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**Cabinet Regulation No 94**

Riga, 6 February 2024 (Minutes No 6 29. §)

Amendments to the Cabinet Regulation No 560 “Procedures for the Implementation of State Research Programme Projects” of 4 September 2018

*Issued pursuant to Section 35, Paragraph three of the Law on Scientific Activity*

To amend the Cabinet Regulation No 560 “Procedures for the Implementation of State Research Programme Projects” of 4 September 2018 (Latvijas Vēstnesis, 2018, No 177; 2020, No 96D; 2023, No 110) as follows:

1. To add Paragraph 2.11 worded as follows:

“2.1.1 an activity having an economic character: any activity involving the offering of goods or services on the market, including the hiring out of research infrastructure, services performed on behalf of economic operators or contract research;”.

2. To add Paragraph 2.121 worded as follows:

“2.12.1 platform – an association of research organisations and cooperation partners of the platform, which are united by contractual obligations and where one of the contracting parties is the leading partner of the platform;”.

3. To add Paragraph 2.122 worded as follows:

“2.12.2. platform assessment quality threshold – the minimum achievable score for each criterion referred to in Sub-paragraph 69183 of this Regulation, individually or in aggregate, as indicated in the consolidated assessment of the platform application;”.

4. To add Paragraph 2.123 worded as follows:

“2.12.3 the main performers of the platform project – the scientists and specialists who implement the platform project and are responsible for the execution of its parts;”.

5. To add Paragraph 2.124 worded as follows:

“2.12.4. a platform project team – means the scientific team participating in the implementation of a platform project. The platform project team comprises the platform project manager, the main performers of the platform project (if necessary) and the performers of the platform project;”.

6. To add Paragraph 2.125 worded as follows:

“2.12.5 performers of the platform project – members of the platform project team who perform individual tasks in the implementation of the platform project and are responsible for the execution of the relevant parts of the platform project;”.

7. To add Paragraph 2.126 worded as follows:

“2.12.6 a platform project manager – a scientist who manages the platform project and ensures its implementation, plans and supervises the performance of the platform project tasks, is responsible for the actions of the persons involved in the platform project in accordance with the tasks set out in the platform project and scientific research ethical criteria and for the preparation and submission of the documentation describing the progress of the platform project following this regulation and the procedures laid down for the platform;”.

8. To add Paragraph 2.127 worded as follows:

“2.12.7 a platform project management team – a platform project management team established within the scope of the platform that comprises invited scientific and sectoral experts (including foreign experts) with voting rights. The platform project management team is open to non-voting representatives of the platform, subject to the principles of prevention of conflict of interest, transparency and equality;”.

9. To add Paragraph 2.128 worded as follows:

“2.12.8 a platform manager – a scientist or a specialist who manages the platform and ensures the operation thereof, plans and supervises the performance of the platform tasks, is responsible for the actions of the persons involved in the platform (including the platform projects) in accordance with the tasks set out in the platform and the norms of scientific ethics, and also ensures the preparation and submission of the documentation describing the operation of the platform in accordance with this regulation;”.

10. To add Paragraph 2.129 worded as follows:

“2.12.9 a leading partner of the platform – a research organisation rated “3”, “4”, or “5” in the most recent international evaluation of the performance of scientific institutions;”.

11. To add Paragraph 2.181 worded as follows:

“2.18.1 a specialist – a person with at least a master’s degree and sufficient skills and experience to provide sound judgements, recommendations, and solutions for managing the platform and achieving its objectives (e.g. a person with experience in business development or commercialisation);”.

12. To add Paragraph 21 worded as follows:

“2.1 The terms referred to in Paragraph 2 of this Regulation, except for the terms referred to in sub-paragraphs 2.9, 2.13, 2.14, 2.15, 2.21, 2.22 and 2.23 of this Regulation, likewise apply to the operation of the platform.”

13. To express Paragraph 3 as follows:

“3. The programme is a public procurement of a sectoral ministry, implemented through research to generate new knowledge, skills and innovations, develop new products, processes and services to address sectoral challenges and strategic development objectives, support the implementation of public policy priorities by actively using research results for policy development, and ensure the visibility of research in society, as well as strengthen the link between research and priority public policy areas. A long-term programme is a programme that runs for more than three years.”

14. To supplement Chapter VI1 as follows:

**“VI1. Proposing, performing expert-examination, implementing and financing the platforms and platform projects established under the long-term programme, as well as monitoring the use of financial resources**

69.1 The sectoral ministry develops the long-term programme in cooperation with the strategic management council for the long-term programme referred to in Paragraph 694 of this regulation, defining the title of the long-term programme, overarching objective (if needed), target, timeframe for implementation, amount of funding, tasks and results to be achieved. When developing the long-term programme, the sectoral ministry consults the Latvian Academy of Sciences and the council. The Cabinet of Ministers approves the long-term programme by an order (further referred to as the Cabinet order on the long-term programme).

69.2 Platforms are selected through an open procedure for platform applications of the long-term programme (further referred to as the platform procedure), assessed against administrative evaluation criteria of platforms (further referred to as the platform administrative criteria), the platform quality criteria and the sectoral criteria. Platform projects are selected through an open procedure for platform projects of the long-term programme in accordance with sub-paragraph 69.211.1 of this regulation.

69.3 The platform ensures the implementation of the long-term non-economic programme and the platform project and the achievement of the results of the platform project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the platform cooperation agreement. In the platform application, the platform applicant clearly distinguishes between non-economic activities (and the related financial flows) and economic activities. Where a research organisation carries out other non-economic activities, it separates those activities and the related financial flows from the other activities and related financial flows of the research organisation. Other research organisations and co-operation partners of the platform may be involved during the lifetime of the platform through a platform cooperation agreement.

69.4 A strategic management council for the long-term programme is established in accordance with paragraph 6 of this regulation.

69.5 To ensure the implementation of the long-term programme, the council:

69.51 develops the platform procedure rules on behalf of the sectoral ministry or participates in the development of the platform procedure rules if the sectoral ministry develops the platform procedure rules;

69.52 organises and implements a platform procedure;

69.53 assesses the compliance of platform applications with the platform administrative criteria;

69.54 organises and ensures the evaluation of platform applications, platform interim reports and platform closing reports (further referred to as the platform expert-examination), applying the evaluation approach and principles of Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe, the framework programmes of the European Union for research and innovation;

69.55 selects experts with competence in platform evaluation (further referred to as the platform expert) listed in the database of the European Commission or equivalent database of foreign experts to carry out the platform expert-examination in line with the conditions referred to in Sub-paragraph 69.182 of this Regulation;

69.56 prepares and publishes an interim and final report on the operation of the platform;

69.57 concludes contracts on platform application expert-examination with the platform experts referred to in Sub-paragraph 69.55 of this Regulation;

69.58 drafts the contract for the operation of the platform (further referred to as the platform contract), subject to the conditions for the project contract referred to in Sub-paragraph 16.14 of this Regulation;

69.59 enters into a platform contract with the leading partner of the platform;

69.510 monitors the conditions and deadlines for the completion of the platform’s tasks and deliverables, in accordance with the platform contract and the platform procedure rules;

69.511 administers the State budget funds allocated for the operation of the platform;

69.512 ensures risk management measures (including the potential risk of double funding) during the lifetime of the platform and after the termination of the platform;

69.513 controls the use of the financial resources allocated to the platform and ensures the recovery of unjustified funds, including the full recovery of the financial resources allocated to the platform if the platform project to be implemented under the platform does not comply with the conditions referred to in Sub-paragraph 2.1 of this Regulation;

69.514 fulfils its obligations towards the sectoral ministry in the platform contract and controls the fulfilment of the obligations towards the sectoral ministry of the leading partner of the platform under the platform contract;

69.515 prepares a closing report on the operation of the platform, including information on:

69.515.1 the compliance of the use of the financial resources allocated for the operation of the platform with the objective, tasks and deadlines set out in the platform contract;

69.515.2 the planned and achieved results;

69.515.3 the risk management measures taken during the lifetime of the platform and, following the platform contract, information on the risk management measures after the termination of the platform;

69.516 provides public information and publicity on matters related to the implementation of the long-term programme;

69.517 performs the secretariat functions of the long-term programme implementation and monitoring commission (further referred to as the long-term programme commission) if they are not performed by the sectoral ministry.

69.6 The long-term programme commission shall be established for the long-term programme following Paragraph 8 of this Regulation. The long-term programme commission shall have the responsibilities of the commission referred to in Paragraph 8 of this Regulation.

69.7 The platform application shall be submitted by the leading partner of the platform.

69.8 The platform project shall support the activities referred to in Paragraph 11 of this Regulation.

69.9 The platform shall be responsible for ensuring that one or more of the outcomes of the platform project, as set out in Paragraph 12 of this Regulation, are expected during the lifetime of the platform project.

69.10 Paragraph 13 of this Regulation applies to the platform and platform projects.

69.11 The following types of costs are planned within the scope of platforms and platform projects:

69.111 direct eligible costs directly linked to the operation of the platform and the implementation of the platform projects and necessary to achieve the results of the platform and the results of the platform projects:

69.111.1 the remuneration of the staff involved in ensuring the operation of the platform, which is directly related to the performance of the activities performed by the platform, and the remuneration of members of the platform project management team and the platform project team and related costs, which do not exceed the remuneration rates of the platform and platform project applicants in accordance with the remuneration policy established by the institution;

69.111.2 employer’s mandatory social insurance contributions for the remuneration referred to in Sub-paragraph 69111.1 of this Regulation;

69.111.3 expenditure of local and foreign official travels and work (official) trips for the staff referred to in Sub-paragraph 69111.1 of this Regulation in accordance with the legal framework regarding the procedures for reimbursement of expenditure related to official travels. Prices of flight tickets may not exceed the prices of economy class tickets of the relevant flight;

69.111.4 the expenditure referred to in Sub-paragraphs 14.1.4, 14.1.5 and 14.1.6 of this Regulation;

69.112 indirect eligible costs that are not directly related to the achievement of the results of the platform and the platform projects, but within the framework of the platform and the platform projects provide conditions appropriate for the implementation of the supported activities and the achievement of the results of the platform and the platform projects. Indirect eligible costs are determined in the procedure rules for the respective platforms and platform projects in accordance with the evaluation of the long-term programme implementation costs made by the relevant sectoral ministry, planned as one cost item with a uniform rate of up to 25 per cent of the total amount of direct eligible costs mentioned in Sub-paragraph 69.111 of this Regulation, except for the direct eligible costs referred to in Sub-paragraph 14.1.6 of this Regulation, incurred in connection with the costs of external services (including work under company contracts). Indirect eligible costs are:

69.112.1 the costs referred to in Sub-paragraphs 14.2.1, 14.2.2, 14.2.3, 14.2.4, 14.2.5, 14.2.6 and 14.2.7 of this Regulation;

69.112.2 remuneration of scientific support staff and research technical staff who are not part of the platform project team, not exceeding the platform project applicant’s remuneration rates under the institution’s remuneration policy, including the employer’s mandatory state social insurance contributions;

69.112.3 other indirect eligible costs that are not included in the direct eligible costs referred to in Sub-paragraph 69111 of this Regulation, but within the framework of the platform and platform projects, ensure conditions appropriate for the implementation of the activities to be supported and the achievement of the results of the platform and platform projects;

69.113 the unallocated costs of the platform, which may be provided for as funding to be channelled to platform projects within the platform under one item of costs to be used for platform projects following Sub-paragraphs 69.111 and 69.112 of this Regulation.

69.12 The leading partner of the platform, co-operation partners of the platform and co-operation partners of the platform project shall establish and approve internal procedures for the use and control of indirect eligible costs of the platform and platform projects and present them to the council upon request.

69.13 When preparing and submitting the financial report referred to in Sub-paragraph 69.232.1 of this Regulation, the leading partner of the platform, co-operation partners of the platform and co-operation partners of the platform project do not provide information and do not present cost-substantiating documents on the use of indirect eligible costs calculated in line with the uniform rate for the indirect costs specified in Sub-paragraph 69.112 of this Regulation.

69.14 The long-term programme commission shall agree the rules of the platform procedure with the Ministry of Education and Science before approving them.

69.15 The rules governing the platform procedure shall specify:

69.151 the objectives and deliverables of the platform procedure, taking into account the Cabinet Order on the long-term programme;

69.152 the funding available for the operation of the platform;

69.153 the conditions for implementing the platform procedure;

69.154 the duration of the platform;

69.155 procedure and deadline for the submission of a platform application;

69.156 methodology or guidelines for the submission of the platform application;

69.157 a sample form for the platform application, platform interim report (if the duration of the platform is at least 24 months) and platform closing report (including the sections of these forms to be submitted in English);

69.158 the procedure for the administrative assessment of the platform application, including additional platform administrative criteria (if any) and indicating which platform administrative criteria are to be supplemented and which are not to be supplemented, and a sample form for this assessment;

69.159 the procedure for assessing the platform application following the platform quality criteria set out in Sub-paragraph 69.183 of this Regulation;

69.1510 the procedures and deadlines for updating the platform application where the platform application is to be updated in accordance with the platform administrative criteria to be supplemented;

69.1511 the sectoral criteria and a sample form for their assessment, as well as the methodology, procedures and deadlines for such evaluation;

69.1512 the conditions for engaging the platform experts, including the organisation and implementation (if appropriate) of the platform’s expert panel discussions;

69.1513 the conditions for the platform expert-examination (assessing the case where the platform experts will have a significant difference of opinion) and its methodology (providing for quantitative and qualitative indicators for the platform application assessment scores), a sample form for individual platform expert-examination for the platform application and a sample form for consolidated platform expert-examination for the platform application experts;

69.1514 the model platform contract (including its annex), the procedures and deadlines for the conclusion of the platform contract, the conditions for the results to be achieved during the lifetime of the platform, taking into account the information provided in the platform application, the risk management measures during the operation of the platform and after the termination of the platform, the sample forms for substantive and financial reporting and the procedures and deadlines for their submission;

69.1515 the content of the interim and closing reports on the operation of the platform (further referred to as the council platform report);

69.1516 the procedure for deciding on the granting of funding for the operation of the platform or on the rejection of a platform application, and the time limits for taking such decisions;

69.1517 other conditions and sample forms (if necessary) for the implementation of the platform procedure and for the operation of the platform (for example, contract regarding performance of an expert-examination, certification of an expert).

69.16 The platform application procedure is announced in accordance with Paragraph 17 of this Regulation. The leading partner of the platform shall submit the platform application following the procedures and deadlines set out in the rules of the platform procedure through the information system. The council shall assess the compliance of the platform application with the platform administrative criteria in accordance with Paragraph 20 of this Regulation. For platform applications found to comply with the platform administrative criteria referred to in Paragraph 6917 of this Regulation, the council shall organise a platform expert-examination following the timeframe and procedures referred to in Paragraph 22 of this Regulation.

69.17 A platform application shall be assessed against the following platform administrative criteria:

69.171 the platform application is fully completed, prepared and submitted through the information system;

69.172 an English translation of the relevant sections of the platform application in accordance with the requirements of the rules of the platform procedure has been submitted;

69.173 the operation of the platform is coordinated by a leading partner of the platform who complies with Sub-paragraph 2.129 of this Regulation;

69.174 the internal procedures developed by the platform are adequate, of good quality and will ensure independent and transparent scientific examination, efficient implementation of quality management of the platform projects of the long-term programme, and monitoring of the use of the funding allocated to the platform projects;

69.175 the eligible costs indicated in the platform application comply with the requirements set out in the rules for the platform procedure;

69.176 the platform complies with Paragraph 2.121 of this Regulation;

69.177 the risk of double funding with other public funding sources is absent, including funding from European Union funds, as evidenced by a certificate attached by the platform applicant to the platform application;

69.178 other additional administrative criteria for the platforms, if any, as set out in the rules for the platform procedure.

69.18 The process of platform expert-examination:

69.181 the platform expert-examination is carried out by taking into account Paragraphs 22, 24 and 25 and Sub-paragraph 33.2 of this Regulation;

69.182 the council shall select not less than two platform experts, subject to the following conditions:

69.182.1 the platform expert holds a DSc degree;

69.182.2 the platform expert’s previous platform evaluation competence and work experience correspond to the scientific field and topic specified in the specific platform application;

69.182.3 the platform expert assesses the platform application independently and does not represent the leading partner of the platform and the co-operation partners of the platform, and he does not act in a manner that gives rise to a conflict of interest, also does not and will not create any personal or pecuniary interest of the platform expert;

69.183 the platform expert assesses the platform application on a scale of one to five points and following the following criteria:

69.183.1 scientific and innovation quality of the platform under Sub-paragraph 69.184 of this Regulation;

69.183.2 impact of scientific results generated within the scope of the platform under Sub-paragraph 69.185 of this Regulation;

69.183.3 the platform feasibility and provisions under Sub-paragraph 69.186 of this Regulation;

69.184 the scientific and innovation quality of the platform shall be assessed on the basis of the information provided in the platform application and the following considerations:

69.184.1 clarity and relevance of the objectives of the platform to the defined tasks and outcomes, consistency with the objectives and tasks of the long-term programme;

69.184.2 the scientific and innovative quality of the activities envisaged under the platform, including the justification of the methodology used and the relevance to the objectives pursued;

69.184.3 the scientific quality of the field of research and innovation and the capabilities to create new knowledge and innovations, the interdisciplinarity and novelty of the platform’s research directions;

69.184.4 contribution of the platform co-operation partners, their scientific capacity and the quality of the planned cooperation;

69.185 the impact of the scientific results generated by the platform shall be assessed in the light of the information provided in the platform application and the following considerations:

69.185.1 credibility of the expected outcomes, their impact and the means for achievement, and also the potential scale and significance of the contribution of the platform;

69.185.2 relevance and quality of the measures identified under the platform to increase the expected outcomes and impact, the work plan for dissemination and use of the knowledge and developed innovations, including communication activities;

69.186 the platform’s ability to operate and provision shall be assessed taking into account the information provided in the platform application and the following considerations:

69.186.1 quality and efficiency of the work plan of the platform have been assessed, the planned work steps and tasks are clearly defined, relevant and credible;

69.186.2 platform management, including quality management is foreseen to monitor the progress of the platform, and potential risks to the platform operation have been assessed, and a plan has been developed to prevent them or mitigate their negative effect;

69.186.3 capacity and role of the leading partner of the platform and platform co-operation partners, professional qualifications and experience in the field of innovation, and experience necessary for the operation of the platform;

69.186.4 infrastructure and resources available for the operation of the platform;

69.187 the council shall calculate the platform’s expert-examination score for the platform application in points, taking into account the weight of the criterion referred to in Sub-paragraph 69.178 of this Regulation;

69.188 the council shall calculate the platform’s expert-examination score for the platform application in points, taking into account:

69.188.1 the weight of the criterion under Sub-paragraph 69.183.1 of this Regulation in the amount of 30 per cent of the total score of the platform expert-examination of the platform application;

69.188.2 the weight of the criterion under Sub-paragraph 69.183.2 of this Regulation in the amount of 30 per cent of the total score of the platform expert-examination of the platform application;

69.188.3 the weight of the criterion under Sub-paragraph 69.183.3 of this Regulation in the amount of 40 per cent of the total score of the platform expert-examination of the platform application;

69.189 considering the points calculated for the platform application under the platform expert-examination pursuant to Sub-paragraph 69.188 of this Regulation, the council shall prepare a list of platform expert-examinations of platform applications (further referred to as the list of platform expert-examinations of platform applications). The list of platform expert-examinations of platform applications shall rank the platform applications in priority order of their scores, starting with the highest scoring platform application, and shall indicate the platform applications scored above the platform assessment quality threshold. The list of platform expert-examinations of platform applications shall be submitted to the long-term programme commission;

69.1810 where the platform applications have been assessed against the sectoral criteria, the long-term programme commission shall establish a general list of platform applications for the platform procedure (further referred to as the general list of platform applications) in which the platform applications, starting with the highest-scoring platform application, are ranked in priority order according to the sum of the points obtained in the platform procedure as a whole or in the long-term programme assignment (if provided for in the rules of the platform procedure), comprising the points obtained in the assessment of the quality criteria and sectoral criteria for the platforms;

69.1811 within two weeks of receiving the list of platform expert-examinations of platform applications from the council, the long-term programme commission shall approve the general list of platform applications and decides on the allocation of funding for the operation of the platform, subject to the funding available for the platform procedure. The long-term programme commission shall prepare the decision referred to in this Paragraph as an administrative deed, notify to the platform applicant and communicate to the council by electronic mail using a secure electronic signature.

69.19 Proceedings of the scientific expert-examination of platform project applications:

69.191 the scientific expert-examination of platform project applications shall be carried out in line with Paragraphs 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 of this Regulation;

69.192 within three months of receipt of the platform project applications from the platforms, which have been deemed eligible by the platform project management team, the council shall organise an expert-examination of the platform project applications. It shall be carried out by experts selected by the council and contracted by the council following Paragraph 23 of this Regulation;

69.193 taking into account the scores calculated for the platform project application in the expert-examination of platform project applications under Paragraph 31 of this Regulation, the council shall prepare a list of platform expert-examinations of platform applications from platform project applications (further referred to as the list of expert-examinations of platform project applications). The list of expert-examinations of platform project applications shall rank the platform project applications in priority order of the number of points obtained, starting with the highest scoring platform project application, and shall indicate the platform project applications that have been assessed above the quality threshold. The list of expert-examinations of platform project applications shall be submitted to the platform project management team for a decision on whether to grant funding for the implementation of the platform project or to reject the platform project application.

69.20 Platform financing conditions:

69.201 Chapter IV of this Regulation shall apply to the financing of platforms, with the exception of Sub-paragraphs 38.2 and 38.21 and Paragraph 39 of this Regulation;

69.202 subsequent payments to the research organisation shall be made in accordance with the platform contract, provided that the final payment, not exceeding 10 per cent of the total funding allocated to the platform and determined according to the total amount of eligible costs actually spent under the platform and the expected results of the platform achieved, shall be made to the research organisation after the closing report of the platform and the closing financial report of the platform have been submitted to and approved by the council in line with the terms of the platform contract;

69.203 the duration of the platform may be extended for up to one year, without additional funding and without the need for a repeated expert-examination of the platform’s closing report, on the basis of a written submission to the council from the leading partner of the platform, if necessary to consolidate and publicise the platform and the results of the platform projects.

69.21 Internal operating conditions of platforms:

69.211 The platform project management team:

69.211.1 selects the platform project applications and assesses the internally within the scope of the platform following the internal procedures developed jointly by the leading partner of the platform and the platform co-operation partners, approved at a meeting of the platform project management team, and following the selection and approval criteria for platform projects, which form part of the platform application;

69.211.2 monitors the progress of the platform project and its objective and target indicators throughout its implementation to ensure that the set interim outcome indicators of the platform projects are reached and that the set performance results of the platform projects and other specific objectives, tasks and indicators defined in the long-term programme, platform and platform project are achieved;

69.211.3 at least every six months, carries out an interim evaluation of the implementation of the platform projects, taking into account the progress made to date in each platform project, the scientific quality of each platform project, its impact, expected progress of future implementation and potential risks to future implementation;

69.211.4 if necessary, during the interim evaluation of the implementation of the platform project, makes recommendations for changes to the content and financing plan of the platform project, or decides on suspension;

69.211.5 if a platform project is discontinued, selects a new platform project and decides on the allocation of funding for its implementation;

69.211.6 elects the chairpersons of the platform project management team at its first meeting by open vote;

69.211.7 decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of an open vote. In the event of a tie, the vote of the platform project management team leader is decisive. The meetings of the platform project management team are recorded. The minutes shall record only the participants in the meeting and the persons who spoke on the matter, the decisions taken and the results of voting (if applicable);

69.212 the obligations of a platform represented by a leading partner of the platform:

69.212.1 to manage the platform and ensure that it fulfils the tasks and targets set out in the rules of the platform procedure, including coordinating the implementation of all platform projects approved under the platform;

69.212.2 to forward the selected platform project applications to the council for scientific expert-examination. It shall be organised by the council following Paragraphs 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 of this Regulation;

69.212.3 to monitor the platform projects approved by the platform project management team;

69.212.4 to prepare and maintain all documentation supporting the selection of platform projects, including documentation of the work of the platform project management team;

69.212.5 to develop an internal platform map for the selection of members of the platform project management team through an open procedure and to establish a platform project management team within the platform;

69.212.6 within 15 business days of the meeting of the platform project management team where the platform projects were reviewed and selected, to inform the platform project applicants in writing about the approved or rejected platform project, explaining the reasons for the rejection and the possibilities for appeal;

69.212.7 before the meeting of the platform project management team where the platform projects are reviewed and selected, to check for risks of conflict of interest, corruption and fraud and, if necessary, to prevent and remedy the identified risks. Throughout the lifetime of the platform, to ensure that inspections are documented and that a conflict of interest declaration is signed before the platform project management team meeting where platform projects are reviewed and selected, where necessary, to address or correct identified risks or conflicts of interest;

69.212.8 if the platform project is approved, in cooperation with the council, to verify the absence of double funding before the approval of the platform project and throughout its implementation, ensuring that the inspections are documented;

69.212.9 to conclude contracts for the implementation of platform projects;

69.212.10 to develop selection criteria for platform projects;

69.212.11 to verify that the expenditure of the platform project is necessary to achieve the research results, that this correlation is clearly understood and demonstrable, and that the expenditure of the research project has been incurred following the principles of economy, rationality and efficiency;

69.212.12 to ensure the monitoring of the implementation of platform projects and the eligibility of project expenditure;

69.212.13 to register all platform project applications received and inform platform project applicants by sending them an electronic confirmation of the received platform project;

69.213 the platform shall have the right to access the original supporting documents relating to the implementation of platform projects and visit the site of the platform project to ascertain the eligibility of the platform project submitted to the platform.

69.22 The platform project implementer may submit a complaint to the platform on the grounds for rejection. If the dispute cannot be resolved by negotiation, the platform project implementer may submit a written complaint to the council within one month from the date of the rejection of the complaint.

69.23 Implementation of the platform operation:

69.231 in its operations, the platform shall comply with Paragraphs 43, 48, 49, 51, 52, 53, 57, 58, 59, 60 and 61 of this Regulation. The council is not responsible for monitoring the implementation of platform projects or the eligibility of expenditure on platform projects;

69.232 the research organisation which is the leading partner of the platform shall, following the rules of the platform procedure, submit the following to the council through the information system, within the timeframe and in the manner specified in the platform contract:

69.232.1 a financial report on the use of the funding granted to the platform for a period of not less than six months, as well as the interim and closing financial reports of the platform;

69.232.2 the interim reports and closing report of the platform;

69.232.3 a substantive report on the performance of the platform tasks and other reports under the platform contract;

69.233 the sectoral ministry shall provide a reasoned opinion to the council on the documentation under Sub-paragraph 69232.3 of this Regulation, and the council shall ensure its implementation in line with this Regulation;

69.234 the council shall ensure that each platform expert assesses the interim report or closing report of the platform and completes the individual platform expert-examination form for the interim report or closing report of the platform. A platform expert completes the form of the consolidated platform expert-examination by long-term programme experts for the interim report or closing report of the platform and the other platform experts involved in the platform expert-examination approve it. Both these forms (individual and consolidated) are completed by the platform experts following the platform expert-examination methodology specified in the rules for the platform procedure, and sent to the council. The council shall ensure that the reports of the mentioned platform expert-examinations and reports specified in Sub-paragraph 69.232.2 of this Regulation are submitted to the sectoral ministry through the information system within three business days of receipt of those expert-examinations;

69.235 if the consolidated assessment of the platform expert-examination of the interim report of the platform is “Do not continue the platform” or the consolidated assessment of the platform expert-examination of the closing report of the platform is “Platform objective not achieved”, or the platform results and the substantive reporting on the platform results do not comply with the terms of the platform contract, the long-term programme commission shall decide on the termination of the platform and, if applicable, on the recovery of any unduly used funding allocated to the platform operation. The decision of the long-term programme commission shall be prepared as an administrative deed, communicated to the research organisation and notified to the council by electronic mail using a secure electronic signature;

69.236 upon receipt of the decision referred to in Sub-paragraph 69.235 of this Regulation, the council shall unilaterally terminate the platform contract and update the details of the platform in the information system, applying Paragraph 57 of this Regulation. The council shall ensure that the decision to recover funds unduly used for the implementation of a project is fulfilled;

69.237 based on the received interim and closing reports of the platforms and considering the contents of the consolidated platform expert-examination by the platform experts of the interim and closing reports of the platforms under Sub-paragraph 69.234 of this Regulation, the council shall prepare the council report on the platform in accordance with the content of the council report specified in the rules for the platform procedure, publish the council report on the platform on its website and forward it to the sectoral ministry;

69.238 if the platform project manager changes during the lifetime of the platform, then, following the rules for the platform procedure, an application shall be submitted to the council concerning the mentioned changes, accompanied by information justifying the need for the change and a signed draft agreement on amendments to the platform contract. The council shall agree to these changes if the platform project manager has equivalent qualifications and operational experience. The council shall inform the long-term programme commission of the changes and it shall decide whether to allow or reject them. If changes are allowed, the research organisation shall update these details in the information system after amending the platform contract;

69.239 the research organisation together with the platform co-operation partners (if applicable) shall organise a public review and discussion of the results achieved under the platform, in the manner and within the timeframe specified in the platform contract before the submission of the closing report of the platform.

69.24 Chapter VI of this Regulation shall also apply to the operation of platforms.”

Prime Minister *E. Siliņa*

Minister for Economics *V. Valainis*

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