



# Quadrennial Periodic Report on Measures to Protect and Promote the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

## General guidelines

- (i) The number of pages of the periodic reports should not exceed 20, excluding Annexes;
- (ii) Declarative statements shall be supported by facts and explanations;
- (iii) Information and analysis are to be derived from a variety of sources and be illustrated with examples;
- (iv) Long historical accounts are to be avoided;
- (v) Links may be added directly in the text.

### Languages:

The Report is to be prepared in English or French, the working languages of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

Parties are encouraged to submit, to the extent possible, their reports in both working languages of the Committee.

Parties that are in a position to do so are invited to also submit their reports in other languages (e.g., national languages) for purposes of information sharing.

### Structure of reports:

Section Number	Heading	Suggested number of pages
	Executive Summary	1
1	General information	0,5
2	Measures	12
3	Awareness-raising and participation of civil society	3
4	Main results achieved and challenges encountered when implementing the Convention	3,5
Annex		

The original version(s) of the Report, signed by the official designated on behalf of the Party, is (are) sent to the following address: UNESCO, Section of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, 1 rue Miollis 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. The deadline for receipt of the reports is 30 April 2012.

The electronic version of this PDF form is to be sent through email to [reports2005c@unesco.org](mailto:reports2005c@unesco.org) or uploaded to : <http://www.unesco.org/tools/filedepot/>.

Parties are invited to contact the Secretariat for any clarification or information. The Secretariat would also welcome feedback which will be used in the development of the supporting tools and also contribute to future reporting cycles.

# 1. General Information

(Estimate: 250 words)

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## a) Name of Party

Latvia

## b) Date of ratification

2007/07/06 ?

## c) Ratification process

Latvia has been involved already in the drafting process of the Convention. The Secretary General of the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO on that time Mrs Dace Melbārde was actively involved and participated in the work of various intergovernmental experts working groups for drafting of the 2005 Convention and its advocacy. In the 33rd General Conference of UNESCO in 2005 Latvia was voting for the adoption of the Convention. Yet Latvia itself accessed the Convention only in 2007 following the decision and recommendation by the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO. The Latvian National Commission for UNESCO recommended in its decision of February 2, 2006 to the government of Latvia to start the accession process. The accession process lasted for one year due to various discussions and consultations about the Convention which took place.

?

## d) Total contribution the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (in USD)

?

## e) Organization(s) or entity(es) responsible for the preparation of the report

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, Latvian National Commission for UNESCO

## f) Officially designated point of contact ?

Title	First name	Family name	Organization	Position
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## g) Description of the consultation process established for the preparation of the report ?

The report was prepared by the Ministry of Culture of Latvia in cooperation with the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO and civil society organizations

Title	First name	Family name	Organization	Position
Mrs.	Baiba	Tjarve	Culturelab	Project Leader
Mrs.	Ieva	Struka	The Council of the Creative Unions of Latvia	Chair



# 1. General Information

(Estimate: 250 words)

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## h) Name of representative(s) of participating civil society organization(s)

Title	First name	Family name	Organization	Position
Mrs.	Agnese	Baranova	RIXC	Member of the Board

## Executive Summary of the Report

In writing this summary, please include the main achievements and challenges in implementing the Convention and, where appropriate, an outlook for the future. ?

(Maximum 500 words)

**The Republic of Latvia ratified the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (hereinafter referred to as the “Convention”) on 6 July 2007.**

**The Quadrennial Periodic Report prepared by the Ministry of Culture of Latvia in cooperation with the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO and civil society organizations contains the information on policies and measures taken at national level to promote the diversity of cultural expressions (Section 2.1) which include the National Culture Policy Guidelines 2006-2015, Guidelines on National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy (2012-2018), Architecture Policy Guidelines 2009-2015, Protocol of Intent between the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development in cooperation on the establishment of Creative Latvia platform, State Cultural Capital Foundation, A reduced VAT rate and Riga Film Fund. Regarding international cooperation, the Report provides information on intergovernmental and interministerial cooperation agreements and programmes (Section 2.2.). The information on measures aimed at integrating culture in sustainable development policies (Section 2.3.) refers to Latvia 2030 – Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia, The National Development Plan 2007-2013, The Strategic Development Plan of Latvia from 2010 until 2013, Latgale Strategy 2030 and The National Reform Program of Latvia for the implementation of EU 2020 Strategy. In the area of the protection of cultural expressions under threat (Section 2.4), the Report describes the situation of Liv Minority which are indigenous people of Latvia. This Report also includes information on awareness-raising and participation of civil society (Section 3.) and main achievements and challenges to the implementation of the Convention (Section 4.). The Annex with statistical data also constitutes an integral part of this Report.**

**It is crucial for the success of the Convention to strengthen its role within the civil society and to promote the Convention among NGOs both for having better visibility, but also obtaining fruitful critical views on the Convention and the ways of its implementation. It is essential to pursue the promotion of cooperation among governmental institutions and their dialogue with civil society. The implementation of the Convention could be strengthened also within the EU and UNESCO cooperation, enhancing the role of the diversity of cultural expressions within the EU policies and programs.**

**As to outlook for future, it is planned to establish a special group of experts under the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO to consult the implementation of the Convention, meanwhile references to the Convention are regularly included in various policy and strategy documents as well as Convention is used for informing various decisions regarding the development of creative industries. We would like to underline the importance of an active position of the National Commissions for UNESCO within the advancement of the visibility of the Convention and the process of its implementation. Thus, this network of UNESCO community is a significant tool for involving a wide range of partners at national and international level in order to enhance the awareness of the aims of the Convention.**

## 2. Measures

(Estimate: 6000 words)

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*Parties shall provide information on policies and measures adopted to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions within their territory (at the national, regional or local levels) and at the international level (including trans-regional or trans-national levels).*

*Information to be presented in this Section of the report is to be organized according to the following themes:*

- i) cultural policies and measures;*
- ii) international cooperation and preferential treatment;*
- iii) the integration of culture in sustainable development policies;*
- iv) protecting cultural expressions under threat.*

### **Key questions:**

*Parties shall respond, to the extent possible, to the following questions for each theme:*

- (a) What are the main objective(s) of the policy or measure? When was it introduced?*
- (b) How has it been implemented, which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation and what resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?*
- (c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?*
- (d) What has been the effect or impact of the policy or measure? What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?*



## 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

### 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

*The purpose of this section is to report on cultural policies and measures in place to promote the diversity of cultural expressions at the different stages of creation, production, distribution, dissemination and participation/enjoyment.*

*Measures may be understood as those that:*

- *nurture creativity,*
- *form part of an enabling environment for independent producers and distributors*
- *provide access to the public at large to diverse cultural expressions.*

*They may be regulatory or legislative, action or programme oriented, institutional or financial measures. They may be specifically introduced to address the special circumstances and needs of individuals (e.g. women, young people) or groups (e.g. persons belonging to minorities, indigenous people) as creators, producers or distributors of cultural expressions.*

*For more information on the types of measures to be reported on, please refer to [Article 6, Rights of Parties](#) at the national level, and the [Operational Guidelines adopted on Article 7](#) on measures to promote cultural expressions.*

## 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

### Policy / measure 1

#### Name of policy / measure

National Culture Policy Guidelines 2006-2015. National State. Long term policy guidelines.

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Type of intervention	Target
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> creation	<input type="checkbox"/> regulatory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> artists/creators
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> production	<input type="checkbox"/> legislative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producers/entrepreneurs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> distribution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> institutional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cultural enterprises
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> dissemination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> young people
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> participation/enjoyment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> women
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	strategic planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> persons belonging to minorities
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> indigenous peoples
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)
		public and private sector, cultural

#### a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

- to enhance the national identity and the consolidation of Latvian civil society, maintaining and creating shared national cultural values;
- to improve the cooperation between culture and the sectors of the economy to facilitate the diversity of Latvian culture and the sustainable development of a creative economy;
- to create an environment favourable towards the development of creative diversity and to stimulate excellence;
- to promote balanced development of culture processes and the accessibility of culture throughout Latvia, ensuring the right to good quality of life for all the inhabitants of the state;
- to develop and make full use of the potential of culture in the life long education of individuals, promoting the development of a knowledge society founded upon humanistic values;
- to facilitate dialogue and understanding between cultures and nations and to enrich the cultural life of Latvia by participating in international culture processes and cooperation networks; and
- to build upon knowledge and information technology base, develop result oriented culture governance and to facilitate the decentralisation of culture.

The National Culture Policy Guidelines were adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in April 2006.

The Convention was used as a basis for these Guidelines and the Guidelines contains clear references to the Convention.

#### b) How has it been implemented?

Action plan on the implementation of the Guidelines was elaborated for 2008 and 2009. Periodical Information reports about the implementation of the Guidelines are drafted regularly. State budget for culture is planned in accordance with the Guidelines. In 2009 the budget of the Ministry of Culture was EUR 135 371 224, in 2010 116 237 914, in 2011 131 078 981.

#### Which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

Ministry of Culture

[Add agency](#)

#### What resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?

(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)



## 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

### c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

The main obstacle in the implementation of the Guidelines was the economic downturn. In 2009, there was a dramatic drop in public financing for culture. It was followed by an even deeper crisis in 2010 when the budget of the Ministry of Culture was reduced by 43% if compared to 2008. It was a great challenge to maintain the implementation of the objectives of the Guidelines at the same level as before the crisis.

### d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

Local  Regional  National  International

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No  Yes

If yes, what was the impact :

The impact has been measured partially by preparing Periodical Information reports about the implementation of the Guidelines.

### What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

The cooperation has been reinforced between different institutions (for example, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development etc.). Digital Culture Map of Latvia has been established in order to provide information about the variety of cultural events and resources in Latvian regions, as well as to gather cultural statistics. The minimum basket of cultural services defined in the Cultural Policy Guidelines currently has been established as the amount of cultural services accessible to the society. By implementing digitalization of cultural content and projects on informatization of culture, the accessibility to culture (in particular on web) has been increased. The system of the state cultural statistics has been adjusted and the administrative burden of gathering statistics has been diminished.

## 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

### Policy / measure **2**

Name of policy / measure

State Cultural Capital Foundation (SCCF)

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Type of intervention	Target
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> creation	<input type="checkbox"/> regulatory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> artists/creators
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> production	<input type="checkbox"/> legislative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producers/entrepreneurs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> distribution	<input type="checkbox"/> institutional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cultural enterprises
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> dissemination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> young people
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> participation/enjoyment	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> women
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)		<input type="checkbox"/> persons belonging to minorities
		<input type="checkbox"/> indigenous peoples
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)
		society, public

a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

The goal of the SCCF is to provide financial support and promote balanced development of creative work in all sectors of culture and art and encourage the preservation of cultural heritage. It also facilitates the development of international relations and promotes Latvian art and culture world wide. The establishment of the SCCF, which started operating as an arms length body of the Ministry of Culture in 1998, was a major milestone in Latvian cultural policy and completely changed funding patterns in the cultural sector. The financing of cultural projects which had previously been the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture was delegated to the SCCF.

b) How has it been implemented?

The SCCF announces and administers culture projects' competitions several times a year, allots life long grants for culture and arts workers and gives financial support to short term educational, creative or scientific travels abroad. There are also programmes within the SCCF dedicated to children and youth, as well as regional programmes and support programmes for professional culture NGOs. The SCCF is managed by the Council of the Foundation, its activities are ensured by its director and the culture projects are evaluated by experts of 8 branches: Literature, Music and Dance, Theatrical arts, Film arts, Visual arts, Cultural Heritage, Traditional Culture, Design and Architecture, Interdisciplinary.

Which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

The Council of the SCCF; the expert bodies of the SCCF

[Add agency](#)

What resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?

\$0.00

(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)

c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

2009 saw a sharp reduction in the SCCF budget to 5.8 million EUR and in 2010 - to 3 million EUR, which was by 72% less than in 2008. The budget of the SCCF in 2006 was 9.9 million EUR, in 2007- 10.3 million EUR, and in 2008 - 10.7 million EUR. In 2011, the buget was 3,4 million EUR. In 2012, the budget of the SCCF is 4,2 million EUR.

d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

Local  Regional  National  International



## 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No  Yes

If yes, what was the impact :

In 2010 there was a sharp cut of funding for the SCCF (2006 - EUR 9.9 million, 2007 - EUR 10.3 million, 2008 - 10.7 million, 2009 - 5.8 million, 2010 - EUR 3 million), which led to the fact that there was a limited number of projects which were approved and the demand from the sector many times exceeded the SCCF fundind possibilities.

What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

In 2010, 3 project competitions were held in the field of literature where 352 projects were submitted but 165 were approved with total amount of ~EUR 237 417 (the requested funding was 5,15 times bigger than the funding possibilities); 597 projects (~EUR 1 588 000) were submitted in the music and dance project competition but only 298 were approved with total funding of ~EUR 325 110); there were 171 projects (EUR 320 131) and 44 mobility projects (EUR 20 414) supported in the film industry project competitions; in cultural heritage project competitions only EUR 338 108 were granted instead of EUR 1 819 264 demanded; in traditional culture project competitions there was a possibility to grant only 13% of the total project applications, i.e., 108 projects (EUR 88 546); in design and architecture project competitions there were 50 projects (EUR 309.683) submitted, but only 20 of them approved (EUR 117 102). In 2010 EUR 186 290 were granted to the theatre sector, EUR 294 000 to visual arts projects, EUR 142 288 - to regional programmes and EUR 142 288 - to professional culture NGOs.

## 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

### Policy / measure 3

#### Name of policy / measure

Guidelines on National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy (2012–2018)

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Type of intervention	Target
<input type="checkbox"/> creation	<input type="checkbox"/> regulatory	<input type="checkbox"/> artists/creators
<input type="checkbox"/> production	<input type="checkbox"/> legislative	<input type="checkbox"/> producers/entrepreneurs
<input type="checkbox"/> distribution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> institutional	<input type="checkbox"/> cultural enterprises
<input type="checkbox"/> dissemination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> young people
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> participation/enjoyment	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> women
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	recommendatory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> persons belonging to minorities
education, information		<input type="checkbox"/> indigenous peoples
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)
		migrants, society as a whole

#### a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

Maintaining uniqueness of national minorities - national minorities and their culture are an integral and important component of the Latvian society and its cultural space. In Latvia every member of a national minority has the right to maintain and develop his or her own language, ethnic and cultural individuality and the State supports it. Latvia has state funded bilingual education system in minority schools which enables the minority children and adults to fully participate in the life of society while ensuring the sustainability of their ethnic identities. The policy emphasizes the principle of identities being complementary, in accordance with which, the various identities do not exclude but rather enrich each other (simultaneously having a number of identities - that of a national minority, Latvian, European, global). Latvia is also a member of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ratified by Latvia on 6 June 2005). The Guidelines on National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy (2012-2018) were adopted by the Cabinet on 13 October 2011.

#### b) How has it been implemented?

National education system includes state funded schools for seven national minorities (Russian, Polish, Estonian, Lithuanian, Jewish, Ukrainian, Byelorussian) schools. These schools, besides basic subjects envisaged by the national education programmes, provide learning of national minority's language, culture and traditions.

Within the professional art framework, the Latvian cultural education system operates as a good integration mechanism – music and art schools at all levels where children and young people of various nationalities are integrated by a common base of music and art values by joining the Latvian cultural space and after finishing the school continue to participate in its development.

Radio 4 of public service broadcaster Latvijas Radio is positioned as "social integration radio". It is a news channel broadcasting mainly in the Russian language. Apart from its own productions, the station also broadcasts programmes created by the cultural societies of the various national minorities. These include broadcasts in the Estonian, Lithuanian, Polish, Byelorussian, Ukrainian, Hebrew, Georgian, Armenian, Azeri, Greek, Tatar-Bashkir and German languages. Main topics of the broadcasts – cultural news, national traditions, news of the organisations, contacts with countries of origin. Most of the station's audience is in the capital Riga and the eastern part of Latvia, Latgale and it correlates with the ethnic composition of the territory. Although the channel can be received in only 40% of the territory of Latvia, it has a 6% audience share (7.7% in Riga, rising to 14.2% in Latgale).

Latvian Association of National Minority Culture Societies' is operating since 1988 and currently unites 22 minority organisations. The Association is receiving financial support from the state budget for covering maintenance costs for premises used by the organisation.



## 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

Individual organizations are taking opportunities proposed by the state social integration budget as well as international financial programmes implemented by the state and self-government institutions or Latvian Society Integration Fund and apply for funding to implement their cultural programmes. It includes supporting national dance and song groups, educating on traditions, history, organising exhibitions of the Latvian national minority's or minority's origin countries artists.

Which public agency(ies) is (are)  
responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ombudsman's Office.

[Add agency](#)

What resources have been allocated  
to ensure implementation?

*(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)*

c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

A challenge for society as a whole is to see the culture and cultural events of minorities' organizations as an opportunity and tool for enriching the cultural space of the country but for the minorities' organizations – to find a way to reach outside the boundaries of their organisation and ethnic group.

d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

Local  Regional  National  International

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No  Yes

If yes, what was the impact :

What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

## 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

### Policy / measure 4

Name of policy / measure

Architecture Policy Guidelines. 2009-2015.

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Type of intervention	Target
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> creation	<input type="checkbox"/> regulatory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> artists/creators
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> production	<input type="checkbox"/> legislative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producers/entrepreneurs
<input type="checkbox"/> distribution	<input type="checkbox"/> institutional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cultural enterprises
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> dissemination	<input type="checkbox"/> financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> young people
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> participation/enjoyment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> women
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	architectural, spatial, public space	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> persons belonging to minorities
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> indigenous peoples
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)
		governmental and municipal institutions

a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

The objective of the architecture policy of Latvia is to create the necessary conditions for the creation and sustainability of qualitative living space based on architecture. The Guidelines were introduced in 2009 by the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers.

b) How has it been implemented?

The National Architecture Council has been set up under the Ministry of Culture. It is an interdisciplinary body. In 2010 the Design and Architecture programme was established under the State Culture Capital Foundation to financially support design and architecture projects. An intersectoral working group is in process of reviewing the priorities of the Action Directions of the Guidelines. At present, Latvia is preparing for the International Venice Art Biennale in 2012. In 2011, the Ministry of Culture allocated EUR 10,791 to the Latvian Association of Architects.

Which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Latvian Association of Architects

[Add agency](#)

What resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?

\$0.00

(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)

c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

Intersectoral cooperation has been considerably reinforced. The work has been started and is still in process to draw up the Law On the Quality of Architecture which is one of the priority tasks in implementing the Guidelines. The discussions are ongoing about the governance model of the architecture sector.

d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

Local  Regional  National  International

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?



## 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

No  Yes

If yes, what was the impact :

The impact has been partially investigated. Due to the elaboration of the Architecture Policy Guidelines, the awareness has been raised in the society as regards the architecture, as well as the cooperation between the public sector and the civil society has been reinforced.

What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

There have been regular meetings held between the Ministry of Culture, architecture sector and the civil society on the implementation of the Guidelines; architects have become active participants in the elaboration of the modifications in the Latvian Building Code.

## 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

### Policy / measure 5

#### Name of policy / measure

Protocol of Intent between the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development in cooperation on the establishment of Creative Latvia platform

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Type of intervention	Target
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> creation	<input type="checkbox"/> regulatory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> artists/creators
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> production	<input type="checkbox"/> legislative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producers/entrepreneurs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> distribution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> institutional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cultural enterprises
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> dissemination	<input type="checkbox"/> financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> young people
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> participation/enjoyment	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> women
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> persons belonging to minorities
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> indigenous peoples
		<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)

#### a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

To include concrete activities in sectoral policy planning documents aiming to support creative potential; agree on the development issues of Creative Latvia platform with the aim to include creative potential and innovation dimension in the National Development Plan of Latvia for 2014-2020; cooperate in mapping and activation of creative potential in Latvia, in particular regions, and foster its development; support the establishment of Creative Latvia communication and coordination platform, setting up a sustainable support mechanism for its operation and maintenance.

The Convention was used as a basis for this Protocol and the Protocol contains clear references to the Convention.

#### b) How has it been implemented?

The discussions have been started between the 4 Ministries on cooperation possibilities in cultural, educational, entrepreneurial and territorial field which in fact is an outstanding and phenomenal cross-sectoral cooperation model in mobilizing the political will with great opportunities and challenges ahead.

#### Which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development

[Add agency](#)

#### What resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?

\$0.00

(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)

#### c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

The will and readiness to promote creativity as a starting point for innovation, education, artistic expression, well-being, quality of life, entrepreneurship, territorial development etc. Awareness about the added value of culture and creativity and their spill-over effects to other sectors and industries has been significantly raised which is the basis for continuing the cooperation on a intersectoral approach.

#### d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

Local  Regional  National  International



## 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No  Yes

If yes, what was the impact :

What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

## 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

### Policy / measure **6**

Name of policy / measure

A reduced VAT rate

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Type of intervention	Target
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> creation	<input type="checkbox"/> regulatory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> artists/creators
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> production	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> legislative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producers/entrepreneurs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> distribution	<input type="checkbox"/> institutional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cultural enterprises
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> dissemination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> young people
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> participation/enjoyment	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> women
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> persons belonging to minorities
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> indigenous peoples
		<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)

a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

To apply a reduced VAT rate to educational literature editions, as well as original literature editions, newspapers, magazines and periodicals (issued at least quarterly) since 1995 according to the Law on Value Added Tax.

b) How has it been implemented?

The Law on Value Added Tax (1995) stipulates a standard VAT rate of 22% (in 2009, VAT was increased by 3 percentage points from 18% to 21%; in 2011 - from 21 to 22%). A reduced rate of VAT at 12% (since 2011) applies to educational literature editions, as well as original literature editions, newspapers, magazines and periodicals (issued at least quarterly). Until 2009, the reduced VAT rate was 5%, until 2011 - 10%; moreover, it was applied to several other culture industry sectors, such as tourism and all types of book editions. Moreover, the VAT is not imposed on theatre and circus performances, concerts and events organised by cultural institutions, library services, museums, exhibitions, zoo and botanical gardens, performances for children, performances of amateur arts groups and for charitable purposes; scientific research projects that are financed by public foundations, state or municipal budget or international organisations; remuneration received by the author for work and utilisation thereof, as well as remuneration received by a performer and a phonogram producer for neighbouring rights and utilisation thereof.

Which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

State Revenue Service

[Add agency](#)

What resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?

\$0.00

(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)

c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

Due to the rise of a standart VAT from 5% to 18% to 21% in 2009, from 21% to 22% in 2011, a reduced VAT rate for educational literature editions, original literature editions, newspapers, magazines and periodicals was increased from 5% until 2009 to 12% in 2011. A reduced VAT rate is considered to be with a negative impact to the sector and discussions are ongoing about the possible changes in this measure.



## 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

Local  Regional  National  International

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No  Yes

If yes, what was the impact :

Due to the fact that the VAT rate has been increased from 5% at the beginning of 2009 to 22% in 2011, this measure is considered to have a negative impact on the sector. Data showed that due to the increased VAT rate the sector was sharply shrinking and such a measure is still not giving financial benefits to the State budget in long term. Several publishing companies announced insolvency and were closed. Tax payments of the publishing companies in the State budget dropped sharply.

What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

When VAT was increased from 5% to 21% in 2009, the sector experienced a big recession: the turnover of publishing companies dropped by 43%, sales decreased by 60-70%, number of titles published dropped by 22%, number of edited copies - by 33% and book prices increased by 15,2%.

## 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

### Policy / measure **7**

Name of policy / measure

Riga Film Fund

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Type of intervention	Target
<input type="checkbox"/> creation	<input type="checkbox"/> regulatory	<input type="checkbox"/> artists/creators
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> production	<input type="checkbox"/> legislative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producers/entrepreneurs
<input type="checkbox"/> distribution	<input type="checkbox"/> institutional	<input type="checkbox"/> cultural enterprises
<input type="checkbox"/> dissemination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> financial	<input type="checkbox"/> young people
<input type="checkbox"/> participation/enjoyment	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> women
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)		<input type="checkbox"/> persons belonging to minorities
		<input type="checkbox"/> indigenous peoples
		<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)

a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

Riga Film Fund is a municipal fund of the Riga City Council for co-financing film projects shot in Riga. The co-financing programme of Riga Film Fund is open to Latvian and foreign productions planning to shoot in Riga, and its objective is to encourage foreign investments in Riga, create new jobs, develop the Latvian film industry and promote Riga internationally. Riga Film Fund was established in 2010.

b) How has it been implemented?

Up to 15% of film related expenditure in Riga can be obtained as cash rebate when filming is completed. The eligible costs of the programme include transport, rental of premises and technical equipment, accommodation, public facilities, construction facilities, artistic and administrative work, thereby encouraging foreign film crews to live and work in Riga. Riga Film Fund organizes calls up to four times a year. Projects that want to be supported must fit the following criteria: full length fiction, TV films and documentary films with the minimum budget of 500 000 Lats (approx. 700 000 EUR) that have confirmed financing of at least 50% of the total budget.

Which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

Riga City Council

[Add agency](#)

What resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?

\$3.20

(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)

c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

Riga Film Fund has fuelled a boom in foreign productions in Latvia since its establishment in 2010 with nine foreign productions shooting in 2011. Before the establishment of Riga Film Fund, Latvia had one or two productions a year. Riga Film Fund supported 12 foreign projects in 2010 and 2011. The total was about 2.4m EUR in support as a tax rebate. On average the productions got 10 - 13 % of their budget from the tax rebate. There is no set budget for Riga Film Fund; the funding is approved after the results of the tender when the required amount of the funding is determined by evaluating the applications of the tender winners.

d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

Local

Regional

National

International



## 2.1 Cultural policies and measures

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No  Yes

If yes, what was the impact :

The establishment of Riga Film Fund has a very good impact on the Latvian economy because the foreign film shootings in Latvia have increased spill-over effects on other sectors.

What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

In 2011, the economic impact (total income) of foreign film production companies which were shooting in Latvia was EUR 5 500 000 according to data presented by the National Film Centre of Latvia about the expenditure of foreign film production companies in Latvia.

## 2.2. International cooperation and preferential treatment Page 21

*The purpose of this section is to report on measures aimed at facilitating international cooperation and preferential treatment  to artists and cultural professionals, as well as cultural goods and services from developing countries.*

*Measures are understood as legal, institutional and financial frameworks, policy and programme activities that, for example:*

- support the mobility of artists and cultural professionals abroad (sending and receiving);*
- provide greater market access for the distribution of cultural goods and services from developing countries through specific agreements;*
- strengthen independent cultural industries as a means to contribute to economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development;*
- aim to build institutional and management capacities through international cultural exchange programmes or partnerships among civil society organizations and networks.*

*For more information on the types of measures to be reported on, please refer to [Article 12](#) (Promotion of international cooperation), [Article 14](#) (Cooperation for development), [Article 16](#) (Preferential treatment for developing countries) and their corresponding Operational Guidelines.*

## 2.2. International cooperation and preferential treatment

### Policy / measure 1

**Name of policy / measure**

Intergovernmental and interministerial cooperation agreements

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Frameworks	Type of intervention	Target
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mobility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cultural cooperation agreements	<input type="checkbox"/> institution building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> artists/creators
<input type="checkbox"/> market access	<input type="checkbox"/> trade agreements	<input type="checkbox"/> financial investment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producers / distributors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strengthen independent cultural industries	<input type="checkbox"/> culture and trade agreements	<input type="checkbox"/> technology transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cultural enterprises
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> develop management skills	<input type="checkbox"/> co-production / co-distribution agreements	<input type="checkbox"/> capacity building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> young people
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exchange information and expertise	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> networking/partnership development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> women
<input type="checkbox"/> needs assessment ?		<input type="checkbox"/> operational action plan ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> persons belonging to minorities
<input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation		<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> indigenous peoples
<input type="checkbox"/> North-South-South cooperation		cooperation	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)			

**a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?**

To exchange commitments for cultural cooperation and cultural exchange with partner Governments and Ministries, and to provide a legal basis for practical activities of exchange, such as cooperation programmes, budgetary programmes, visa alleviations etc. To strengthen cooperation ties between the countries, to contribute to mutual understanding, to spread knowledge about each other, as well as to foster cooperation in the field of culture. These cooperation agreements have been signed since 1990.

**b) How has it been implemented?**

Latvia has signed 38 intergovernmental cooperation agreements and 10 interministerial agreements in the field of culture (including the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministers of Culture of Baltic and Nordic countries on the launch of the Mobility programme "Culture"; the Memorandum of Understanding between the EU, Norway and Russia on Setting out the Modalities of Establishing the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture; agreement between the Ministries of Culture of the Baltic States on the establishment of "Baltic Films" cooperation platform; agreement between the Ministries of Culture on the orchestra "Kremerata Baltica"). In 2011, there were around EUR 130 371 directly allocated to international cooperation in the budget of the Ministry of Culture.

**Which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation?**

Agency name

Government incl. Ministry of Culture

[Add agency](#)

**What resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?**

(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)

**c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?**



## 2.2. International cooperation and preferential treatment

d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

Local  Regional  National  International

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No  Yes

If yes, what was the impact :

What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

## 2.2. International cooperation and preferential treatment

### Policy / measure 2

#### Name of policy / measure

Intergovernmental and interministerial cooperation programmes

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Frameworks	Type of intervention	Target
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mobility	<input type="checkbox"/> cultural cooperation agreements	<input type="checkbox"/> institution building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> artists/creators
<input type="checkbox"/> market access	<input type="checkbox"/> trade agreements	<input type="checkbox"/> financial investment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producers / distributors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> strengthen independent cultural industries	<input type="checkbox"/> culture and trade agreements	<input type="checkbox"/> technology transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cultural enterprises
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> develop management skills	<input type="checkbox"/> co-production / co-distribution agreements	<input type="checkbox"/> capacity building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> young people
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exchange information and expertise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> networking/partnership development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> women
<input type="checkbox"/> needs assessment ?	cooperation programmes	<input type="checkbox"/> operational action plan ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> persons belonging to minorities
<input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation		<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> indigenous peoples
<input type="checkbox"/> North-South-South cooperation			<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)			

#### a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

To strengthen cooperation ties between the countries, to contribute to mutual understanding, to exchange information and best practice, to spread knowledge about their cultures, as well as to foster cooperation in the field of culture by taking part in various events and activities organized in each country. As tools for implementing of intergovernmental/interministerial agreements co-operation programmes are periodically reviewed and signed.

#### b) How has it been implemented?

At present there are 3 running intergovernmental cooperation programmes where culture is integrated as an essential part of cooperation (with Flanders (Belgium), Wallonie (Belgium) and Israel) and 5 interministerial cooperation programmes in the field of culture (1) between Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania; (2) with Russia; (3) China; (4) Armenia; (5) Nordic - Baltic Mobility programme for culture. The Cultural Cooperation Programme between the Cultural Ministries of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania for 2009 – 2011 provisions developed cooperation among the Baltic states regarding the implementation of UNESCO conventions, including a specific reference to the 2005 Convention and the Exchange of information among the Baltic states about its implementation; the Cultural cooperation Programme for 2012 – 2014 is being developed and it will also contain references to UNESCO Conventions and cooperation regarding their implementation. It is planned to sign the cooperation programme with the Ministry of Azerbaijan.

#### Which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

The Ministry of Culture

[Add agency](#)

#### What resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?

(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)



## 2.2. International cooperation and preferential treatment

### c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

Programmes contain obligations to receive and financially and otherwise contribute to ad hoc or recurrent projects. Frequently, the exact nature of these commitments is not specified, the text limits itself to the fact of supporting or enhancing participation in, realisation of etc. a number of listed projects. One reason for the above mentioned is the budget planning system only for one year in advance.

### d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

Local  Regional  National  International

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No  Yes

If yes, what was the impact :

What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?



## 2.3. Integration of culture in sustainable development policies

*The purpose of this section is to report on measures aimed at integrating culture as a strategic element in development policies and assistance programmes at all levels (local, national, regional and international) and indicate how they are linked to human development goals, notably poverty reduction. ?*

*It is understood that sustainable development policies are to be formulated, adopted and implemented with relevant authorities responsible for the economy, environment, social affairs and culture. Measures to be reported on this section should take this interrelatedness into account.*

*For more information on the types of measures to be reported on, please refer to the [Operational Guidelines adopted on Article 13](#), Integration of culture in sustainable development.*

*In addition to measures, Parties shall report on whether and which indicators have been adopted in their country to evaluate the role and impact of culture in sustainable development policies and programmes.*

## 2.3. Integration of culture in sustainable development policies

### Policy / measure 1

#### Name of policy / measure

Latvia 2030 - Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Type of intervention	Target
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> participatory governance of culture ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> inter-ministerial cooperation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> artists/creators
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economic empowerment through the cultural industries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> awareness-raising of the cultural dimension of development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producers / distributors
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building inclusive and creative societies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> capacity-building for development actors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cultural enterprises
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> nurturing contemporary creativity and production of cultural expressions	<input type="checkbox"/> institution-building for viable cultural industries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> young people
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> equitable access to cultural life and diverse expressions	<input type="checkbox"/> long-term financial investments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> women
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> increased literacy of diversity and its expressions	<input type="checkbox"/> developing legal frameworks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> persons belonging to minorities
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> skills development / training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> indigenous peoples
	<input type="checkbox"/> networking/partnership development	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> exchange of information and expertise	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> indicator development / collection of data	
	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	

#### a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

Latvia 2030 - Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia outlines the sustainable development objectives of Latvia for 20 years and recommends solutions for efficient and sustainable use of culture, nature, economic and social capital, particularly singling out the fundamental value of Latvia - human capital. The first priority is the development of culture space of Latvia because the identity of a strong and creative nation lies in our unique, inherited and newly created material and spiritual values. It joins and unites the society for the creation of new economic, social and cultural values, which are appreciated and known around the world. Inhabitants of Latvia have a common material and non-material heritage, which has been accumulated in creative work that has lasted for centuries. Culture determines the foundation for what we are and what we want to be. Common cultural heritage, language, traditions and perception of values are the main components, which ensure the sense of belonging to a specific community and promote the unity of the society. In wider sense, culture is a system of values, which is the foundation of the identity and lifestyle of an individual, community, nation. Concurrently culture is also a mechanism for the creation of such values, analysis and transfer thereof, creating the sustainability of the culture space of Latvia.

Creative individual and society, which is able to appreciate and use its creative potential, are the main driving forces of the development. Only such society is able to think and act in sustainable manner. In a state as small as Latvia every creative person is of great value. The bigger the investment of the society and culture capital is, the larger added value is added to their work. Culture capital has a significant role in the development of personality in a creative society, because it not only creates an economically active consumer, but also a creatively active entrepreneur, so it is important to promote creativity as the main factor of competitiveness. Another important factor is creative environment, which maintains cultural diversity, concurrently preserving cultural and historical heritage, directly and indirectly supports experiments and creation of new products, thus creating fertile soil for the development of culture and creative industry.

## 2.3. Integration of culture in sustainable development policies

Latvia 2030 was adopted by Saeima (the Parliament) of the Republic of Latvia in 2010.

### b) How has it been implemented?

Latvia 2030 is the main long-term policy planning instrument of Latvia. Every other strategic planning and development document in Latvia has been and will be elaborated in accordance with the priorities and action directions of Latvia 2030. However, it is worth mentioning that although culture and its values always play an important role in long-term planning documents, there are usually difficulties to get culture recognized in short and medium term planning documents.

### Which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

### What resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?

Prime Minister and Cross-Sectoral Cooperation Centre

\$0.00

[Add agency](#)

(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)

### c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

It is important to strengthen the belonging to Latvian culture space, taking into account the ethnic factor, differences of income amounts of inhabitants; concentration of ethnic groups in certain territories. Culture shall foster not only creativity but also other necessary values of society facilitate the development of Latvia, such as empathy, cooperation, involvement, understanding about interculturalism. Civil society values have a great potential in uniting national communities as they are important for both Latvians and other nationalities living in Latvia. It is worth investigating the added value of media space in the formation of the Latvian culture space, to identify the action necessary for increasing the role of the language diversity and intercultural awareness and their impact on the economy. It is essential to take into account the market gaps which exist in the field of culture. Creativity is not only related to creative industries; creativity should be integrated in other fields of economy in order to give profit, as well as in regional development in order to increase the quality of life of indigenous people. Access to cultural space needs to be strengthened by concentrating on those groups of inhabitants which are less involved in the cultural processes and are more passive, as well as access to cultural content in the digital space needs to be fostered, especially regarding youth, diaspora and inhabitants living in regions.

### d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

? Local  Regional  National  International

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No  Yes

If yes, what was the impact :

The Strategy recognizes the essential role of culture, creativity and cultural diversity in the sustainable development perspective of Latvia till 2030. Due to the fact that Latvia 2030 was elaborated quite recently, the impact has been partially measured.

### What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

The indicators defined within the first priority of Latvia 2030 - development of culture space of Latvia - are incomplete, because they marginally reflect the attainment of the objectives set in Latvia 2030. Examples of some indicators: 1) indicator: Latvian original literature titles published per year. Goal for 2030 - up to 2500 titles/year; data of 2008 - 1522; 2010 - 1114. Conclusions: the cuts of the State support have tremendously affected the number of Latvian original literature titles published.; 2) indicator: attendance of cultural events in one year's time per 100 inhabitants. Goal for 2030 - up to 250; data of 2008 - 181,7; 2010 - 186,1. Conclusions: from 2008 to 2011 the number of visitors of cultural events has not dropped seriously, the number of library attendants has increased which is fostered by free internet access in the libraries.; 3) indicator: creative industries export towards total export volume (%). Goal for 2030: 3%; data of 2008 - 0.73; 2009 - 1.09%. Creative industries export volume is increasing, therefore it is essential to strengthen creative industries development in Latvia.

## 2.3. Integration of culture in sustainable development policies

### Policy / measure 2

#### Name of policy / measure

The National Development Plan 2007-2013

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Type of intervention	Target
<input type="checkbox"/> participatory governance of culture ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> inter-ministerial cooperation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> artists/creators
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economic empowerment through the cultural industries	<input type="checkbox"/> awareness-raising of the cultural dimension of development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producers / distributors
<input type="checkbox"/> building inclusive and creative societies	<input type="checkbox"/> capacity-building for development actors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cultural enterprises
<input type="checkbox"/> nurturing contemporary creativity and production of cultural expressions	<input type="checkbox"/> institution-building for viable cultural industries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> young people
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> equitable access to cultural life and diverse expressions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> long-term financial investments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> women
<input type="checkbox"/> increased literacy of diversity and its expressions	<input type="checkbox"/> developing legal frameworks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> persons belonging to minorities
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> skills development / training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> indigenous peoples
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> networking/partnership development	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exchange of information and expertise	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> indicator development / collection of data	
	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	

#### a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

The objective of the National Development Plan from 2007 until 2013 (NDP) is to facilitate a balanced and sustainable development of the country, as well as to ensure and increase Latvia's competitiveness. It is Latvia's contribution to the common strategy of the EU member states and to the implementation of the National Lisbon programme. The NDP presents the strategic goal of Latvia's development and sets forth the main activities to ensure stable growth of the country and society. The NDP's task is to focus society's attention on an agreed upon goal, thus ensuring coordination and balance of activities and purposeful channelling of financial resources into attainment of the state's development goals, as well as into creating the necessary preconditions.

The NDP states that the quality of life is the main prerequisite for the growth of the country. The NDP acknowledges a preserved, accessible and well-maintained cultural environment and a cultural-historical heritage which are integral parts of the quality of life. Culture is an integral priority of a prosperous society, and it has a vital role in preserving national identity. At the same time, cultural diversity also has a special place in Latvia's multi-national society. The strategic goal of the NDP is education and knowledge for the growth and technological excellence of the national economy. The priorities of the NDP are: an educated and creative individual; technological excellence and flexibility of the enterprises; and development of science and research.

The NDP recognizes the potential of creative industries and stipulates that in order to effectively employ Latvia's creative and cultural environment resources, to increase the work efficiency of existing creative sectors, to expand and diversify the economic activities of creative individuals, thus turning their creative potential into economic gain, the creative industry sector, as one of the most promising, should be integrated into the economy of Latvia. In order for this sector in Latvia to reach growth rates equal to those of other countries, special attention should be paid to the specific needs of the creative industries, their innovative potential should be developed, and the experience of creative industries should be systematically expanded.

The NDP was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2006.

Currently interinstitutional work has been started in order to draft the National Development Plan 2014 – 2020.

## 2.3. Integration of culture in sustainable development policies

### b) How has it been implemented?

The National Development Plan has been developed in accordance with the Regional Development Law of the Republic of Latvia and is a medium-term planning document for the period from 2007 until 2013. The NDP is not an action or financial plan but a strategic document which proposes a medium-term goal and priorities; facilitates formation of a common understanding and involvement of the entire society; focuses attention and financial resources for ensuring the country's and society's sustainable development; sets forth guidelines for drafting planning documents at all levels and sectors. The principles and proposals of the NDP have been incorporated into other planning documents.

#### Which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

The Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development

[Add agency](#)

#### What resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?

\$0.00

*(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)*

### c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

To create the culture of creative entrepreneurship in in the society and raise awareness about the specific character, structure and potential in Latvia; to create a favourable environment and institutional support for young creative professionals to start-up their businesses and to create a competitive creative industry in order to gain its recognition amongst other sectors of the economy; to create an active public and private partnership for the commercialization of the creative potential; to promote a timely inclusion of future technologies in the elaboration of the products in creative sectors and to foster intersectoral cooperation; to encourage the exchange of intercultural cooperation in two directions (Latvia - foreign countries and vice versa); to establish a creative industries cluster, involving SMEs, educational institutions, supplier sectors, public institutions, and to elaborate a long-term strategy of the sector.

### d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

? Local  Regional  National  International

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No  Yes

If yes, what was the impact :

What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

## 2.3. Integration of culture in sustainable development policies

### Policy / measure 3

#### Name of policy / measure

The Strategic Development Plan of Latvia from 2010 until 2013

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Type of intervention	Target
<input type="checkbox"/> participatory governance of culture ?	<input type="checkbox"/> inter-ministerial cooperation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> artists/creators
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economic empowerment through the cultural industries	<input type="checkbox"/> awareness-raising of the cultural dimension of development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producers / distributors
<input type="checkbox"/> building inclusive and creative societies	<input type="checkbox"/> capacity-building for development actors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cultural enterprises
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> nurturing contemporary creativity and production of cultural expressions	<input type="checkbox"/> institution-building for viable cultural industries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> young people
<input type="checkbox"/> equitable access to cultural life and diverse expressions	<input type="checkbox"/> long-term financial investments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> women
<input type="checkbox"/> increased literacy of diversity and its expressions	<input type="checkbox"/> developing legal frameworks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> persons belonging to minorities
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> skills development / training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> indigenous peoples
	<input type="checkbox"/> networking/partnership development	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> exchange of information and expertise	
	<input type="checkbox"/> indicator development / collection of data	
	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	

#### a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

The main objective of the Strategic Development Plan of Latvia from 2010 until 2013 (SDP) is to raise the competitiveness of Latvia, and it has three priorities: economic growth, social security and reforms in the public sector. As regards creative industries, the SDP states the task to develop creative industries and to increase export of cultural services, i.e. to improve cultural services, expand the audience and increase the income of cultural institutions, as well as to increase the income dynamics of cultural services. The SDP was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2010.

#### b) How has it been implemented?

The National Development Plan of Latvia from 2007 until 2013 is being implemented in accordance with the Strategic Development Plan of Latvia from 2010 until 2013. The SDP proposes the strategic goal, priorities and action directions for the present socioeconomic situation which are linked with quantitative indicators and expected results. The SDP is being updated once a year but the tasks and results of the SDP are being updated once in a quarter when the Ministries report and update their action policies according to the strategy of the SDP.

#### Which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

The Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development, The Ministry of Finance

[Add agency](#)

#### What resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?

\$0.00

(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)



## 2.3. Integration of culture in sustainable development policies

### c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

The SDP is implemented within the framework of available budget resources. In the culture sector until 2013, it is foreseen to achieve the following result: creative industries export, including cultural services export, is 2% (from total export %). In 2008 it was 0,73%, in 2009 1,09%.

### d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

? Local  Regional  National  International

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No  Yes

If yes, what was the impact :

What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

## 2.3. Integration of culture in sustainable development policies

### Policy / measure 4

#### Name of policy / measure

Latgale Strategy 2030

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Type of intervention	Target
<input type="checkbox"/> participatory governance of culture ?	<input type="checkbox"/> inter-ministerial cooperation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> artists/creators
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economic empowerment through the cultural industries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> awareness-raising of the cultural dimension of development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producers / distributors
<input type="checkbox"/> building inclusive and creative societies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> capacity-building for development actors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cultural enterprises
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> nurturing contemporary creativity and production of cultural expressions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> institution-building for viable cultural industries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> young people
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> equitable access to cultural life and diverse expressions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> long-term financial investments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> women
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> increased literacy of diversity and its expressions	<input type="checkbox"/> developing legal frameworks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> persons belonging to minorities
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> skills development / training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> indigenous peoples
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> networking/partnership development	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exchange of information and expertise	
	<input type="checkbox"/> indicator development / collection of data	
	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	

#### a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

Latgale is one of the four regions of Latvia which is lagging behind in terms of social, economic and infrastructure development, as well as Latgale has seen the drop of the number of population in recent years. Latgale has historically been a multicultural region with different languages and cultures which is closely linked with other Latvian regions, Russia, Belarus and Lithuania. Latgale Strategy 2030 is a long-term development planning document of Latgale planning region. The Strategy sets a long-term goal to be achieved by 2030 in accordance with Latvia Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 – to achieve more rapid economic development of the region in order to raise income of people, maintain and enhance the rich potential of Latgale and would make Latgale for an attractive living environment also for the future generations. The Strategy was approved in 2010 in the meeting of the Development Council of Latgale Planning Region.

#### b) How has it been implemented?

Latgale Program from 2010 until 2017 is the Action Program which has been developed under the Latgale Strategy 2030 in order to implement the Strategy. This Program is the proposal of Latgale region to the next EU financing period from 2014 to 2020. Latgale Program corresponds to the objectives of Latvia 2030 - Sustainable Development Strategy and its action directions include the development of creative industries and infrastructure of cultural institutions in order to foster the development of cities within the network of cities; activities aimed at protection of cultural space in rural areas; organization of big cultural events in order to raise awareness of the region through the Latgalian culture; and implementation of other projects linked to culture.



## 2.3. Integration of culture in sustainable development policies

Which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

Latgale Planning Region

[Add agency](#)

What resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?

(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)

c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

Latgale 2030 Strategy has been recently elaborated, therefore a successful implementation of the Strategy will be proved by: gradual rise in income, in 2030 reaching the 60% of EU average gross wage level; increase in employment rate and the increase of the role of the private sector created by increased efficiency of the existing companies, as well as technological excellence and labour productivity, and raising the economic activity level of the community (30 000 new jobs generated and the existing secured); stabilization of region's population. Despite to the unfavourable migration and population prognosis showing that the population in 2030 may fall below 260 thousand inhabitants, the result of targeted actions will ensure the population of the region at a level - at least 300 000 inhabitants.

d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

? Local  Regional  National  International

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No  Yes

If yes, what was the impact :

What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

## 2.3. Integration of culture in sustainable development policies

### Policy / measure 5

#### Name of policy / measure

The National Reform Program of Latvia for the implementation of EU 2020 Strategy

Please check as appropriate. More than one box can be checked.

Goal	Type of intervention	Target
<input type="checkbox"/> participatory governance of culture ?	<input type="checkbox"/> inter-ministerial cooperation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> artists/creators
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economic empowerment through the cultural industries	<input type="checkbox"/> awareness-raising of the cultural dimension of development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> producers / distributors
<input type="checkbox"/> building inclusive and creative societies	<input type="checkbox"/> capacity-building for development actors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cultural enterprises
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> nurturing contemporary creativity and production of cultural expressions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> institution-building for viable cultural industries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> young people
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> equitable access to cultural life and diverse expressions	<input type="checkbox"/> long-term financial investments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> women
<input type="checkbox"/> increased literacy of diversity and its expressions	<input type="checkbox"/> developing legal frameworks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> persons belonging to minorities
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> skills development / training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> indigenous peoples
	<input type="checkbox"/> networking/partnership development	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)
	<input type="checkbox"/> exchange of information and expertise	
	<input type="checkbox"/> indicator development / collection of data	
	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify below)	

#### a) What are the main objective(s) of policy or measure? When was it introduced?

The National Reform Program of Latvia for the implementation of EU 2020 Strategy is the medium-term macroeconomic scenario of Latvia, including the information about the possible GDP, it reflects the main macrostructural challenges (obstacles) of the Latvian economy and the main activities to eliminate them from 2011 until 2013, as well as the quantitative goals until 2020 within the framework of EU 2020 and the main actions in order to achieve these goals from 2011 until 2013. It includes under the main policy directions and activities in order to foster the export potential and the competitiveness of Latvia the goal to develop ICT and to implement the digital common market. It requires the improvement of ICT infrastructure and services in order to provide wide access to the digital content and services of culture. The National Reform Program stipulates amongst others the arrangement of cultural environment by forming national and regional multifunctional centres. The National Reform program was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2011.

#### b) How has it been implemented?

In the current period until 2013, the National Reform Program is being implemented within the framework of available State budget and within the financing from the EU Structural funds.

Which public agency(ies) is (are) responsible for its implementation?

Agency name

The Ministry of Economy

[Add agency](#)

What resources have been allocated to ensure implementation?

(an approximate total expressed in US dollars)



## 2.3. Integration of culture in sustainable development policies

### c) What challenges have been identified in the implementation of this measure?

Excessive reduction of budget deficit; well functioning and stable securing of financial sector, taking into account a high indebtedness of private sector; ensuring a balanced development of economy, fostering the development of selling sectors and increasing productivity; reduction of structural unemployment, providing a better conformity of qualification and skills with the needs of labour market; improvement of entrepreneurship environment, effective use of EU funds, providing access to finance for enterprises with the aim to support productive investments.

### d) At what level was the policy / measure designed to have an impact?

? Local  Regional  National  International

Has the impact of this policy / measure been investigated?

No  Yes

If yes, what was the impact :

According to the Progress Report on the implementation of the National Reform Program, the indicators reflected in the Report do not concern culture, they are macroeconomic indicators.

### What indicators were used to lead to this conclusion?

GDP (in million EUR): 2010 (18121,7); 2011 (19089,2); 2012 (20105,0); 2013 (21318,7); 2014 - 22616,7; 2015 - 23973,7. Increase of current prices (%): 2010 (-2,7); 2011 (5,3); 2012 (5,3); 2013 (6,0); 2014 (6,1); 2015 (6,0). Increase of comparable prices (%): 2010 (-0,3); 2011 (3,3); 2012 (4,0); 2013 (4,0); 2014 (4,0); 2015 (4,0). Employment (thousand inhabitants): 2010 (940,9); 2011 (955,1); 2012 (967,0); 2013 (980,4); 2014 (993,8); 2015 (1007,3). Export of goods and services (in million EUR): 2010 (9671,6); 2011 (10474,0); 2012 (11222,0); 2013 (12017,8); 2014 (12867,7); 2015 (13777,6). Import of goods and services (in million EUR): 2010 (9822,6); 2011 (10838,5); 2012 (11721,4); 2013 (12685,7); 2014 (13732,9); 2015 (14866,5).



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## 2.4 Protecting cultural expressions under threat

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*The purpose of this section is to report on public policies, measures and actions taken by Parties to protect cultural expressions that are determined to be under threat. This is only in the event when a Party has previously identified a special situation  under [Article 8.2 of the Convention](#).*

*For more information on the types of measures to be reported on, please refer to the [Operational Guidelines adopted on Articles 8 and 17](#) on measures to protect cultural expressions at risk or in need of urgent safeguarding.*

## 2.4 Protecting cultural expressions under threat

Have you identified a special situation under Article 8.2 of the Convention? 

No  Yes

If no, please proceed to Section 3.

If yes, can the special situation be subject to action under other UNESCO Conventions (for instance, the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage)?

No  Yes

If yes, please proceed to Section 3.

If no, please answer the questions below.

### Special situation 1

Name of the cultural expression

Livonian Minority - Livs

Please describe the risk or threat to the cultural expression and the source of the threat, inter alia, with factual data

Livs are a Baltic Finn nation that has lived for ages in the present territory of Latvia. Livs are the indigenous people of Latvia, who little by little have mixed with Latvians. According to data of 2010, there are around 40 people who can communicate in Liv language in the World including Latvia, but the amount of those who have learnt the basics of the Liv language is around 200. In the year 2011, only one person, whose mother tongue would be the Liv language, is known. Unlike the Latvian language which belongs to the Indo-European language group, the Liv language belongs to the Baltic Finn branch of the Finno-Ugric language group and it is included in the UNESCO list of endangered languages. The Liv written language started to develop in the middle of 19th century thanks to Finnish and Estonian linguists. According to the data at the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, only close to 200 citizens of Latvia have registered their nationality as Livs, but there are a lot more of Livs and their offsprings in Latvia and the World as the majority of the Livs consider themselves to belong to two nations – Latvians and Livs. In 2011, there were 250 people who claimed Livonian ethnicity in Latvia according to the Central Statistical Bureau. Taking into account the above mentioned, there are threats of disappearance of Liv minority and their language.

Please determine the vulnerability and importance of the cultural expression at risk

Livs are an essential part of Latvian identity and intangible cultural heritage. The history of Livs, their language and culture heritage form an integral part of the Latvian national culture. Currently, there are only around 40 people in Latvia who communicate in Liv language and 250 people who claimed Livonian ethnicity and 200 people who have registered their nationality as Livs.

Please determine the nature of the consequences of the risk or threat to the cultural expression, and demonstrate the nature of the cultural consequences

Please explain the measures taken or proposed to remedy the special situation:

Short-term and  
emergency  
measures

The year 2011 was proclaimed the International year of Liv language and culture by the Liv Culture Centre and the International Liv Friends Association. Within the framework of the Liv year various initiatives, exhibitions and activities were held with the aim to raise awareness in the society about Liv history, culture and language including the launch of Liv language ABC book which is considered to be the greatest achievement and investment in order to transmit the knowledge of Liv language to future generations. Currently, Liv minority has 3 main NGOs: Liv Culture Centre, Liv Foundation and Liv Choir Loja. The Ministry of Culture has financially supported Liv projects through the State budget sub-programme "Support to NGOs in the field of integration". Liv Culture Centre has created a website [www.livones.net](http://www.livones.net) in order to provide updated information on Liv language and culture matters, as well as it contains objective and scientifically precise information about Livs and Liv culture in Latvian, Liv and English language. Events and activities organized by Liv Community and the publications issued are also reflected in the website, as well as it gives a good overview about the history and traditions of Livs. In 2011, with the support of the Latvian Language Agency the brochure "Livs in 44 answers" was issued - most frequently asked questions about Livs which became very popular; as well as some other books about Liv history, culture and language, including a poetry book. In 2012, the Liv community in Latvia is planning to launch a CD and to organize the Liv Song Festival.



## 2.4 Protecting cultural expressions under threat

### Long-term strategies

In the Law of March 19th, 1992 of the Republic of Latvia "On the free development of national and ethnic groups of Latvia and rights to culture anatomy " the legal status of Livs was determined for the first time- "the ancient indigenous nation of Latvia ". In the 4th clause of the State Law on language accepted on the 9th of December, 1999 it is said, that the state ensures the preservation of the Liv language as the language of the indigenous population (autochtones), its protection and development.

Since the year 1995, according to the guidelines of the culture politics of Latvia, the Liv language and culture values are included in the content of Latvian national culture heritage. Liv traditional culture is also included in the Latvian culture canon.

According to the Line of Activity Nr.7 under the Medium Term Priority "National Identity and Cultural Values" of the National Culture Policy Guidelines 2006-2015, it is foreseen to assume stronger responsibility for the safeguarding of Liv culture environment.

The publication of the Liv language ABC book is considered to be a long-term investment in promoting and transmitting the knowledge of Liv language.

In long-term, it is also very important to elaborate and develop the Liv language learning programmes and teaching methodology, as well as to educate teachers in Liv language; to organize exhibitions in museums about the Liv culture and expeditions and tours to the Liv heritage places in Latvia.

Has your country provided assistance to other Parties, technical or financial, to remedy a special situation determined under Article 8 of the Convention?

No  Yes

If yes, please describe:



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### 3. Awareness-raising and participation of civil society

(Estimate: 1500 words)

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*Parties have acknowledged the fundamental role of civil society  in protecting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions and have committed to encourage their active participation in activities, designed to achieve the objectives of this Convention.*

*The purpose of this section is to report on what Parties are doing to involve civil society in their activities, what resources they are providing to ensure their involvement, and what results have been achieved.*

*It is also designed to engage civil society in reporting on what they have done to implement the Convention as per their roles and responsibilities outlined in [Article 11 of the Convention](#) and its [Operational Guidelines](#).*

## 3. Awareness-raising and participation of civil society

### 3.1. Parties

Parties are to provide information on how they have involved civil society in activities such as:

- promoting the objectives of the Convention through awareness-raising and other activities

In 2007, the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO published and distributed the brochure with the text of the 2005 Convention in Latvian language.

The Ministry of Culture of Latvia, the Embassy of France in Latvia and the French Culture Centre in cooperation with the Foundation of Robert Schuman organized a joint international conference "Diversity and Culture in Europe" which was held in Riga, Latvia, on November 6, 2008.

In 2010-2011 Latvia received support under the UNESCO Participation Programme to implement an action plan devoted to the 2005 Convention „Implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) in the Cultural Policies of the European Union Member States". Within this action plan Latvian National Commission for UNESCO carried out various awareness raising activities – mobilization of national experts, organization of public lectures, discussions and focus group discussions, organization of a conference in December 2011 among Baltic Sea region countries and their National Commissions about the implementation of the Convention and the role of the Convention within the cultural policies of the Baltic Sea Region countries, development of an analysis and proposals for the implementation of the Convention on National level. In the next coming years it is planned to continue and follow-up the work started within 2010 – 2011.

- collecting data and sharing and exchanging information on measures to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions within their territories and at the international level

COMPENDIUM - Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe - monitors activities implemented specifically on the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Information is provided and updated on a regular basis responding to the following questions: Which countries have ratified the Convention? Who is responsible for its implementation? Are there civil society organizations involved in the process?

Concerning Latvia, the information provided underlines the role of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia as the implementer of the Convention, but also the involvement of the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO within the process of implementing 2005 Convention.

We also would like to underline that the information concerning the implementation of the Convention in Latvia, is provided and updated by Ms Baiba Tjarve (NGO Culturelab) who is also among experts assisting the UNESCO International Fund for Cultural Diversity.

- developing policies while providing spaces where the ideas of civil society can be heard and discussed

Regular meetings are held between the representatives of the Ministry of Culture and the civil society, i.e. The Alliance of Culture, which unites three organizations - The Council of the Creative Unions of Latvia, The Time for Culture, The Association of Contemporary Culture non-governmental organizations in order to discuss, analyse, improve and develop harmonious and rich cultural processes in Latvia. In



### 3. Awareness-raising and participation of civil society

total, the Alliance of Culture unites 5000 culture and arts professionals - leading heads, artists, producers and activists of culture, arts and cultural education institutions and organizations. The Council of the Creative Unions of Latvia includes 10 professional organizations; The Time for Culture unites heads of cultural institutions of national importance; The Association of Contemporary Culture non-governmental organizations includes 20 non-governmental organizations. During this year, the Ministry of Culture is planning to develop "Creative Latvia" platform (including new Cultural Policy Guidelines 2014-2020) by involving in this process a wide spectrum of interest groups.

- implementing operational guidelines

- other

## 3. Awareness-raising and participation of civil society

### 3.2. Civil society

#### Civil Society may provide information on activities they are pursuing such as:

- promoting the objectives and principles of the Convention within their territories and in the international fora

Civil society organizations are actively involved in defending, at national as well as international level, the ideas of preserving and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions and the need to take this into consideration when taking decisions on cultural policies. Though, these initiatives this far are mostly carried out without providing direct reference to the 2005 Convention.

- promoting ratification of the Convention and its implementation by governments

Taking into account that the 2005 Convention is perceived by civil society organizations as an umbrella that in a general manner deals with cultural policy issues that need to take a concrete shape within national or regional cultural policies, civil society organizations consider that they constantly contribute to the implementation of the Convention, as their efforts are oriented in the same direction, even if the reference to the Convention is not always mentioned.

- bringing the concerns of citizens, associations and enterprises to public authorities

Civil society organizations are increasingly involved in shaping cultural policies, actively bringing forward concerns of civil society to public authorities. As indicated by civil society organizations, the following measures are taken:

(a) Active involvement and defending positions concerning the planning of state budget within the sphere of culture; (b) participation in advisory bodies established under the Ministry of Culture, the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO and other state institutions; (c) advancing international cooperation and networking, promoting new forms of art (for example, digital art) and raising visibility of topical issues of contemporary artistic expressions; (d) bringing forward the issues of education and developing cooperation with higher education institutions within the quest for new forms of creative expressions; (e) through active position and contributions reaching direct cooperation between civil society organizations and the Ministry of Culture concerning the exchange of information.

- contributing to the achievement of greater transparency and accountability in the governance of culture

The issues of transparency and accountability are permanent concern of civil society organizations. First, these qualities are of concern for the work of organizations themselves, having established transparent and accountable decision making systems within the organizations, being mainly based on democratic values and free exchange of opinions. Second, the same concern is addressed towards the state administration where civil society organizations are constantly inviting politicians and representatives of civil service to a dialogue on topical issues linked to the preservation and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions.

- monitoring policy and programme implementation on measures to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions

Concerning monitoring policy and programme implementation on the measures to protect and



### 3. Awareness-raising and participation of civil society

promote the diversity of cultural expressions, civil society organizations indicate that the main instruments of their involvement are:

(a) Providing independent information and analytical publications widely spread to civil society members; (b) concrete cooperation established with state or regional administrative institutions concerning the sphere of cultural policy and cultural activities; (c) providing expertise for state decisions on cultural issues, including the evaluation of project proposals for State Culture Capital Foundation and other state foundations and programmes.

- other

Civil society representatives indicate that a continuous attention needs to be paid to providing assistance to capacity building of civil society organizations in order to have active, competent and sustainable organizations within the civil society. This demands a particular attention as well as financial resources that need to be allocated for these purposes.

The interconnection between the cultural diversity and the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage has been particularly underlined within the opinion of civil society. As stated, the safeguarding and promotion of heritage goes in line with and can take shape of diverse creative contemporary activities.

#### Civil society may also wish to share information on:

- activities they have planned for the next four years to implement the Convention

The following aspects need to be highlighted concerning the implementation of the Convention for the next four years. As indicated by civil society representatives, activities are planned within these domains and for the broader undertakings as:

(a) Civil society is well involved in contributing to the informative and analytic activities for raising knowledge and understanding on the protection and promotion of cultural diversity. These activities are planned to take form of publications, articles, news etc. devoted to the sphere of cultural policies. The information and analysis is widely distributed among civil society members.

(b) Particular attention currently is being paid to the preparation for Riga as the European Capital of Culture in 2014. Numerous civil society organizations as well as individual artists are involved in projects that are being prepared for this event that will take a truly diverse shape during the upcoming years with a culmination in two years time (more information – [www.riga2014.org](http://www.riga2014.org)).

(c) Within the context of advancing political decisions and adoption of needed legal instruments, it is envisaged within the upcoming years to pay particular attention to defending social rights of and defining the status of artists, which is also linked to the implementation of the UNESCO 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist. This issue demands also a better international exchange of experiences. On this matter a cooperation agreement has been concluded between the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO and the Council of the Creative Unions of Latvia.

(d) Within the context of restricted availability of financial resources at national level, civil society members are deeply concerned with the principles of functioning of the State Culture Capital



### 3. Awareness-raising and participation of civil society

Foundation (more information - [www.kkf.lv](http://www.kkf.lv)). Society is mainly proposing to reach a continuous financial link between the budget of this foundation and the state incomes from taxes (for example, from excise tax).

- main challenges encountered or foreseen and solutions found or envisaged to overcome those challenges

Concerning the main challenges encountered or foreseen and solutions found or envisaged, civil society organizations indicated several aspects to pay attention to:

(a) The implementation of the Convention needs to be strengthened at international level where international organizations play a major role. International cooperation should lead to strengthening regional positions at this respect, for example, the protection and promotion of cultural diversity within the Baltic Sea Region, or within Europe.

(b) There are certain concerns expressed on the transparency of cultural policies and on the clarity of democratic processes within the state administration. It has been indicated also that general knowledge on culture should be enriched within the civil service, which would contribute not only to a wiser administration of cultural policies but also a better understanding of culture within other spheres of state administration.

(c) Restricted financial resources for the sphere of culture is indicated as significant obstacle for implementing activities within the domain of protecting and promoting cultural diversity. Recently, significant cuts of national budget have been experienced thus limiting the possibilities for the contribution of state to promoting cultural diversity.

(d) Culture would need to be better conceptualized as significant aspect for the social integration of society. This means not only better integration among various professionals working in the sphere of culture, but also an active participation of other representatives of civil society within cultural processes. The attention also needs to be paid to cultural integration of inhabitants of various localities (towns, regions etc.).

Please specify which civil society organizations contributed to this section of the Report:

1) Culturelab – an independent, non-governmental organization, founded in 2005 in Latvia. Culturelab is aiming to promote an individual and community development through arts and cultural activities, creative and innovative use of cultural resources – both physical assets as well as opportunities in cultural engagement. Culturelab operates as a catalyst, building platforms and giving tools to cultural organizations and public authorities (Contact person – Ms Baiba Tjarve, Project leader, more information – [www.culturelab.com](http://www.culturelab.com)).

2) Council of the Creative Unions of Latvia – founded in 1988 at the Plenary Meeting of Writers Union as Culture Council of Creative Unions. In 1995 it was registered as an association of professional creative organizations “The Council of the Creative Unions of Latvia”. The Council is comprised of 10 creative unions, and total membership exceeds 3500 individual members. It associates the following creative unions – Latvian Composers Union, Latvian Designers Society, The Society of Photographic Arts of Latvia, Latvian Scientists Union, Latvian Playwrights Guild, The Artists Union of Latvia, Latvian Association of Architects, Latvian Theatre Workers Association, Writers Union of Latvia, The Latvian Filmmakers



### 3. Awareness-raising and participation of civil society

Union. (Contact person – Ms Ieva Struka, Chair of the Council, more information – [www.makslinieki.lv](http://www.makslinieki.lv)).

3) RIXC – Recently founded Centre for new media culture in Riga – the RIXC is the joint effort of a number of independent local cultural groups working in the fields of new media, art, film, music, youth culture and the social projects. The aim of the centre is to bridge the traditional gap between 'high' and popular culture and the divisions between various youth, sub- and minority cultures. The RIXC intends to become a meeting place for different types of culture on local and international scale. The founders of RIXC are E-LAB – Electronic Arts and Media Centre, LOCOMOTIVE- film studio and BALTIC CENTER - NGO for education and social development; members and partners include: SVAIGS99%, Bio.codes, Djs AG & Raitis, VARKA CREW, F5, OPEN, CLAUSTHOME, ORBITA, K@2, and others. (Contact person – Ms Agnese Baranova, Member of the Board, more information – [www.rixc.lv](http://www.rixc.lv)).

## 4. Main achievements and challenges to the implementation of the Convention

(Estimate: 1750 words)

### Parties and other participating stakeholders are to share information on:

#### a) main results achieved in implementing the Convention

See the Report by the European Union.

The cooperation has been reinforced with the non-governmental organizations, as well as between the government institutions by signing the Protocol of Intent between the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development in cooperation on the establishment of Creative Latvia platform.

#### b) main challenges encountered or foreseen

See the Report by the European Union.

Main challenges for the implementation of the Convention is to continuously retain the references and understanding of the Convention.

It is crucial for the success of the 2005 Convention to strengthen its role within the civil society. There should be ways to promote the Convention among NGOs both for having better visibility, but also obtaining fruitful critical views on the Convention and the ways of its implementation.

Concerning the implementation of the Convention within the EU countries, it is certainly important to underline the importance of the Convention within the planning process and formulation of objectives and priorities for the EU Structural funds for the next planning period (2014-2020). Among other issues related to the 2005 Convention, an emphasis would be needed also to the promotion of the development of creative industries. There are already good initiatives that might be strengthened financially.

In general, a regional perspective might be useful in order to see particular characteristics of the ways how the Convention is interpreted and applied in different regions. In previous discussions within the General Assembly of Parties to the Convention, the EU and also the African Union recognized the important role of regional level, and this aspect is worth deepening. This leads to an exchange of experiences within a specific region and also exchange of experiences among different regions. There exist already different regional platforms for exchange of experiences, therefore the role of UNESCO would be to bring these regional experiences to common grounds of exchange.

In what concerns the role of the national level of the implementation of the Convention worldwide, we would like to underline the importance of an active position of the National Commissions for UNESCO within the advancement of the visibility of the Convention and the process of its implementation. Thus, this network of UNESCO community is a significant tool for involving a wide range of partners both at national as well as international levels.

#### c) solutions found or envisaged to overcome those challenges

A solution is to pursue promotion of interinstitutional cooperation among governmental institutions as well as their dialogue and cooperation with civil society. Even more it is important to promote cooperation among various directly involved institutions within Member States of one region, consequently their cooperation and common work, e.g. among National Commissions for UNESCO on the matters of 2005 Convention, can enhance the awareness of the aims of the Convention within UNESCO context.

#### d) steps planned for the next four years towards implementation of the Convention and priority activities to be undertaken during that period

The Ministry of Culture is currently involved in the work of interinstitutional cooperation of the National Development Plan 2014-2020 which will be the main medium term development planning document of Latvia with the aim to provide the implementation in the medium term of the Latvia 2030 - Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia.

The Ministry of Culture is planning to prepare new Cultural Policy Guidelines 2014-2020 "Creative Latvia" until the end of 2012 as the current National Cultural Policy Guidelines are soon going to expire. Therefore, it is essential to develop updated State Cultural Policy Guidelines according to the conclusions of the National Development Plan 2014-2020 (currently under progress). It is envisaged that the planning of the division of EU Structural Funds 2014-2020 in Latvia will be done according to the priorities and conclusions of the National



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## 4. Main achievements and challenges to the implementation of the Convention

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Development Plan 2014-2020.

Currently, the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the non-governmental organizations is elaborating the policy about the creative status of artists.

Within the Framework of the Latvian Presidency in the Council of the European Union in 2015 Latvia will consider the possibility to organize activities regarding the 10th anniversary of the 2005 Convention.

Enhance cooperation among National Commissions for UNESCO in Europe regarding the implementation of the Convention, establishment of an experts group/ panel under the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO; in cooperation with civil society organizations to raise awareness among people working in culture, arts and creative industries fields about the Convention; continuously organizing various public lectures and debates about the Convention.



## Date and Signature Information

### Date when report was prepared

2012/04/27

### Name of the designated official(s) signing the report

Title	First name	Family name	Organization	Position
Mrs.	Žaneta	Jaunzeme - Grende	Ministry of Culture of Latvia	Minister of Culture

### (!) To be completed on the printed copy

Date of signature

2012/04/27

Signature