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**OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA OP 2023/203.20**

**Cabinet Order 677**

Riga, 17 October 2023 (Minutes No 52 §7 )

On the national research programme "Development of a cohesive and civically active society" 2023-2025

1. In accordance with Section 13 Paragraph Two Clause 3 of the Law on Scientific Activity, and in compliance with Section 4 of Cabinet Regulation No. 560 of 4 September 2018 "Procedure for implementing state research programmes”, approve the state research programme "Development of a cohesive and civically active society" 2023-2025 (hereinafter - the programme).
2. Assign the Ministry for Culture as the authority responsible for implementing the programme.
3. The programme has a total funding of €1,250,000 and will run from 2023 to 2025, including €250,000 for 2023, €500,000 for 2024 and €500,000 for 2025. The programme is funded through State Budget Programme 05.00.00 ‘Science’, Sub-Programme

05.12.00 "State research programmes" budget funds allotments.

1. The overarching goal of the programme is to promote the cohesion, resilience and mutual trust of Latvian society for the development of a national, democratic Latvia based on shared values.
2. The aim of the programme is to develop research on the processes taking place in Latvia's civil society and information space, to study their interaction, social and economic impact on social cohesion and mutual trust, to generate new knowledge, to integrate it into the curriculum and to promote research-based sectoral policy-making and decision-making.
3. In order to achieve the objective of the programme, the following programme objectives should be set:
	1. to research and develop a new knowledge base on current trends in the field of cohesion, cooperation and mutual trust in Latvian society, in different social and demographic groups, including youth, ethnic minorities, newcomers, their causes and reasons, including:
		1. The development of Latvian statehood, belonging to the Republic of Latvia and national identity;
		2. civil society activity in the context of formal and informal self-organisation, social and geographical mobility, access to services, rural depopulation, regional distancing, which determine changes in people's choices and behaviour, including their sense of identity and belonging, social relations and mutual solidarity;
		3. the impact of the information environment, media and digital services on public cooperation, mutual trust, trust in state and local government institutions and the overall psychological resilience of society, as well as the impact of civic engagement on the creation, use and distribution of media content, including on the resilience and competitiveness of the Latvian media environment;
		4. The cohesion of Latvian society, seen in the context of the acquisition and use of the national language in society;
	2. research and create a new knowledge base on the media literacy Latvian society and social groups (especially children and young people, those who widely use digital media and content available on digital platforms, as well as those living in Latvia and

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in the border areas of the European Union), and for the promotion of media literacy, including information literacy and critical thinking, in Latvia, its development trends and its role in the decision-making processes of citizens, both at individual and civic level, strengthening democratic values in general;

* 1. develop approaches to assess the social and economic impact of civil society, in particular on people's quality of life and well-being, mental health, self-fulfilment, participation and social inclusion, environment and climate, and social innovation, by increasing knowledge and understanding of civil society's past and potential contributions in these areas for sustainable national development.
1. To identify the following common (horizontal) objectives for the implementation of the Programme:
	1. to create and fund interdisciplinary, competitive research teams in the thematic areas of the programme;
	2. To develop multidimensional basic and applied research methods and practices, including digital ones, on the determinants of civil society and promote their use in research;
	3. to develop the cooperation of research groups with different groups in society (including young people, ethnic minorities, newcomers), in particular with non-governmental organisations active in civil society development, and both registered and informal civil society groups and communities, including those in Latvian regions and in the diaspora;
	4. to strengthen education and research processes, including by integrating research into higher education studies and integrating knowledge from research into study and teaching content;
	5. to support the implementation of civil society and democracy policies and media policies through the development of methodologies and situation studies, policy recommendations and indicator recommendations;
	6. to inform the public about the progress and results of research, promoting public understanding of the historical development and current processes in civil society and about the development of democracy and the information society, the role of research in addressing issues of societal importance;
	7. to ensure public availability of the results of research, including publication of results in free-access journals and uploading new research data to research data repositories, ensuring reuse of the data in accordance with FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles.
2. During implementation of the programme, set the following key targets:
	1. developed human capital in the humanities and social sciences, involving young and diaspora scientists in research;
	2. evidence-based policy recommendations and datasets for planning, implementation, monitoring and impact evaluation of civil society and cohesion and democracy policies, and recommendations for further development of national language and youth policies;
	3. newly developed or improved existing curricula, modules or courses in secondary and higher education;
	4. original research articles published in Q1 or Q2 quartile journals in *Web of Science* or *SCOPUS* databases and in other journals or conference proceedings included in these databases;
	5. other kinds of publications (including monographs, conference materials);
	6. publishing of results in popular science journals and resources.
3. The duration of implementation of the programme without additional financing may be extended by one year if this is necessary in order to consolidate the programme and publish the results.

Prime Minister *E. Siliņa*

Minister for Culture *A. Logina*