




Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030

Browser



SAEIMA OF THE REPUBLIC
OF LATVIA



A group of experts led by associate professor Roberts Ķīlis, in accordance with the task of the Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government, has developed the draft sustainable development strategy of Latvia "Latvija2030". Persons representing different age groups and professions from around Latvia also took active part in the creation thereof, so we would like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who participated in discussions and forums that took place within the framework of the project "Latvia 2030. Your Choice" and expressed their opinion regarding strategic choices and potential solutions for the development of Latvia. The task of the strategy is to outline the state development guidelines and spatial perspective for the time period until 2030.

"Latvija2030" emerged in the result of extensive discussions in different places of Latvia, on the Internet and other media and not in offices or among limited number of experts. Thus, although the development of this document was commissioned by the public administration, the society of Latvia is the true owner of this strategy.

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Latvia will be a flourishing country of active and responsible citizens in 2030. Everybody will have the possibility to feel safe and belonging to Latvia, everybody will have an opportunity to implement their targets here. The strength of the nation will lie in the inherited, newly acquired and created cultural and spiritual values, in the richness of the Latvian language and knowledge of other languages. It will unite the society for the creation of new, diverse and unique values in economy, science and culture which will be appreciated, known and respected also outside Latvia.

Riga will be an important cultural, tourism and business centre in Europe. Urban-rural partnership will provide high quality of life in the whole territory of Latvia.

Latvia - our home - green and tidy, creative and easily accessible place in the global space regarding sustainable development of which we are responsible to future generations.

During the next decades the 21st century, which has announced itself with a global economical and financial crisis, will inevitably bring new, significant changes in the modern world - in economy, climate, demography, technologies, information and culture space. Upon increase in global competition and co-operation more value to the different and unique is given.

The states, which will strengthen and develop their identity and originality and use the resources at their disposal efficiently and innovatively, will acquire relative advantage for the development. This is a development opportunity for Latvia and a long-term challenge which is at the basis of the sustainable development strategy of Latvia until 2030.

① Priority

▶ Development direction

● Action direction

✓ Objective

① Development of Culture Space

In future the states which will strengthen and develop their identity, will get an important relative advantage in global competition because the value of something different and original will increase. It is especially important for Latvia as a small nation to preserve and develop its identity, language, values of national culture and the lifestyle characteristic to its culture space so that by creative use of the productive influence of other cultures and promotion of openness the potential of national competitiveness would be strengthened. The strength, creativity and identity of the nation lies in inherited and newly created material and spiritual values and diverse cultural environment which unite the society for the creation of new economic and cultural values in the unique culture space of Latvia.

(full description on p.13)

▶ Preservation, Interaction and Enrichment of Culture Space

- Strengthening of the Sense of Belonging to the Culture Space of Latvia
- Development of Creative Society

INDICATORS 2030

Number of culture events attended (annually per100inhabitants)	>250
Export proportion of creative industries from the total national export, %.....	3
Number of movies produced in Latvia, per year.....	>100
Number of publications of Latvian original literature, per year.....	>2500

To maintain and develop the culture capital of Latvia and to promote the sense of belonging to the culture space of Latvia by developing competitive national identity based on the creativity of the society and by creating qualitative culture environment in Latvia



② Investments in Human Capital

By reduction in the number of inhabitants and ageing of the society, it is essential not to reduce the base value of the human capital and to increase its productivity. Therefore long-term investments in human capital are required in order to facilitate the participation of all potential human resources in the labour market, including groups of inhabitants subjected to the risk of poverty and social exclusion, in order to improve health, social care and social security services, as well as lifelong education system services.

(full description on p. 19)

▶ Base Value and Productivity of Human Capital

- Employment Programmes for Improvement of Labour Force Participation
- Development and Productivity Improvement of Human Capital
- Quality of Health and Social Services and Availability Thereof
- Reduction of Depopulation Risks
- Inclusion of Ageing and Household Structure Changes in the Policy of Public and Social Services

▶ Equal Opportunities and Formation of Middle Class

- Access to Education and Child Care of Good Quality
- Availability of Resources
- Access to Labour Market and Reduction of Discrimination
- Dampening of Temporary Poverty and Poverty Risk Groups

INDICATORS 2030

Poverty risk index (according to social transfers).....	<16
Labour productivity (GDP according to PPPS per one worker % of the average EU level).....	>95
Average life expectancy of men.....	>75
Average life expectancy of women.....	>82



To preserve the base value of human capital of Latvia and to increase its productivity until it reaches the average level of the EU, developing skills which promote creative activity, flexibility and participation in the labour market.



Upon increase in the GDP, to reduce social inequality and inequality of income - to promote social inclusion, to reduce poverty risks and to promote the formation of socially and economically stable middle class.

③ Change of Paradigm in Education

In order to multiply the human capital at our disposal and to use other capitals fully, for example, culture, nature and economic capitals, change of paradigm in education is necessary. Available lifelong education of good quality is the necessity of the 21st century, because only educated society which is open to creative activity is capable to work efficiently.

(full description on p.32)

▶ Qualitative and Available Lifelong Education

- Access to Education and Changes in Organisation of Educational Process
- School as the Centre of Social Networking
- Contextual Education and Shift in the Profession of Teacher
- E-school and Use of Information Technologies
- Lifelong Education - from Pre-school to Further Education of Adults

INDICATORS 2030

Number of children in pre-school institutions at the age of four, % of the total number of children.....	>95
Participation of inhabitants in adult education.....	>14
% of the age group 25-64	
Proportion of the persons who have acquired higher education.....	>40
in the age group from 30 up to 34, %	
Proportion of foreign students in institutions of higher education (at the beginning of the school year), %	>10



To create one of the best educational systems in the EU and become one of the leaders as regards the availability and use of adult education.

4

Innovative and Eco-efficient Economy

In order to transform intellectual and creative potential of a person into growth of innovative and competitive economy, initiative and environment supporting entrepreneurship, support for the creation and commercialisation of new ideas, knowledge transfer and user-directed research is required. Innovation and transition to production of goods and services with low carbon emissions and power-intensity level, use of renewable energy resources and development of technologies, healthy food and services of ecosystems outline the transition to "green economy".

(full description on p.40)



Mass Creative Activity and Innovation

- User-driven Innovation
- Practice of Open Innovations
- Innovative Entrepreneurship
- Culture of Mass Creative ACTIVITY



Renewable and Safe Energy

- Energy Safety and Independence
- Use and Innovation of Renewable Energy Resources
- Energy Efficiency Measures
- Energy Efficient and Environmentally Friendly Transport Policy

INDICATORS 2030

Balance of external trade (export-import).....	>0
Energy dependence - net import of energy resources/gross domestic energy consumption plus bunkering , %	<50
Expenditure for research and development from GDP per year, %.....	>3

To become one of the EU leaders in terms of distribution of innovative and exportable enterprises



To ensure energy independence of the State by increasing the provision of energy resources and by integrating in the EU energy networks



5

Nature as Future Capital

The natural capital of Latvia is in comparatively good condition, however, it is used and managed insufficiently. The existing diversity of natural resources and natural environment is a unique opportunity for Latvia not only to develop "green" economy and sustainable consumption. It is also a possibility to create and maintain the image of Latvia as green country - the brand of international recognisability of Latvia.

(full description on p.55)



Sustainable Use of Natural Values and Services

- Management of Natural Capital
- Creation of Market Instruments
- Capitalisation of Natural Assets
- Facilitation of Sustainable Lifestyle

INDICATORS 2030

Proportion of recycled waste from the collected waste per year, %.....	>80
Productivity of use of natural resources EUR/ton of resources,.....	>1550
Greenhouse gas emissions per year (against amount of emissions per base year, Kyoto Protocol).....	<45
Proportion of area of special areas of conservation, % of the state territory.....	18

To be the EU leader in the preservation, increase and sustainable use of natural capital.



6

Perspective of Spatial Development

Next to the nature capital also the location capital of Latvia is insufficiently appreciated and efficiently used. The favorable geographical location of Latvia is a significant advantage for the state development and competitiveness. Riga is becoming an important cultural, business and tourism centre in Northern Europe, urban-rural relationship and functional connection should become closer. Territories which offer qualitative and attractive living environment, as well as wide range of available public services and transport infrastructure, will become competitive and attractive.

(full description on p.61)



Improvement of Accessibility

- Planning of Transport Infrastructure and Public Transport
- Development of Transport Infrastructure
- Development of Communications Network



Settlement

- Growth of Development Centres
- Urban-Rural Interaction
- Functional Network of Development Centres



Spaces of National Interest

- Rural Development Space
- Coast of the Baltic Sea
- Metropolitan Area of Riga
- Eastern Border Area
- Outstanding Areas of Nature, Landscape and Cultural and Historical Territories

INDICATORS 2030

Proportion of urban/rural inhabitants, %.....	70/30
Motorways with black asphalt from regional state motorways, %.....	100
Motorways with black asphalt from local state motorways, %.....	>50
Number of foreign tourists (who are staying for 4 days and more), mill. per year.....	>1.5



To create equal life and work conditions for all inhabitants regardless of the place of residence by facilitating entrepreneurship in regions, developing transport and communications infrastructure and public services.



To strengthen international competitiveness of Latvia and its regions by increasing the role of Riga as metropolis of Northern Europe and international role of other largest cities of the state.



To preserve the originality of Latvia - the diverse natural and cultural heritage, typical and unique landscapes.

7

Innovative Government and Participation of the Society

The quality of public administration, strong link thereof with social partners, different groups of the society and individuals directly affects also the development of nature, economic and other capitals because solutions for innovative government and participation of the society, upon becoming the everyday practice, facilitate not only taking of decisions of better quality, but also activate local communities and local governments, promote mass creative activity and social inclusion.

(full description on p.89)



Increase in the Social Capital Value

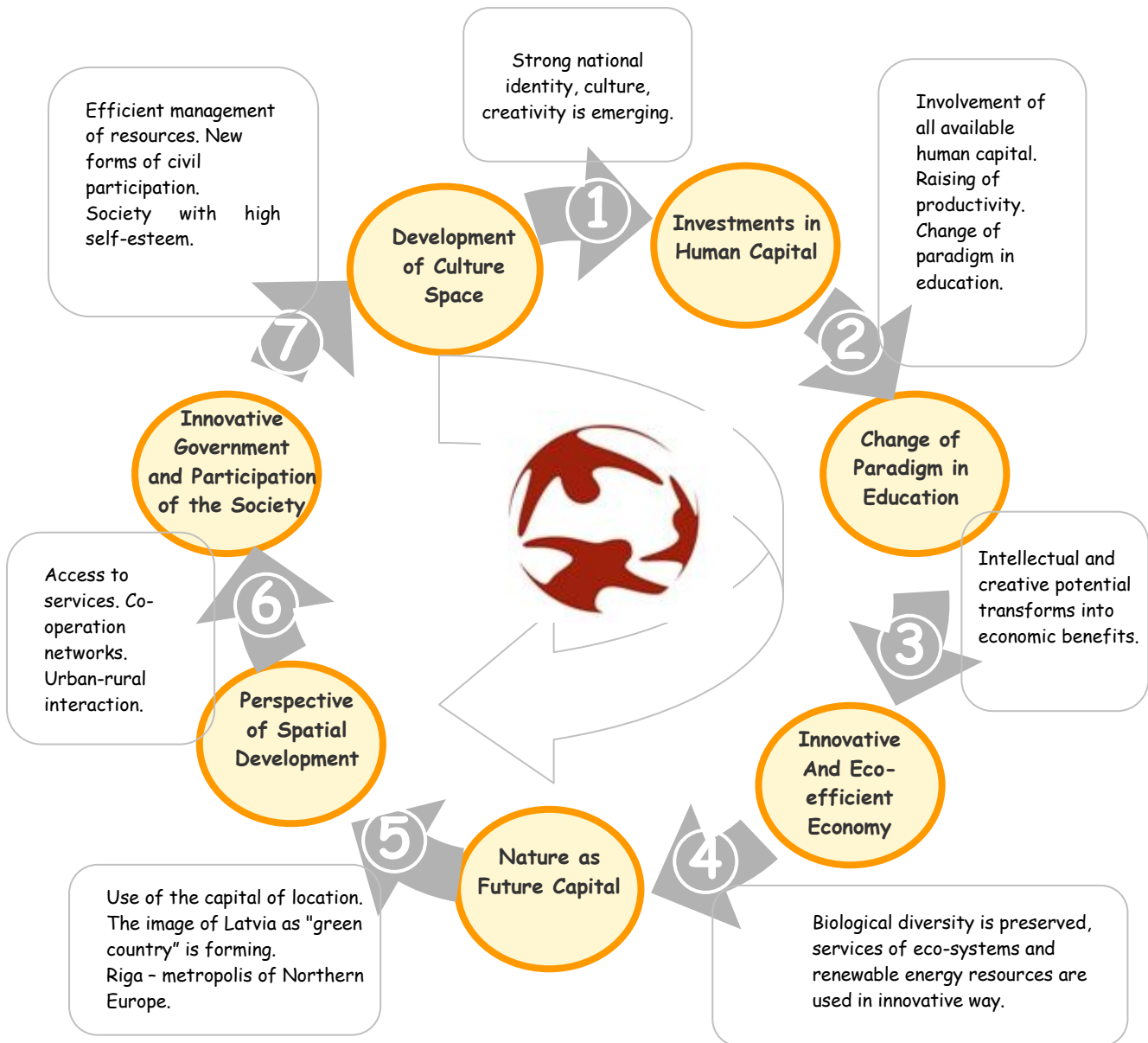
- Public Participation in the Policy-making
- Civic Education and Social Integration
- E-government and Public Innovation

INDICATORS 2030

Index of efficiency of state administrative activities,%.....	>95
Participation of voters in the elections of the Saeima.....	>70
Participation of voters in the elections of local governments,%.....	>70
Individual use of e-government.....	>80
(% of inhabitants in the age of 16 to 74, who have used the Internet during the last three months upon co-operation)	



To establish efficient public administration, which is capable not only to respond quickly to changes, but also foresee and guide them, creating significant services necessary in the future and in which the majority of the society of Latvia takes active part.



Capital Approach

Sustainable development strategy of Latvia determines the main tasks for the state and the society in their way to common target - balanced and sustainable development of Latvia. The capital approach used in the strategy is one of the ways to find a reply to the question what is the best way to use our national treasure - human, culture, economical, social and natural capitals, including location capital, which we would like to hand over to next generations in undepleted, but multiplied form.

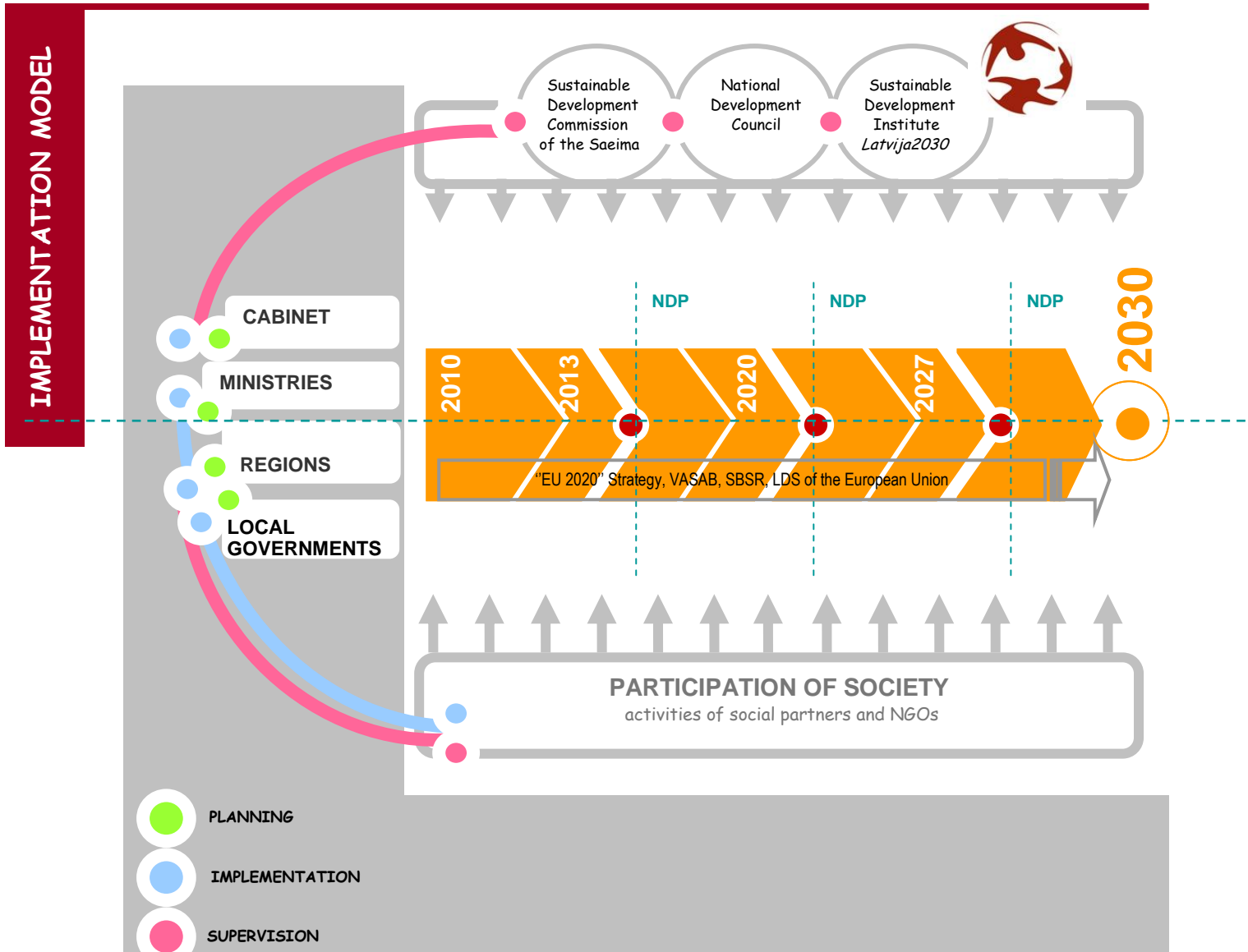
Sustainable lifestyle, thinking and behaviour demands change in certain habits and attitude of the society and individuals.

What is Sustainable Development ?

Sustainable development - integrated and balanced development of welfare of the society, environment and economy, which satisfies current social and economical needs of inhabitants and provides observance of environmental requirements and preservation of biological diversity without any threats to possibilities of

Strategic Principles

- creative activity
- tolerance
- co-operation
- participation



Strategic Indicators 2030

Number of inhabitants (mill.)	>2,02
Gini coefficient	<30
GDP per one inhabitant (EUR according to purchasing power parity)	>27000
Ecological footprint (ha/inhab)	<2,5
Human development index (place in the world)	<30
Global competitiveness index (place in the world)	<40
Regional differences of GDP per one inhabitant - dispersion of regional GDP per one inhabitant (%)	<30



LATVIJA
2030