific issues, etc.

35. How did the NCP engage in co-operation and experience sharing with other NCPs during the reporting period? Check all that apply:

- horizontal learning activities ✓

NCP representative (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) participated in the regional workshop - ”Creating Shared Knowledge on Mediation and Crucial Processes for OECD National Contact Points” on 3 - 4 March 2015 in Vienna.

NCP representative (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) participated in the regional meeting with CSR Experts from EU Member States and EU OECD National Contact Points (NCPs) on 11 September 2015 in Brussels, Belgium.

NCP representative (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) participated in the three horizontal peer learning sessions (on communication, transparency and engagement with stakeholders) on 16 June 2015 in Paris.

- Co-hosting events
- Co-operation in handling specific instances
- Mentoring/capacity building events ✓

On 17 September 2015 the NCP representative (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) attended the workshop organised in Ukraine in order to share country's experiences with setting up NCPs and its functioning. The NCP is ready to continue providing its support. Therefore, the Latvian NCP will share its experience with Ukrainian colleagues and assist the newly established Ukrainian NCP through the first year of functioning (Latvian contribution to the implementation of the "Action plan to strengthen National contact points).

- Other
- No co-operation

36. Did the NCP encounter any difficulties in co-operating with other NCPs? No. If yes, please elaborate.

37. Is the NCP interested in volunteering for a peer evaluation? Yes/No. Please indicate semester/year.
No

The NCP does not plan to apply for peer evaluation review in the nearest future taking into consideration Latvia's Investment policy review by the OECD Investment Committee in 2015.

38. Is the NCP interested in being part of a peer review team? Yes/No. – Please indicate semester/year. No

39. Please provide suggestions for themes of future horizontal learning exercises.

40. Is the NCP interested in hosting an NCP learning/experience-sharing event? Please indicate semester/year.

G. Impact and future work

41. Have there been any measurable impacts of the Guidelines and/or the efforts of the NCP in the past implementation cycle? For example:

- Have the Guidelines been referred to in national legislation (e.g. on non-financial reporting, export credits regulation etc.)?

Initiatives and instruments which have references to the OECD Guidelines:

- Upcoming Guidelines on Preparation of Medium-term Strategy of State Owned Enterprises developed by the Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre will have the reference to the OECD Guidelines. Work is ongoing on the implementation of the Public Persons Capital Shares and Companies Law (PPCSCL). Reforms introduced under the PPCSCL, among other ongoing activities, include the training sessions on strategy and governance issues starting from

November 2015. State-owned enterprises will be informed about the OECD Guidelines and their implementation procedures, proactive agenda projects and invited to use them, taking into account the development of their Strategies.

- Latvia will adopt the new EU Directive on Disclosure of Non-financial and Diversity Information. According to the amendments to the laws (in force starting from December 2016) large public-interest entities will be required to disclose in their management reports information on policies, risks and outcomes related to environmental matters, social and employee aspects, respect for human rights, anticorruption and bribery issues, and diversity in their board of directors, aiming to provide investors and other stakeholders with a more comprehensive picture of company performance. In providing this information, companies may rely on the OECD Guidelines framework to meet these requirements.

- Do any domestic industry standards refer to the Guidelines?

Evaluation programme “Sustainability Index” (the criteria include responsible business conduct in specific areas covered by the OECD Guidelines; recommendations on how to reach better results invites entrepreneurs to use the OECD Guidelines in their business activities).

The “Sustainability Index” assists companies in developing, implementing and measuring their sustainable practice as well as helps companies integrate responsible business conduct issues into their business strategy and activities.

Enterprises have to be registered in the system and provide information on their name, the address of registration and sector of operation. There are 2 documents to use during the assessment. First, there is a questionnaire where enterprises are asked to provide information without any additional documents. The questionnaire addresses the issues covered in the OECD Guidelines. Second, guidance is provided to help participants fill in the questionnaire, providing descriptions and explanation about each question. “Sustainability Index” is not only a measurement tool, it has also an educational purpose. It helps improve performance of enterprises, providing recommendations on how to reach better results in the future. Thus, the guidance invites entrepreneurs to use the OECD Guidelines in their business activities.

Other?

42. What are the new emerging challenges for enterprises identified by NCPs, notably in developing and emerging economies and sectors?

Managing supply chains, fair competition, integrity in business transactions

43. How has the NCP helped enterprises address these challenges?

During the meetings, seminars and conferences the NCP is addressing responsible supply chains, foreign bribery and corruption prevention issues.

44. What issues might deserve particular attention during the 2016 implementation cycle of the Guidelines? For example:

- Areas for which additional proactive agenda projects would be valuable

Financial sector

- Areas where additional research or analytical support would be helpful

Latvian NCP would appreciate secretariat's assistance in designing Rules of Procedure to deal with specific instances, in order to ensure alignment with the Procedural Guidance.

- Areas which would benefit from additional policy dialogue
- Other