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The Association of Persons from the Latvian Academy of Culture  
and “Laboratory of Analytical and Strategic Studies” Ltd.

# **Evaluation of the activities (results and contributions) of the “NGO Fund” programme funded by the State budget**

Evaluation report

Contracting authority: Society Integration Fund  
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The background of the establishment of the “NGO Fund” programme financed by the State budget (hereinafter referred to as the “NGO Fund”) relates to the growing role of the non-governmental sector in the development of democratic processes and involvement in all levels of public administration. Namely through non-governmental organisations (hereinafter referred to as “NGOs”), the public has been able to contribute to and participate in addressing the issues that it is facing. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter - MC) and the Society Integration Fund (hereinafter - SIF), a separate national budget programme “NGO Fund” was established and started functioning in 2016 to strengthen the sustainability of civil society and support the activities of NGOs. An open call for project proposals is launched each year, inviting associations and foundations acting in the public interest, promoting civil participation, defending public interests and democracy to submit their projects.

The Study “Evaluation of the activities (results and contributions) of the “NGO Fund” programme funded by the State budget” requested by SIF was developed by the Association of Persons from the Latvian Academy of Culture and “Laboratory of Analytical and Strategic Studies” Ltd. in September - November 2021.

The aim of the Study was to evaluate the results of the activities of the “NGO Fund” programme financed by the State budget of Latvia and its input in achieving the overarching goal: strengthening sustainable development of the civil society in Latvia.

A more detailed assessment for the period 2016-2020 is available in the previous assessment (2020), but this analysis focuses on projects implemented in 2020-2021, including split by the type of projects (macro, micro). In order to ensure the continuity of the assessment in some aspects, a comparison of the data with the previous period is also provided.

## 2. STUDY METHODOLOGY

The evaluation has been performed in accordance with the design of this Assessment Study, which provides for the determination of the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of the planned objectives and results. The Study methodology has been based on the use and combination of mixed-type research methods (systemic approach), providing for data and information extraction as well as qualitative and quantitative research approaches.

The Study covers three basic topics:

1. Description and analysis of the work results of the “NGO Fund” programme (hereinafter referred to as the “NGO Fund”) financed by the State budget.
2. Contribution of the “NGO Fund” programme to the objectives set out in the planning documents (results of the programme, policy outcomes).
3. Potential and recommendations for the effectiveness and enhancement of NGO contribution in achieving the objectives of the “National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy Implementation Plan 2021 - 2027”.

In addition, contextual information on citizens' civic awareness and participation, the development of the NGO sector, including access to funding, has been identified and analysed.

A number of research activities have been carried out for the collection and extraction of evaluation data.

First, comprehensive analysis of documents was carried out in pooling and analysing the content of documents directly and indirectly defining the activities of the “NGO Fund” programme. This information served, on the one hand, as the thematic context for the assessment and, on the other, determined the choice of the evaluation methodology and the selection of the methods and analytical aspects used.

Secondly, the previously created project database (2016-2020) was supplemented with 2021 projects. Afterwards, the content of the final project reports within the database was analysed in two aspects. (1) Information was gathered on the project topics, project activities carried out and project target groups reached, cooperation within the projects, as well as the project locations. This data was used to produce the Programme Performance Report (2). The contribution of the projects to the achievement of the programme and policy results was identified. The Delphi expert panel method was used to determine this. The projects were randomly distributed among the experts-researchers and each of them carried out the content analysis of the final reviews of the relevant projects, giving each project an assessment on the 10-point scale. The impact of each project and its contribution to each of the 10 results of the programme and the 7 results of the policy was evaluated. This resulted in the assessment of two aspects: (1) the project has/does not have an impact on the specific results, (2)

the extent of the impact (a 10-point score, where 0 means that there is no impact at all, but 10 that the impact is very significant). These assignments were further used to assess the projects' contribution in achieving the programme and policy results. A more detailed description of the evaluation process and approach is given in Chapter 6.

Third, an NGO sector survey was carried out in order to obtain evaluation by associations and foundations on the challenges and situation in civil society and NGO sector development, as well as an assessment of the role and availability of the "NGO Fund" programme. The survey reached a sample of 874 respondents, including 275 project applicants. The process of preparing the survey is described in a more detailed way in Chapter 5.1.

Fourth, descriptions of examples of good practice were developed. A total of 10 examples of activities and good practices of the activities carried out have been prepared, showing the multilateralism of projects supported under the programme. Examples of good practices are attached to the Study.

Fifth, the information available at the time of the evaluation on the financial instruments available to the NGO sector for the period of 2021 - 2027 was gathered. This information is also annexed to the Study.

This Study contains all the information and data gathered, providing a comprehensive analysis and defining the key conclusions and recommendations.

## 3. SUMMARY

### 3.1. The Main Conclusions

1. **Topicality of the “NGO Fund” Programme’s objective** (strengthening the sustainable development of civil society and democracy in Latvia) **is substantiated by the data on low civic engagement of the population.** Like other sectors, **the pandemic has had a significant impact and continues to affect both civic participation and the development of the NGO sector as a whole.** In view of the periodically defined Covid-19 mitigation measures, the possibilities for population participation activities were significantly limited. Since civic participation was already low before the pandemic started, impacts of the pandemic have to be evaluated as particularly critical.
2. **The low level of civic engagement** can be explained by **a diverse set of factors**, that can be segmented into four thematic areas: (a) **a lack of interest** (it must be pointed out that the lack of interest is probably a consequence of other reasons and considerations), (b) **the lack of information, knowledge and experience**, (c) **the lack of opportunities**, (d) **scepticism in their ability to change something.** These factors provide a meaningful contextual scope to the activities planned under the Programme’s projects, on the one hand, by assessing the extent to which activities are associated with these problems and, on the other, **by encouraging the project applicants to plan relevant activities in future project competitions.**
3. The increasing accessibility of the Internet to citizens, as well as the development of new media and social networks, **also a variety of new forms of participation develop.** The data show that **civic participation on the Internet is the most frequent form of participation:** 22 % of the population are involved in various interest groups and clusters on the Internet and social networks, while the environmental clean-up events as the most popular traditional form of participation gather 20 % of the population. Only 12 % participate at the public consultations and 9 % are involved in non-governmental organisations. The data also show other significant trends in participation. **15 % of the population participate in joint activities of neighbours and neighbourhood,** and 4 % are members of the neighbourhood associations and communities. This, in turn, points to a significant potential for the development of the “small forms” participation. In general, these data show that the **character and forms of the population participation are changing significantly,** and different new forms of engagement are sometimes even more widespread than the traditional forms of participation. Consequently, **the challenge is to fully integrate these new forms of engagement into the overall scope of participation.**
4. **The NGO sector survey** carried out within the framework of this Evaluation **shows that namely financial instability is one of the most significant obstacles to the development of the sector.** In general, 52 % have indicated that the sector's development has been hampered by insufficient funding, while 48 % have mentioned irregular funding. 50 % have pointed out that **the development has been hampered by high**

**bureaucracy in project competitions.** 47 % have considered the **low civic participation rate** as a barrier. In particular, it should be stressed that the representatives of each third organisation have indicated that **the members of their organisation are not sufficiently active**, not only the population as a whole. When comparing the new data with the organisations' assessments in 2020, **two aspects as barriers have been mentioned more frequently than in the past**: the proportion of organisations feeling **the negative impact of Covid-19** has increased from 29 % to 35 %, and those feeling **the lack of human resources** from 25 % to 30 %. These responses show a **great deal of “vicious circle”**: if there is no funding available for the sector and it is not possible to develop regular activities, organisations do not have the resources to encourage the participation of citizens. It should also be stressed that, in general, **20 % of the organisations have indicated that their employees have insufficient competence and skills**. This shows that **not only financial support, but also staff capacity building plays a key role in the further development of the sector**. Consequently, **the major challenges for the sector’s development** are following: **availability of financial resources, financial sustainability, availability and competences of human resources, ensuring continuity of operations**.

5. Data show that over the last 3 years societies and foundations working with the civic engagement and citizen participation issues **have most frequently applied for the project competitions in municipalities** (50 % of organisations in total, including those 42 % which have received support), **programmes administered by the SIF** (49 % and 31 % respectively; including the NGO Fund – 35 % and 18 %), **the State Culture Capital Foundation** support programmes (30 % and 19 %), **the EEA and Norway Grants** programmes (26 % and 12 %, including the Active Citizens Fund – 23 % and 11 %), **the Rural Support Service** programmes (24 % and 19 %). According to the data analysis, **the target groups of the NGO Fund and Active Citizens Fund overlap to a great extent**: 56 % of those who have applied for the NGO Fund’s funding have also participated in the competitions organised by the Active Citizens Fund (26 % have received funding), and 79 % of those who have participated in the competitions of the Active Citizens Fund, have also submitted their applications to the NGO Fund (46 % have received funding). It would therefore be useful to **analyse synergies between the both financial instruments in future evaluations**.
6. Estimates of various studies performed recently show that **there are approximately 1 thousand associations and foundations in Latvia which work directly or indirectly in the area of civil society and civic engagement**. Over the period of 2016 - 2021, together, 494 unique organisations **have submitted their project applications** for the Programme, i.e. **49 % organisations** - the potential project applicants identified in the calculation. Furthermore, **194 unique organisations, i.e. 19 % have received funding and implemented their projects**. It should be stressed that **the number of unique organisations supported over the last three years has increased progressively and significantly**, with projects of 31 organisation supported in 2018, 48 in 2019 and already 70 in 2021. This means that **funding gradually**

**reaches a wider range of organisations and is not distributed only among particular organisations.**

This is also illustrated by an estimate of how many organisations that have carried out projects over the last 6 years have been supported in the project competitions several times. Out of 194 organisations that have received support for their projects over a six-year period, **124 have been supported only once (64 %), while 70 have been supported several times** (36 % of all). 6 organisations have received support 6 times, 7 organisations - 5 times, 6 organisations - 4 times, while 51 organisations - 2 or 3 times.

7. **In 2020 – 2021, the project applications have been submitted by a total of 252 unique organisations** (166 in 2020, 163<sup>1</sup> in 2021). The projects have been implemented by 124 unique organisations (70 in 2020, 86 in 2021). **Overall, in 2021, the project implementers have represented 27, and in 2020 - 22 different areas of activity, showing a wide variety of areas covered by the Programme.** When comparing the areas of activities of the organisations which have implemented projects in 2020 and 2021, there has been **a slight increase in social protection representation in 2021** (7 organisations in 2020, 13 organisations in 2021), as well as a significant increase in the number of organisations whose scope cannot be classified according to NACE codes (category “other”). At the same time, **the representation of youth societies has declined:** in 2020, 10 societies of this field have implemented their projects, while only 5 in 2021 (it should be noted that a total of 19 youth associations had implemented their projects during the period of 2016 - 2020).
8. Over the two-year period, a total of 138 unique organisations have requested funding for their macro projects, and 43 of them have implemented their projects (31 %). 129 unique organisations have applied for funding for their micro projects and 84 (65 %) have received support. 52 macro projects and only 9 micro projects have been rejected due to insufficient funding in 2020, while, in 2021, 38 macro projects have been rejected, but all quality projects in the micro project category have received funding. This shows **a significantly larger rivalry during the competition for macro projects’ funding.** At the same time, it **provides the basis for discussion on the need to balance the share of supported projects in the fields of macro and micro projects (by raising the funding available for the macro projects, changing the maximum amount of the money allocated or encouraging bigger competition among the micro projects).**
9. The analysis of the profile of organisations that have benefited from funding in the Programme (funding acquired through any competition in the period of 2016 – 2021) shows that **organisations with regular daily activities have been supported more frequently** (30 % of such organisations have received support in the Programme), as well as **organisations which have been planning their activities for more than**

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that a part of the organisations has submitted their projects in both years, so the sum of the applicants’ number in each of the years does not constitute the total number of unique organisations. The same applies to the project implementers.



**three years ahead** (34 % of them have received support) and **those with large experience in project implementation** (37 %). At the same time, it is essential that **the funding has been received equally by organisations operating on different scopes**: on the local, regional, national and international scale. Data also show that organisations of different duration of operation have been supported, both new ones established over the last 5 years and long-term workers. In general, these data show that **the “NGO Fund” Programme makes a significant contribution to the development of sustainable and active organisations**, irrespective of their scale. However, less frequently supported are those with non-regular operation where activities are not planned at least in the short term.

10. **The implemented projects are characterised by a wide variety in the topics raised, the target groups covered and the activities included.** The 156 projects implemented in 2020 - 2021 have focused on 62 different themes, covering 63 different target groups and including 59 different types of activities. The content analysis of the projects also shows that the number of activities carried out in the framework of projects has increased annually throughout the six-year period. If in 2016, an average of 3.2 activities were implemented in each project, there were already 5.5 activities in 2021. It has been also observed that, if each project covered an average of 2.1 target groups in 2016, in 2021, these were already 2.9 different target groups. This proves that the **projects implemented have become more versatile in terms of both the activities carried out and the target groups covered.**
11. **The activities of the programme have been targeted towards achieving its objective – sustainable development of civil society in Latvia. 156 projects carried out during the period 2020 - 2021 have been most frequently focused on topics and challenges affecting the development of civil society** (80 projects, 50 of those in 2021), **children, young people and families** (39 projects, 39 of those in 2021), **social protection, inclusion and services** (23 projects, 12 of those in 2021), as well as **health and public health** (17 projects, 7 of those in 2021). By analysing the content of projects in detail, the most frequent topics of the projects have been identified: **promoting civil participation and activity (by directly involving the population)** (39 projects, 25 % of all), **fostering the local community development** (25 projects, 16 %), **fostering the local community youth participation** (24 projects, 15 %). As compared to the projects implemented from 2016 - 2019, **the share of the projects focused on population involvement, activities of different target groups, including the development of local communities, has increased** over the last two years. In turn, the share of the projects focused solely on the activities of the organisations themselves has decreased. In general, it can be concluded that priority consistently has been given to the projects that are as fully compatible as possible with the programme's objective of promoting the development of civil society.
12. When analysing project topics by project type, it can be observed that there are topics with a higher proportion of macro projects and those where micro projects prevail. The share of micro projects is higher

for topics such as **the development of the local community, promoting youth participation, improving the situation of children**. Equivalent representation of macro and micro projects can be observed for the projects aimed at promoting civic engagement, including nature protection. **Macro projects prevail** as regards the other topics. This concerns **projects aimed at ensuring operation and development of particular organisation, indirect promotion of civic engagement, improving the quality of policies**. These data indicate, indirectly, that the activities of the macro project implementers are more general, more specific, focused on broader issues. In the meantime, the micro project implementers are more likely to plan very specific, focused activities.

13. **The activities of the projects implemented have become more aimed at increasing civic activity, by directly including different target groups of population or organising events for them.** The projects' content analysis shows that **the annual share of projects addressing specific target groups has increased** (from 81 % in 2016 to 100 % in 2020), while the share of projects targeting a particular organisation has decreased up to 2020 (from 84 % in 2018 to 67 % in 2020; in 2021, the proportion of such projects has slightly increased to 70 %). **The activities of the projects carried out have become more focused on promoting active citizenship**, directly including different target groups of population or organising events for them. At the same time, **it contributes indirectly to refocusing the work of organisations from the collective and organisational area to the external target groups of society**.
14. When analysing the activities carried out under the projects in detail, following **most frequently implemented activities aiming at specific target groups can be identified: workshop for the target group, discussion of the target groups** (69 projects, 44 % of all projects), **working groups and commissions** (49 projects, 31 %), **training for the target group** (46 projects, 29 %), **developing recommendations, proposals** (46 projects, 29 %), **creative classes and activities** (38 projects, 24 %). **As compared to the previous years, various on-site activities** (seminars, training, conferences) **have been included in the projects less frequently** during the last two years, which is most likely to be explained by the effects of the pandemic. On the other hand, the increase has not been observed in any other area of activities. This shows that in this area of activities **organisations have reduced their presence, but have not replaced them with any other activity**.
15. Following most frequently implemented activities targeting the particular organisation have been identified: **cooperation with other organisations** (28 projects, 18 % of all projects), **assessment of the specific area** (28 projects, 18 %), **ensuring organisation's operation** (27 projects, 17 %), **training for organisation's employees** (26 projects, 17 %), **discussions, meetings, working groups for organisation's employees** (25 projects, 16 %). **As compared to the previous years**, projects in the last two years have less frequently included activities such as the preparation of an organisation's development planning document, the creation of the organisation's web page, experience exchange trips (which is likely

to be associated with the effects of the pandemic). In turn, the **inclusion of activities** focused on cooperation with other organisations and evaluation of the particular field of activities **has increased**.

16. The analysis of project activities by the types of projects shows that **the activities aimed at the target groups are more frequently carried out by the micro project implementers**, particularly such as workshops, training for the target groups, creative activities, cultural activities. **Macro projects**, on the other hand, more often include a variety of **interest advocacy activities, providing information to the public and specific target groups and fundraising activities**. **This indirectly demonstrates the validity of the division between the macro and micro projects, at least to the extent that it relates to the interest of organisations and their capacity to carry out activities of different scale and topics.**
17. The content analysis of the projects shows that **the proportion of projects involving cooperation with other organisations, institutions or experts has increased strongly in 2021**. Overall, 56 % of projects have included cooperation activities. In 2021, **in 38 % of the projects cooperation with other NGOs was planned, in 26 % - with the field experts**, in 17 % - with the state institutions, and in 13 % - with municipal institutions. It should be noted that **the cooperation was planned mostly within the framework of the macro projects**: only 25 % of the macro projects had no planned cooperation activities (in the micro project group as a whole, 58 % of the projects did not foresee any cooperation activities). This is most likely due to the fact that the applicants of the macro projects in 2021 could receive additional points if the project met quality assessment criterion “cooperation between NGO and residents”. Consequently, most organisations had tried to include such activities in their projects. Although the share of collaborative projects has increased significantly, **it is difficult to assess the feasibility and sustainability of this cooperation**, since the 2021 projects have been analysed by the researchers based on their applications and not by the final reports. It would therefore be worth analysing the cooperation aspect in more detail in future in order to assess whether the planned and implemented cooperation is meaningful and justified or only formally incorporated into the projects.
18. Although the project applications and the final reports include chapters allowing to assess the project input in achieving specific Programme and/or policy results, **the analysis of information provided by these organisations does not give a full and reliable assessment of the results achieved**, since the **understanding of the project applicants and their ability to associate their activities with the broadly and generally formulated results and also areas of activities differ considerably**. In order to compile data on the impact of the projects on the results of the Programme, since 2019, in the project application form, the applicant must indicate which specific result (or several ones) to be achieved by the Programme the project is aimed at, the indicator and the numerical unit of measure of the result to be achieved. When analysing the reports and applications of the projects implemented in the years 2020 - 2021, it is concluded that in most cases, organisations indicate the implemented events and activities as quantitative results, and

the formal correlation to some of the Programme's results as the qualitative results. Thus, **in most cases, the quantitative results indicated by the project implementers duplicate the activity section, while the qualitative results - the definition of project's eligibility to the results of the Programme.** On the other hand, compliance with the results of the Programme is often very broadly defined, declaring compliance with as many results as possible. Consequently, **the assessments provided by the same organisations on the contribution to the results in a large number of cases are subjective and too broadly defined. As a solution, in the Evaluation Report 2020, the researchers have proposed a methodology for assessing each project to be implemented in two respects:** (1) whether the project as a whole focuses on achieving the specific results (yes/no), (2) the relevance of the impact of each project on each specific result (scale 0 to 10). This methodology has been applied also in this Evaluation Report for assessing the contribution of the projects. **This kind of assessment allows identifying whether the projects are generally focused on the specific results and their potential for achieving the results.** Overall, **29 % of cases of the results recorded in the project applications of organisations did not coincide with the assessment by the evaluation experts** (27 % of cases for the macro projects, 33 % - for the micro projects). The largest discrepancy can be observed in relation to the project contribution in achieving results such as: "a sense of belonging to Latvia promoted"; "cooperation between NGOs at regional, Latvian, European Union and global level fostered"; as well as "cooperation between NGOs and the public sector promoted". In the case of the micro-projects, also the "capacity of NGOs promoted". This shows that **the assessment by the project applicants on the contribution of a specific project in achieving particular results of the Programme does not necessarily fully reflect the real impact of the projects (more often, it is narrower than described in the project applications).**

19. **Most of the projects implemented have directly or indirectly focused on achieving the results of the programme and policy. Regarding the Programme's results, it can be concluded that the absolute majority (over 90 % of all the projects carried out in 2020 - 2021) of the projects has directly or indirectly focused on achieving the following results: "the capacity and performance of NGOs promoted", "trust in the non-governmental sector promoted", "civic engagement and involvement in tackling major societal challenges promoted", "belonging to Latvia promoted". Concerning the policy results, it can be observed that the absolute majority of the implemented projects have contributed to the achievement of all 7 policy results. Lower impact rates are only observed in two cases: in 2020, only 53 % of projects have focused on the results such as "the exchange of information and views between NGOs and state institutions has improved" (an increase to 73 % in 2021), and, in 2021, only 51 % of the projects have been aimed at the policy result "residents of Latvia understand and recognize the value of Latvia's statehood" (94 % in 2020). Overall, it can be concluded that the impact of the implemented projects on the policy outcomes is smaller than that on the results of the Programme.**

**This can be explained by the fact that policy outcomes are more general and even broader than the results of the Programme.** As it has already been indicated before, the projects are limited in their activities, time and budget, and their impact on overall and broad results is therefore less significant. At the same time, it should be particularly stressed that all policy outcomes have been impacted. This, in turn, should be assessed as an **essential multi-faceted NGO Fund’s input for contributing to the achievement of the policy results.**

20. When assessing the relevance of the projects to the Programme’s results by project types, it can be noted that **in the macro and micro project group, equally many projects have been focused on objectives such as:** “belonging to Latvia promoted”, “trust in the non-governmental sector promoted”, “civic engagement and involvement in addressing major societal challenges fostered”, “capacity and performance of NGOs promoted”, “increased public awareness of civic engagement and forms of participation”. Regarding **other 5 results, the micro projects have been targeted at them less frequently than the macro projects.** In particular, “cooperation between NGOs” (only 26 % of the micro projects include such activities), “evidence-based policy initiatives” (42 %), “the public rights advocacy” (46 %). It should be stressed, however, that **these differences are logical and fully explained by the specific nature of the work of the micro-project implementers and the planned project activities.** In particular, the macro and micro projects are essentially different and cannot have an identical impact on the overall objectives of the Programme.
21. **Regarding long-term changes, some observable trends should be highlighted** – those which have not been impacted by the effects of 2021. Throughout the six-year period, there has been a growing tendency **to include in the projects activities focused on evidence-based policy initiatives** (46 % of projects in 2016, already 62 % in 2021). **The proportion of the projects increasing public awareness of civic engagement and forms of participation has consistently decreased** over the last four years (97 % of projects in 2018, only 79 % in 2021).
22. **It should also be stressed that not in all cases where projects are focused on any of the results, their potential impact on achieving the results is pronounced.** For example, although a total of 90 % of the projects are focused on promoting belonging to Latvia, the potential impact of these projects on achieving this result has only been assessed by 3.7 points. This could lead indirectly to the fact that **the project implementers often include formal activities to demonstrate compliance with the different results of the Programme, but their effectiveness is low.** This can be particularly observed as regards two results of the Programme. A total of 56 % of the projects have included activities for ensuring the development of data and evidence-based proposals and policy initiatives. However, their potential impact on the results has only been assessed by 3.9 points. This is due to the fact that the activities planned by the project implementers for the collection and analysis of data and information are very rarely representative and

justified. For example, in case it has been intended to gather the views of the population, it has not been implemented by applying representative sociological research methods. In turn, 46 % of the implemented projects had planned fostering cooperation between NGOs, yet the potential effectiveness of this activity had been assessed only by 2.4 points. This is entirely due to the formality of the activities planned by the organisations. For example, sometimes it is claimed that cooperation is going to be promoted, but only individual appointments, exchanges of views, or only contacting other organisations are planned as the project activities, without more extensive networking and follow-up activities.

23. Over the last six years, sustainability assessments of the projects have been variable, particularly for projects with short-term impacts whose share has increased in some years and decreased significantly in others. **Projects evaluated as having a short-term impact are those whose activities have a minimal impact on the achievement of the results and objectives of the Programme.** The figures show that in 2020, approximately every third project, and, in 2021, every fourth was like that. When interpreting these indicators, it should be taken into account that both small and large-scale projects are implemented under the Programme, and it is understandable that sustainability with small-scale projects is less pronounced than that with large-scale projects. **Sustainability assessments by the project types show that namely for the micro projects short-term impacts have been identified in almost all cases.** At the same time, it should be noted that the proportion of such projects has decreased in 2021, and the number of the micro projects that can be assessed as having a long-term impact has increased. It should also be stressed that **each macro project can have a long-term impact, while the sustainability of the micro projects is mostly shaped when evaluating all micro-projects as a whole, and not individual projects separately.** However, as indicated above, there may be legitimate doubts about some of these projects as regards their sustainability and relevance to the objectives and results of the Programme.
24. When assessing the contribution of the projects implemented to achieving the Programme's and policy results by the project types (macro, micro), all aspects of the evaluation show that **the impact of micro projects is lower than that of the macro projects.** However, **this should not be interpreted as a proof of the lower effectiveness of the micro projects.** Macro and micro projects are very different by nature: if the first are focused on broader and more general activities, the second ones focus on particular local level activities or defending interests in a specific thematic niche. Consequently, **each of the project types provides different, but significant contribution to achieving the Programme's results and objective.**
25. The technical specification of this Evaluation also included the task of **assessing the future contribution of the Programme and the potential of "The Guidelines for the Development of a Cohesive and Civically Active Society for 2021 - 2027" for implementing the set tasks** and achieving performance indicators. Given that the newly developed guidelines maintain continuity as far as possible with the previous programming document, the potential contribution of the NGO Fund to the tasks identified in the

document can also be identified. Impacts can be identified in the areas of activities and tasks which are included, directly or indirectly, in the results of the Programme as defined by the project competitions of 2020 and 2021. However, the areas of activities and tasks which have not been defined in the Programme's results, the impact has not been identified, or cannot be identified, since it has not been indicated by the project implementers in their projects' content. In particular, **the impact and contribution of the Programme are to be determined if the specific impacts have already been defined in advance as desirable in the project competition regulations**, according to which the potential project implementers plan their activities. Consequently, **in order to initiate or increase the impact of the Programme on the areas of activities and tasks defined in the new guidelines, it would be necessary to integrate them into the regulations for the future project competitions** (e.g. by adjusting the definition of the Programme's results).

26. **Awareness of the NGO sector (including organisations operating in the area of civil society) on the "NGO Fund" Programme is medium.** In general, **29% of the NGO sector estimate that they are well informed about the programme, while 55 % – that they are poorly informed, including 29 % that have not been informed at all.** It should be stressed that not all organisations are relevant to the NGO Fund's target group, therefore **awareness should be analysed among the target groups which could potentially submit projects to the NGO Fund competition. Although the awareness of organisations generally meeting the conditions of the NGO Fund's target group is slightly higher (34 % say they are well-informed, 15 % have medium awareness, 51 % - weak)** than in the NGO sector as a whole, the awareness assessment is not high either in this aspect. These data indirectly show that targeted communication with organisations that have not submitted projects so far, particularly those with a limited experience of project implementation and consequently weaker skills in producing quality project applications, is crucial for the wider coverage of the NGO sector.
27. **The interest in submitting projects under the "NGO Fund" programme is very high.** While the awareness of the programme is low, overall, **68 % of the organisations claimed that they would be interested in submitting projects.** The data show that there is a higher interest among those who already have experience in submitting projects (particularly over the last 3 years). However, more than half (56 %) of organisations **that have not submitted any project applications to this Fund so far would be interested in doing so in the future.** This indicates that the range of the potential project applicants is quite broad. **Youth organisations (93 %) and those active in the area of the rule of law and defence of interests (87 %) are the most interested ones.**
28. **Project applicants have a positive view of the cooperation with the Society Integration Foundation.** Overall, 64 % have given positive assessments while 16 % - critical. Obviously, more positive assessments have been provided by those organisations that have received support and funding in the project

competitions. At the same time, it should be noted that the assessment of cooperation with the SIF provided by the organisations which submitted projects in the project competition 2021 has slightly decreased as compared to the previous year 2020. **If in 2020 93 % of those who had received funding provided positive assessment as regards cooperation, this figure has fallen to 85 % in 2021.** Data show that **the project applicants positively assess the availability of information and support and the competition procedures in general, but less frequently give positive assessments on the project evaluation procedures and criteria.** This, in turn, **should be linked to insufficient awareness rather than critical attitude.** When analysing the differences in assessments, depending on the year of applying for the project competition, **the assessments on the following aspects have consistently increased throughout the period:** the project application forms (from 59 % positive ratings in 2016 - 2018 to 69 % in 2021), availability, responsiveness and support from the SIF employees, (from 62 % to 76 % respectively), period for the project implementation (from 55 % to 62 %).

29. **The projects implemented under the programme have the impact not only on policy and programme results but also on the NGO sector itself.** In general, these data show that the **benefits of organisations are mainly related to acquiring experience, but less frequently to aspects of financial capacity and sustainability. 50 % and more organisations indicate that their projects have had the following effects:** the projects implemented have strengthened their capacity, the awareness of organisation has increased, new ideas have emerged for other projects, competencies organisation's members and employees have improved, organisational impact has increased, new activities and events (that had not taken place before) have been fostered. Interestingly, all organisations have pointed out that the project implementation has strengthened their capacity, although the evaluations of the factors that could demonstrate this (like financial stability, operational activation, new members and volunteers, etc.) are lower. This shows that, in a general assessment, organisations claim to have had a significant impact on their capacity, but they do not indicate that when analysing particular aspects. **On the other hand, the most rarely identified impacts by organisations are:** more funding from other sources of funding has been attracted (only 20 % of organisations have indicated this in 2020 - 2021), new employees in the organisation (16 %), the organisation has been financially consolidated (23 %). It should also be noted that **only a small percentage of organisations indicate that other similar projects have subsequently been implemented (25 %),** which implicitly shows that **the succession of activities carried out in the projects is a major challenge.**



### 3.2. Recommendations for Advancement of the NGO Fund

1. **Continue to support macro projects**, projects with long-term impact, advocacy projects, possibly extending the duration of the project implementation to at least two years. At the same time, **encourage the growth of the small organisations** in order to enable them to pursue more targeted projects in the field of civil society in the future. This is particularly topical at the local level, since large organisations do not carry out activities in particular populated areas. At the same time, promote cooperation between organisations of different levels in order to strengthen the joint development of the non-governmental sector and the creation of an ecosystem.
2. **Balance the share of the supported projects in the fields of macro and micro projects**, taking into account significantly increased competition among the macro projects **(by increasing the funding available for the macro projects and by changing the maximum amount to be allocated or by promoting greater competition among the micro projects)**.
3. Considering the large overlap between the target groups of the NGO Fund and the Active Citizens Fund, **the activities of both Funds should be planned contextually and in cooperation, including the analysis of synergies between the both financial instruments in future evaluations**.
4. Integrate into the future competition rules **coherence with the tasks identified in “The Guidelines for the Development of a Cohesive and Civically Active Society for 2021 - 2027”, for example by adapting the results of the Programme**.
5. Given that the organisations generally meeting the requirements of the NGO Fund’s target group have medium awareness of the Programme (34 % say they are well-informed, 15 % - medium level, 51 % - weak level), **to continue and extend communication** to those organisations that have not yet submitted any projects, particularly those with minor project experience and thus lower level of skills in preparing quality project applications.
6. **Advance the project evaluation approach**, particularly for the micro projects, where activities are sometimes indirectly linked to the Programme's objective and often with short-term effects or occasional nature. **The evaluation process should provide for the possibility of reducing the assessment score for the project also in cases** where activities appear to be relevant, but are not such by nature. **Also an option of introducing a separate stage for evaluation of the project ideas during the micro projects’ competition should be considered**, enabling the organisations to submit their project ideas initially without elaborating a full project application (so that the preparation of whole projects could be done only by the applicants of conceptually supported ideas). Such arrangements could also have an indirect benefit: organizations that invest time and resources in preparing their project applications, but are not supported, are less motivated to participate again, feeling they have wasted their time.

7. Given that project implementers have been more critical of the project evaluation procedures and criteria, **further explain the general objective of the Programme and the methodology for evaluating the projects proceeding from that.** Indirectly, it could also have a positive impact on the project applicants' understanding of the nature of the activities to be supported by the Programme, and thus more projects would include activities relevant to the objective of the Programme.
8. Taking into consideration the fact that only 25 % of organisations indicate that other similar projects have been carried out following the projects implemented under the Programme, **encourage the organisations to plan their project activities in a successive manner,** linking the activities planned in the programme to the projects and activities previously carried out by the organisation and planning further resulting activities after the project has been completed. On the whole, it would be necessary to encourage the organisation to plan its activities in the long term or at least in the medium term.
9. **Focus more on changing the civic engagement patterns** and, in line with the Programme, encourage the project applicants to include more “small forms” participation activities (**neighbourhood, community activities**), as well as more use of the opportunities provided by the Internet, new technologies and media.
10. Consider the possibility and the need to develop **a centralised project results collection platform** where specific materials (methodological materials, studies, videos, etc.) generated by the projects would be available. This would ensure greater sustainability of the projects, while avoiding the development of identical or similar materials in different projects over different years.

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## 4. “NGO FUND” PROGRAMME: OVERVIEW

### 4.1. Background Information: Civic Participation

During the NGO Fund creation in 2015 - 2016 (on the basis of the Government’s Action Plan<sup>2</sup> and the Conceptual Report on the Establishment of a State-funded Non-Government Organisations Fund<sup>3</sup>), the issue of civil society and its development was raised, ensuring the participation of citizens and promoting the involvement of associations and foundations representing the population, in order to improve democracy processes at all levels of the public administration. Accordingly, the aim for the NGO Fund was “to promote the participation and cooperation of citizens in public processes, improve the citizens’ quality of life and strengthen democracy and sustainable development of civil society in Latvia”. Therefore, we will briefly describe the development of the civic participation and NGO sector in Latvia.

The last two years cannot be analysed outside the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Like other sectors, **the pandemic has had a significant impact and continues to affect both civic participation and the development of the NGO sector as a whole**. In view of the periodically defined Covid-19 mitigation measures, the possibilities for population participation activities were significantly limited. Since civic participation was already low before the pandemic started, impacts of the pandemic have to be evaluated as particularly critical. The data included in the evaluation of the NGO Foundation in 2020<sup>4</sup> showed that **in terms of civic participation, the most frequent population activity is participation in the environmental clean-up events (talkas) (26% in 2018 and 15% in 2020<sup>5</sup>), as well as donating money for charity (25% in 2018, 12% in 2020)**. Other activities of civic participation involve a very small proportion of the population: **6% - 8% of the population have engaged in voluntary activities, 5% - in the local community activities, 2% - 3% in non-governmental organisations<sup>6</sup>, 1% - in political parties**. Overall, **this shows a very low level of civic engagement among the citizens**. This shows the topicality of the NGO Fund programme in the context of the

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<sup>2</sup> Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 151 of 7 April 2014 “On the Government Action Plan for the Implementation of the Activities Planned by the Cabinet of Ministers Led by Laimdota Straujuma” approved in Annex 2 to the Declaration of the Government Action Plan for the Implementation of the Activities Planned by the Cabinet of Ministers Led by Laimdota Straujuma, the task determined by the Activity 128.3, which expired according to the Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 78 of 16 February 2015 “On the Government Action Plan for the Implementation of the Activities Planned by the Cabinet of Ministers Led by Laimdota Straujuma”, the task determined by the Activity 136.1. as approved in the Annex to the Declaration of the Government Action Plan.

<sup>3</sup> Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 792 (Protocol No. 64, 41. §) of 16 December 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Evaluation of the activities (results and contributions) of the “NGO Fund” programme funded by the State budget 2020. The Association of Persons from the Latvian Academy of Culture and “Laboratory of Analytical and Strategic Studies” Ltd. Available:

[https://www.sif.gov.lv/sites/sif/files/media\\_file/NVO\\_fonds\\_Izv%C4%93r%C4%93jumsLKALAB\\_2020\\_LAT\\_1.pdf](https://www.sif.gov.lv/sites/sif/files/media_file/NVO_fonds_Izv%C4%93r%C4%93jumsLKALAB_2020_LAT_1.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> The 2020 figures have been significantly affected by Covid-19 situation and cannot therefore be regarded as a meaningful characterisation of civic participation. Therefore the indicators of 2018 should be used.

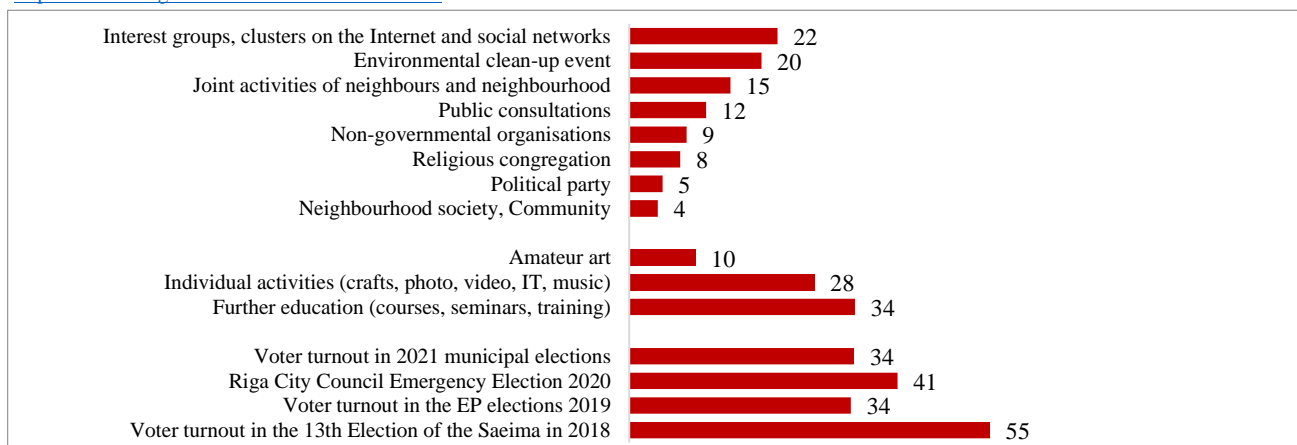
<sup>6</sup> In the study of 2018 “NGO Sector in Latvia – assumptions, participation” carried out by the Ministry of Culture (available: <https://www.km.gov.lv/uploads/ckeditor/files/NVO-12.2018.pdf>) it has been concluded that a total of 10% of the population has been engaged in some non-governmental organisation. This indicator is significantly higher than that identified in the culture consumption study. Perhaps this can be explained by the different wording of the issue. The NGO study asked citizens whether they had been involved in an NGO, while in the cultural consumption study, whether they had participated in NGO work. Consequently, the 10% indicator is most likely to show the overall share of the population formally involved in NGOs, and 2%-3%, the proportion of those who are active and regular participants.

civil society development, as the data show that **citizens are more likely to choose passive civil participation** (e.g. by donating money for charity) rather than active co-operation (by participating in NGO work, by engaging in voluntary work more than just environmental clean-up events).

At the same time, it should be stressed that the increasing accessibility of the Internet to citizens, as well as the development of new media and social networks, **also a variety of new forms of participation develop**. Therefore, such non-traditional forms of participation should also be identified and monitored for the full picture of population participation. Unfortunately, up to now it has been studied in Latvia minimally. The data from one of the projects of Riga Technical University<sup>7</sup> show that **civic participation on the Internet is the most frequent form of participation**: 22% of the population are involved in various interest groups and clusters on the Internet and social networks, while the environmental clean-up events as the most popular traditional form of participation gather 20% of the population. Only 12% participate at the public consultations and 9% are involved in non-governmental organisations. The data also show other significant trends in participation. **15% of the population participate in joint activities of neighbours and neighbourhood**, and 4% are members of the neighbourhood associations and communities. This, in turn, points to a significant potential for the development of the “small forms” participation. In general, these data show that the **character and forms of the population participation are changing significantly**, and different new forms of engagement are sometimes even more widespread than the traditional forms of participation. Consequently, **the challenge is to fully integrate these new forms of engagement into the overall scope of participation**.

**Chart 1. Civil and Social Activity of Latvian Residents (%)**

Data source: Civic Alliance - Latvia (CAL) data collection, presented in the online event organised by the CAL, “Civil Society in Latvia: Where are we going?” on 29 October 2021. Available at: [https://nvo.lv/uploads/lpa\\_29\\_10\\_21\\_pilsoniska\\_lidzdaliba.pdf](https://nvo.lv/uploads/lpa_29_10_21_pilsoniska_lidzdaliba.pdf) Primary sources of data: Population survey done by SKDS within the framework of The Latvian Council of Science's Fundamental and Applied Research Project “Bridging the Carbon Neutrality Gap in Energy Communities: Social Sciences and Humanities Meet Energy Studies”. Institute of Environmental Protection and Heating Systems of RTU Faculty of Power and Electrical Engineering, 2021// Voter activity data: [www.cvk.lv](http://www.cvk.lv) // Data on cultural participation: Study on the Impact of Cultural Consumption and Participation, 2020. LAC, Laboratory of Analytical and Strategic Studies Ltd., SKDS Ltd. Available: <https://www.km.gov.lv/lv/media/11801/download>



<sup>7</sup> Population survey done by SKDS within the framework of The Latvian Council of Science's Fundamental and Applied Research Project “Bridging the Carbon Neutrality Gap in Energy Communities: Social Sciences and Humanities Meet Energy Studies”. Institute of Environmental Protection and Heating Systems of RTU Faculty of Power and Electrical Engineering, 2021

In order to identify **the reasons for the civic participation passivity**, respondents to the survey of associations and foundations carried out within the framework of the evaluation were asked to indicate what, in their view, are the most significant obstacles to the civic participation of Latvian residents. Although the scope of the responses provided is very extensive, **it can be segmented into four thematic areas**.

First of all, 57% of the respondents mentioned **a lack of interest** which was the most frequent response from the NGO sector. However, it must be pointed out that the lack of interest is probably a consequence of other reasons and considerations. One of the explanations could be the unwillingness of the population to do something for free, as it was indicated by 44% of those surveyed.

Second, **the lack of information, knowledge and experience** – the lack of information is indicated by 44% of those surveyed (it should be stressed that in the 2020 survey this reason was significantly more frequent, in 53% of the cases), while 45% pointed to the lack of knowledge and skills.

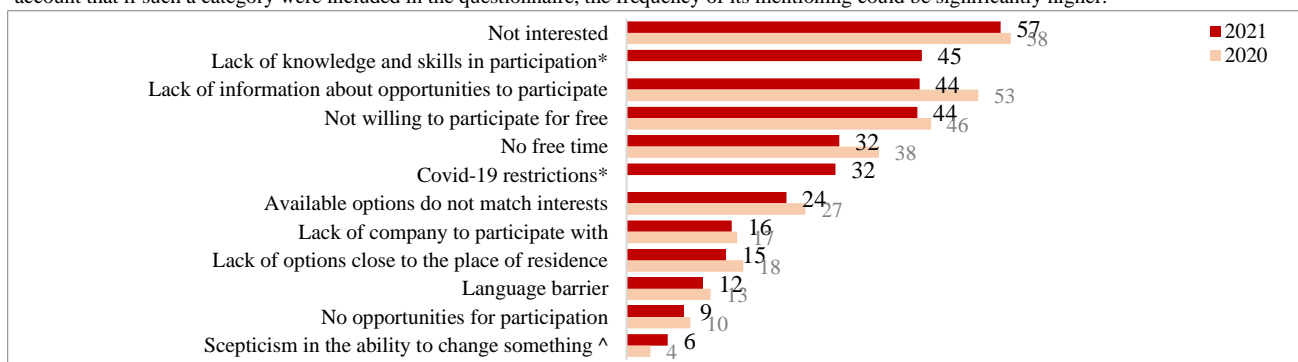
Third, **the lack of opportunities** – 32% have indicated that citizens do not have time to participate, 32% have mentioned the restrictions imposed due to Covid-19, 24% consider that the available options do not correspond to the citizens’ areas of interest, 15% point to the lack of opportunities close to their place of residence, while 12% identify language barrier as a significant obstacle.

Fourth, **scepticism in their ability to change something** is indicated by only 6% of those surveyed. However, it should be stressed that the questionnaire did not include such a category and this response was added by the respondents (it should also be pointed out that this additional response was indicated by 4% in the 2020 survey, so there is a marked increase in the frequency of its mention). If it were included in the questionnaire as one of the response categories, the frequency of its referral would probably be significantly higher. Namely scepticism as regards their ability to change something could be another explanation for the lack of interest in civic participation.

**Chart 2. NGO Sector Assessment Regarding the Major Barriers to Civic Participation (%)**

Data source: Survey of the NGO sector in 2020 and 2021. Question in the survey: In your opinion, what are the main obstacles to civil participation by Latvian citizens? Comment: Multi-response question, response size > 100%. \*These categories were not included in the survey of 2020.

^ This category was not included in the questionnaire; it was indicated by the respondents themselves. The data should be interpreted by taking into account that if such a category were included in the questionnaire, the frequency of its mentioning could be significantly higher.



## 4.2. Background Information: Development of NGO Sector

According to the survey “NGO Sustainability Index in Latvia 2020”<sup>8</sup>, **there were 24,849 societies and 1727 foundations in Latvia** at the end of 2020. However, **not all of them are active and operational**. According to the data compiled by Civic Alliance - Latvia, of those approximately 25 thousand organisations, **only about 19 thousand have submitted their annual reports**. And **only 12 thousand organizations in their annual reports indicate a turnover greater than zero (> 0)**. Thus, only the above-mentioned 12 thousand organisations could be considered as active societies and foundations.

The above-mentioned data collection also concludes that **only 34% of societies and foundations have at least one employee**, while 66% have no employees. In addition, **only 15% of organisations have indicated payroll expenditure in their annual accounts**. So there are no more than 2 thousand organisations in which their employees receive remuneration.

The evaluation of the NGO fund carried out in 2020<sup>9</sup> **sought to identify the proportion of the 12 thousand organisations which are active in civil society and participation areas**. The calculations carried out by “Lursoft IT” Ltd. and the quantitative survey of the NGO sector, showed that there are at least 800 organisations that can be considered as the potential project applicants for the NGO Fund Programme. It should be assumed that not all these organisations referred to quantitative research, therefore the researchers estimate that **around 1 thousand organisations are active in civic society area**. This number is also largely confirmed by the NGO sector survey conducted in 2021, where a total of 848 societies and foundations referred to the quantitative survey as the target group organisations. In addition, the estimates made by Civic Alliance - Latvia regarding the Ministries and the organisations involved in the Saeima participation mechanisms show that there is a total of 720 such organisations.

### *Illustration 1. Number and Activity of Societies and Foundations in Latvia*

Data source: Data collection by Civic Alliance - Latvia (CAL) presented at an online event organised by the CAL, “Civil Society in Latvia: Where are we going?” on 29 October 2021. Material available: [https://nvo.lv/uploads/lpa\\_29\\_10\\_21\\_pilsoniska\\_lidzdaliba.pdf](https://nvo.lv/uploads/lpa_29_10_21_pilsoniska_lidzdaliba.pdf)

- 26 576** – total number of societies and foundations
- 18 712** – total number of societies and foundations that have submitted annual reports
- 12 189** – societies and foundations whose revenue >0
- 34%** of societies and foundations have at least 1 employee
- 15%** of societies and foundations report expenses for salaries
- Around **1 thousand** societies and foundations operate in the field of civil society and participation
- 720** societies and foundations have participated at the participation mechanisms by ministries and/or Saeima

<sup>8</sup> NGO Sustainability Index in Latvia 2020. Civic Alliance - Latvia. Available: [https://nvo.lv/uploads/latvia\\_zinojums\\_final.pdf](https://nvo.lv/uploads/latvia_zinojums_final.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Evaluation of the activities (results and contributions) of the “NGO Fund” programme funded by the State budget 2020. The Association of Persons from the Latvian Academy of Culture and “Laboratory of Analytical and Strategic Studies” Ltd. Available:

[https://www.sif.gov.lv/sites/sif/files/media\\_file/NVO\\_fonds\\_lzv%C4%93rt%C4%93jumsLKALAB\\_2020\\_LAT\\_1.pdf](https://www.sif.gov.lv/sites/sif/files/media_file/NVO_fonds_lzv%C4%93rt%C4%93jumsLKALAB_2020_LAT_1.pdf)

For the specific subject, see Chapter 6.1.

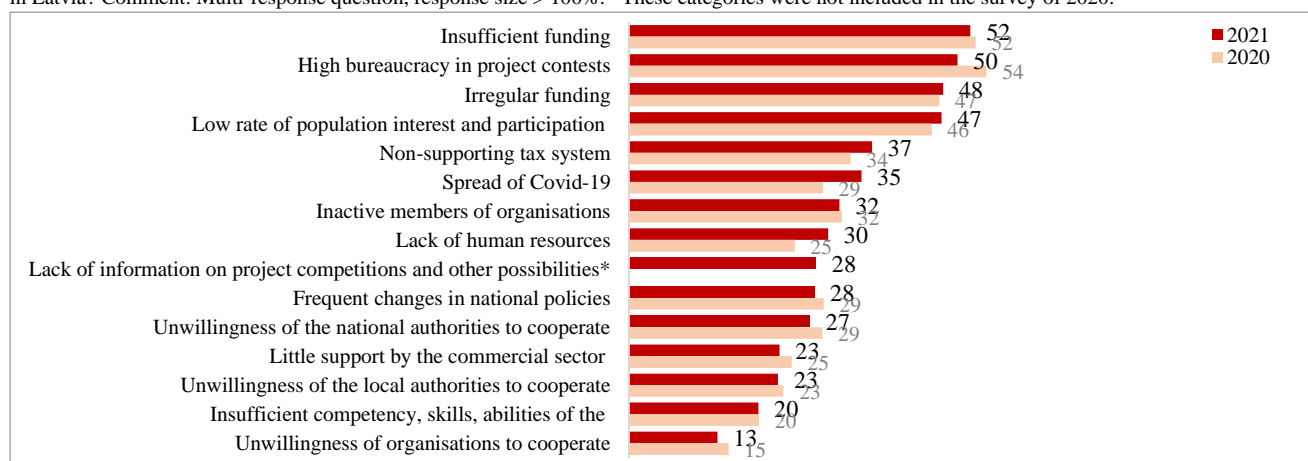
As stated in the above-mentioned study “NGO Sustainability Index in Latvia 2020”<sup>10</sup>, **the pandemic has left a negative impact on the activities of societies and foundations**: all the organisations had to review their previous approach and strategies in order to continue their activities and be able to respond to the effects of the pandemic. At the same time, **certain aspects of the positive effects have also been identified. The assessment of the capacity and financial sustainability of organisations has slightly improved** over the last year which is linked to the support for the capacity of organisations from the NGO Fund and the Active Citizens Fund (ACF) programme. The availability of these financial tools has both extended the capacity of organisations for financial attraction and provided the basis for capacity building in the medium and long term, supporting activities that contribute to the regularity and competence of organisations.

Although, in the above-mentioned research, the financial sustainability and capacity aspects have been identified as positive conditions for development, **the NGO sector survey** carried out within the framework of this evaluation **shows that namely financial instability is one of the most significant obstacles to the development of the sector**. In general, 52% indicated that the sector's development has been hampered by insufficient funding, while 48% mentioned irregular funding. 50% pointed out that **the development has been hampered by high bureaucracy in project competitions** (it should be stressed that **the proportion of those assessments has fallen by 4% over the last year**). 47% considered the **low civic participation rate** as a barrier. In particular, it should be stressed that the representatives of each third organisation have indicated that **the members of their organisation are not sufficiently active**, not only the population as a whole.

When comparing the new data with the organisations' assessments in 2020, **two aspects as barriers have been mentioned more frequently than in the past**: the proportion of organisations feeling **the negative impact of Covid-19** has increased from 29% to 35%, and those feeling **the lack of human resources** from 25% to 30%.

**Chart 3. Major Barriers to the Development of the NGO Sector (%)**

Data source: Survey of the NGO sector in 2020 and 2021. Question in the survey: What are the major barriers hindering the NGO sector development in Latvia? Comment: Multi-response question, response size > 100%. \*These categories were not included in the survey of 2020.



<sup>10</sup> NGO Sustainability Index in Latvia 2020. Civic Alliance - Latvia. Available: [https://nvo.lv/uploads/latvia\\_zinojums\\_final.pdf](https://nvo.lv/uploads/latvia_zinojums_final.pdf)

The NGO sector survey data also **characterize day-to-day performance of the organisations dealing with civic participation and population involvement**. Data show that **both long-standing organisations have been represented in this area** (21% have been active for over 20 years) **and recently established** (11% have been established over the last 3 years). **35% of organisations work on a regular basis**, i.e. every day. Another **35% — those whose work is situational**, from case to case. 9% of organisations are currently inactive and have stopped their operation.

The data also show that **an absolute majority (70%) of organisations develop their plans of activities for a maximum of one year**.

**54% of organisations operate locally**, 29% on a regional level, 39% on a national level, while 30% say they work internationally. It should be stressed that the organisation may operate on several levels at the same time.

**16% of organisations have not carried out any projects in the last 3 years, while 48% have implemented a maximum of 5 projects**. Each third organisation has implemented more than 5 projects.

In general, **55% of organisations point out that they do not have any salaried employees**, while 16% employ 1 or 2 employees, 14% - 3 to 5 employees.

At the same time, **the majority of organisations have engaged volunteers in their activities**, with only 14% saying that they did not involve any volunteers.

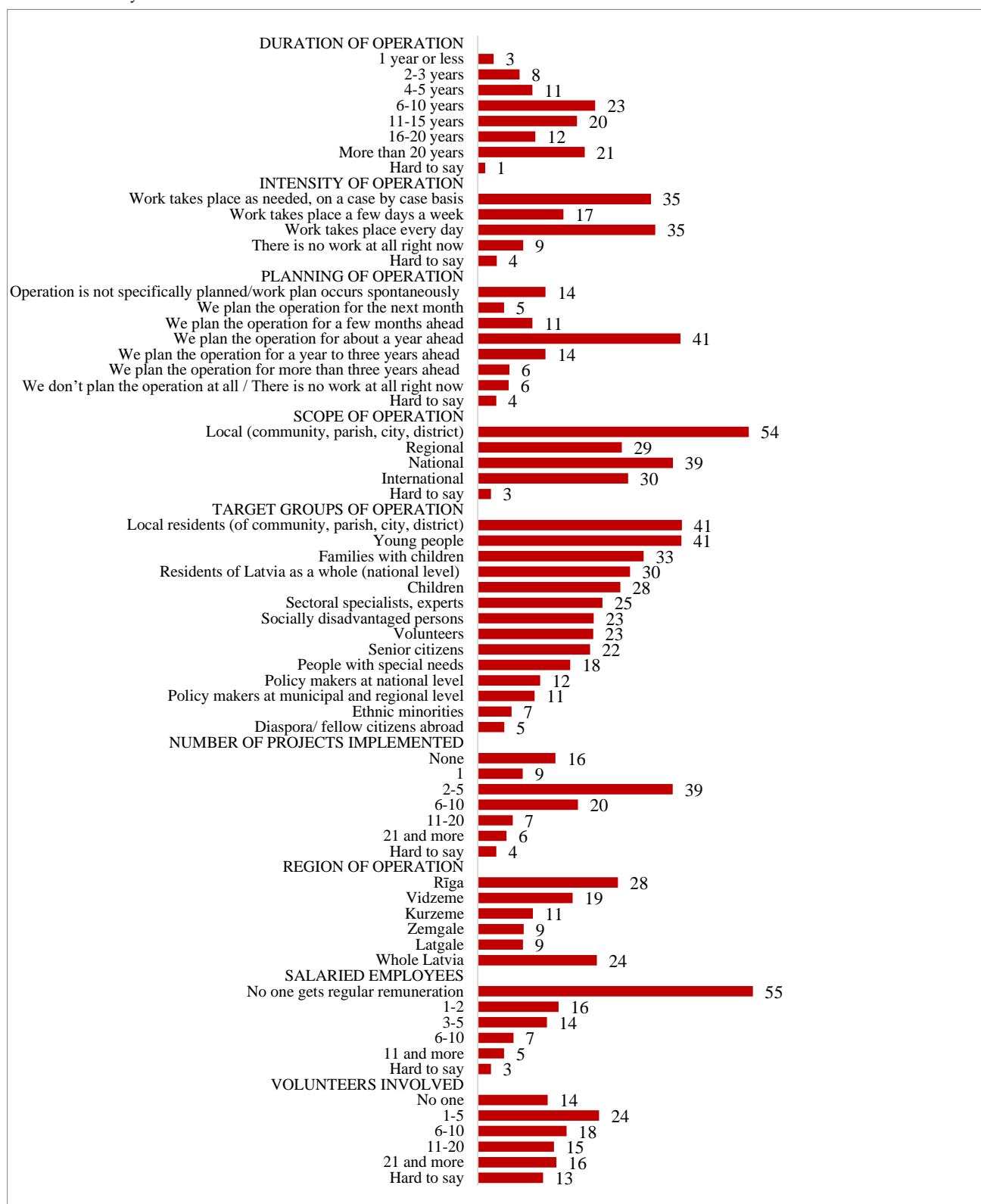
**41% of organisations point out that they work with the local community**, and another 41% say they work with young people. It should be noted that these organisations often work also with other target groups: just 7% are working only with the local community and 4% working only with young people. 33% of organisations indicate families with children as their target group, while 30% – all residents of Latvia as a whole. **23% of organisations work with socially vulnerable groups, 18% - with people with special needs, while only 7% - with ethnic minorities**. Meanwhile, approximately every tenth organization work with the policy makers.

In general, these data show that **very different organisations are represented in the field of civic participation** in terms of operation duration, target groups, intensity of activities, scale and region. At the same time, **there are also some common features**: activity is rarely planned for the long term, only a small part of organisations has permanent employees, while activity is mainly based on voluntary engagement. This also coincides with the data already indicated on **the main challenges for the development of this sector: availability of financial resources, financial sustainability, availability of human resources, ensuring continuity of activity**.



**Chart 4. Characteristics of Organisations Working in Civic Engagement Area (%)**

Data source: Survey of the NGO sector in 2021



As a large part of organisations point out that insufficient and irregular funding is a major barrier to their functioning, **the issue of access to financial instruments for the NGO sector is essential (as regards accessibility, regularity and continuity)**. In the NGO sector survey, organisations were asked to indicate which financial instruments they have applied for and received support from over the last 3 years. These data show that societies and foundations working with the civic engagement and citizen participation issues **have most frequently applied for the project competitions in municipalities** (50% of organisations in total, including those 42% which have received support), **programmes administered by the SIF** (49% and 31% respectively; including the NGO Fund – 35% and 18%), **the State Culture Capital Foundation** support programmes (30% and 19%), **the EEA and Norway Grants** programmes (26% and 12%, including the Active Citizens Fund – 23% and 11%), **the Rural Support Service** programmes (24% and 19%). Also **the EU Structural Funds** (20% and 13%) have been demanded, including EU funding for youth by **the Agency for International Youth Programs** (16% and 11%) and **delegation or participation agreements with municipalities** (19% and 17%).

**Table 1. Sources of Funding to Which NGOs Have Applied During the Last 3 Years (%): Detailed Analysis of Specific Programmes**

Data source: Survey of the NGO sector in 2021

Question in the survey: Regarding each of these funding sources, please indicate those which you have applied for in the last 3 years and from which you have received support/funding.

Note: The organisation may have applied for support in several programmes, so the sum of programme data may not be in line with the overall indicator at the organisation. For example, 49% of all NGOs have applied for one of the SIF support programmes over the last 3 years, while some organisations have applied for several programmes, so the sum of the programmes is larger than 49%.

	We have applied	We were supported
Project competitions in municipalities	50	42
SIF: IN TOTAL	49	31
SCCF: The State Culture Capital Foundation support programmes	30	19
EEA and Norway Grants programmes: IN TOTAL	26	12
RSS: The Rural Support Service programmes	24	19
CFCA: EU Structural Funds	20	13
Delegation or participation agreement with a municipality	19	17
AIYP, including funding for youth: IN TOTAL	16	11
SEDA, including EU funding for education and training: "Erasmus+" EU programme for education	14	9
U.S Embassy: Small Grants Program	12	7
SRDA, ALEPF: Programmes of the Latvian Environmental Protection Fund	11	8
NORDEN: IN TOTAL	10	6
MoW, including EU funding: EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation /European Social Fund+	9	7
Delegation or participation agreement with the Ministry	9	7
MoC, including EU funding for culture and integration: IN TOTAL	7	3
MoEPRD: European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (Interreg)	6	4
MFA: Programme "Support for Development Cooperation Projects in designated recipient countries"	3	2
MoI, MoC: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund	2	2

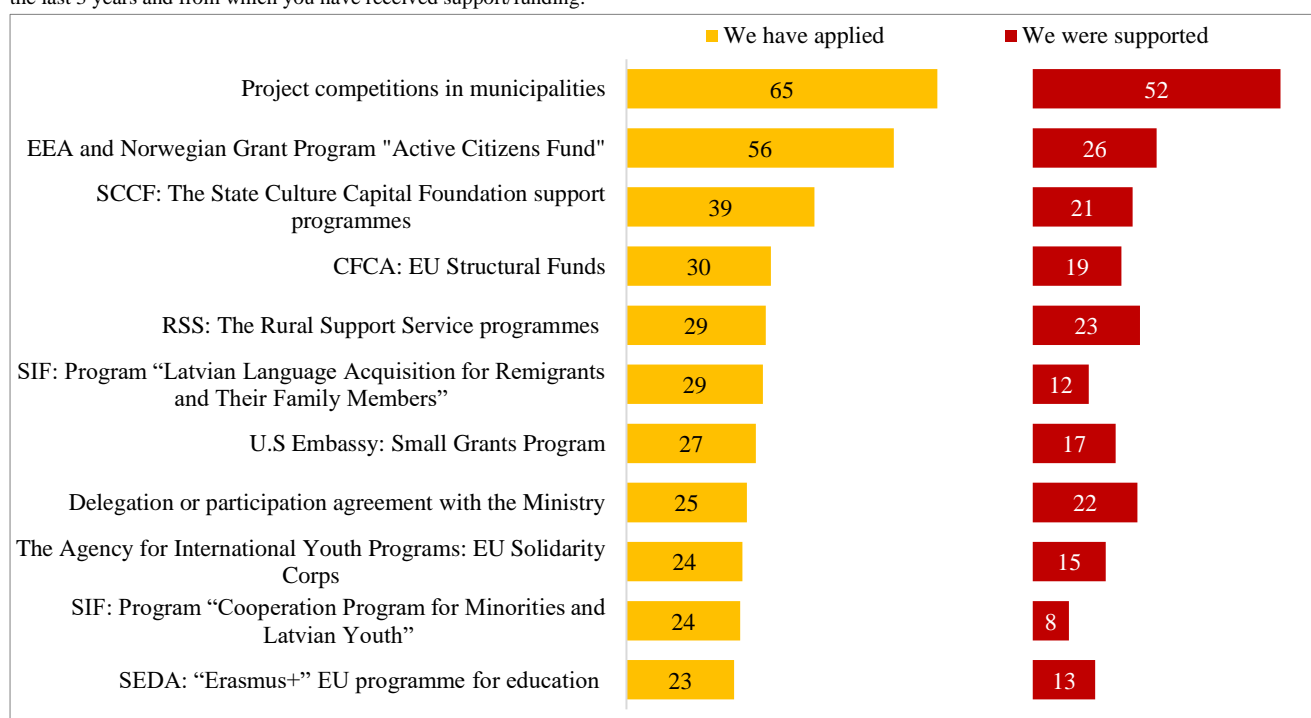
It is also possible to analyse in detail which of these funding instruments are relevant for those who have applied for the NGO Fund. In this regard it can be observed that **for the project applicants to the NGO Fund**

**Programme the main other sources of funding are: project competitions in municipalities** (65% have applied for funding and 52% of these projects have been supported), **the Active Citizens Fund** (56% and 26% respectively), as well as **the State Culture Capital Foundation support programmes** (39% and 21%). These three sources of funding are the most important donors to the NGO Fund’s target group. Other funding instruments include the Rural Support Service programmes and delegation agreements with ministries: 22% - 23% of organisations have received funding from the above-mentioned sources.

*Chart 5. Sources of Funding Applied for in The Last 3 Years by Organisations That Have Submitted Projects Under the NGO Fund Programme (%)*

Data source: Survey of the NGO sector in 2021

Question in the survey: Regarding each of these funding sources, please indicate those which you have applied for in the last 3 years and from which you have received support/funding.



As regards access to funding, 46% of organisations identified in the 2020 evaluation have pointed out that **it is most difficult to raise funding for specific invented project ideas**. This shows that organisations do not always have access to funding for ideas and activities they themselves have planned, and they are not always able to meet the rules of the existing funding instruments (adapting their ideas or developing new ones that meet project conditions). On the one hand, this provides the basis for **a wider debate on the principles of funding** (funding for any ideas and activities or funding for specifically targeted activities). On the other hand, **it also raises the issue of organisation capacity, expertise and skills in project preparation**.

### 4.3. Justification of the NGO Fund Activity

In order to contribute to the development of civil society, a support instrument for the non-governmental sector was launched in 2014. On the basis of the Government's Action Plan<sup>11</sup>, a Working Group at the Ministry of Culture was established and “The Conceptual Report on the Establishment of a State-funded Non-Government Organisations Fund”<sup>12</sup> (hereinafter referred to as the “Conceptual Report”) was developed. According to this report, the Ministry of Culture and the Society Integration Foundation were designated as the responsible authorities, and a separate programme “NGO Fund” financed by the national budget was established to strengthen the sustainability of civil society and support the activities of NGOs (hereinafter referred to as the “NGO Fund”).

The NGO Fund started its activities in 2016; by 2018 it was implemented in accordance with the NGO Fund's Operational Strategy<sup>13</sup> (hereinafter referred to as “the Strategy”) developed by the SIF and in line with the “National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy Guidelines for 2012 –2018”<sup>14</sup> (hereinafter referred to as “NICSIPG 2012 - 2018”), which emphasized inter alia the role of civil society. Further, the need to strengthen civil society was identified in the “National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy Implementation Plan 2019 - 2020”<sup>15</sup>, which is considered to be a transitional period plan and a guidance document for the activities of the NGO Fund during the transition period of 2019 - 2020.

This document also sets out the policy results and policy performance indicators to be achieved during this period. At the beginning of 2021, “The Guidelines for the Development of a Cohesive and Civically Active Society for 2021-2027”<sup>16</sup> (hereinafter referred to as “GDCCAS 2021-2027”), which set out the policy results to be achieved over the next period and the corresponding performance indicators, are to be assessed in line with what has been achieved in 2024 and 2027. In order to ensure the achievement of the main aims and objectives of the SIF as a whole, the Strategy for the Society Integration Foundation for 2020-2024<sup>17</sup> was endorsed in 2020.

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<sup>11</sup> Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 151 of 7 April 2014 “On the Government Action Plan for the Implementation of the Activities Planned by the Cabinet of Ministers Led by Laimdota Straujuma” approved in Annex 2 to the Declaration of the Government Action Plan for the Implementation of the Activities Planned by the Cabinet of Ministers Led by Laimdota Straujuma, the task determined by the Activity 128.3, which expired according to the Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 78 of 16 February 2015 “On the Government Action Plan for the Implementation of the Activities Planned by the Cabinet of Ministers Led by Laimdota Straujuma”, the task determined by the Activity 136.1. as approved in the Annex to the Declaration of the Government Action Plan.

<sup>12</sup> Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 792 (Protocol No. 64, 41. §) of 16 December 2015.

<sup>13</sup> On the basis of the Cabinet of Ministers Order, the SIF developed an operational strategy for the Non-Government Organisations Fund (hereinafter - NGO Fund) until 2018, which was confirmed by the Implementation Council of the Memorandum of Cooperation of the Non-Governmental Organisations and the Cabinet of Ministers and the Monitoring Board for the Implementation of National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy Guidelines and approved by the decision of 21.09.2016 by the SIF Council (Protocol No. 99, § 4.4).

<sup>14</sup> Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 542 (Protocol No. 58, §21) of 20 October 2011.

<sup>15</sup> Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 345 (Protocol No. 33, §49) of 18 July 2018.

<sup>16</sup> Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 72 (Protocol No. 12, §24) of 5 February 2021

<sup>17</sup> Information according the publication on SIF web-site: <https://www.sif.gov.lv/lv/strategija-misija-un-vizija>

#### 4.4. The basic principles for the operation of the NGO Fund

The operational principles of the NGO Fund have been set out in the “Operational Strategy for NGO Fund Financed from the National Budget 2017-2018”.

**The aim of the Fund** is to foster the participation and cooperation of citizens in public processes, to improve their quality of life and to strengthen democracy and the sustainable development of civil society in Latvia.

**The objective of the Fund:** to ensure democratic state governance and the involvement of the general public in addressing key societal issues by financially supporting civil society activities, thereby ensuring high quality decision-making and the provision of services that are relevant to the public interest.

##### Operational directions of the Fund

In line with the Strategy, seven operational directions were identified: strengthening NGO activities; supporting NGO civil society activities; co-financing of NGO projects funded by foreign financial instruments; strengthening NGO cooperation; strengthening NGO advocacy; strengthening minority NGO activities; supporting associations and foundations for unforeseen events.

Each year, the Strategic Planning Committee decides on setting specific priorities and channelling funding to all priorities, or on specific earmarked funding for each of the actions.

**Table 1. Operational Directions of the Fund and Funding Planned for Each Direction for 2016 - 2021 (euro)**

Data source: State budget funded programme “NGO Fund” rules for participation at the open project competition; evaluation reports.

\* In 2020, the approach to funding allocation changed: no specific funding was earmarked for each direction of activities, but funding was distributed for macro and micro projects, and each applicant could mark one or more directions of activities.

		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1.	Strengthening of the NGO activities, in total	250,000	240,000	308,557.10	591,440	Yes*	Yes*
	including micro projects	70,000	50,000	61,711.42			
	including macro projects	180,000	190,000	246,845.68			
2.	Support for the NGO civil society activities	100,000	90,000			Yes*	Yes*
3.	Co-financing for the NGO projects funded by foreign financial instruments						
4.	Strengthening cooperation between the NGOs					Yes*	Yes*
5.	Strengthening NGO advocacy	50,000	50,000	77,139.28	147,860	Yes*	Yes*
6.	Strengthening the minority NGO activities						
7.	Supporting associations and foundations for unforeseen events						
	<b>In total</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>380,000</b>	<b>385,696.38</b>	<b>739,330</b>	<b>1,097,000</b>	<b>1,396,500</b>

**Beneficiaries of the Fund funding** - associations and foundations registered in the Republic of Latvia, which act in the interest of the public, promoting civil participation, the defence of public interests and democracy. For detailed description see Chapter 5.1.

## **Allocation of the Fund funding and monitoring of its use**

The Fund administrator is a public foundation, the Society Integration Foundation (SIF). The SIF is under the institutional supervision of the Prime Minister and under the functional supervision of the Minister for Culture. The activities of the NGO Fund are implemented by the SIF Unit.

The priorities of the Fund are determined by the Strategic Planning Committee (hereinafter - SPC) approved by the SIF Council. It is composed of two representatives of the SIF Secretariat, delegated representatives of Ministries<sup>18</sup> within the SIF Council and six representatives delegated by the NGO and Cabinet of Ministers (hereinafter - CM) Monitoring Board of the Cooperation Memorandum Implementation (hereinafter - Memorandum Board). The priorities of the SPC are coordinated by the Memorandum Board and the Monitoring Board for the implementation of the National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy Guidelines. The priorities are endorsed by the SIF Council. On the basis of the priorities approved, the SIF Unit draws up Regulations for an open call for project proposals, which is approved by the SIF Council.

Project evaluation takes place in three stages. The quality of the projects is assessed by the members and alternates of the evaluation commission established by the SIF Council, as well as by experts, chosen within the framework of an open competition, who are associated with the evaluation of NGO sector projects. Starting with the open call for project proposals of 2018, a delegated representative of the Memorandum Board was also included in the Evaluation Commission. The expert assessments are examined and approved by an evaluation commission, working in accordance with the Project Evaluation Regulations. The commission is composed of representatives from the SIF, the Ministries represented in the SIF Council, the State Chancellery and the Cross-Sector Coordination Centre, as well as an NGO representative, delegated by the Memorandum Board.

Contracts with project implementers are concluded and project implementation is supervised by the SIF Unit.

### **4.5. Beneficiaries of the NGO Fund**

According to the NGO Strategy, the funding can be received by associations and foundations registered in the Republic of Latvia which are acting in the public interest, promoting civil participation, defending public interests and democracy. The NGO Fund focuses on organisations that act “for the benefit of the general public, when dealing with issues related to the well-being of particular groups of society or the general public” rather than “in their own interests or in the commercial, professional or political interests of their members”<sup>19</sup>. However, the documents underpinning the creation of an NGO Fund – National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy Guidelines for 2012 –2018 and the Conceptual Report (hereinafter – NICSIPG 2012-2018)<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Science and Education, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development

<sup>19</sup> Such definitions are given in the regulations on the project application contests

<sup>20</sup> Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 542 (Protocol No. 58, §21) of 20 October 2011.

show a narrower interpretation, focusing mainly on NGOs that can act as intermediaries between citizens and public administration, engage in public policy making and defend the interests of citizens in the decision-making process.

The regulations define the eligibility requirements; they have been supplemented or modified over a period of six years. Since 2017, it has been stressed that the organisation “works in the field of civil society development” and “for addressing major challenges in the interest of the general public, for the achievement of national objectives by promoting public participation”. It is also stated that “it does not act solely in its own interests or in the commercial, professional or political interests of its members; it aims to act for the benefit of general public by addressing issues relating to the well-being of particular groups of society or the general public”. Since 2019, a more precisely defined condition “independent of public administrations, political parties or commercial organisations” has been defined, provided that public authorities, municipalities and their institutions or businesses may not exceed half the number of members/founders and may not have the majority in decision-making. The regulations provide that employers' organisations, trade unions, religious organisations and political parties cannot apply for funding. Since 2020, housing management societies and self-operating (amateur) sports and culture groups have also been excluded from participating in the competition.

Additional requirements regarding the eligibility for funding in specific areas of the NGO Fund have been introduced in particular open calls for project proposals. These requirements mainly are related to specific experience: activities in the field of civil society development. In 2020 and 2021, relevant experience of three years is demanded from those submitting their macro projects. Also the operational reports over the last two years are required.

**Table 2. Project Applicants for the NGO Fund as Defined in the Regulations 2020-2021**

2020	2021
<b>A project may be submitted</b> by an association or foundation registered in the Republic of Latvia which conforms to the requirements specified in the Associations and Foundations Law and the following conditions:	<b>A project may be submitted</b> by an association or foundation registered in the Republic of Latvia which conforms to the requirements specified in the Associations and Foundations Law
It works in the field of civil society development	It works in the field of civil society development
It works in solving major societal problems in the interests of the general public, in achieving national objectives, by promoting public participation	It solves major societal problems, in the interests of the general public, in achieving national objectives, by promoting public participation
It does not act solely in its own interests or in the commercial, professional or political interests of its members; its aim is to act for the benefit of general public by addressing issues related to the well-being of particular groups of population or general public	It does not act solely in its own interests or in the commercial, professional or political interests of its members. The aim of the project applicant is to act for the benefit of general public by addressing issues related to the well-being of particular groups of population or general public
The macro project applicant has submitted operational reports for the period of 2 last years	The macro project applicant has submitted the annual report for the last 2 closed fiscal years
It is independent of the public authorities, political parties or commercial organisations.	The project applicant is independent of the public authorities, political parties or commercial organisations.
<b>A macro project may be submitted</b> by organisations which, at the moment of the project application, have been operating in the area of civil society development for a continuous period of at least the last 3 years and their operation is related to the activities of civil society.	Additional demands for <b>the macro project</b> applicant: at the moment of the project application, the applicant has been operating in the area of civil society development for a continuous period of at least the last 3 years and its operation is related to the activities of civil society.

**Table 3. Non-eligibility of Project Applicants for the NGO Fund (Organisations Which May Not Be Eligible for Co-Financing from The Programme) According to the Definition in the Regulations 2020-2021**

2020	2021
Associations and foundations which do not comply with the conditions referred to in paragraph 2.1.1.	A number of administrative conditions (debts, duplication of funding, etc.).
Employers' organisations and their unions	Employers' organisations and their unions
Trade unions and their associations	Trade unions and their associations
Religious organisations and their institutions	Religious organisations and their institutions
Political parties and their unions	Political parties and their unions
Housing management societies	Housing management societies
Self-operating sports and cultural groups	Amateur sports and cultural groups

The Study “Evaluation of the activities (results and contributions) of the “NGO Fund” programme funded by the State budget” concludes that the defined compliance requirements are unclear and allow interpretation. They do not allow organisations to be selected according to a specific classification (see Chapter 5.1 for more detail), nor do they explicitly allow for the determination of the applicant's conformity (see Chapter 4.4). One of the main concerns is whether the activities of an organisation as a legal entity are relevant (for example, whether professional associations, unions and societies comply with the competition rules) or whether the activities offered by these organisations should be assessed (because a professional association can also offer projects aimed at civil society or public interest). The organisation may not be directly linked to civil society, but to plan activities which are such.

#### **4.6. Assessment of Projects**

The evaluation of project applications takes place in three stages – **conformity, quality and administrative assessment**. Only project applications meeting the conformity criteria were directed to the quality assessment, while only project applications directed for approval were submitted for the administrative assessment.

The first round of the evaluation assessment assessed **the conformity of the project applicant with the regulations of the open call for project proposals**, as well as the conformity of the project application with the objective of the programme. The non-conformity of applicants and the non-conformity of the project application is evaluated. The number of projects rejected under this evaluation criterion has decreased annually, which most likely means that the project applicants have clearly communicated eligibility criteria. The information provided in the Assessment Report of 2020<sup>21</sup> shows that the reasons for the rejection of the macro projects (9 project applications rejected as non-conforming) have been as follows: a non-conforming (insufficient) period of continued operation of a macro project organisation in the field of civil society development, as specified in the competition rules; the organisation unites professionals of a specific sector acting in their professional interests; the organisation's tax debts exceed EUR 150 at the time the project is submitted; non-conformity of the project with the aim defined in the Regulations on the Open Calls for Project

<sup>21</sup> Evaluation of the “NGO Fund” programme financed by the Latvian State budget. Identification No. 2020.LV/NVOF. Riga, 2021



Proposals. Information provided by the SIF shows that the non-compliance of the macro projects rejected in 2021 (5 project applications rejected) is similar. One applicant has not settled the past obligations to the SIF.

The reasons for the non-eligibility of the micro projects (10 project applications rejected as non-conforming) have been as follows: the organisation unites professionals of a specific sector acting in their professional interests; the project does not meet the aim defined by the Programme. The information provided by the SIF shows that the non-conformity of the micro projects rejected in 2021 (3 projects rejected) in this criterion relates to the same reasons: the project applicant represents the interests of its members operating in a specific area or the project does not meet the aim defined by the Programme.

The evaluation of projects on the basis of **quality assessment criteria** is carried out by the members and alternates of the evaluation commission established by the SIF Council, as well as by NGO sector project evaluation experts selected through an open competition.

Project applications were evaluated on the basis of precisely-defined quality assessment criteria with a specific number of points. Methodological guidelines for evaluating project applications and quality criteria assessment forms are developed each year. Maximum points for each criterion and the minimum score to be achieved so that the project meets the quality assessment criteria are determined as well. Since 2019, the specific evaluation criteria have also been determined, and a factor has been added to one criterion, allowing additional subjectivity in this very formal system based on objective parameters.

In 2021, two additional assessment criteria (possibility to assign 2 additional points) have been introduced for evaluation of the macro projects to promote projects active in the field of strengthening NGO advocacy and implementing activities for the cooperation between the NGOs and citizens.

12 projects were recognised as non-complying to the quality criteria (i.e. the project did not receive sufficient minimum score) in 2020, while in 2021 this number increased to 31 projects.

Finally, projects selected for approval are assessed on the basis of **administrative evaluation criteria**. Project applications, which had received the highest score and for which funding was sufficient, were selected for this evaluation stage. The commission recommended rejecting the other project applications for which the funding was insufficient. The identified drawbacks of the project applications are pointed out in the commission decision and must be addressed by the project applicant prior to the conclusion of the project implementation contract. It should be acknowledged that inaccuracies in the project applications (inaccurate names of the units in the budget, there is no clarification on the planned costs, an inaccurate indication of the target groups number, etc.) are not used as a basis for rejecting the project.

In cases where there is a surplus of funding (non-implemented projects or activities, broken contracts, etc.), subsequent projects with the highest number of points are selected for approval.

In the macro project category, insufficient funding is one of the most important reasons for rejection. It is important to emphasise that the situation is unequal between the macro and micro projects. This is influenced by several factors: 1) a larger number of applications in the macro project category; 2) one project in the macro category receives more funding than in the category of micro projects, so fewer projects may be supported; 3) The Fund has determined the proportional distribution of the funding to be allocated to each of the categories (see information in the following section).

Due to insufficient funding, 52 macro projects and only 9 micro projects were rejected in 2020; meanwhile, in 2021, there were 38 rejected macro projects, while all quality projects in the micro project category received the funding.

In general, the proportion of projects rejected (as regards the reasons for rejection) is also unequal between the macro and micro projects. In 2020, 74% of the macro projects and 33% of the micro projects were rejected, while in 2021 61% of the macro projects and 29% of the micro projects did not receive the funding.

**Table 4. Number of the Projects Submitted and Number of the Project Applications Rejected as a Result of the Evaluation in 2020-2021**

Data source: Evaluation of the “NGO Fund” programme financed by the Latvian State budget. Identification No. 2020.LV/NVOF. Riga, 2021, Information provided by SIF

	Macro projects	Micro projects	Totally
Projects submitted in 2020	91	75	166
Projects rejected in 2020	67	25	92
% of the rejected/submitted projects	74%	33%	55%
Conformity assessment	9	10	19
Quality assessment	6	6	12
Due to insufficient funding	52	9	61
Projects submitted in 2021	93	70	163
Projects rejected in 2020	57	20	77
% of the rejected/submitted projects	61%	29%	47%
Conformity assessment	5	3	8
Quality assessment	14	17	31
Due to insufficient funding	38	0	<b>38</b>

#### **4.7. Financing of the NGO Fund**

The NGO Fund is financed from the State Budget. The Conceptual Report “On the Establishment of a State-funded Fund for Non-Governmental Organisations” provides for an annual allocation of at least EUR 700,000 from the State Budget for the NGO Fund. However, the funding allocated by the State by 2019 was smaller. According to the NGO Fund's strategy, funding can be raised also from foreign funds and programmes, and donations from individuals and businesses can also be accepted.

**Table 5. Funding of the NGO Fund Available for the Projects 2016-2021 (in euro)**

Data source: "NGO Fund" programme funded by the State Budget Regulations on the open calls for project proposals; Evaluation reports

Year	Funding, euro
2016	400,000.00
2017	380,000.00
2018	385,696.38
2019	739,330.00
2020	1,097,000.00
2021	1,396,500.00

The total amount of the public budget funding available for projects in 2020 - 2021 has increased significantly as compared to the previous years.

In 2020, the NGO Fund SPC proposed allocating the available funding in proportion of 80%/20% to support the macro and the micro projects. The Fund Council decided on the allocation of the funding to the macro and the micro projects in proportion of 70%/30%, as the role of the Fund is to support the capacity building of new, small and regional NGOs and foster public participation in decision-making processes. The 2021 competition provides for 75% of the funding to be channelled to the macro projects and 25% for the micro projects.

**Table 6. Breakdown of the Funding Available for the Programme in the Call for Project Proposals 2020 (in euro)**

Data source: Evaluation of the "NGO Fund" programme financed by the Latvian State budget. Identification No. 2020.LV/NVOF. Riga, 2021

1,097,000 euro	
For the macro projects (70%)	For the micro projects (30%)
767,900 euro	329,100 euro

**Table 7. Breakdown of the Funding Available for the Programme in the Call for Project Proposals 2021 (in euro)**

Data source: Evaluation of the "NGO Fund" programme financed by the Latvian State budget. Regulations on the open calls for project proposals. Identification No. 2021.LV/NVOF

1,396,500 euro	
For the macro projects (75%)	For the micro projects (25%)
1,047,375	349,125

## 4.8. The Supported Activities

The NGO Fund's Regulations on the open call for project proposals set out **the activities to be supported**: different for projects to be implemented in different areas of activities (ideological, political or religious events and events financed under other projects are not supported), **the amount of funding per project** (both minimum and maximum thresholds – see Table) and **the eligibility of costs** – the eligible costs, restrictions for particular budget categories and ineligible costs. One of the key principles: the costs should be in line with the planned activities. In general, the NGO Fund allows different categories of costs: project personnel costs; costs of lecturers, consultants and experts; transport; business travel; room rental; purchase of services and consumer goods; costs of purchasing inventory. It is essential that the administrative costs of the project are also covered – in 2016, 10% and, in 2017 - 2019, 20% rate (indirect costs); in 2020, a limit of 20% (of the total eligible costs

of the project) for projects submitted under the “Support for NGO Civil Society Activities” and/or “Strengthening Cooperation Between NGOs”. While for the activities in the area of “Strengthening NGO Activities” and “Strengthening NGO Advocacy” this limit may be exceeded. The cost of purchasing inventory and purchasing fixed assets from the total eligible costs is limited: it may not exceed 20%.

Since 2020, the rules have been simplified, accounting for only a few limits but not for specific budget categories.

In general, it should be concluded that the eligible costs are different and not very limited, provided they relate to the project activities.

It is essential that such cost categories as project personnel costs, administrative costs, purchase of fixed assets, rental of premises, etc. are aimed at strengthening the administrative capacity of NGOs. It should be noted that these categories of costs are rarely financed in other open calls for project proposals.

**Table 8. Eligibility of the Costs of the Open Calls for Project Proposals for NGO Fund: Eligible Costs According to the Regulations on Open Calls for Project Proposals**

2020	2021
Business trip costs up to 10% of the total eligible costs of the project	Costs abroad may not exceed 10% of the total eligible costs of the project
For area of activity “Support for NGO civil society activities” and/or “Strengthening cooperation between NGOs” the administrative costs of the project up to 20% of the total eligible costs of the project. These costs may be higher in case the area of activity is “Strengthening NGO activities” and/or “Strengthening NGO advocacy”	For area of activity “Support for NGO civil society activities” and/or “Strengthening cooperation between NGOs” the administrative costs of the project up to 20% of the total eligible costs of the project. These costs may be higher in case the area of activity is “Strengthening NGO activities” and/or “Strengthening NGO advocacy”
Cost of purchasing fixed assets up to 10% of the total eligible costs of the project	The total costs of purchasing inventory necessary for the implementation of project activities or capacity building of an organisation and the costs of purchasing fixed assets may not exceed 20% of the total eligible costs of the project.
VAT if it is not recoverable from the State budget	VAT if it is not recoverable from the State budget

This is also supported by data from the 2016 - 2018 assessment: data on the structure of the spending of funds in the projects implemented in 2016 - 2018 show that the programme strengthens the capacity of the NGO sector: 61% of the programme's funding consists of the remuneration for the project implementation personnel, but together with the administrative costs of the projects based on the remuneration for the project manager and/or the accountant, 74% of the funding is spent on the remuneration of the staff in the NGO sector.<sup>22</sup>

#### **4.9. The Submitted and Implemented Projects**

During the period of 2016 - 2021, the SIF Secretariat launched six open project application contests in the framework of the “NGO Fund” programme financed by the Latvian State budget on the [www.sif.gov.lv](http://www.sif.gov.lv) website.

<sup>22</sup> Evaluation of the “NGO Fund” programme financed by the State budget, 2016–2018

During the period up to the submission of projects, the SIF accordingly announced and organised workshops on the preparation of project applications.

In 2020 and 2021 each project applicant could submit no more than one project application within the scope of the open call for project proposals. Such a decision was taken so that the maximum possible number of organisations could benefit from this programme. The project implementation period could not exceed ten months (from 1 January to 31 October). It is essential that the 2021 tender was launched in a more timely manner, already at the end of 2020, and that the eligibility period for the costs of the project was extended from 1 January 2021 to 20 November 2021. All project activities have to be completed by 20 November 2021.

In 2020, it was decided to return to the breakdown between the micro and macro projects by defining such a breakdown for the whole competition, not only for a separate direction, as well as a simplification of the application form and the administration mechanism. One of the objectives is to carry out a more appropriate assessment of projects in this way, comparing projects of equivalent size. Another objective is to strengthen the small local NGOs.

**Table 9. Programme Funding Available for One Project (Min/Max Threshold, euro)**

Data source: "NGO Fund" programme funded by the State Budget Regulations on the open calls for project proposals

		2020	2021
1.	Strengthening NGO Activities		
	micro projects	1 tk / 7 tk	2 tk / 7 tk
	macro projects	7 tk / 40 tk	7 tk / 30 tk
2.	Support for NGO Civil Society Activities		
	micro projects	1 tk / 7 tk	2 tk / 7 tk
	macro projects	7 tk / 40 tk	7 tk / 30 tk
3.	Strengthening Cooperation Between NGOs		
	micro projects	1 tk / 7 tk	2 tk / 7 tk
	macro projects	7 tk / 40 tk	7 tk / 30 tk
4.	Strengthening NGO Advocacy		
	micro projects	1 tk / 7 tk	2 tk / 7 tk
	macro projects	7 tk / 40 tk	7 tk / 30 tk

In 2020, 166 applications were received and 71 contracts were concluded, while in 2021 there were 163 applications and 89 contracts were concluded. As compared with 2019, the number has nearly doubled. A substantial increase in funding, as well as changing the conditions of the project competition and a higher contribution to the promotion of the competition, were probably the main reasons for the increased number of applications in 2020. The total amount of funding requested in 2020 project competition was EUR 3,411,773.21, which exceeded the funding available for the projects under the Programme by 3.11 times. In the macro project group, the funding requested in the project applications exceeded the available funding by 3.82 times, and in the micro project group – by 1.45 times. In 2021, the projects for a total amount of EUR 3,077,128.43 were submitted, which exceeded the available funding by 2.2 times. In the macro project group, the funding requested

in the project applications was 2.49 times larger than the available funding, and 1.36 times larger than the available funding in the micro project group. This data once again shows the uneven competition between the two project categories.

**Table 10. Number of the Applications Received, Contracts Concluded and Projects Implemented During the Open Calls for Project Proposals of the Programme, 2016 – 2021**

Data source: State Budget funded programme “NGO Fund” Assessment Reports; Evaluation Reports; information provided by the SIF

\* At the time this report was drawn up, the implementation of the projects had not yet been completed. \*\* The percentage is calculated from the number of the contracts concluded.

Year	Applications received	Contracts concluded	Projects implemented	Proportion of implemented projects to applications
2016	261	66	63	24%
2017	149	42	42	28%
2018	102	31	31	30%
2019	80	49	48	60%
2020	166	71	70	42%
2021	163	89	n/a*	55%**

**Table 11. Funding Requested and Funding Received in the Open Calls for Project Proposals of the Programme (Contracts Concluded<sup>23</sup>), 2016 – 2021 (euro)**

\* Assigned funding

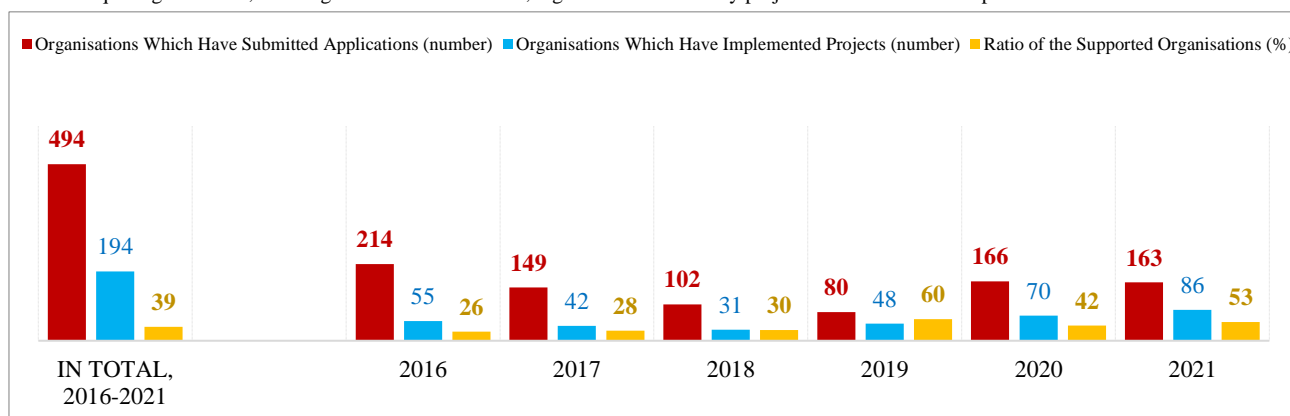
Year	Funding requested	Contracts concluded	Allocated ratio to requested
2016	1 720 326,55	389 784,91	23%
2017	1 469 231,11	388 473,96	26%
2018	1 295 397,42	385 682,16	30%
2019	1 220 997,35	736 641,8	60%
2020	3 411 773,21	1 097 000	32%
2021	3 077 128,43	1 396 500,00*	45%

Over the period of 2016 - 2021, 429 unique organisations have submitted their project applications and 153 unique organisations have implemented their projects, resulting in 36% of the applying organisations supported. The figures vary from year to year: 26% - 28% of the submitting organisations have been supported in 2016 - 2017, 42% in 2020 and 60% in 2019.

**Chart 6. Number of The Unique Organisations Submitting Their Applications and Implementing Their Projects in Total and by Year**

Data source: Analysis of the content of the programme projects (submitted and implemented).

Note: unique organisations; each organisation is listed once, regardless of how many projects it has submitted/implemented.



<sup>23</sup> The amount may change when the project is finished, as all the funds allocated are not spent, and in certain cases the contract is terminated.

#### 4.10. NGO Sector's Assessment on the Functioning of the NGO Fund

The NGO sector survey included the question about the extent to which representatives of organisations have been **informed about the “NGO Fund” programme**. These data make it possible to assess the awareness of both the target groups submitting and non-submitting projects. In general, **29% of the NGO sector estimate that they are well informed about the programme, while 55% – that they are poorly informed, including 29% that have not been informed at all.**

Overall, it shows low sector awareness of this programme. In addition, the proportion of the informed organisations that have never submitted projects within the programme is only 7%, while 81% say they are poorly informed, including 45% that have not been informed at all. Interestingly, even among the organisations having submitted their projects within the programme, 28% of them say that they are poorly informed, including 9% that are not informed at all. Although, as compared to the 2020 survey, the data show a slight improvement in awareness (24% were well-informed in the 2020 survey), overall, it is still rather low in the NGO sector as a whole. It should be stressed that not all organisations are relevant to the NGO Fund's target group, therefore **awareness should be analysed among the target groups which could potentially submit projects to the NGO Fund competition.**

**Although the awareness of organisations generally meeting the conditions of the NGO Fund's target group is slightly higher (34% say they are well-informed, 15% have medium awareness, 51% - weak) than in the NGO sector as a whole, the awareness assessment is not high either in this aspect.** As regards the area of activity, **organisations working in the field of the rule of law and defence of interests (58% are well-informed), philanthropy and volunteering (46%), environmental and animal protection (42%), social support activities (42%), and youth organisations (39%) are relatively better informed. There is lower awareness in the areas of research and education (29%), culture (27%) and health (25%).**

It is understandable that **awareness is higher among those organisations which themselves have submitted projects for the competition.** In addition, awareness of the project applicants has been increasing year by year: if in the period of 2016 - 2018 57% of the project applicants mentioned that they have been well informed, then these were already 63% in 2019 and 68% and 71% respectively in 2020 and 2021. At the same time, it should be pointed out that **in the target group of organisations interested in submitting projects for the “NGO Fund” programme, only 35% consider that they are well informed (49% say they are poorly informed).**

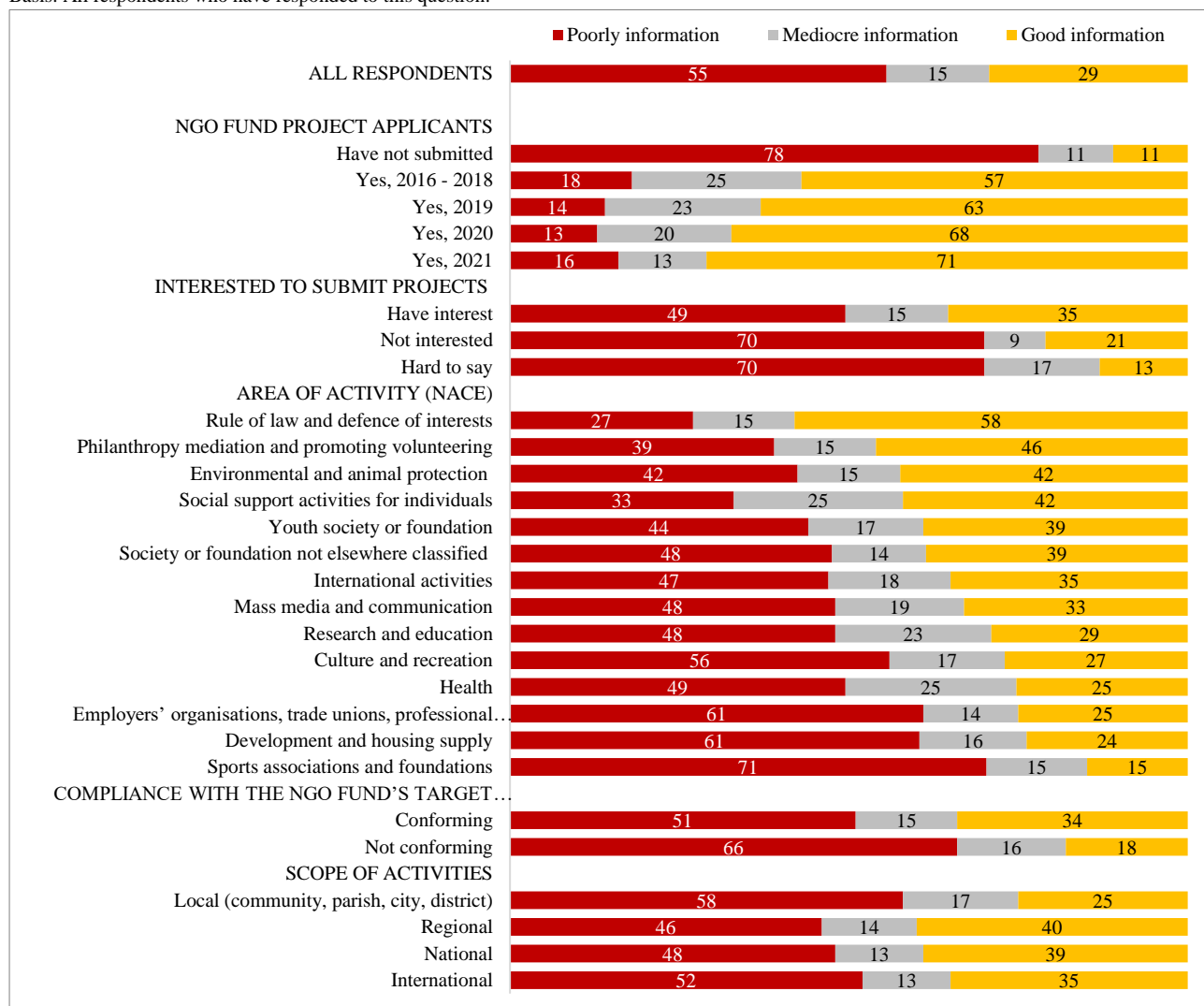
In general, these data show that **awareness should be evaluated as medium among the target group of the “NGO Fund” programme** and remains low in certain areas where the potential project applicants could be found (particularly among organisations operating locally).

**Chart 7. Awareness of the “NGO Fund” Programme (%)**

Data source: Survey of the NGO sector

Q9. To what extent have you (as a representative of your organisation) been informed about the “NGO Fund” programme financed by the State budget of Latvia, administered by the Society Integration Foundation (SIF)?

Basis: All respondents who have responded to this question.



The questionnaire also included the question about the interest of organisations in submitting projects to the programme in the coming years. Overall, **68% of the organisations claimed that they would be interested in submitting projects** and only 13% would not be interested (in 2020, the sector's interest was similar, with a total of 71% interested organisations). The data show that there is a higher interest among those who already have experience in submitting projects (particularly over the last 3 years). However, more than half (56%) of organisations **that have not submitted any project applications to this Fund so far would be interested in doing so in the future.**

**Youth organisations (93%) and those active in the area of the rule of law and defence of interests (87%) are the most interested ones.** It should be noted that there is also a high interest in areas which do not currently

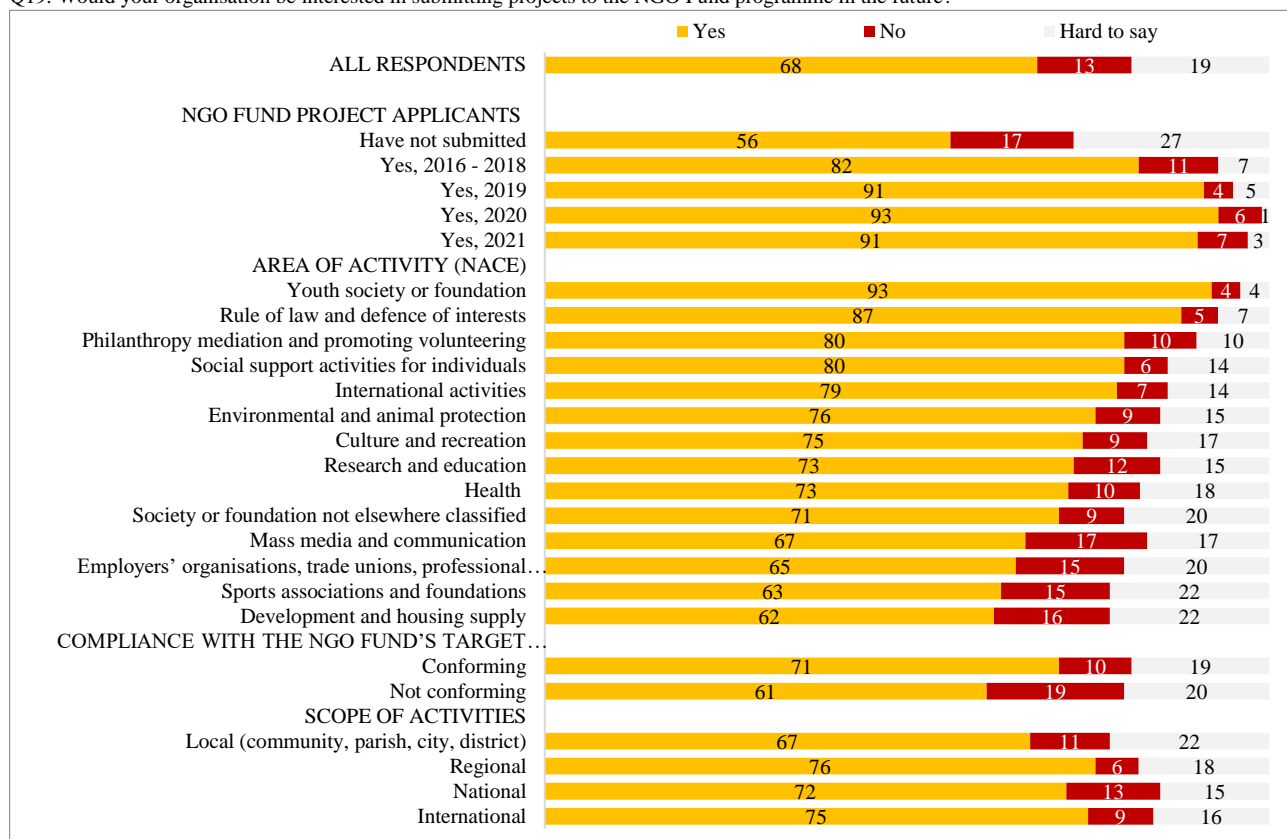


qualify according to the requirements of the project competition regulations: in general, 61% of such organisations would be interested in participation.

**Chart 8. Interest of The NGO Sector in Submitting Projects Under The “NGO Fund” Programme (%)**

Data source: Survey of the NGO sector.

Q19. Would your organisation be interested in submitting projects to the NGO Fund programme in the future?



Those who assessed that they were not interested in submitting projects to the programme were asked to clarify the reasons. The most frequent response indicated by the organisations was that **the activities to be supported in the competition for projects are not in line with the intentions of organisations** (27%) and that **the organisations themselves do not qualify for the open call regulations** (22%). However, it is noted that the frequency of referring to these answers has decreased significantly as compared to the previous year's survey. More often this year, there has been **a lack of human resources**: 17% of organisations mentioned this as a reason in 2020, while the figure increased to 21% this year. Simultaneously, **the lack of time** as a reason has been mentioned less frequently (a sharp decrease from 22% in the previous year to 8% in this year).

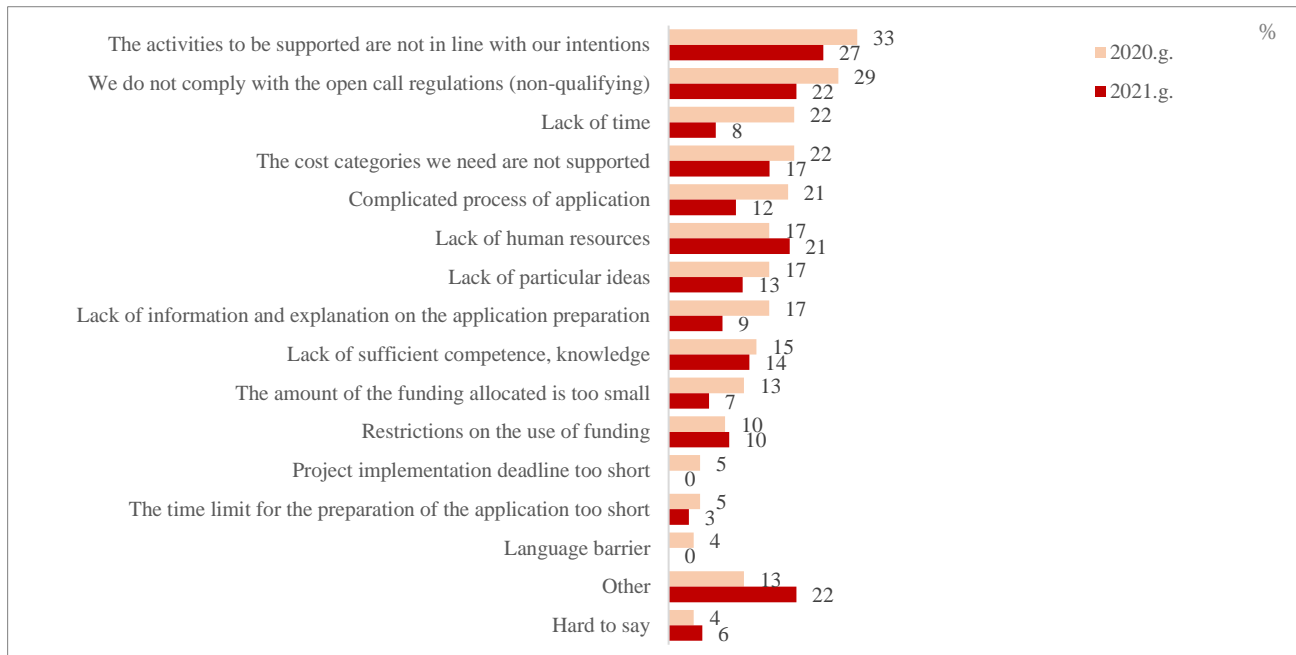
It should be noted that **the frequency of referrals has also decreased for a number of other important aspects**: if 21% and 17% of organisations mentioned such problems as complicated procedure of applications and lack of information in 2020, the frequency of referrals has decreased to 12% and 9% respectively this year. It shows the success of the improvements made in the project competition procedure (availability of information, application procedures, application forms).

**Chart 9. Reasons for Non-Interest in Submitting Projects Under The “NGO Fund” Programme (%)**

Data source: Survey of the NGO sector.

Q20. Why would your organisation not be interested in submitting projects to the “NGO Fund” programme?

Note: % of those who are not interested in submitting projects.



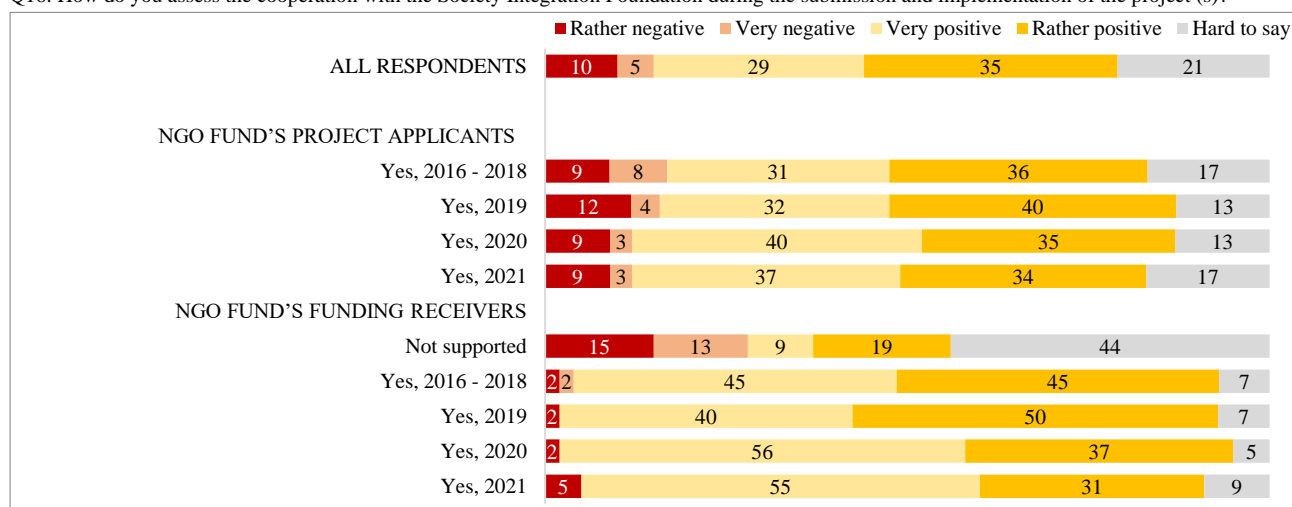
The organisations which had submitted projects in the programme were requested to assess **cooperation with the Society Integration Foundation during the submission and implementation of projects**. Overall, 64% have given positive assessments while 16% - critical. Obviously, more positive assessments have been provided by those organisations that have received support and funding in the project competitions. At the same time, it should be noted that the assessment of cooperation with the SIF provided by the organisations which submitted projects in the project competition 2021 has slightly decreased as compared to the previous year 2020. **If in 2020 93% of those who had received funding provided positive assessment as regards cooperation, this figure has fallen to 85% in 2021.**

Those who had provided critical assessments on collaboration were also asked to state the reasons for that. The majority of those with critical assessments believe that there is too much bureaucracy in the competition for NGO Fund projects, and the reporting procedure at the end of the projects is too complicated.

**Chart 10. Assessment of The Project Applicants On the Cooperation with The Society Integration Foundation (%)**

Data source: Survey of the NGO sector.

Q16. How do you assess the cooperation with the Society Integration Foundation during the submission and implementation of the project (s)?



The project applicants also assessed various aspects of the “NGO Fund” Programme. **50% or half of the project applicants have positively assessed the programme**, 9% - negative, 13% - mediocre, **while 28% have not been able to provide specific assessment**. Such aspects as **the procedures for submitting projects** (50% positive assessments), the availability, responsiveness and support of the SIF employees (49%), availability of information on the “NGO Fund” programme (47%), information on the “NGO Fund” programme available on the SIF website (45%) and the project application forms (45%) have been evaluated as highly positive. Comparatively rarely positive assessments have been given as regards the clarity and soundness of the project assessments (34%). However, it should be stressed that, in this case, there is a higher proportion of those who have not been able to provide specific assessment (32%) as compared to the proportion of the critical assessments in general. Mainly these data show that **the project applicants positively assess the availability of information and support and the competition procedures in general, but less frequently give positive assessments on the project evaluation procedures and criteria**. This, in turn, **should be linked to insufficient awareness rather than critical attitude**.

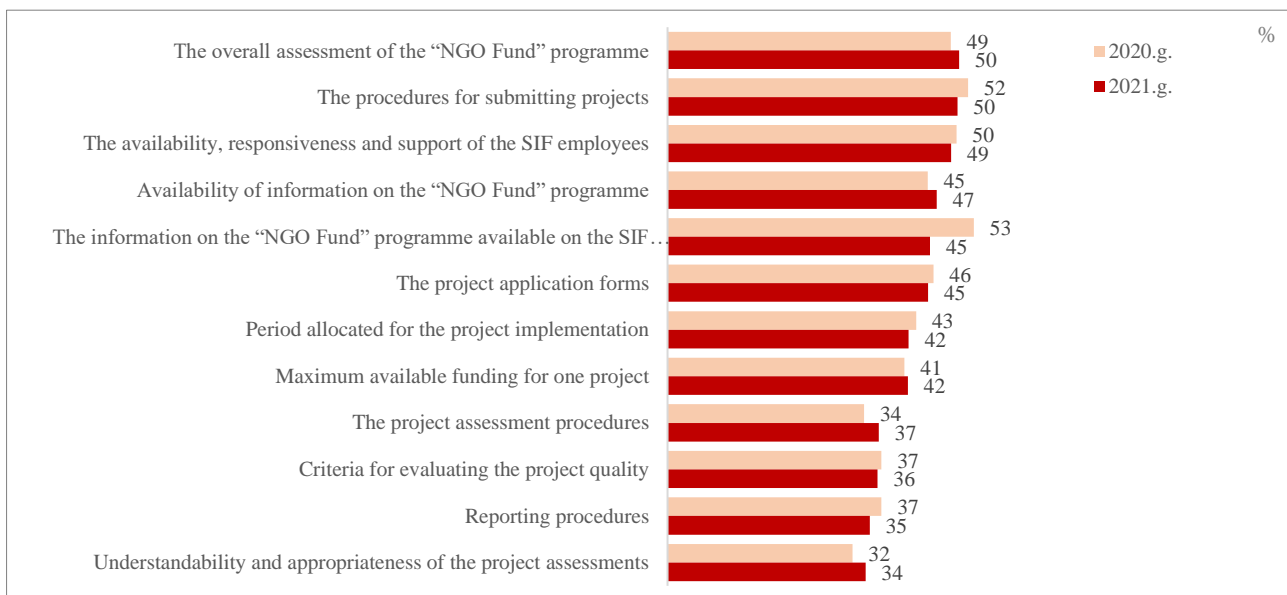
When analysing the differences in assessments, depending on the year of applying for the project competition, **the assessments on the following aspects have consistently increased throughout the period**: the project application forms (from 59% positive ratings in 2016 - 2018 to 69% in 2021), availability, responsiveness and support from the SIF employees, (from 62% to 76% respectively), period for the project implementation (from 55% to 62%). The other aspects of the questionnaire have been assessed varyingly.

**Chart 11. Assessment of Various Aspects of the “NGO Fund” Programme by the Project Applicants (%)**

Data source: Survey of the NGO sector.

Q18. Please assess the “NGO Fund” programme in the following aspects:

Note: The Chart shows the percentage of 5+ 4 responses on the scale from 1 (Very bad) to 5 (Very good).



## 5. DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS OF “NGO FUND” PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

This and the following chapters describe and analyse the results of the “NGO Fund” Programme for 2021 and 2020 (broken down by macro and micro projects). A more comprehensive and full analysis of the Programme's performance and the results achieved during the period of 2016 - 2020 is available in the report prepared in 2020 “Evaluation of the activities (results and contributions) of the “NGO Fund” Programme funded by the State budget”<sup>24</sup>. In some cases, where this is of fundamental contextual importance, this report provides a comparison also with the results achieved in previous years of the Programme implementation.

### 5.1. Target Group of the Programme: Characteristics of the Project Applicants and Implementing Bodies

**The definition of the target group of the “NGO Fund” Programme and the restrictions on its interpretation** are dealt with in Chapter 5.3 (and in more detail in the evaluation of 2020). This chapter provides a statistical and sociological description of the involvement of the NGO sector in the project calls of the Programme, describing project applicants and implementers in terms of their experience, area of activities, regularity of operation and other aspects.

To assess the impact of the Programme on the overall NGO sector is important to evaluate **the overall number of target groups (associations and foundations) that could potentially apply for the Programme funding**. It is not possible to obtain a reliable estimate of this number at this time<sup>25</sup>, but, as indicated in Chapter 4.2, there are reasonable grounds for believing that **around 1 thousand organisations are active in the field of civil society**. In relation to this number, the target group reached by the “NGO Fund” Programme could also be assessed.

Over the period 2016 - 2021, together, 494 unique organisations **have submitted their project applications** for the Programme, i.e. **49% organisations** - the potential project applicants identified in the calculation. Furthermore, **194 unique organisations, i.e. 19% have received funding and implemented their projects**.

It should be stressed that **the number of unique organisations supported over the last three years has increased progressively and significantly**, with projects of 31 organisation supported in 2018, 48 in 2019 and

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<sup>24</sup> Evaluation Report “Evaluation of the activities (results and contributions) of the “NGO Fund” Programme funded by the State budget”. The Association of Persons from the Latvian Academy of Culture and “Laboratory of Analytical and Strategic Studies” Ltd., 2020. Available: [https://www.sif.gov.lv/sites/sif/files/media\\_file/NVO\\_fonds\\_Izv%C4%93rt%C4%93jumsLKALAB\\_2020\\_LAT\\_1.pdf](https://www.sif.gov.lv/sites/sif/files/media_file/NVO_fonds_Izv%C4%93rt%C4%93jumsLKALAB_2020_LAT_1.pdf)

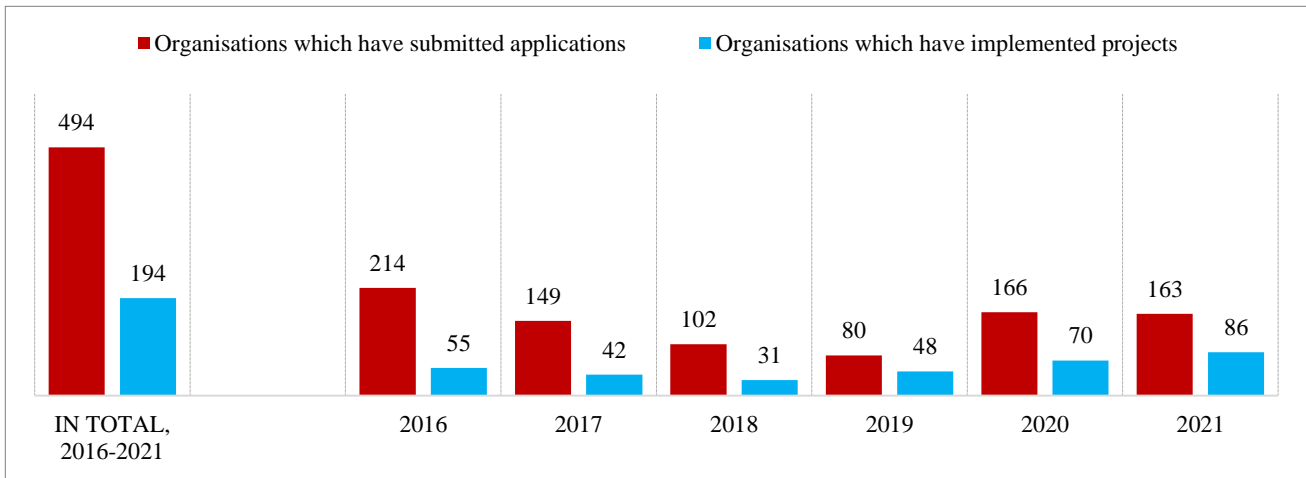
<sup>25</sup> For a detailed analysis see Chapter 6.1 of the Evaluation Report 2020

already 70 in 2021. This means that **funding gradually reaches a wider range of organisations and is not distributed only among particular organisations.**

This is also illustrated by an estimate of how many organisations that have carried out projects over the last 6 years have been supported in the project competitions several times. Out of 194 organisations that have received support for their projects over a six-year period, **124 have been supported only once (64%), while 70 have been supported several times (36% of all).** 6 organisations have received support 6 times, 7 organisations - 5 times, 6 organisations - 4 times, while 51 organisations - 2 or 3 times.

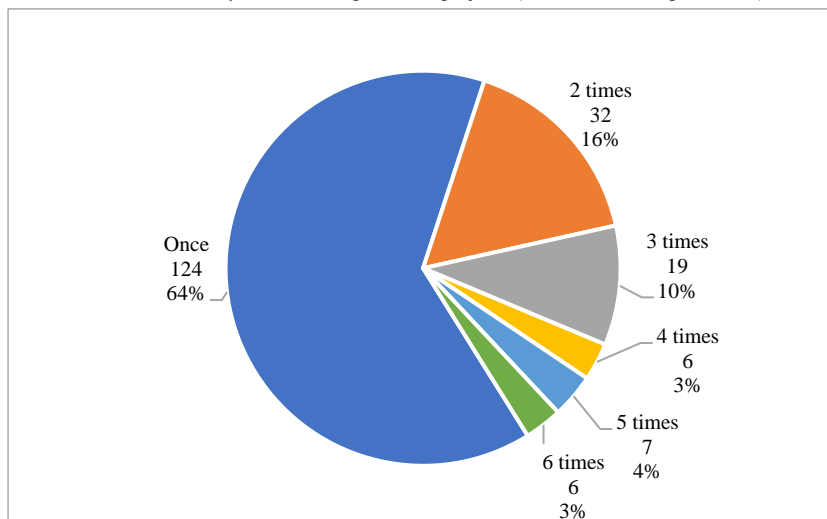
**Chart 12. Number of the Unique Organisations Having Submitted Their Applications to the Programme and Implemented Their Projects: in Total and by Year**

Data source: Content analysis of the Programme’s projects (submitted and implemented)  
 Note: Unique organisations - each organisation is listed once, no matter how many projects it has submitted/implemented



**Chart 13. Number of the Unique Organisations Which Have Implemented Their Projects Under the Programme by the Number of the Projects Supported from 2016 to 2021, in Total (number, %)**

Data source: Content analysis of the Programme’s projects (submitted and implemented)



**In 2020 – 2021, the project applications have been submitted by a total of 252 unique organisations** (166 in 2020, 163 in 2021). The projects have been implemented by 124 unique organisations (70 in 2020, 86 in 2021). Over the two-year period, a total of 138 unique organisations have requested funding for their macro projects, and 43 of them have implemented their projects (31%). 129 unique organisations have applied for funding for their micro projects and 84 (65%) have received support. This shows **a significantly larger rivalry during the competition for macro projects' funding.**

*Table 2. Number of the Unique Organisations Having Submitted Their Applications to the Programme and Implemented Their Projects in 2020 – 2021: by the Project Types*

Data source: Content analysis of the Programme's projects (submitted and implemented)

Note: unique organisations: each organisation is listed once, regardless of how many projects it has submitted/implemented

MAC – macro projects, MIC – micro projects

	2020	2021	IN TOTAL
<b>Organisations which have submitted applications</b>			
<b>IN TOTAL</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>252</b>
MAC	91	93	138
MIC	75	70	129
<b>Organisations which have implemented projects</b>			
<b>IN TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>124</b>
MAC	24	36	43
MIC	46	50	84

In the content analysis of the projects implemented within the framework of the Programme, the conformity of each organisation with the areas of activities defined in the Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 779 "Regulations on the Classification of Associations and Foundations"<sup>26</sup> was identified. It should be stressed that in the project application each organisation indicates its declared area of activity as registered in the Enterprise Register. However, in most cases it is not a specific area, but a classification code "Other". Therefore, an additional analysis was carried out in the framework of the evaluation to determine which is the area the organisation's activities (regardless of its formally declared). The above-mentioned situation shows that **the current system for classifying the areas of organisations' activities does not allow for a full analysis of their activities on a thematic basis (and consequently it cannot be used to define the compliance or non-compliance of organisations with the target group of the Programme).**

**The majority** of the organisations which have implemented their projects in 2021 represent the field of **community and neighbourhood development activities** (25 organisations from 86, 29%). **18 of them have implemented micro projects**, 7 - macro projects. Also in 2020, the community and neighbourhood organisations were the largest part (18 projects out of 70, 26%). However, **in 2021, there are more community**

<sup>26</sup> Regulations No. 779 of the Cabinet of Ministers of 22 December 2015, "Classification Regulations for Associations and Foundations": <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/278848>

**and neighbourhood organisations also in the field of macro projects:** only 2 organisations of this field implemented the macro projects in 2020, while already 7 of them - in 2021.

Both in 2021 and 2020, **also organisations operating in the fields of social protection, defence of interests, public health and health education have been relatively widely represented.**

When comparing the areas of activities of the organisations which have implemented projects in 2020 and 2021, there has been **a slight increase in social protection representation in 2021** (7 organisations in 2020, 13 organisations in 2021), as well as a significant increase in the number of organisations whose scope cannot be classified according to NACE codes (category “other”). At the same time, **the representation of youth societies has declined:** in 2020, 10 societies of this field were implemented their projects, while only 5 in 2021 (it should be noted that a total of 19 youth associations had implemented their projects during the period of 2016 - 2020).

It should be stressed that **overall, in 2021, the project implementers represented 27, and in 2020 - 22 different areas of activity, showing a wide variety of areas covered by the Programme.**

*Table 3. Areas of Activities of the Organisations Having Implemented Projects under the Programme (Number of Organisations), 10 most frequent in 2020 and 2021*

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme

Notes: MAC – macro projects, MIC – micro projects; for the full table, see the Annex (Additional Table 1)

	2020			2021		
	IN TOTAL	MAC	MIC	IN TOTAL	MAC	MIC
<b>Organisations which have implemented projects, IN TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>50</b>
Community and neighbourhood development (88.99)	18	2	16	25	7	18
Social protection (88.99)	7	4	3	13	7	6
Activities of advocacy organisations (94.99)	12	9	3	12	9	3
Public health and health education (88.99)	8	1	7	11	5	6
Association or foundation not elsewhere classified (94.99)	0	0	0	9	2	7
Protection of civil rights and human rights (94.99)	4	4	0	7	7	0
Youth society or foundation (94.99)	10	2	8	5	3	2
Support for families and children (88.99)	6	3	3	5	4	1
Other culture related activities (94.99)	2	1	1	5	3	2
Environmental protection (94.99)	1	1	0	4	4	0
Education (85.59)	2	1	1	3	1	2
Gender equality (94.99)	3	1	2	2	1	1

The data of the survey on the NGO sector carried out within the framework of this evaluation also provide some **more information on what type of organisations have implemented projects in the Programme.** The analysis of the profile of organisations that have benefited from funding in the Programme (funding acquired through any competition in the period of 2016 – 2021) shows that **organisations with regular daily activities have been supported more frequently** (30 % of such organisations have received support in the Programme), as well as **organisations which have been planning their activities for more than three years ahead** (34 % of them have received support) and **those with large experience in project implementation** (43 %). It is also



noted that organisations with 3 or more employees involving volunteers are more likely to receive the financial support.

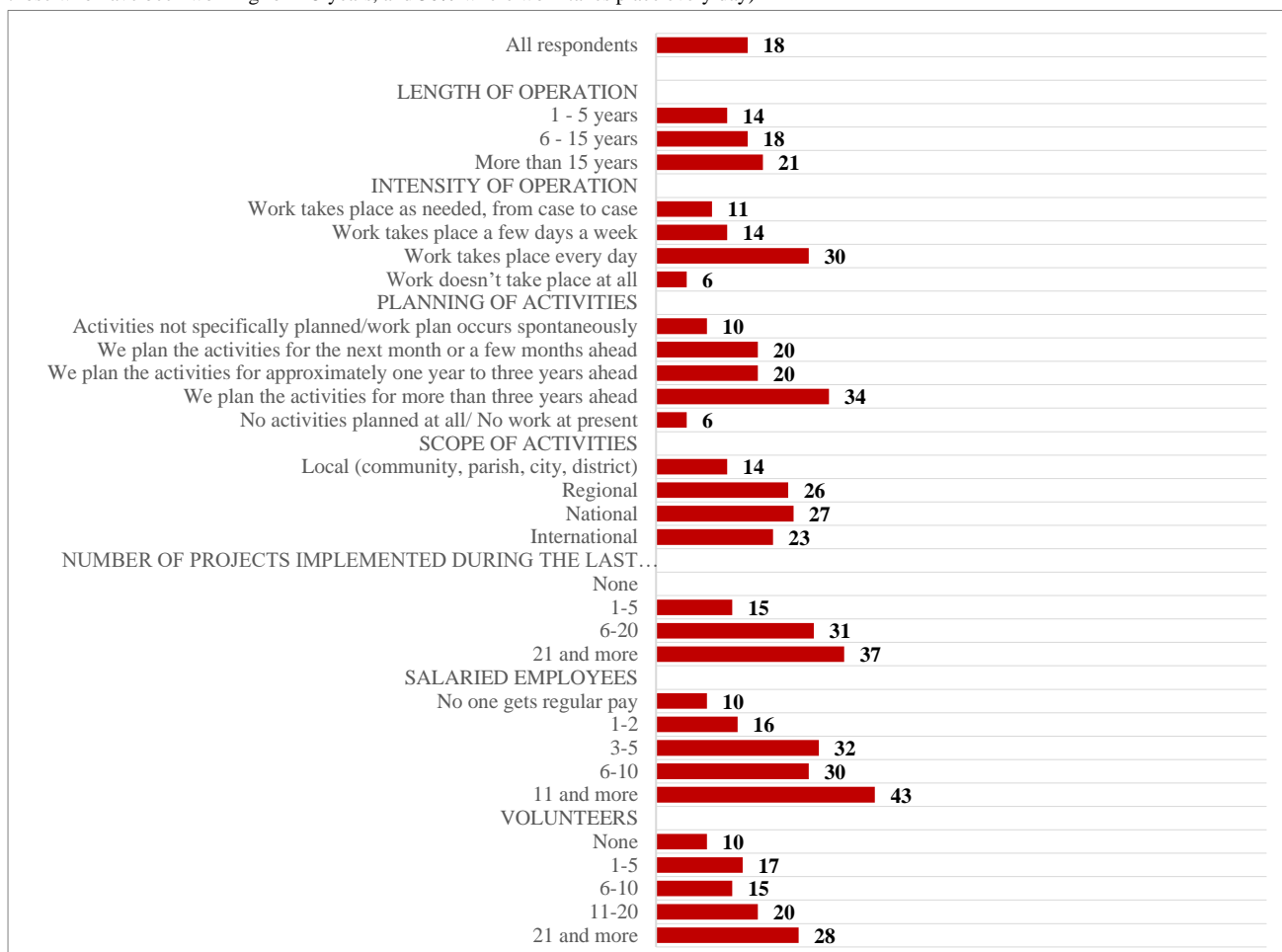
At the same time, it is essential that **the funding has been received equally by organisations operating on different scopes**: on the local, regional, national and international scale. Data also show that organisations of different duration of operation have been supported, both new ones established over the last 5 years and long-term workers. In general, these data show that **the “NGO Fund” Programme makes a significant contribution to the development of sustainable and active organisations**, irrespective of their scale. However, less frequently supported are those with non-regular operation where activities are not planned at least in the short term.

**Chart 14. Characteristics of Organisations Having Acquired Funding by the “NGO Fund” Programme (%)**

Data source: survey of the NGO sector.

Q13. Do you have obtained funding in the project calls (2016 – 2021) by the “NGO Fund” Programme financed by the Latvian State budget?

Example of reading data: 18% of all organisations surveyed have received Programme funding; 14% of organisations active for 1-5 years have received support under the Programme; 30% of the organisations in which the work takes place on a daily basis (not 14% of all who have received support, are those who have been working for 1-5 years, and 30% where work takes place every day)



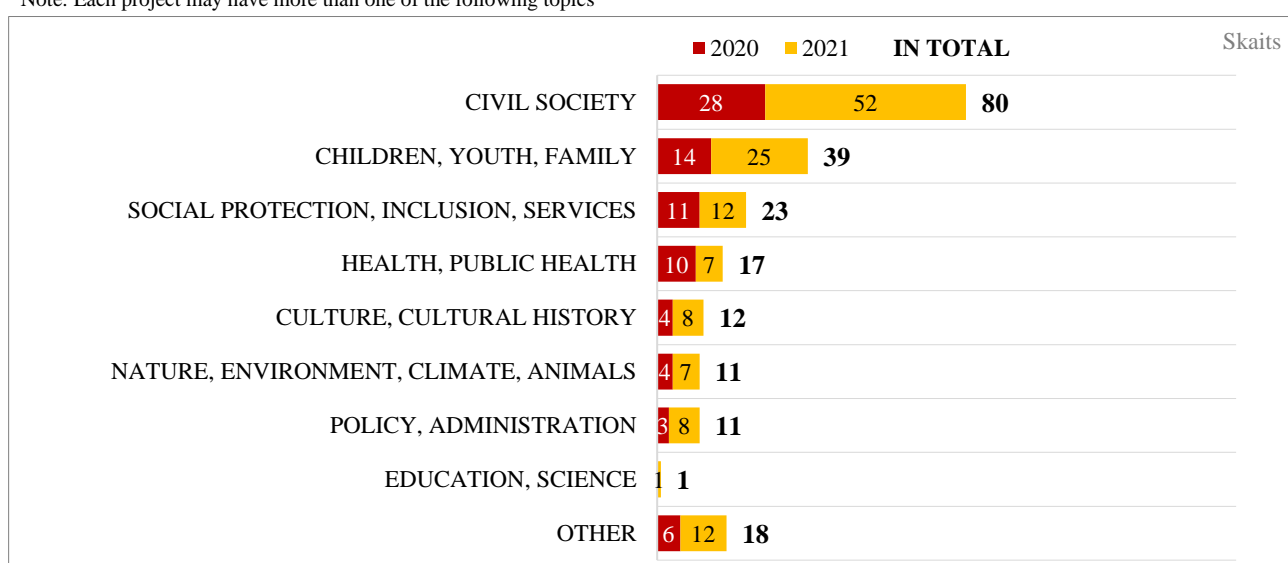
## 5.2. Topics Covered by Projects

The content analysis of the project reports carried out in the framework of this evaluation shows that **156 projects carried out during the period 2020 - 2021 have been most frequently focused on topics and challenges affecting the development of civil society** (80 projects, 51 % of projects on this subject), **children, young people and families** (39 projects, 25 %), **social protection, inclusion and services** (23 projects, 15 %), as well as **health and public health** (17 projects, 11%). The majority of projects carried out in the field of civil society shows that **the activities of the NGO Fund have been targeted towards achieving the goal – sustainable development of civil society in Latvia.**

*Chart 15. Topics of the Projects Implemented from 2020 – 2021 (Number of the Projects), Projects Clustered by Topics*

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the “NGO Fund” Programme

Note: Each project may have more than one of the following topics



By analysing the content of projects in detail, the most frequent topics of the projects have been identified: **promoting civil participation and activity (by directly involving the population)** (39 projects, 25 %), **fostering the local community development** (25 projects, 16%), **fostering the local community youth participation** (24 projects, 15 %), **ensuring the activities and development of a particular organisation**<sup>27</sup> (17 projects, 11 %).

Less popular, but also relatively frequent are projects that focus on: capacity building of regional NGOs (14 projects, 9%), promotion of civic engagement, fostering activity (indirectly) (13 projects, 8%), development of volunteering (11 projects, 7%), improvement of policy quality at national level (11 projects, 7%), promotion of nature protection (10 projects, 6%).

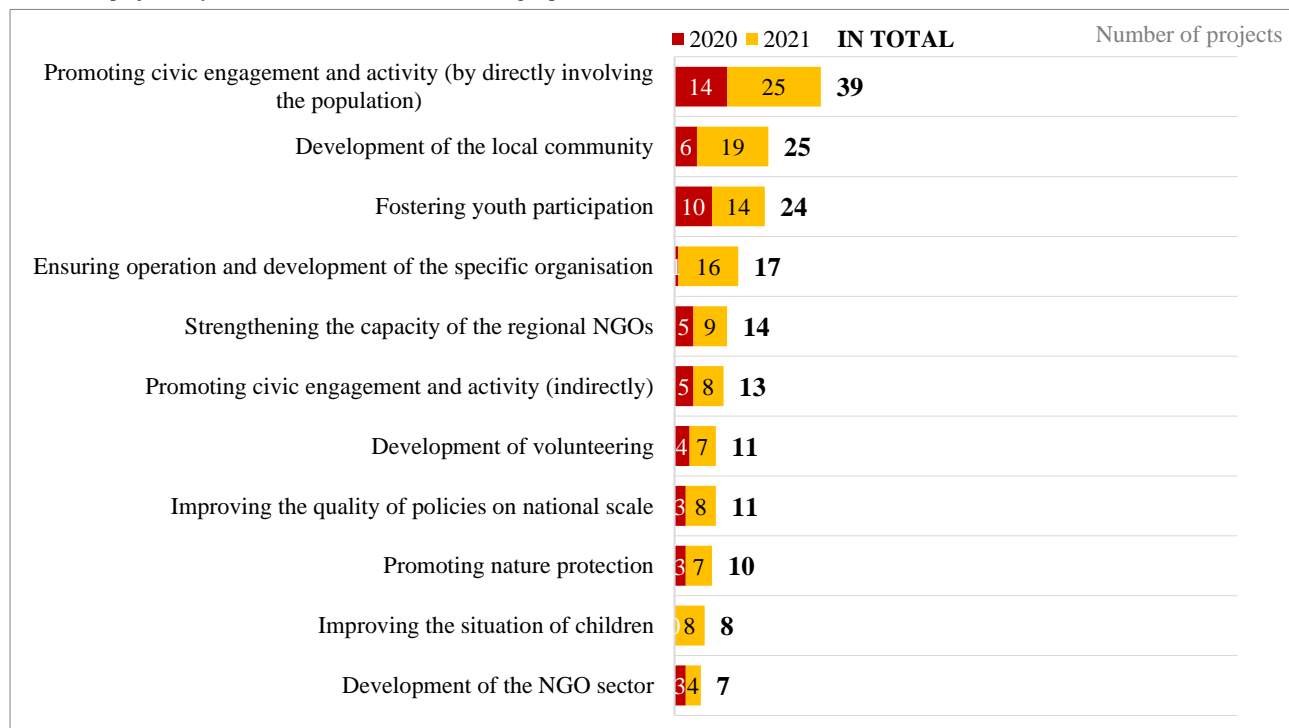
<sup>27</sup> This topic was considered as the main one in cases where there were no other topics and activities in the particular project; these are projects focused entirely on ensuring the functioning of the organisation concerned, without additional activities involving other target groups.

As compared to the projects implemented from 2016 - 2019, **the share of the projects focused on population involvement, activities of different target groups, including the development of local communities, has increased** over the last two years. In turn, the share of the projects focused solely on the activities of the organisations themselves has decreased.

**Chart 16. Topics of the Projects Implemented in 2020 - 2022 (Number of Projects): Top 10 Most Frequent Topics by Year**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme

Note: Each project may have more than one of the following topics

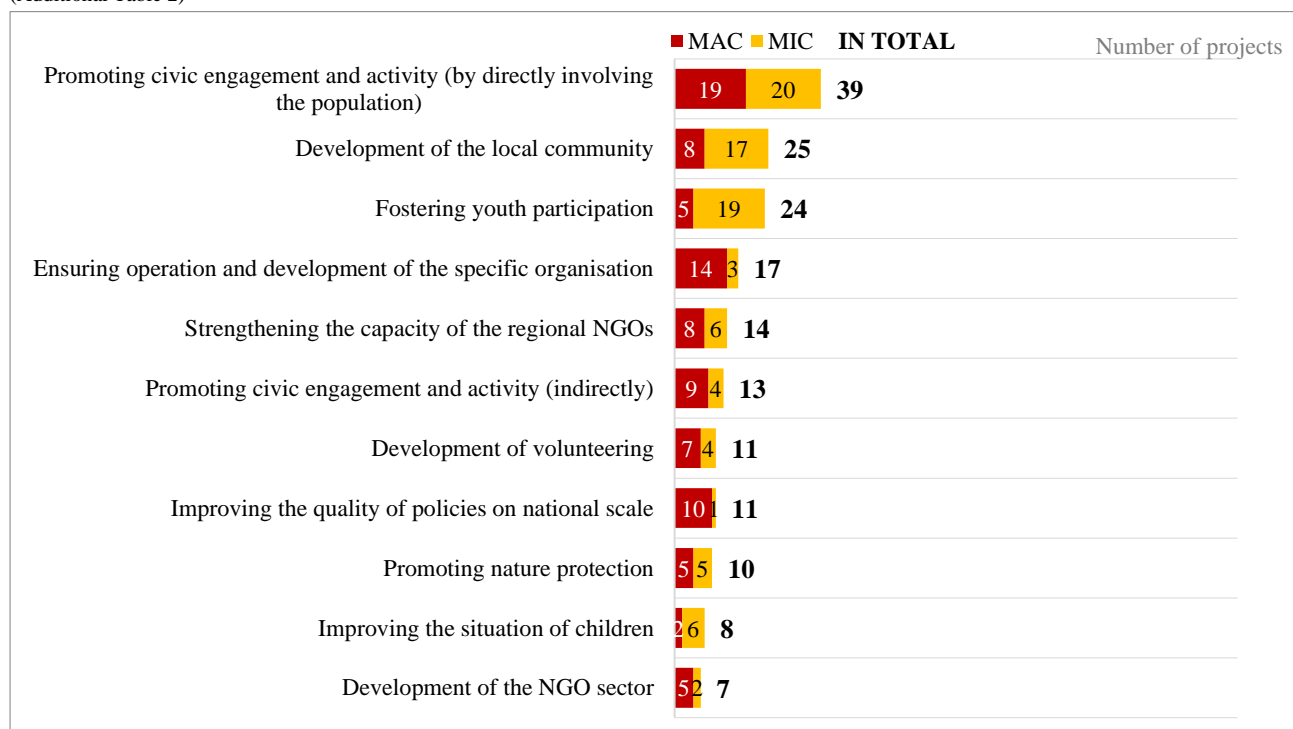


When analysing project topics by project type, it can be observed that there are topics with a higher proportion of macro projects and those where micro projects prevail. The share of micro projects is higher for topics such as **the development of the local community, promoting youth participation, improving the situation of children**. Equivalent representation of macro and micro projects can be observed for the projects aimed at promoting civic engagement, including nature protection. **Macro projects prevail** as regards the other topics. This concerns **projects aimed at ensuring operation and development of particular organisation, indirect promotion of civic engagement, improving the quality of policies**. These data indicate, indirectly, that the activities of the macro project implementers are more general, more specific, focused on broader issues. In the meantime, the micro project implementers are more likely to plan very specific, focused activities.

**Chart 17. Topics of the Projects Implemented in 2020 - 2021 in Total by Project Types (Number of Projects): 10 Most Popular Topics in Each of the Years**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme.

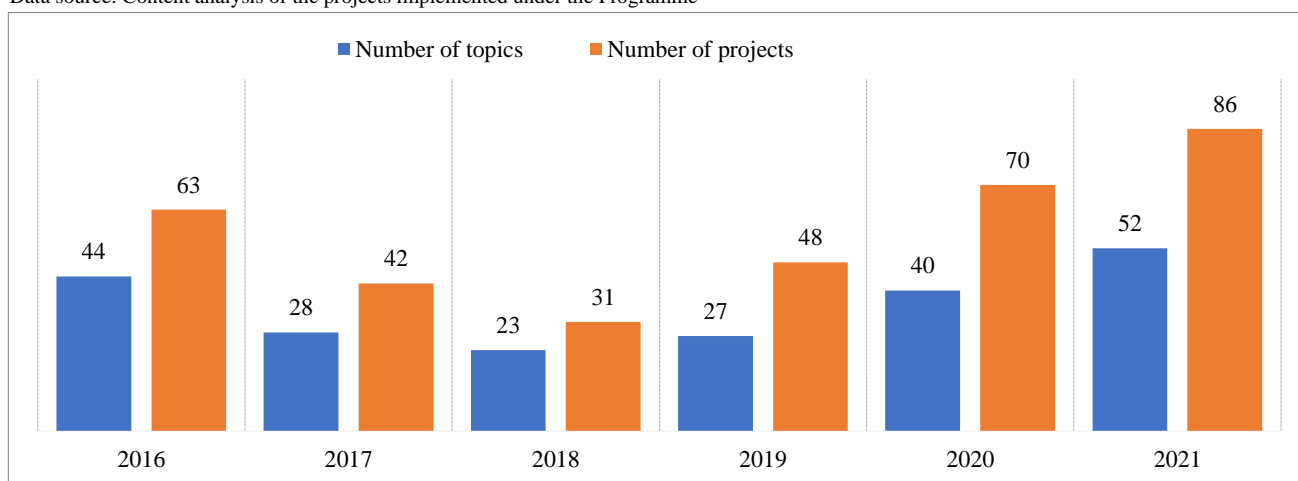
Notes: Each project may have more than one of the following topics; MAC – macro projects, MIC – micro projects; for the full list, see the Annex (Additional Table 2)



**A total of 62 topics dedicated to the 156 Programme projects carried out in the last 2 years (macro projects – 39 different topics, micro projects – 46 different topics) have been identified, indicating that projects are focused on a wide variety of topics.**

The analysis of information by year shows that the variety of topics has changed over the years. In 2016, a total of 44 different themes were covered, then the diversity of topics fell to 23 by 2018, and **over the last four years it has increased to 52 different topics in 2021**. The enlargement of the diversity of themes in 2020 coincides with the more widely defined competition rules, inviting the project applicants to indicate compliance with four different areas of activities, while in 2019, the projects could be implemented in one of the two areas of activities. It should also be noted that the total number of projects carried out annually has been increasing in the last four years, therefore the range of the topics covered is wider. However, it should be stressed that when compared to the number of the projects carried out in each of the years, the number of topics is larger than 50% of the number of projects in all years. It shows once again that very multi-lateral projects have been carried out.

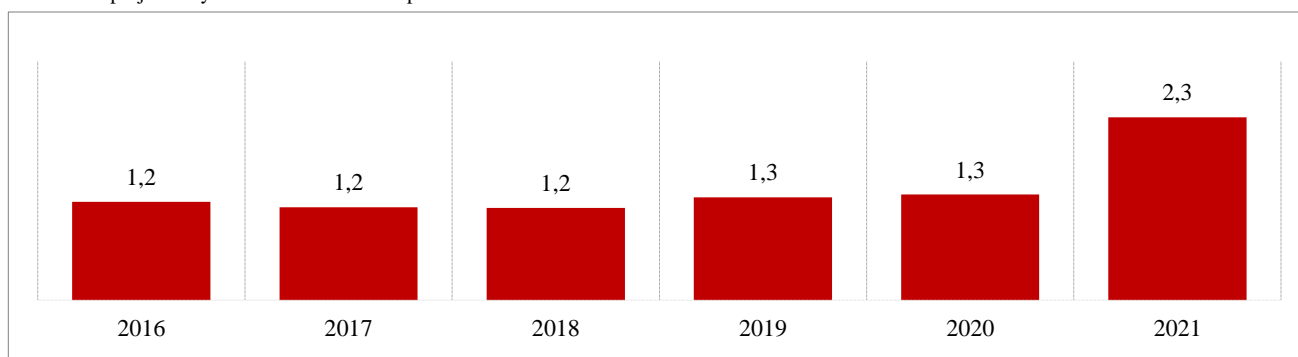
**Chart 18. Variety of the Projects Implemented in 2016 - 2021: Number of the Topics as Compared to the Number of the Projects**  
 Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme



Over the period of 2016 - 2020, the average number of topics for each project had not changed significantly. On average, one project covered 1.3 topics, while in 2021, this figure has increased to 2.3. This means that the variety of topics has increased over the last four years, and it can be seen as **supporting annually projects of topics that have not been implemented in the past**. As a result, the Programme's contribution to the promotion of new areas of civil activity expands year by year.

**Chart 19. Variety of the Implemented Projects' Topics from 2016 - 2021: The Average Number of Topics for Each Project**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme  
 Note: Each project may have more than one topic



### 5.3. Activities Implemented in the Projects

The projects' content analysis shows that **the annual share of projects addressing specific target groups has increased** (from 81% in 2016 to 100% in 2020), while the share of projects targeting a particular organisation has decreased up to 2020 (from 84% in 2018 to 67% in 2020; in 2021, the proportion of such projects has slightly increased to 70%).

These data show that **projects implemented under the Programme are becoming more and more focused annually on direct impact on civic engagement**, including citizens in activities or implementing activities that indirectly contribute to citizens' participation.

In general, it can be concluded that **the Programme has consistently implemented the prioritisation of projects that are as fully compatible as possible with the Programme's objective of promoting the development of civil society**. The project competition rules in 2018 - 2019 highlighted civic engagement and public involvement in NGO work and/or the promotion of voluntary activities and charitable initiatives as priority areas (in addition to the actions identified). Meanwhile, in 2020 and 2021, “Support for NGO civil society activities” was highlighted as the area of activities (there was a gap in support for such projects in 2018 - 2019).

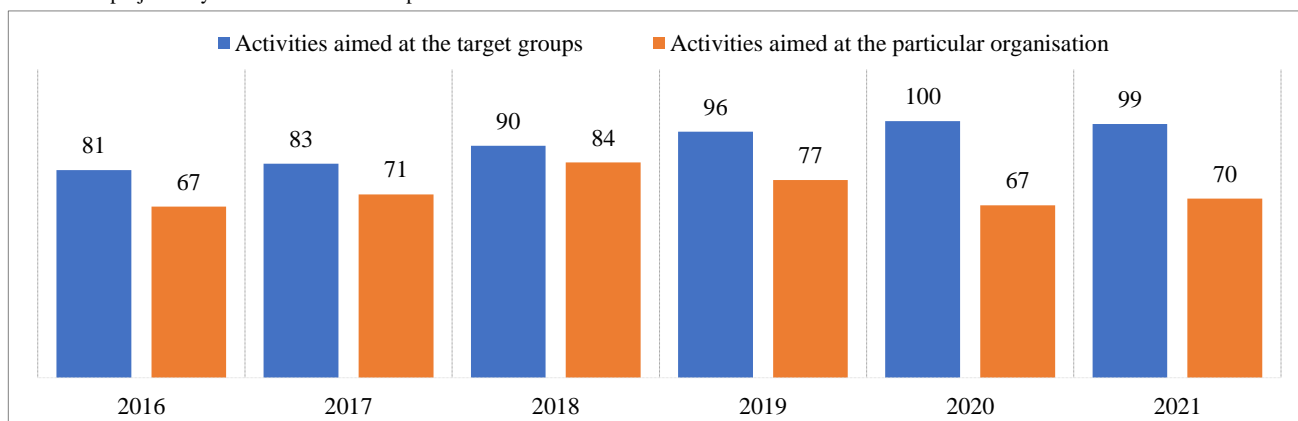
In general, it can be concluded that **the Programme has consistently implemented the prioritisation of projects that are as fully compatible as possible with the Programme's objective of promoting the development of civil society. The activities of the projects carried out have become more focused on promoting active citizenship**, directly including different target groups of population or organising events for them. At the same time, **it contributes indirectly to refocusing the work of organisations from the collective and organisational area to the external target groups of society**.

According to the project types, the macro projects more often than the micro projects include activities focused on the organisation itself. In 2021, 83 % of the macro projects and 60 % of the micro projects included such activities. It should be noted that in 2020 79 % of the macro projects included activities focused on the organisation itself (this share has not changed in the micro project group). This is probably due to **the effects of the pandemic: organisations are more cautious about including activities aimed at the external target groups in their projects**.

**Chart 20. Activities Implemented in the Projects in 2016 - 2020 (% of the Projects): Activities Clustered by Topics**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme

Note: Each project may have more than one topic



**Table 4. Activities Implemented in the Projects in 2016 - 2021 (% of the Projects): Activities Clustered by Topics**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme

	ALL PROJECTS		MAC		MIC	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
Activities aimed at the target groups	100	99	100	100	100	98
Activities aimed at the particular organisation	67	70	79	83	61	60

When analysing the activities carried out under the projects in detail, following **most frequently implemented activities aiming at specific target groups can be identified: workshop for the target group, discussion of the target groups** (69 projects, 44 % of all projects), **working groups and commissions** (49 projects, 31%), **training for the target group** (46 projects, 29%), **developing recommendations, proposals** (46 projects, 29%), **creative classes and activities** (38 projects, 24%).

**As compared to the previous years, various on-site activities** (seminars, training, conferences) **have been included in the projects less frequently** during the last two years, which is most likely to be explained by the effects of the pandemic. On the other hand, the increase has not been observed in any other area of activities. This shows that in this area of activities **organisations have reduced their presence, but have not replaced them with any other activity.**

Following most frequently implemented activities targeting the particular organisation have been identified: **cooperation with other organisations** (28 projects, 18% of all projects), **assessment of the specific area** (28 projects, 18%), **ensuring organisation's operation** (27 projects, 17%), **training for organisation's employees** (26 projects, 17%), **discussions, meetings, working groups for organisation's employees** (25 projects, 16%). **As compared to the previous years,** projects in the last two years have less frequently included activities such as the preparation of an organisation's development planning document, the creation of the organisation's web page, experience exchange trips (which is likely to be associated with the effects of the pandemic). In turn, the **inclusion of activities** focused on cooperation with other organisations and evaluation of the particular field of activities **has increased.**

**Chart 21. Activities Implemented in the Projects in 2020 - 2021 (Number of Projects): Most Frequent Activities**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme

Notes: Each project may contain several activities; activities carried out in at least 10 projects per year are included

Number of projects	2020	2021	IN TOTAL
<b>ACTIVITIES AIMED AT THE TARGET GROUPS</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>155</b>
Workshop for the target group, target group discussions	35	34	69
Advocacy of interests: working groups and commissions	23	26	49
Training for the target group	24	22	46
Advocacy of interests: developing recommendations, proposals	22	24	46
Creative classes and activities	22	16	38
Informing the public about the organisation and its activities	5	26	31
Informative campaign, promotion	9	21	30
Conference, forum	11	18	29
Sociological research: polls	12	12	24
Consultations by experts and specialists for the target group	8	11	19
Lectures and presentations for the target group	9	10	19
Methodological material, manual	7	12	19
Meetings, discussions with decision-makers, politicians	4	13	17
Cultural event (theatre, concert, exhibition, cinema)	7	7	14
Organisation and coordination of voluntary work	6	7	13
Informative movie, video	8	5	13
Voluntary work: environmental clean-up	4	6	10
<b>ACTIVITIES AIMED AT THE PARTICULAR ORGANISATION</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>107</b>
Cooperation with other NGOs	9	19	28
Evaluation of the specific area	17	11	28
Ensuring the basic operations of the organisation	6	21	27
Training for the organisation's employees	15	11	26
Discussions, meetings, working groups for the organisation's employees	18	7	25
Experience exchange activities (trips, meetings)	9	12	21
Development and improvement of the organisation's web-site	8	10	18
Purchase of the equipment, inventory (office inventory, computers, etc.)	6	10	16
Fundraising activities	7	8	15
Preparing an organisation's development planning document	7	5	12

The analysis of project activities by the types of projects shows that **the activities aimed at the target groups are more frequently carried out by the micro project implementers**, particularly such as workshops, training for the target groups, creative activities, cultural activities. **Macro projects**, on the other hand, more often include a variety of **interest advocacy activities, providing information to the public and specific target groups and fundraising activities**. This indirectly demonstrates the validity of the division between the macro and micro projects, at least to the extent that it relates to the interest of organisations and their



**capacity to carry out activities of different scale and topics** (for results and effectiveness see analysis in Chapter 6).

**Chart 22. Topics of the Projects Implemented in 2020 - 2021 by the Project Types (Number of the Projects): The Most Common Topics by Years**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme

Notes: each project may contain several activities; activities carried out in at least 10 projects per year are included; MAC - Macro projects, MIC - Micro projects; see the details on the topics in the Annex to the Evaluation Report (Additional Table 3)

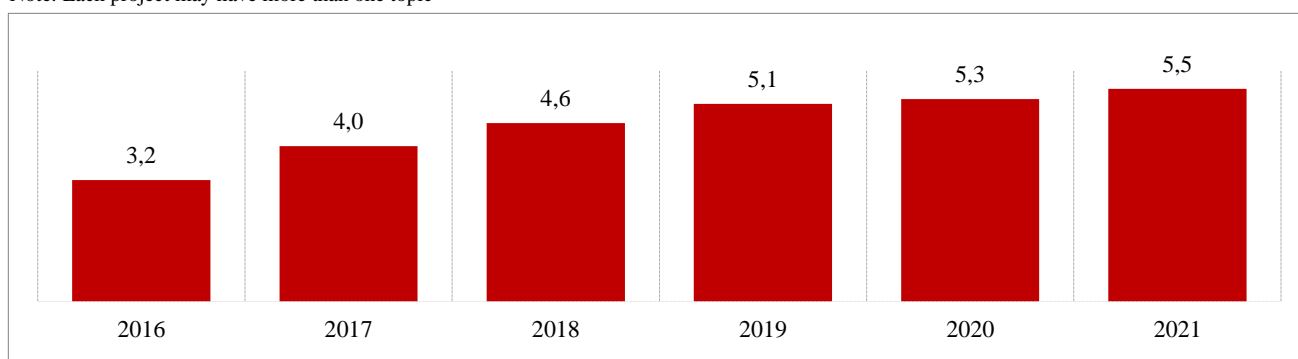
Number of projects	MAC	MIC	IN TOTAL
<b>ACTIVITIES AIMED AT THE TARGET GROUPS</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>155</b>
Workshop for the target group, target group discussions	28	41	69
Advocacy of interests: working groups and commissions	36	13	49
Training for the target group	17	29	46
Advocacy of interests: developing recommendations, proposals	27	19	46
Creative classes and activities	11	27	38
Informing the public about the organisation and its activities	20	11	31
Informative campaign, promotion	18	12	30
Conference, forum	16	13	29
Sociological research: polls	13	11	24
Consultations by experts and specialists for the target group	13	6	19
Lectures and presentations for the target group	8	11	19
Methodological material, manual	8	11	19
Meetings, discussions with decision-makers, politicians	9	8	17
Cultural event (theatre, concert, exhibition, cinema)	3	11	14
Organisation and coordination of voluntary work	6	7	13
Informative movie, video	2	11	13
Voluntary work: environmental clean-up	9	1	10
<b>ACTIVITIES AIMED AT THE PARTICULAR ORGANISATION</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>107</b>
Cooperation with other NGOs	19	9	28
Evaluation of the specific area	14	14	28
Ensuring the basic operations of the organisation	16	11	27
Training for the organisation's employees	15	11	26
Discussions, meetings, working groups for the organisation's employees	13	12	25
Experience exchange activities (trips, meetings)	10	11	21
Development and improvement of the organisation's web-site	9	9	18
Purchase of the equipment, inventory (office inventory, computers, etc.)	6	10	16
Fundraising activities	10	5	15
Preparing an organisation's development planning document	5	7	12

The content analysis of the projects shows that **the number of activities carried out in the framework of projects has increased annually throughout the six-year period**. In 2016, there were 3.2 activities on average implemented per each project, with 5.3 activities in 2020 and 5.5 in 2021. Certainly, in the macro projects, the average number of activities is higher than in the micro projects. In 2021, on average, 7.3 different activities were carried out in one macro project and 4.3 activities - in a micro project (7.1 and 4.3 respectively in 2020). In general, the data show that the projects implemented have not only become more active in the direct engagement of the population, but also more versatile as regards the activities carried out.

**Chart 23. Activities Implemented in the Projects from 2016 - 2020: The Average Number of Activities in One Project**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme

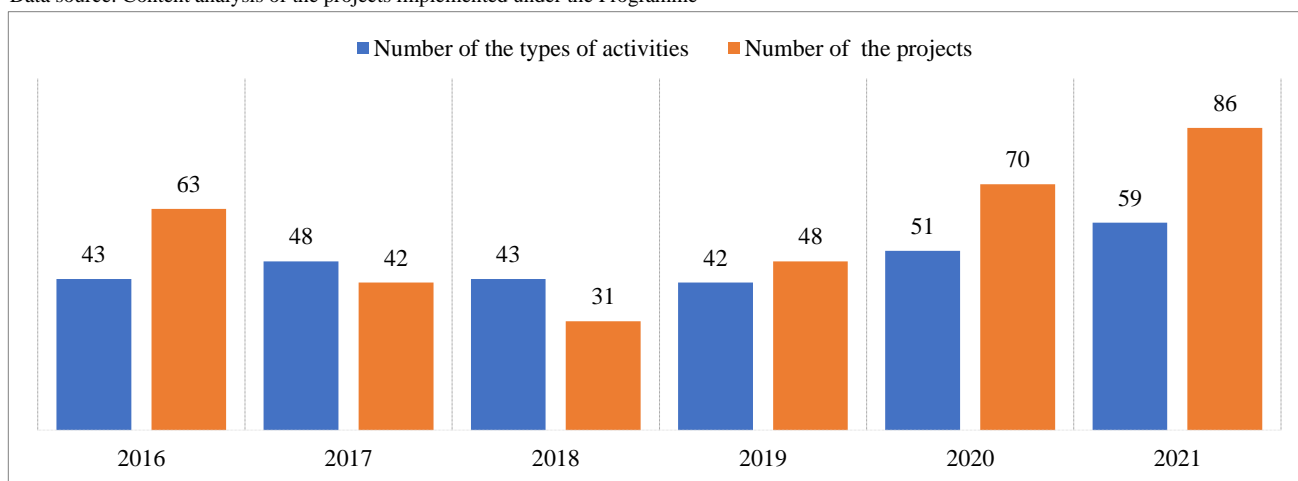
Note: Each project may have more than one topic



The analysis of the project activities by year shows that **the number of activities has been increasing over the last four years**: in 2018 – 2019, the projects included a total of 42 - 43 different activities, and this figure increased to 59 in 2021. Although this is largely due to an increase in the total number of projects carried out, as mentioned above, the average number of activities included in each project has also increased. Consequently, the organisation's projects include a growing number of various activities.

**Chart 24. Activities Implemented in the Projects: Types of Activities (as Compared to the Project Number)**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme



## 5.4. Target Groups Reached

Project target groups are defined in the project call regulations each year. Although, the characteristics of the target groups in the regulations is relatively general. In the project application form, the applicant may define the target groups itself and provide a description of the target group and a justification for selecting it. On the other hand, experts have to evaluate whether the target groups selected correspond to the objective of the Programme and the specific area of activities, whether the needs of the project's target group have been identified, how precisely they have been defined and based on specific facts (including whether feasibility study has been carried out, statistical data have been used, etc.) and how the activities planned in the project are going to cover the entire target group identified. For example: “the project target groups are various groups of residents (including Latvian citizens residing abroad), associations and foundations, their participants, members, employees and volunteers” (2021); “the project target groups are various groups of residents, especially population which is separated in a territorial, informative or linguistic way, or with low participation rates, non-governmental organisations and their members, including members, employees and volunteers” (2020).

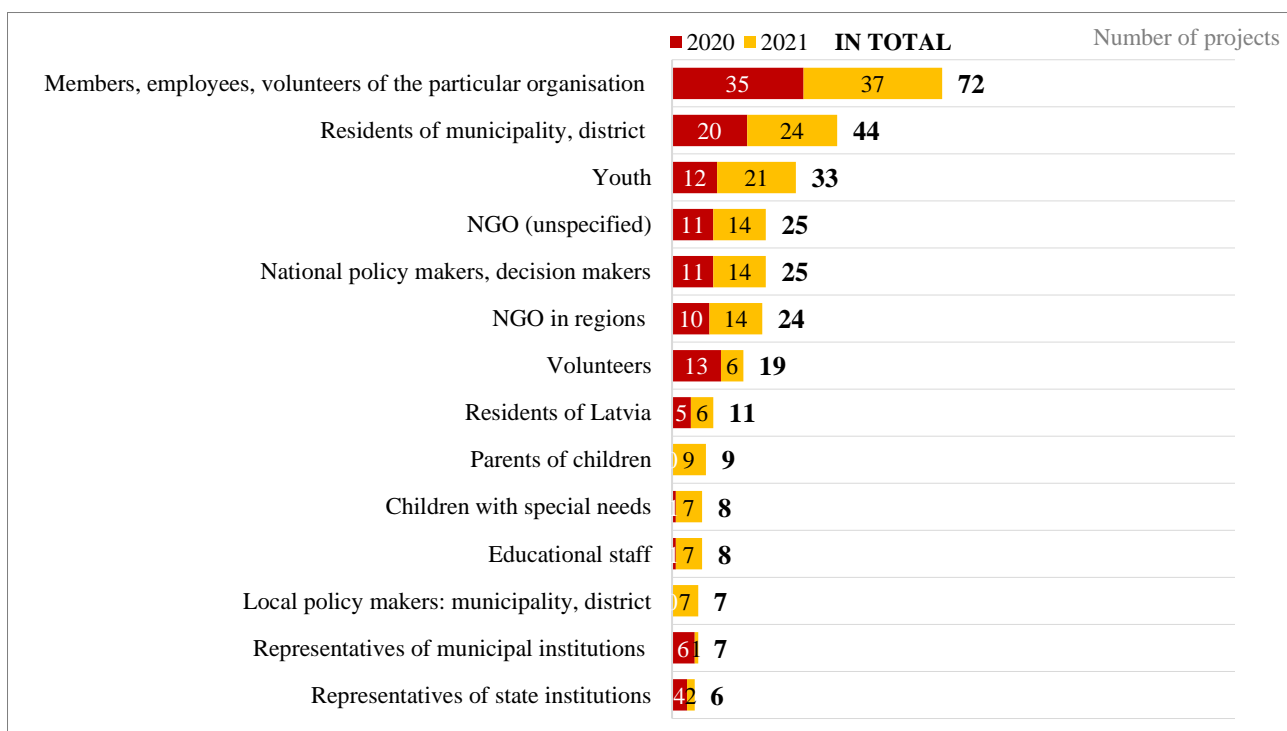
In the project application form, the applicant has to define, describe and justify the selected target groups and number of their members. Already in the 2020 Evaluation, it was identified that **the project target groups are often defined inaccurately, showing a much wider involvement and impact than it results from the specific activities of the project.** Therefore, for the purpose of this Evaluation, the researchers performed additional identification of the target groups, particularly on the basis of the activities carried out in the projects and not on target group information identified by the organisations. Overall, it can be observed that organisations' skills in defining target groups improve with each year and descriptions become more specific.

The additional analysis shows that in 156 projects implemented during the period from 2020 - 2021, **the most frequent target groups have been as follows: members, employees and volunteers of the particular organisation** (72 projects, being one of the target groups in 46% of projects), **municipal residents** (44 projects, 28%), **young people** (33 projects, 21%), **non-specified NGOs** (25 projects, 16%), **national policy makers, decision makers** (25 projects, 16%), **NGOs in regions** (24 projects, 15%). Compared to the previous project competition years, the proportion of the projects involving volunteers has decreased over the last two years, which can be attributed to the effects of the pandemic.

**Chart 25. Target Groups of the Projects Implemented in 2020 - 2021 (Number of the Projects): Indicated Most Often**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme

Note: Each project may have several indicated target groups

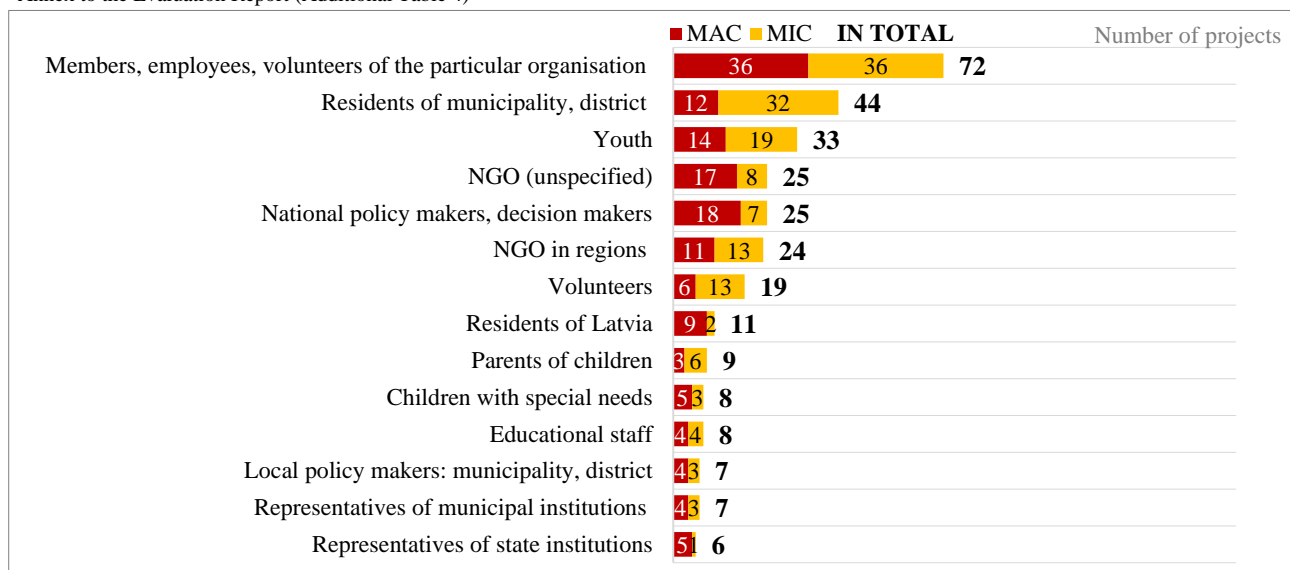


When analysing the types of projects as regards the target groups, very clear differences in the target groups involved are not observed. Some identified differences can be fully explained by the specific nature of the activities of the macro and micro project implementers. For example, it is clear that national policy makers are the target groups of the macro projects more often than in the micro projects, while the local, municipal residents are targeted mostly in the micro projects.

**Chart 26. Target Groups of the Projects Implemented in 2020 – 2021 by Project Types (Number of the Projects): Indicated Most Often**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme

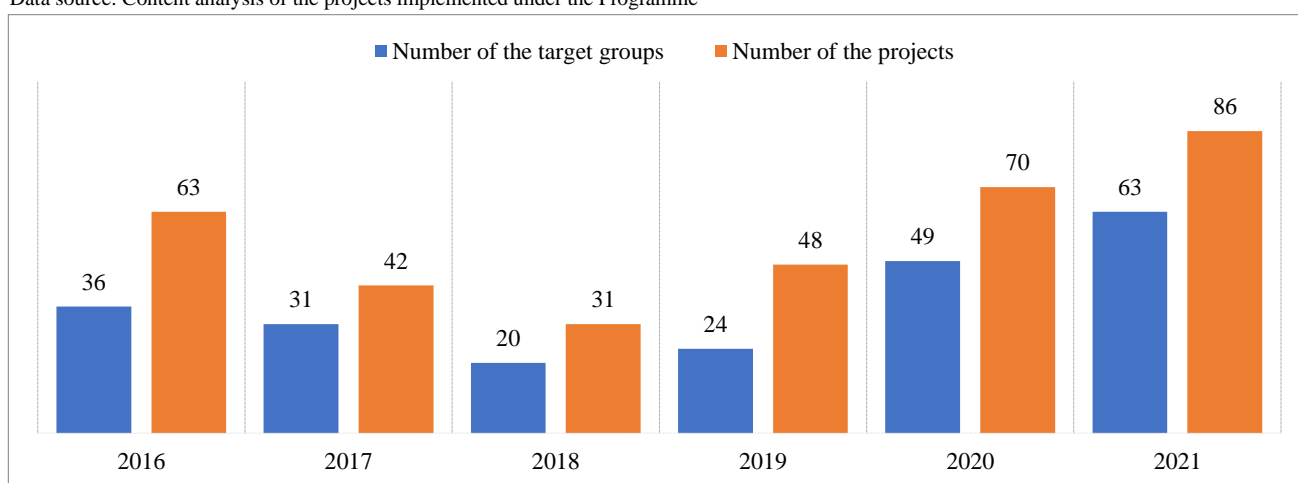
Notes: each project may have several indicated target groups; MAC - Macro projects, MIC - Micro projects; see the details on the target groups in the Annex to the Evaluation Report (Additional Table 4)



The analysis of the information by year shows that **the diversity of the target groups has increased annually over the last 4 years**. In 2018, only 20 different target groups have been involved in the projects, but already 49 in 2020 and 63 in 2021. **The average number of the target groups covered by the same project has also gradually increased** throughout the six years of the Programme implementation. If in 2016 on average there were 2.1 target groups involved in the same project, then in 2018 these were 2.5 target groups and in 2021 - 2.9 target groups. In this respect, however, there are differences according to the project type: in 2021, an average of 3.6 different target groups has been involved in the macro projects and 2.3 target groups in the micro projects (3.2 and 2.3 target groups respectively in 2020).

**Chart 27. Number of the Target Groups of the Projects Implemented: Number of the Target Groups by Years (as Compared to the Number of the Projects)**

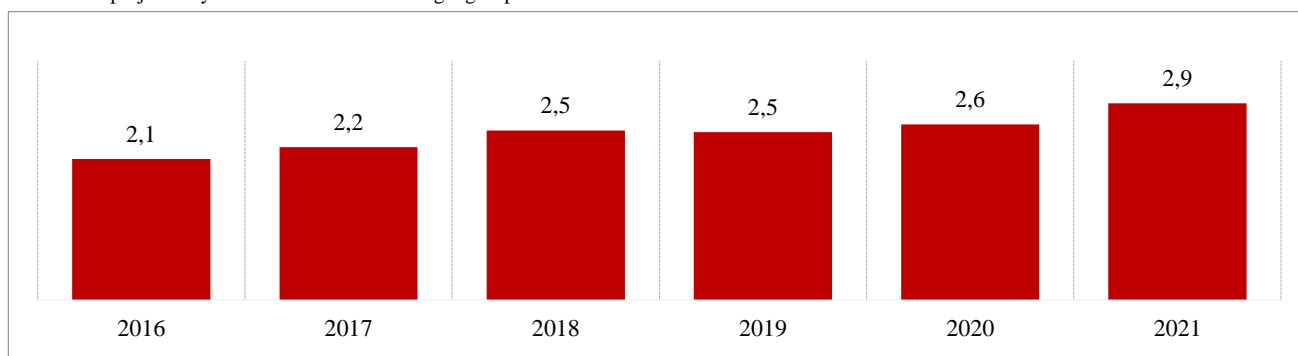
Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme



**Chart 28. Number of the Target Groups of the Projects Implemented in 2016 - 2021: The Average Number of Target Groups per Project**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme

Note: Each project may have several indicated target groups



A detailed analysis of specific target groups shows that **the proportion of the projects targeting local population (county, municipality) has increased significantly in 2020**; only 10% of the projects in the previous three years had similar target groups, but already 29% in 2020 and 28% in 2021. This correlates with the overall increase in funding and the increase in the number of projects. The increase in such projects is also likely due to the fact that the Ministry of Culture has no longer provided funding for the Regional NGO Support Programme, which supported small population initiatives throughout Latvia by 2020 through regional NGO support centres.

It was concluded in the Evaluation of 2020 that **the majority of the target groups are only aimed at in a particular year or two**, while the others are not targeted. Consequently, the issue of succession and sustainability of such projects is topical. To a greater extent, this applies to the micro projects that include specific target groups more frequently than the macro projects.

## **5.5. Cooperation Within the Framework of the Projects**

Since 2019, the following has been defined as one of the results to be achieved under the NGO Fund Programme: “Promoted cooperation between the NGOs at regional, Latvian, European Union and global level, as well as cooperation between the NGOs and the public sector”. Accordingly, this result of the Programme focuses on the achievement of the policy outcome “An improved exchange of information and views between the NGOs and public bodies” (NICSIPG 2019 - 2020). In the project competition of 2020, the area of activities “strengthening cooperation between the NGOs” was identified as supported for the first time in five years. Also in 2021, is intended to strengthen and promote the cooperation between NGOs at regional, national, European Union and global levels within the framework of the activity area “strengthening cooperation between NGOs and citizens”.

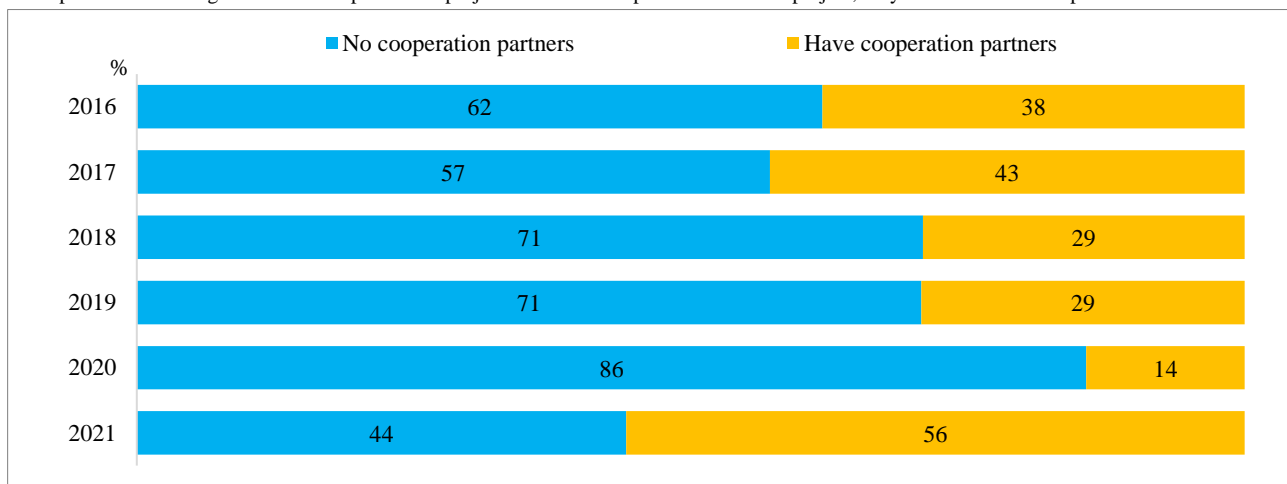
When analysing the activities of the projects implemented, it was identified whether and what cooperation partners the organisations had had in the framework of the projects. The content analysis of the projects shows that **the proportion of projects involving cooperation with other organisations, institutions or experts has increased strongly in 2021**. Overall, 56% of projects have included cooperation activities. In 2021, **in 38% of the projects cooperation with other NGOs was planned, in 26% - with the field experts**, in 17% - with the state institutions, and in 13% - with municipal institutions. It should be noted that **the cooperation was planned mostly within the framework of the macro projects**: only 25% of the macro projects had no planned cooperation activities. On the other hand, in the micro project group as a whole, 58% of the projects did not foresee any cooperation activities, while 42% had planned such activities (most often with the field experts and other organisations).

Although the share of collaborative projects has increased significantly, **it is difficult to assess the feasibility and sustainability of this cooperation**, since the 2021 projects have been analysed by the researchers based on their applications and not by the final reports. It would therefore be worth analysing the cooperation aspect in more detail in future in order to assess whether the planned and implemented cooperation is meaningful and justified or only formally incorporated into the projects.

**Chart 29. Cooperation Within the Framework of the Projects (% of the Total Number of the Projects)**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme

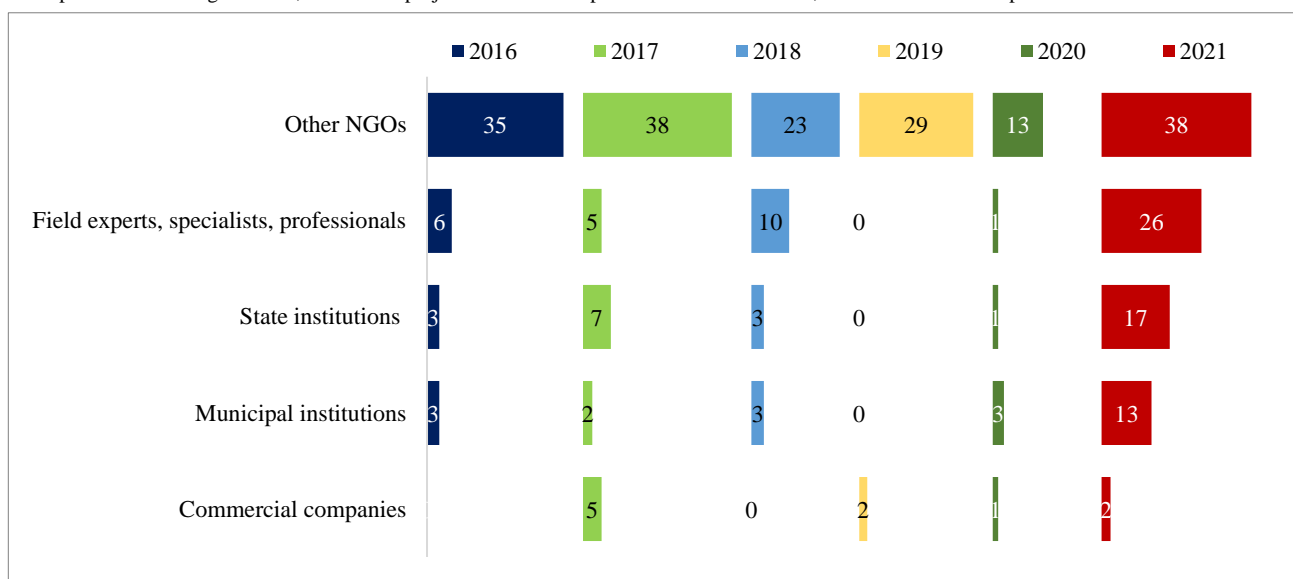
Example of data reading: 70% of the implemented projects have not had partners under the project; only 30% have had co-operation



**Chart 30. Cooperation Partners within the Framework of the Projects (% of the Total Number of the Projects)**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme

Example of data reading: In 2016, 35% of the projects have had cooperation with other NGOs, 6% - with the field experts

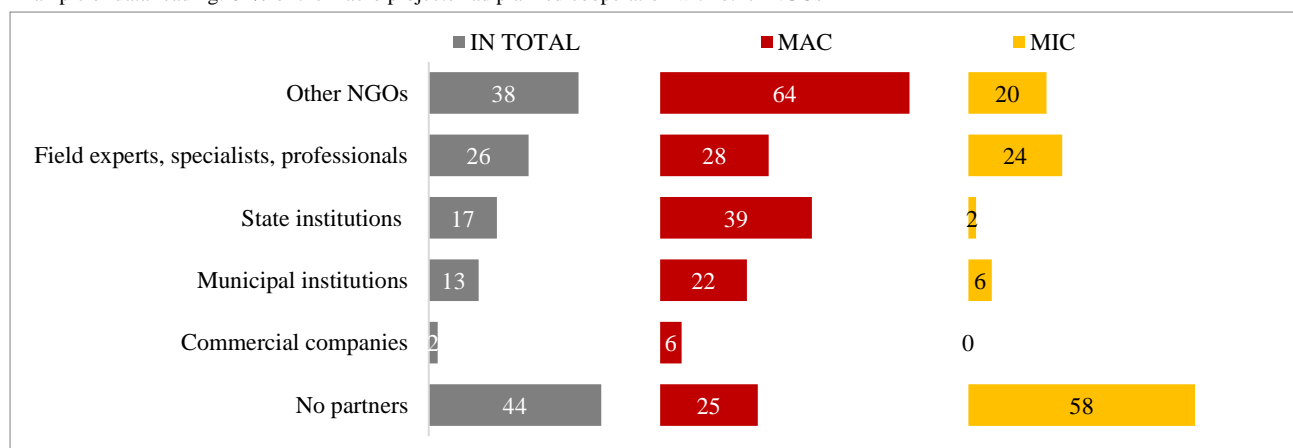


**Chart 31. Cooperation Partners within the Framework of the Projects in 2020 – 2021 by Project Types (% of the Total Project Number)**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme

Note: MAC - Macro projects, MIC - Micro projects

Example of data reading: 64% of the macro projects had planned cooperation with other NGOs



## 5.6. Geographical Coverage

It was concluded in the 2020 Evaluation Report that the regional dispersal of organisations supported under the Programme (by the legal address) was consistent with the NGO sector statistics on the number of active organisations on a regional basis. It also substantiates the findings of the projects’ content analysis, i.e. that **the geographical coverage of the project implementation is broad**. Among the 156 projects implemented in 2020 - 2021, **70 have been implemented on a national level** (43 of them – macro projects, 27 – micro projects). **66 projects have been implemented on a local level**, in a specific municipality or in several ones (57 of them are

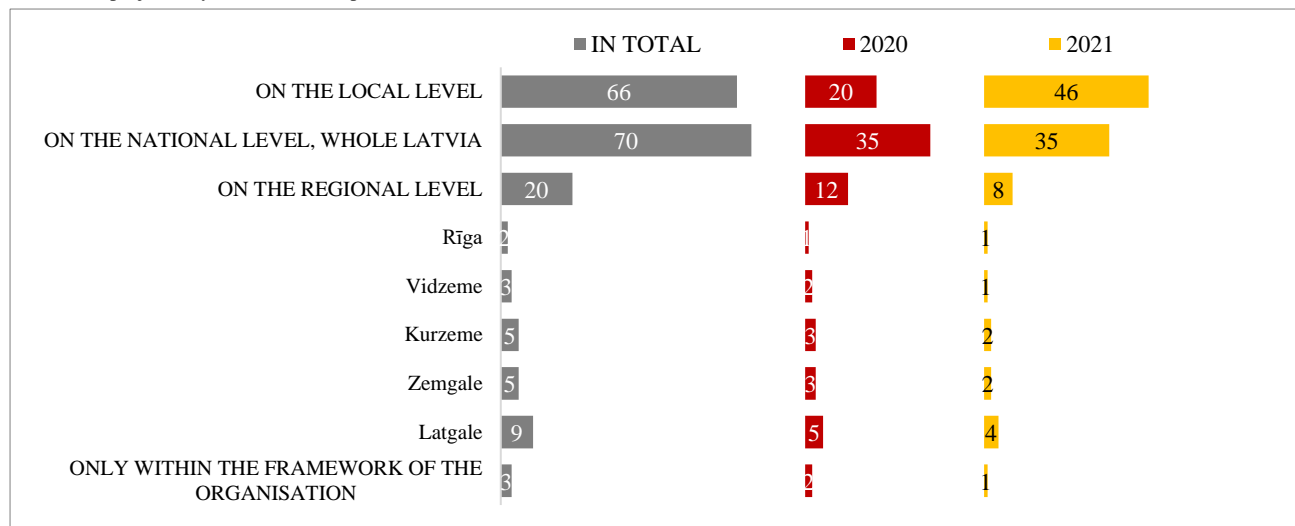


micro projects and only 9 macro projects). **The share of the projects carried out within the scope of a region is smaller:** less than 20 projects, 11 of them macro and 9 micro projects. **In 2021, the projects have been implemented in 22 out of a total of 43 municipalities** (most of the projects implemented in municipalities have been micro projects).

**Chart 32. Geography of the Projects Implemented 2020 - 2021 (Number of the Projects)**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme

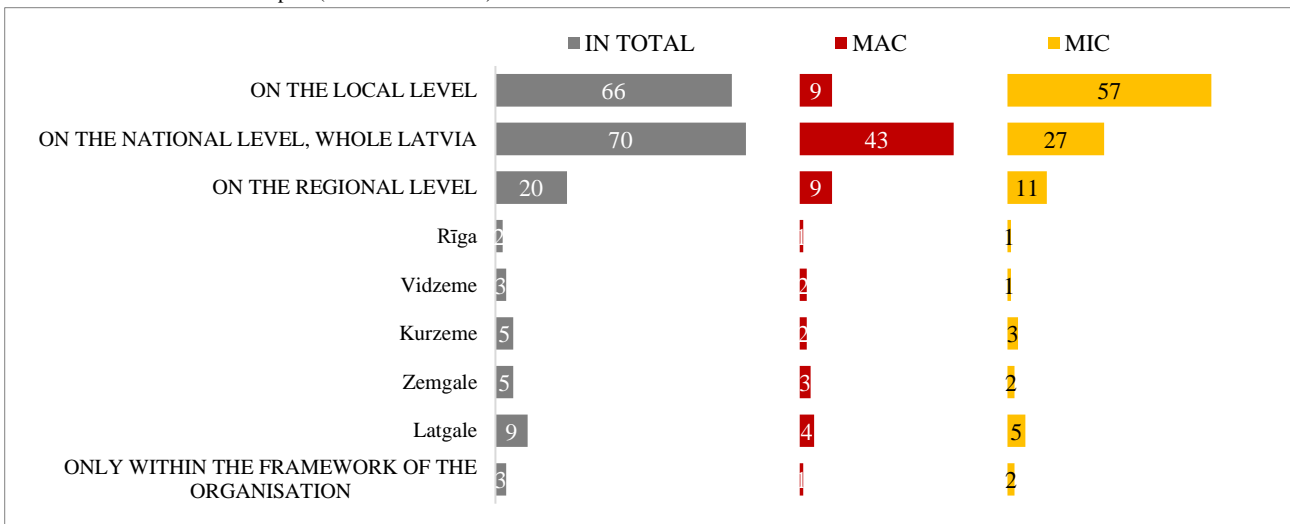
Note: Each project may have several implementation locations



**Chart 33. Geography of the Projects Implemented in 2020 – 2021 by Project Types (Number of the Projects)**

Data source: Content analysis of the projects implemented under the Programme

Notes: Each project may have several implementation sites; MAC — Macro projects, MIC — Micro projects; see the details on implementation sites in the Annex to the Evaluation Report (Additional Table 5)



## 6. CONTRIBUTION OF THE “NGO FUND” PROGRAMME IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES SET OUT IN THE PROGRAMMING DOCUMENTS

### 6.1. Achieving the Results of the Programme

The 2020 Evaluation Report provides a detailed overview<sup>28</sup> of the definition of the Programme’s results and the changes in each of the years of the project competition, as well as the challenges related to the identification of the project contribution. Once again, let us emphasise only **the most important considerations to be taken into account in analysing and interpreting the input of the implemented projects in achieving the results.**

A significant consideration is linked to the fact that **the results of the Programme are defined very broadly and in general terms.** Some of the results defined can be identified when analysing the content of the projects (e.g. “public participation in policy-making and decision-taking processes promoted”, “cooperation between NGOs fostered”, “involvement of citizens in NGOs fostered”, “development of data and evidence-based proposals and policy initiatives ensured”, etc.), however part of them are too general to identify a correlation between the project activities and the results to be achieved (e.g. “public awareness of civic engagement and forms of participation raised”, “trust in the non-governmental sector promoted”, “a sense of belonging to Latvia promoted”, etc.).

**Although it is more or less possible to determine whether the projects have been targeted towards achieving most of the results, it is difficult to evaluate the real impact of the projects implemented and their correlation with the particular results.** This, in turn, is largely due to the fact that the achievement of specific results is influenced by a large number of different factors (e.g. implementation of various other projects, external factors, etc.). and not only by the implementation of the particular projects. Therefore, **it is not possible to separate the effects of the particular projects implemented from the other impacts.**

Another important consideration: **different level of understanding of the project applicants and their ability to associate their activities with the broadly and generally formulated results.** In order to compile data on the impact of the projects on the results of the Programme, since 2019, in the project application form, the applicant must indicate which specific result (or several ones) to be achieved by the Programme the project is aimed at, the indicator and the numerical unit of measure of the result to be achieved, as well as the source of information where the achieved result can be verified. Prior to the submission of the final report, the project implementers are invited to re-evaluate the planned/implemented activities and to provide information on the

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<sup>28</sup> See Chapter 7.1 of the Evaluation Report 2020

results achieved. When analysing the reports and applications of the projects implemented in the years 2020 - 2021, it is concluded that in most cases, organisations indicate the implemented events and activities as quantitative results, and the formal correlation to some of the Programme's results as the qualitative results. Thus, **in most cases, the quantitative results indicated by the project implementers duplicate the activity section, while the qualitative results - the definition of project's eligibility to the results of the Programme.** On the other hand, compliance with the results of the Programme is often very broadly defined, declaring compliance with as many results as possible. Consequently, the assessments provided by the same organisations on the contribution to the results in a large number of cases are subjective and too broadly defined.

**As a solution, in the Evaluation Report 2020, the researchers proposed a methodology for assessing each project to be implemented in two respects:** (1) whether the project as a whole focuses on achieving the specific results (yes/no), (2) the relevance of the impact of each project on each specific result (scale 0 to 10). This methodology has been applied also in this Evaluation Report for assessing the contribution of the projects. **This kind of assessment allows identifying whether the projects are generally focused on the specific results and their potential for achieving the results.**

In order to evaluate all the projects carried out, the **Delphi expert consensus method** was used: the projects were randomly distributed among the three experts-researchers of the evaluation team, and each of them analysed the content of the final reports of the projects assigned to them, giving each project an evaluation on the 10-point scale. The impact of the particular project and its contribution to each of the 10 results of the Programme was evaluated (assessing the activities carried out under the project, the target groups achieved, the overall objective of the project). This resulted in the assessment of two aspects: (1) The project has/does not have an impact on the specific results of the Programme (2) the significance of the impact (an assessment on the 10-point scale where 0 means that there is no impact at all, while 10 - that the impact is very significant). These evaluations are used below in this chapter to assess the contribution of projects to the achievement of the results of the Programme.

The above-mentioned fact that the assessments provided by organisations on the contribution to the results are broader than those depicted by specific activities and their content is also evidenced by **data on the extent to which the results of the projects indicated by the organisations themselves have been consistent with the results and assessments obtained by the Delphi expert consensus method.** Overall, **29% of cases of the results recorded in the project applications of organisations did not coincide with the assessment by the evaluation experts** (27% of cases for the macro projects, 33% - for the micro projects).

The largest discrepancy can be observed in relation to the project contribution in achieving results such as: “a sense of belonging to Latvia promoted”; “cooperation between NGOs at regional, Latvian, European Union and global level fostered”; as well as “cooperation between NGOs and the public sector promoted”. In the case of

the micro-projects, also the “capacity of NGOs promoted”. The same time, the assessments by the project applicants and assessment experts have most frequently coincided as regards the following results: “increased public participation in policy-making and decision-taking processes”, “the public rights advocacy in a specific area of NGO activity ensured”, “public activity and engagement in tackling major societal challenges with the aim of strengthening democratic values and respect for human rights in Latvia and/or social responsibility within the community greatly promoted”, “increased confidence in the non-governmental sector”. This shows that the assessment by the project applicants on the contribution of a specific project in achieving particular results of the Programme does not necessarily fully reflect the real impact of the projects (more often, it is narrower than described in the project applications).

The Programme results to be achieved as defined in the 2020 - 2021 competition rules are almost identical (with minor changes (see the table below)). In the Evaluation Report 2020, this definition of the Programme results was also extended to the projects of previous years (having a different definition of the results in each of the years<sup>29</sup>) in order to evaluate the achievements of the projects’ results throughout the whole period. These past assessments are also included in this Evaluation in order to demonstrate successively the input of the projects in achieving the results over the period of 2016 - 2021.

**Table 5. Definition of the Programme Results 2020 and 2021**

<b>2020<sup>30</sup></b>	<b>2021<sup>31</sup></b>
Public activity and engagement in tackling major societal challenges with the aim of strengthening democratic values and respect for human rights in Latvia and/or social responsibility within the community promoted	Public activity and engagement in tackling major societal challenges with the aim of strengthening democratic values and respect for human rights in Latvia defined in <u>the Constitution of Latvia<sup>32</sup></u> and/or social responsibility within the community promoted
Increased public awareness of civic engagement and forms of participation	Increased public awareness of civic engagement and forms of participation
Increased public participation in policy-making and decision-taking processes	Increased public participation in policy-making and decision-taking processes
Cooperation between NGOs at regional, Latvian, EU and global level, as well as NGO cooperation with the public sector fostered	Cooperation between NGOs at regional, Latvian, EU and global level, as well as NGO cooperation with the public sector fostered
The involvement of citizens in NGOs and voluntary work promoted	The involvement of citizens in NGOs and voluntary work promoted
Trust in the non-governmental sector promoted	Trust in the non-governmental sector promoted
Development of data and evidence-based proposals and policy initiatives ensured	Development of data and evidence-based proposals and policy initiatives ensured
The public rights advocacy in a specific area of NGO activity ensured	The public rights advocacy in a specific area of NGO activity ensured
<u>Sense</u> of belonging to Latvia promoted	Belonging to Latvia promoted
Capacity and performance of NGOs promoted, <u>including Latvia's regions</u>	Capacity and performance of NGOs promoted

<sup>29</sup> For more details on differences, see Chapter 7.1 of the 2020 Evaluation Report

<sup>30</sup> Regulations of the Project Competition 2020

<sup>31</sup> Regulations of the Project Competition 2021

<sup>32</sup> The editorial differences in the definition of the Programme’s results of both years are undelined

The evaluation of the implemented projects' content shows that **the absolute majority** (over 90% of all the projects carried out in 2020 - 2021) **of the projects has directly or indirectly focused on achieving the following results: “the capacity and performance of NGOs promoted”, “trust in the non-governmental sector promoted”, “civic engagement and involvement in tackling major societal challenges promoted”, “belonging to Latvia promoted”**. However, regarding the last two results of the Programme, the projects in 2021 have aimed at them less frequently (86% and 83% respectively).

**Relatively rarely projects have focused on achieving results such as: “the public rights advocacy in a specific area of NGO activity ensured”** (47% in 2020, 74% in 2021), **“development of data and evidence-based proposals and policy initiatives ensured”** (50% and 62% respectively), **“cooperation between NGOs at regional, Latvian, European Union and global level fostered”**, as well as **“NGO cooperation with the public sector”** (33% and 56%).

When assessing the relevance of the projects to the Programme's results by project types, it can be noted that **in the macro and micro project group, equally many projects have been focused on objectives such as: “belonging to Latvia promoted”, “trust in the non-governmental sector promoted”, “civic engagement and involvement in addressing major societal challenges fostered”, “capacity and performance of NGOs promoted”, “increased public awareness of civic engagement and forms of participation”**. Regarding **other 5 results, the micro projects have been targeted at them less frequently than the macro projects**. In particular, **“cooperation between NGOs”** (only 26% of the micro projects include such activities), **“evidence-based policy initiatives”** (42%), **“the public rights advocacy”** (46%). It should be stressed, however, that **these differences are logical and fully explained by the specific nature of the work of the micro-project implementers and the planned project activities**. In particular, the macro and micro projects are essentially different and cannot have an identical impact on the overall objectives of the Programme.

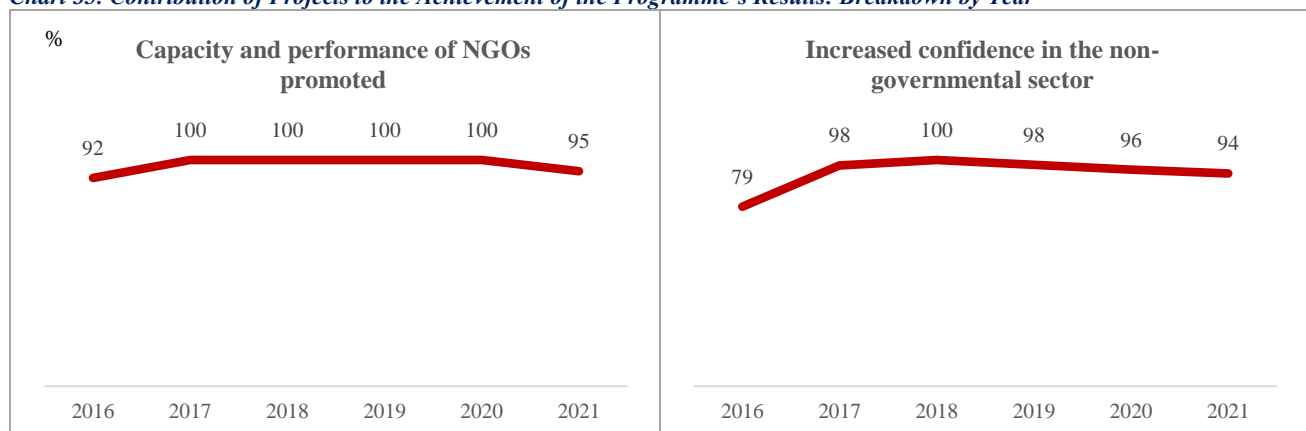
When assessing the relevance of the projects to specific aims of the Programme over the longer term (2016 - 2021), it can be observed that **significant changes have occurred in the projects of 2021**. Prior to that, there have been certain growth or fall trends, but they have changed in 2021. For example, **in 2021, as compared to 2020, the proportion of the projects** focused on the following results has increased significantly: **“public participation in policy-making and decision-taking processes promoted”** (from 50 % in 2020 to 80% in 2021), **“the public rights advocacy in a specific area of NGO activity ensured”** (47 % to 74 %, respectively), **“cooperation between NGOs at regional, Latvian, EU and global level, as well as NGO cooperation with the public sector fostered”** (from 33 % to 56 %). Only over a longer period of time it will be possible to evaluate whether the above-mentioned changes indicate new trends of development or whether they have occurred temporarily due to pandemics or for other reasons.

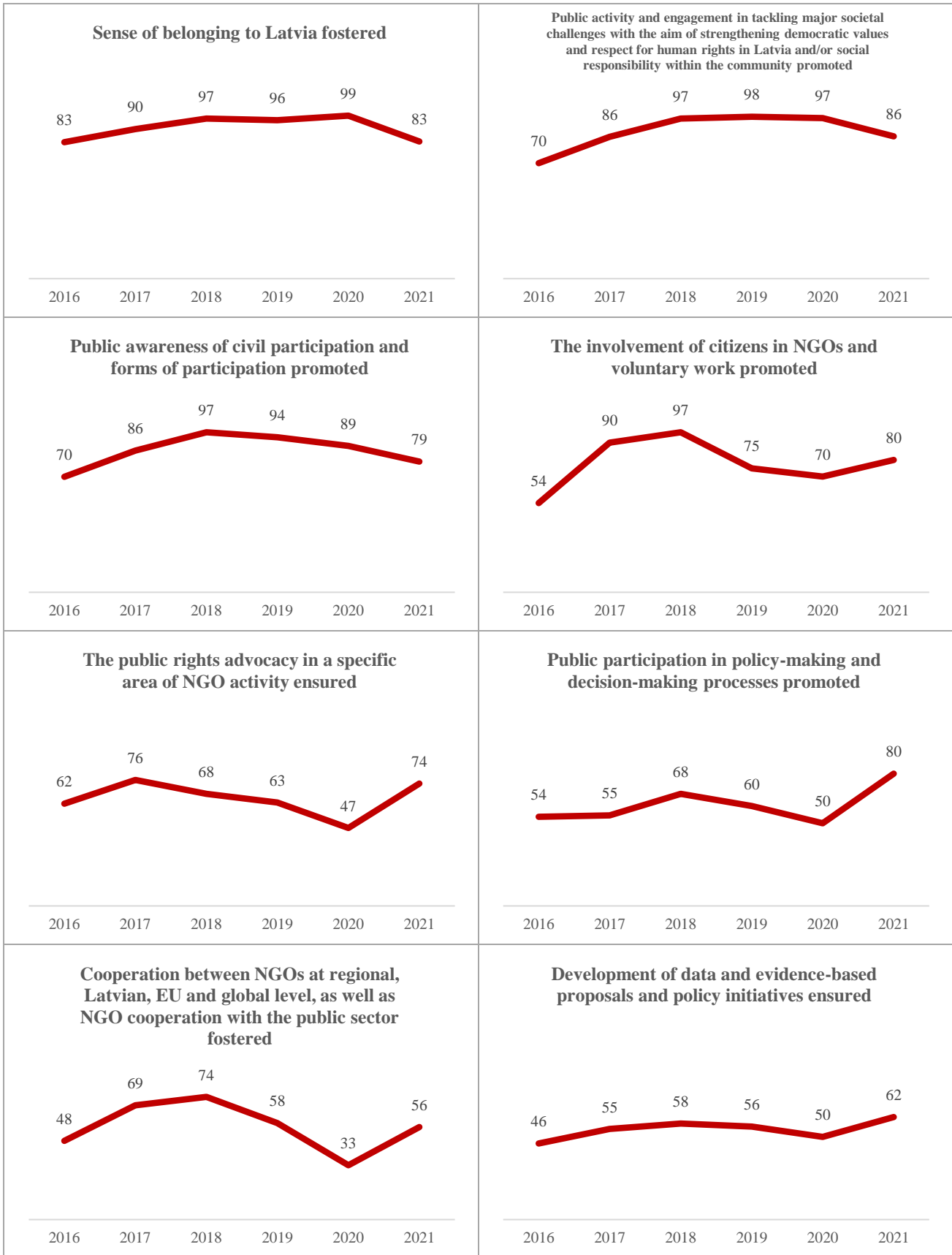
**Regarding long-term changes, some observable trends should be highlighted** – those which have not been impacted by the effects of 2021. Throughout the six-year period, there has been a growing tendency **to include in the projects activities focused on evidence-based policy initiatives** (46 % of projects in 2016, already 62 % in 2021). **The proportion of the projects increasing public awareness of civic engagement and forms of participation has consistently decreased** over the last four years (97 % of projects in 2018, only 79 % in 2021).

**Chart 34. Contribution of Projects to the Achievement of the Programme’s Results (% from all projects)**

	2020	2021	MAC	MIC
Capacity and performance of NGOs promoted	100	95	100	96
Increased confidence in the non-governmental sector	96	94	97	94
Public activity and engagement in tackling major societal challenges with the aim of strengthening democratic values	97	86	93	90
Sense of belonging to Latvia fostered	99	83	90	90
Public participation in policy-making and decision-making processes promoted	50	80	90	52
The involvement of citizens in NGOs and voluntary work promoted	70	80	87	69
Public awareness of civil participation and forms of participation promoted	89	79	87	81
The public rights advocacy in a specific area of NGO activity ensured	47	74	88	46
Development of data and evidence-based proposals and policy initiatives ensured	50	62	80	42
Cooperation between NGOs at regional, Latvian, EU and global level, as well as NGO cooperation with the public sector fostered	33	56	77	26

**Chart 35. Contribution of Projects to the Achievement of the Programme’s Results: Breakdown by Year**





**Although the majority of the projects have focused on specific results of the Programme, not all projects have the same impact.** A project can leave a very pronounced impact on a specific result, while another project - only small and indirect. Therefore, **in addition, also the significance or importance of the impact was determined** by carrying out the content analysis of the projects and by assessing each project on a 10-point scale as regards the project's contribution to each of the 10 results of the Programme (assessing the activities carried out under the project, the target groups achieved, the overall objective of the project).

Overall, the impact assessments show that **the most significant impacts of the projects implemented in 2020 - 2021 have been left on the following results of the Programme:** "civic engagement and participation in addressing major societal challenges promoted" (6.1 points on a 10-point scale), "NGO capacity and performance fostered" (5.7 points), "trust in the non-governmental sector promoted" (5.6 points), "the public rights advocacy in a specific area of NGO activity ensured" (4.7 points), "public participation in policy-making and decision-taking processes increased" (4.6 points).

**An average impact has been left on results such as:** "increased public awareness of civic engagement and forms of participation" (4.5 points), "the involvement of citizens in NGOs and voluntary work promoted" (4.0 points), "development of data and evidence-based proposals and policy initiatives ensured" (3.9 points). However, **there has been a relatively small impact on the following results:** "belonging to Latvia promoted" (3.7 points), "cooperation between NGOs at a regional level promoted" (2.4 points).

Considering that the highest rating for the project's impact is 6.1 points, but for most projects this is less than 5.0 points, it can be concluded that, in general, **the implemented projects have left a medium impact on the results of the Programme.** In the 2020 Evaluation Report **one of the reasons for medium impact has been explained by the fact that those have been short-term projects with relatively small activities**, therefore they could not have left any significant impact on the general and broad objectives of the Programme.

It should also be stressed that not in all cases where projects are focused on any of the results, their potential impact on achieving the results is pronounced. For example, although a total of 90% of the projects are focused on promoting belonging to Latvia, the potential impact of these projects on achieving this result has only been assessed by 3.7 points. This could lead indirectly to the fact that **the project implementers often include formal activities to demonstrate compliance with the different results of the Programme, but their effectiveness is low.** This can be particularly observed as regards two results of the Programme. A total of 56% of the projects have included activities for ensuring the development of data and evidence-based proposals and policy initiatives. However, their potential impact on the results has only been assessed by 3.9 points. This is due to the fact that the activities planned by the project implementers for the collection and analysis of data and information are very rarely representative and justified. For example, in case it has been intended to gather the views of the population, it has not been implemented by applying representative sociological research methods.

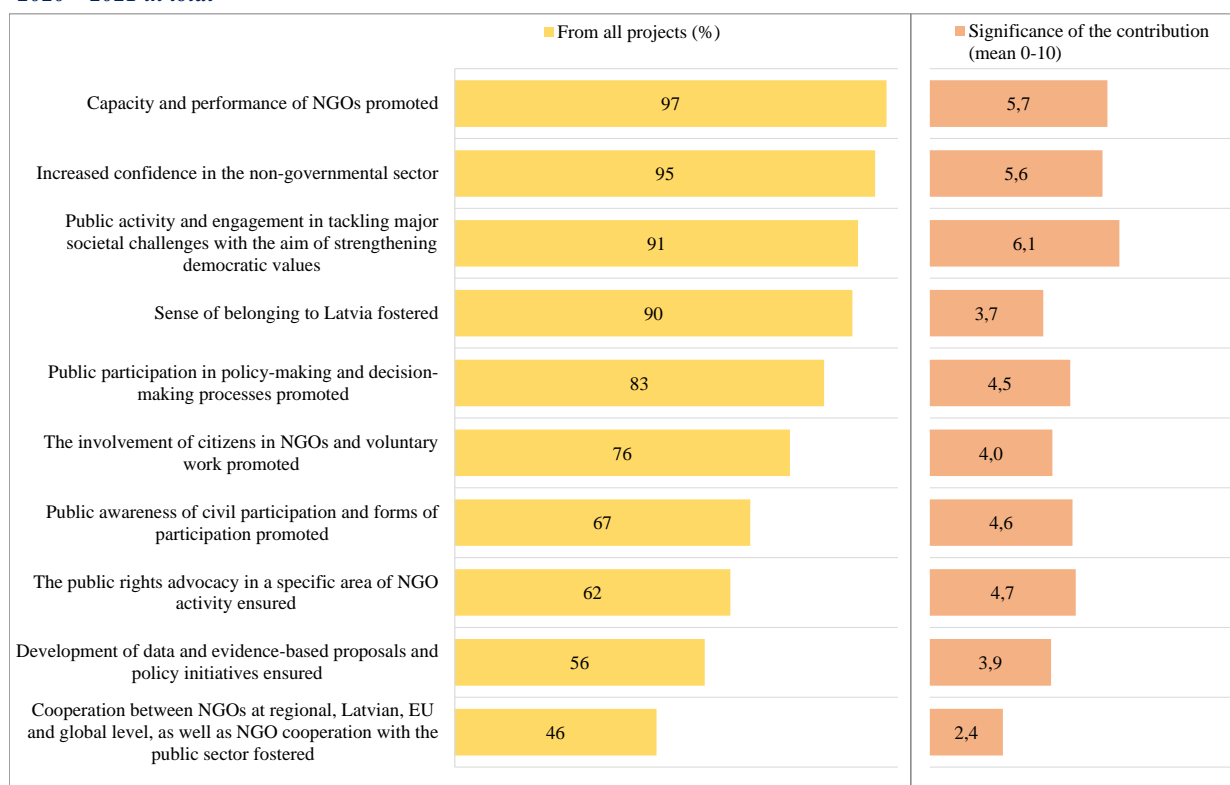


46% of the implemented projects had planned fostering cooperation between NGOs, yet the potential effectiveness of this activity had been assessed only by 2.4 points. This is entirely due to the formality of the activities planned by the organisations. For example, sometimes it is claimed that cooperation is going to be promoted, but only individual appointments, exchanges of views, or only contacting other organisations are planned as the project activities, without more extensive networking and follow-up activities.

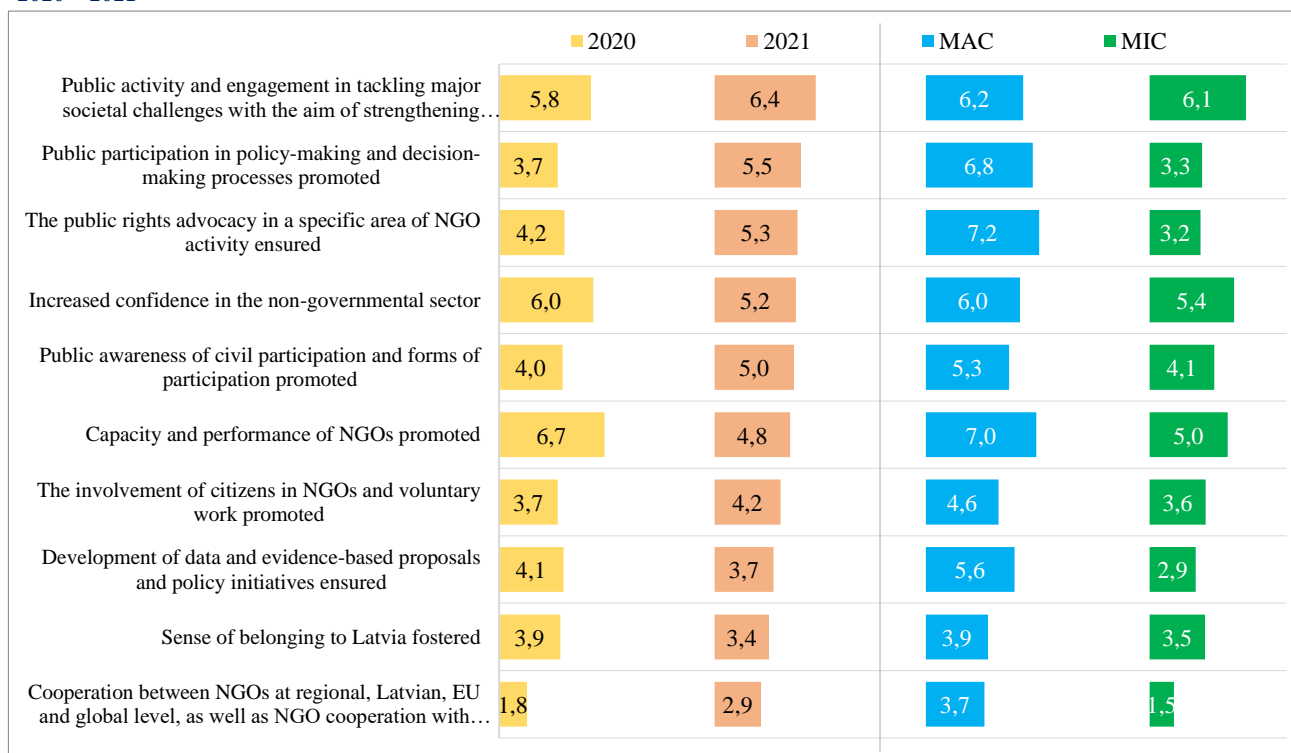
When comparing the assessments of the potential effects on the results of the macro and micro projects, it can be observed that, in case the micro projects include activities that have so far been more relevant to the daily activities of large organisations, the impact assessments of these activities are very low. This applies to activities such as advocacy of interests, participation in policy-making, the development of evidence-based proposals. This shows that **presently small organisations have insufficient competence and also the capacity to contribute to achieving such large-scale and general results**. At the same time, the impact assessments of the micro projects are almost identical to the impact assessments of the macro projects in terms of fostering civic engagement, promoting belonging to Latvia, promoting trust in NGOs.

In assessing the potential impacts of the projects on longer-term outcomes (**2016 - 2021**), some trends have been observed. **Over the period, there has been increasing impact of projects on achieving results such as:** “promoting public activity and engagement in addressing major societal challenges”, “increasing public participation in policy-making and decision-taking processes”. **The following results show a decrease in impact over the last three years:** “capacity and performance of NGOs promoted”, “trust in the non-governmental sector promoted”, “development of data and evidence-based proposals and policy initiatives ensured” (it should be stressed that, at the same time, organisations have increasingly included these activities in their projects). The same time, **the impact on the following result has increased:** “the involvement of citizens in NGOs and voluntary work promoted”.

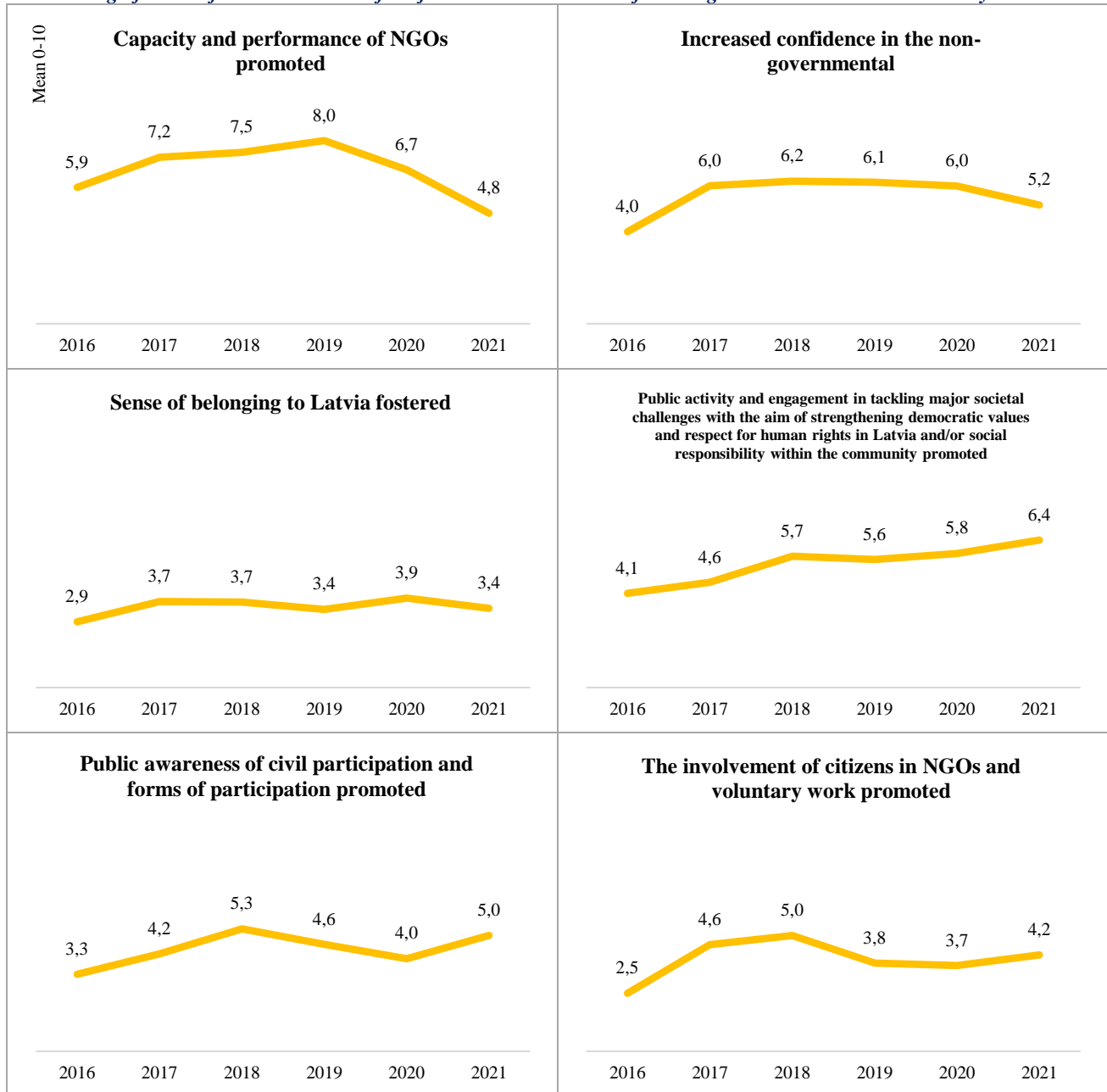
**Chart 36. Significance of the Contribution of Projects to the Achievement of the Programme's Results: Assessment for the Period of 2020 – 2021 in total**

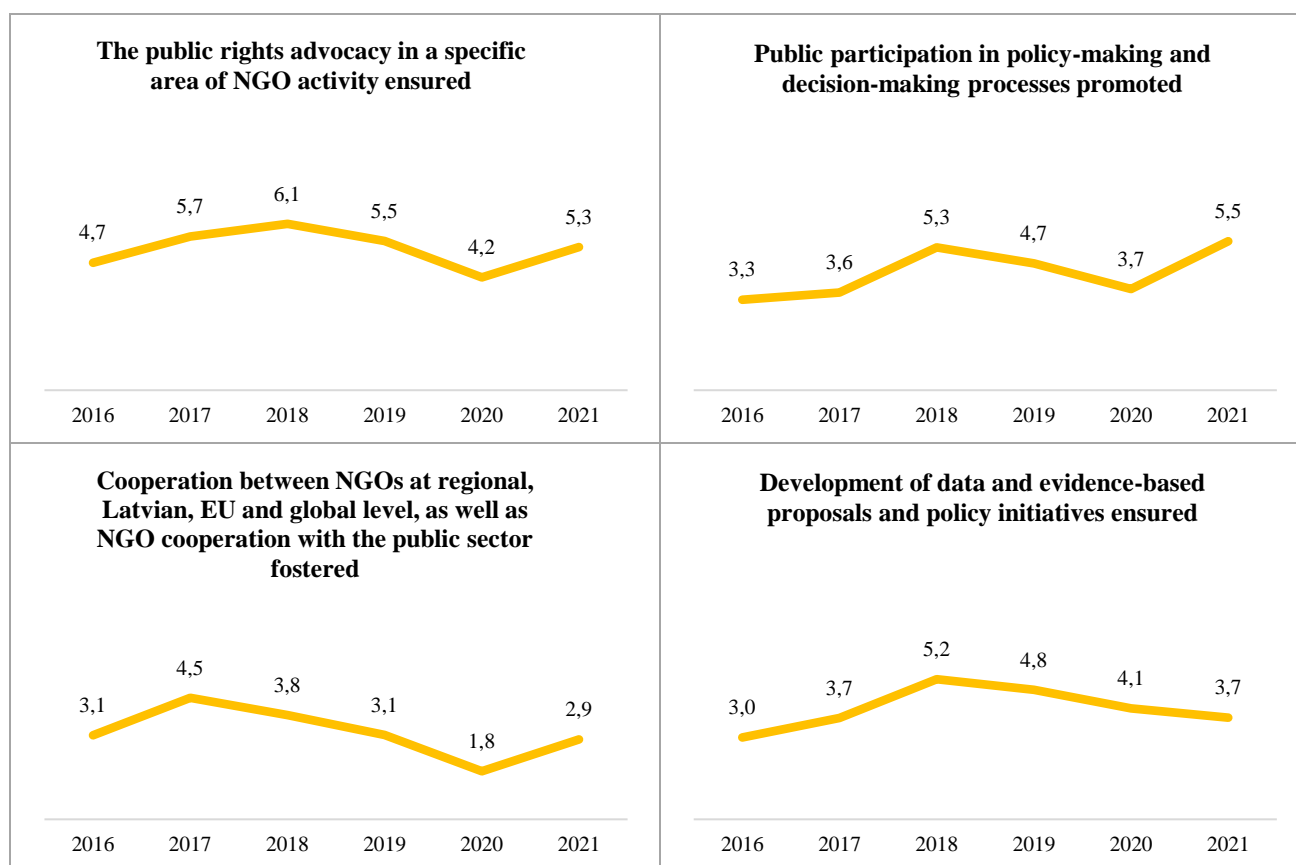


**Chart 37. Significance of the Contribution of Projects to the Achievement of the Programme's Results: Assessment for the Period of 2020 – 2021**



**Chart 38. Significance of the Contribution of Projects to the achievement of the Programme's Results: Breakdown by Year**





## 6.2. Achievement of the General Objective and Overarching Objective of the Programme

Following a detailed analysis of the contribution of the projects implemented to the achievement of specific results of the Programme, **a joint assessment of their impact on the achievement of the overall objective of the Programme was carried out.** When analysing the information provided in the project applications and project final reports, the experts-researchers assigned each project the impact rating on a scale from 0 “no input” to 10 “very significant input”. The overall assessment consists of the average values of all 3 expert assessments.

**Table 6. Definition of the General and Programme Objectives in the Regulations of 2020 - 2021<sup>33</sup>**

2020	2021
The general objective is to strengthen sustainable development of civil society and democracy in Latvia	The Programme objective is to strengthen sustainable development of civil society and democracy in Latvia
The general aim of the Programme is to increase civil co-involvement, mutual trust between citizens and cooperation between different groups of society, trust in the state and belief in one’s ability to influence decisions, and to promote and raise the sense of belonging to Latvia.	--

<sup>33</sup> For more detailed definitions of the Programme’s objectives in previous years, see Chapter 7.1 of the 2020 Evaluation Report

These assessments show that **over the last six years, the projects' contribution to achieving the general objective has increased annually**: it was only 5.1 points in 2016, but increased to 6.9 points in 2020 and 7.2 in 2021. This proves that **the NGO Fund's project competition has been improved annually so that the supported projects are primarily focused on the sustainability of civil society**. At the same time, it should also be pointed out that, **since the projects carried out are short-term projects and include activities limited in time and scope, their impact is often narrow and focused on a particular problem, rather than on civil society as a whole**. This is also confirmed by the above-mentioned impact assessments: although the absolute majority of the projects have a direct or more frequently indirect impact on the sustainability of civil society, in general, it is not so pronounced, as projects are rarely directly aimed at that (projects related to defence of interests could be regarded as the exception).

As it has already been mentioned in the previous chapters, the project implementers often include activities which are relevant to the results and objectives of the Programme in the description but, in essence, are formal and their effectiveness is low. In part, it is also possible to explain the increase in annual assessments: organisations are learning to prepare projects that meet the formal competition requirements more successfully. In part, the increasing rating of the annual assessments can be explained by the above-mentioned: organisations are learning to prepare projects that meet the formal competition requirements more successfully.

The assessments of the projects carried out from 2020 - 2021, by project type, show that **both macro and micro projects are largely focused on achieving the objective of the Programme**. For the macro projects, the rating is slightly higher, but also the evaluation of the micro projects' input is quite high. In addition, the contribution of the micro-projects has been evaluated higher in 2021, while the assessment of the macro projects has declined. Changes taking place during a period of one year cannot be fully assessed.

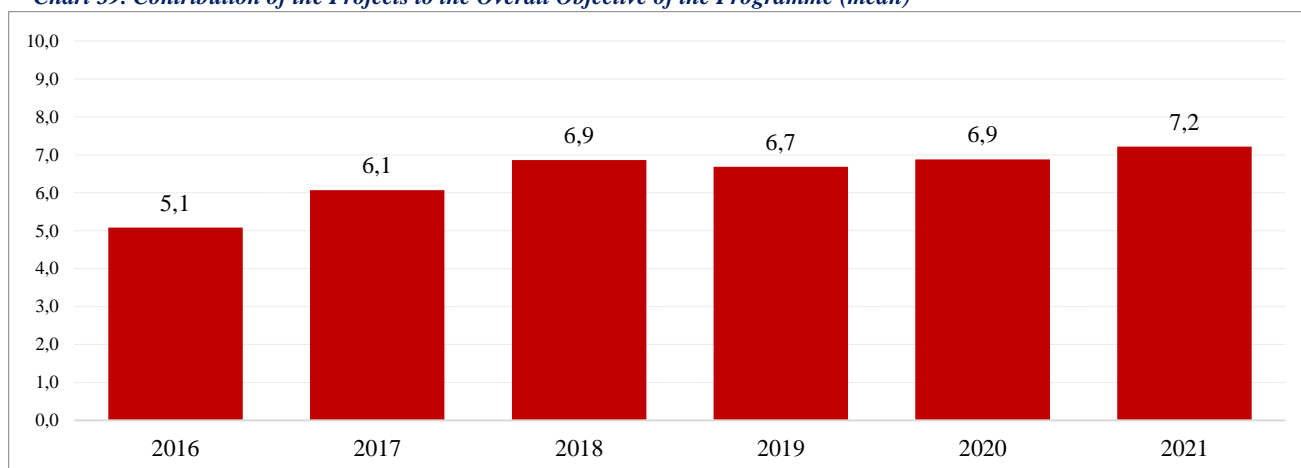
**Table 7. Contribution of the Projects in Achieving the Overall Objective of the Programme from 2020 – 2021 (the Average Score 0 - 10) by Type of Project**

Data source: content analysis of the of projects carried out under the Programme

Note: MAC – Macro projects, MIC – Micro projects

	2020	2021
ALL PROJECTS	6,9	7,2
MAC	7,8	7,4
MIC	6,4	7,0

*Chart 39. Contribution of the Projects to the Overall Objective of the Programme (mean)*



### 6.3. Achieving Policy Results

The work of the NGO Fund is coordinated with and stems from the national identity, civil society and integration policies, as well as from relevant planning documents to which these policy planning documents are subordinate. For the 2021 and 2020 project competitions, the “National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy Implementation Plan 2019 - 2020” (hereinafter referred to as NICSIPG 2019 – 2020) is the most relevant reference document. According to the policy results defined therein (7 in total, see the table below), the contribution of the implemented projects can be assessed. However, it should be stressed that the results of the policy defined in the NICSIPG 2019 – 2020 are expected to be achieved through various tasks and activities of different responsible institutions. The NGO Fund is only one of the contributors to these tasks. It is therefore possible to assess whether and to what extent the Programme’s projects are focused on achieving the specific policy results, but impossible to identify the specific volume of the impact<sup>34</sup>.

*Table 8. Policy Results Defined in the NICSIPG to be Achieved in 2020 - 2021*

NICSIPG policy results
Residents of Latvia (incl. schoolchildren, working-age people and pensioners) have practical knowledge on democratic public administration mechanisms, fundamental human rights and freedoms
Citizens’ level of awareness of the basic principles of democracy and possibilities for defending their interests has increased
Residents of Latvia have a sense of belonging to Latvia and believe in their ability to influence the decision-making process in order to promote the growth of the country's well-being and society
Involvement of residents in various activities of public participation has increased
Exchange of information and views between NGOs and state institutions has improved
Mutual trust and cooperation between different groups of society (individuals) has improved
Residents of Latvia understand and recognise the value of Latvia's statehood and the uniqueness of their national culture in a European and global context

<sup>34</sup> See Chapter 6.1 for considerations on the issue of determining the impact of the NGO Fund. The limits indicated also apply in full to assessing the impact on the policy results.

As well as the evaluation of the Programme's results and the general objective, the contribution of the projects implemented to the achievement of the policy results has been obtained on the basis of the assessments done by the experts-researchers for each project, regarding the project contribution to the achievement of specific policy results. In order to carry out an evaluation of all projects implemented on the basis of their contribution to the achievement of the policy results, the projects were randomly divided between the three experts-researchers of the evaluation team and each performed the content analysis of the relevant projects. Each project received an assessment of its impact and contribution to each of the specific 7 policy results on a 10-point scale (measuring the activities implemented in the project, the target groups reached, the general objective of the project). This resulted in the assessment of two aspects: (1) the project has/does not have an impact on the specific policy results, (2) the scope of the impact (on a 10-point scale, where 0 means that there is no impact at all, while 10 that the impact is very significant). These assignments are used below in this chapter to assess the contribution of the projects to the achievement of policy results.

The results of the assessment indicate that **the absolute majority of the implemented projects have contributed to the achievement of all 7 policy results**. Lower impact rates are only observed in two cases: in 2020, only 53% of projects have focused on the results such as “the exchange of information and views between NGOs and state institutions has improved” (an increase to 73 % in 2021), and, in 2021, only 51 % of the projects have been aimed at the policy result “residents of Latvia understand and recognize the value of Latvia's statehood” (94 % in 2020).

**There are also high impact indicators based on the project types**, with one exception: only 49% of the micro projects have been focused on “the exchange of information and views between NGOs and state institutions has improved”. However, this indicator can be entirely explained by the specificities of the micro projects, which are less likely to include this type of activity.

The evaluation of the project input as regards policy results within the period of 2016- 2021 shows changing development trends. **Only two indicators show a consistent annual increase**. Annual increases in the proportion of projects focused on policy outcomes such as: “**population involvement in different civil participation activities has increased**” (from 71 % in 2016 to 95 % in 2021), “**mutual trust and cooperation between different groups of society has improved**” (from 63 % to 91 %, respectively).

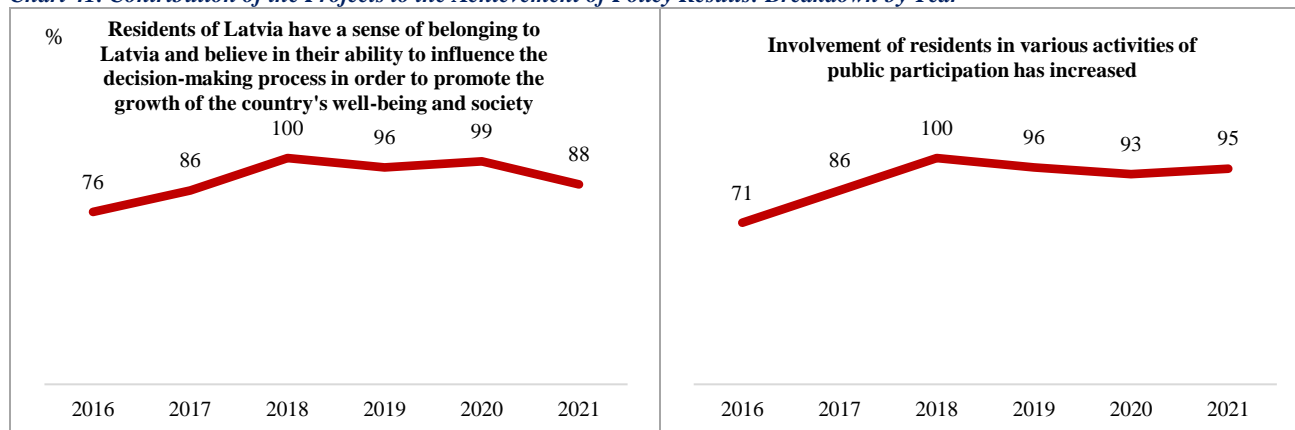
**Some indicators show a drop in the last 3-4 year period:** “**Latvian citizens have a sense of belonging to Latvia** and believe in their ability to influence the decision-making process in order to promote the growth of the country's well-being and society” (100% of the projects focused on this result in 2018, but only 88 % in 2021), “**level of awareness of the population about the basic principles of democracy** and the possibilities for defending their interests has increased” (from 97 % to 80 % respectively), “**Latvian residents have**

practical knowledge of democratic state administration mechanisms, fundamental human rights and freedoms” (from 96 % to 80 %).

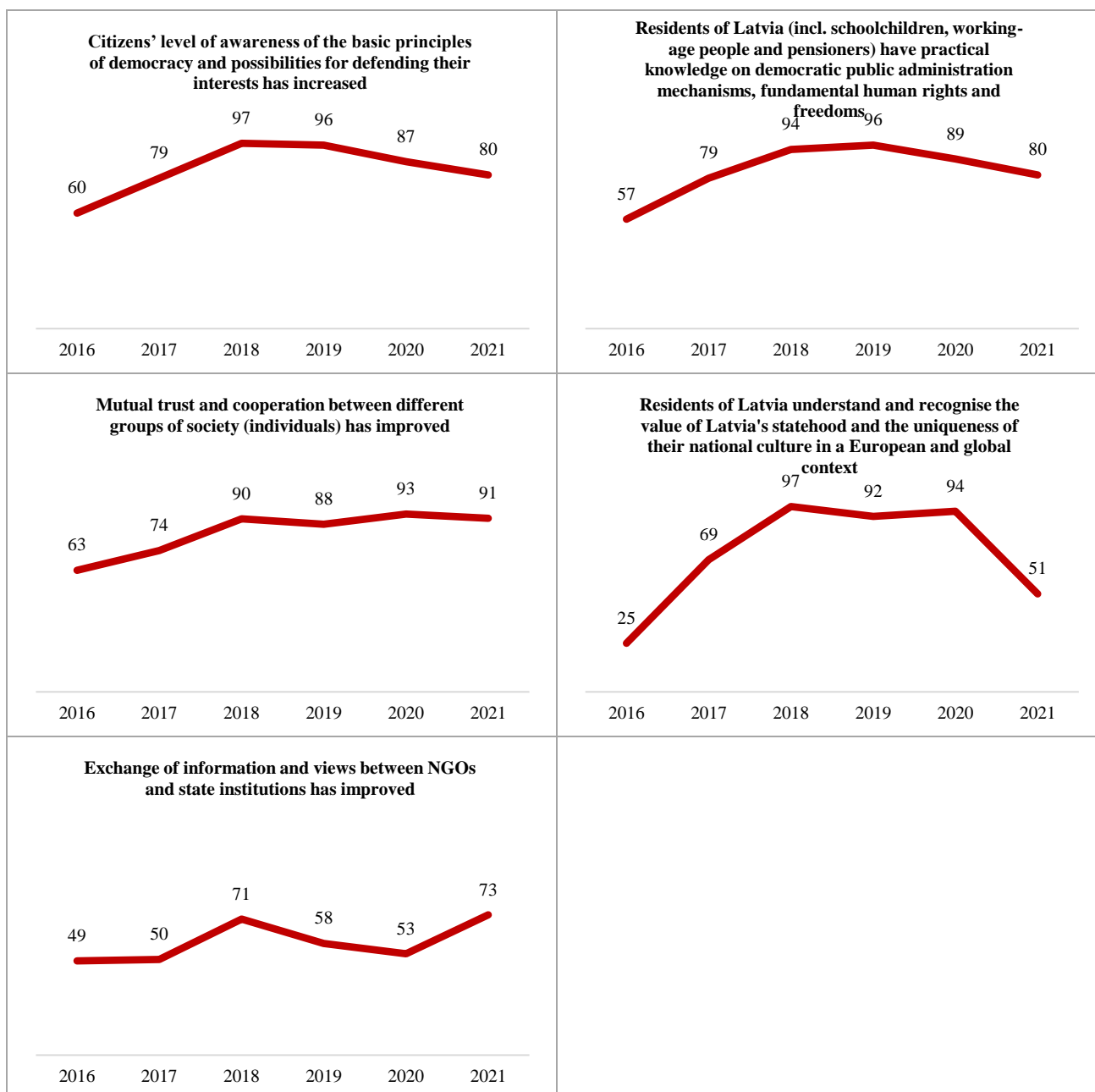
**Chart 40. Contribution of the Projects to the Achievement of Policy Results: Assessment for the Period of 2020 – 2021**

	2020	2021	MAC	MIC
Involvement of residents in various activities of public participation has increased	93	95	97	93
Mutual trust and cooperation between different groups of society (individuals) has improved	93	91	95	90
Residents of Latvia have a sense of belonging to Latvia and believe in their ability to influence the decision-making process in order to promote the growth of the country's well-being and society	99	88	97	91
Residents of Latvia (incl. schoolchildren, working-age people and pensioners) have practical knowledge on democratic public administration mechanisms, fundamental human rights and freedoms	89	80	93	78
Citizens' level of awareness of the basic principles of democracy and possibilities for defending their interests has increased	87	80	93	77
Exchange of information and views between NGOs and state institutions has improved	53	73	88	49
Residents of Latvia understand and recognise the value of Latvia's statehood and the uniqueness of their national culture in a European and global context	94	51	77	67

**Chart 41. Contribution of the Projects to the Achievement of Policy Results: Breakdown by Year**







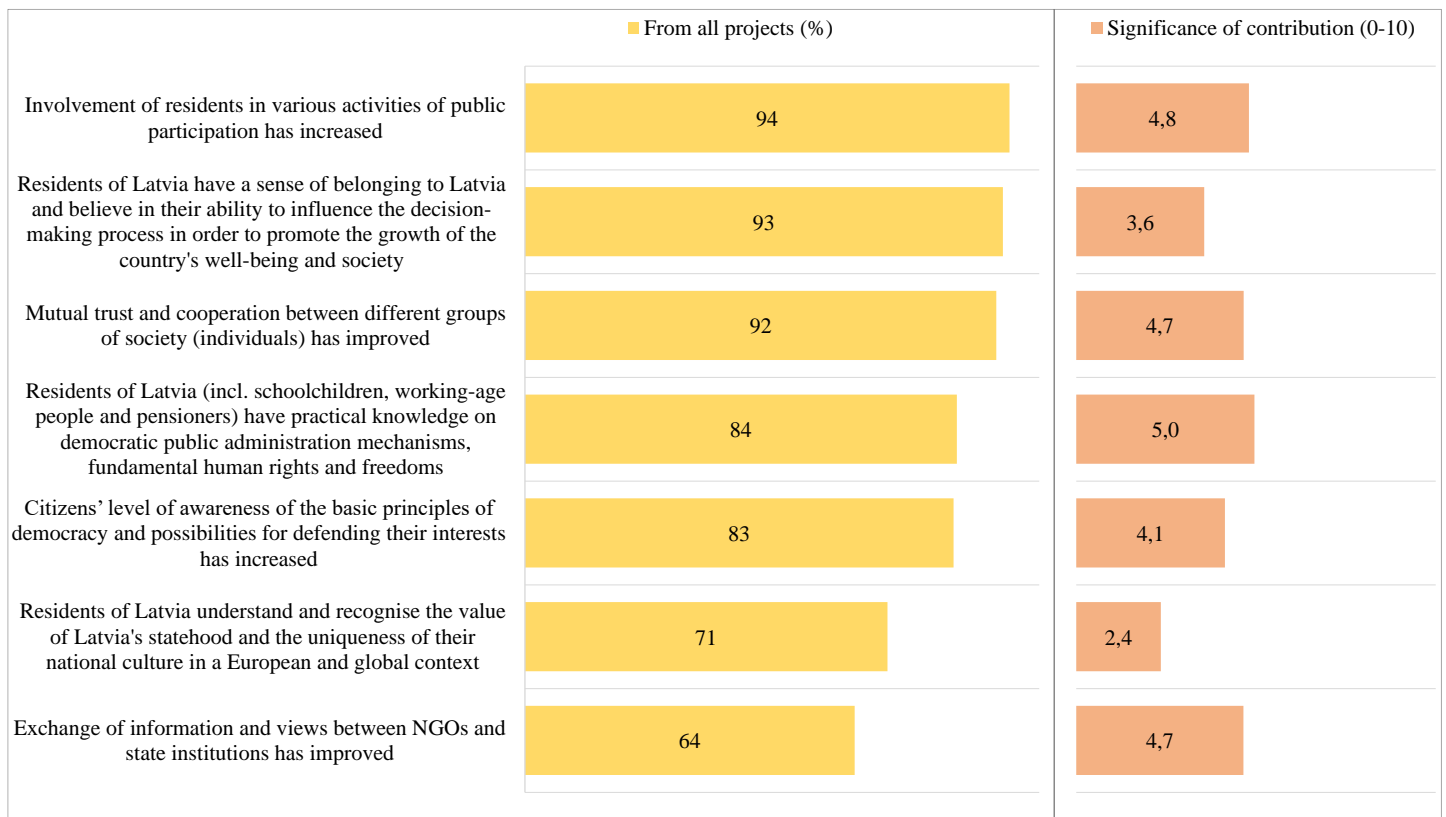
**Although most projects have had an impact on specific policy outcomes, not all projects have the same impact.** For some projects, the impact on specific results can be very pronounced, but for some - small and indirect. Therefore, in addition, also the significance or relevance of the impact was determined, by means of the content analysis of the final project reports. Also an assessment on a 10-point scale was done, evaluating the importance of the impact of the particular project and its contribution to each of the 7 policy results to be achieved (assessing the activities carried out under the project, the target groups reached, the overall objectives of the project).

**Overall, the impact assessments show that the implemented projects have left the most significant impact on such policy results as “Latvian residents have practical knowledge of democratic state governance mechanisms, fundamental human rights and freedoms” (5.0 points on a 10-point scale), “population involvement in various activities of public participation has increased” (4.8 points).** The impact has been medium on policy outcomes such as: “improved mutual trust and mutual cooperation between different groups (individuals) of society” (4.7 points), “improved exchange of information and views between NGOs and state institutions” (4.7 points), “increased awareness of citizens about basic democratic principles and the possibilities for defending their interests” (4.1 points). **Relatively small number of projects have focused on policy results such as:** “Latvian citizens have a sense of belonging to Latvia and believe in their ability to influence the decision-making process in order to promote the growth of the country's prosperity and society (3.6 points), “Latvian residents understand and recognize the value of Latvia's statehood and the uniqueness of national culture in European and global context” (2.4 points).

In assessing the relevance of project input over the years, **the contribution of the projects carried out over the last six years to achieving the policy results has been increasing.** In the case of particular results and particular years there are also decreases in indicators, but the overall trends show increase. **This leads to the conclusion that, year after year, the NGO Fund has more targeted approach in achieving the results of the policy as regards the approved and implemented projects.** For example, in 2016, the contribution of the projects implemented to achieve the result “improved mutual trust and mutual cooperation between different groups (individuals) of society” was evaluated by 2.6 points, with 4.7 points in 2020 and 4.6 points in 2021.

**Overall, it can be concluded that the impact of the implemented projects on the policy outcomes is smaller than that on the results of the Programme. This can be explained by the fact that policy outcomes are more general and even broader than the results of the Programme.** As it has already been indicated before, the projects are limited in their activities, time and budget, and their impact on overall and broad results is therefore less significant. At the same time, it should be particularly stressed that all policy outcomes have been impacted. This, in turn, should be assessed as an essential multi-faceted NGO Fund’s input for contributing to the achievement of the policy results.

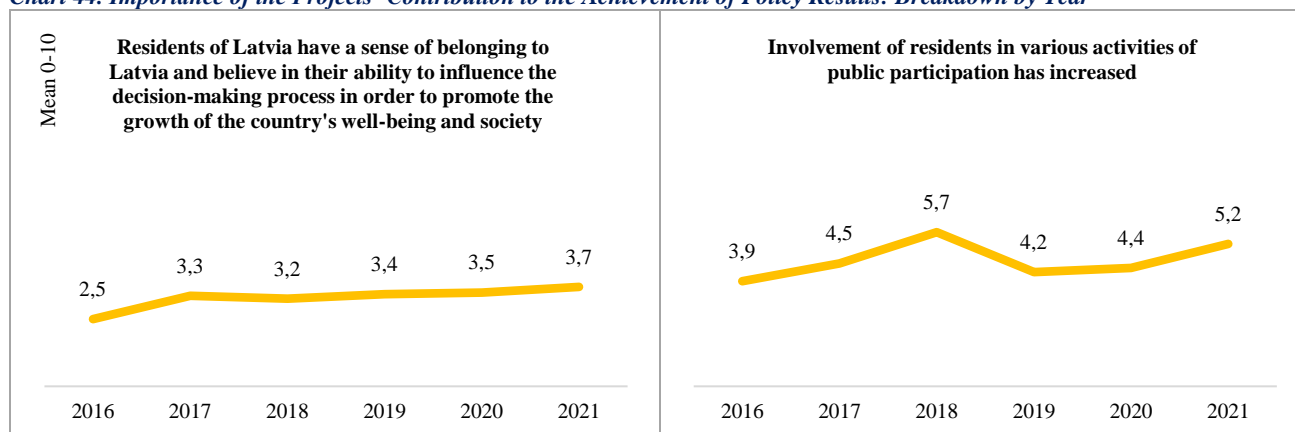
**Chart 42. Importance of the Projects' Contribution to the Achievement of Policy Results: Assessment for the Period of 2020 – 2021 in total**

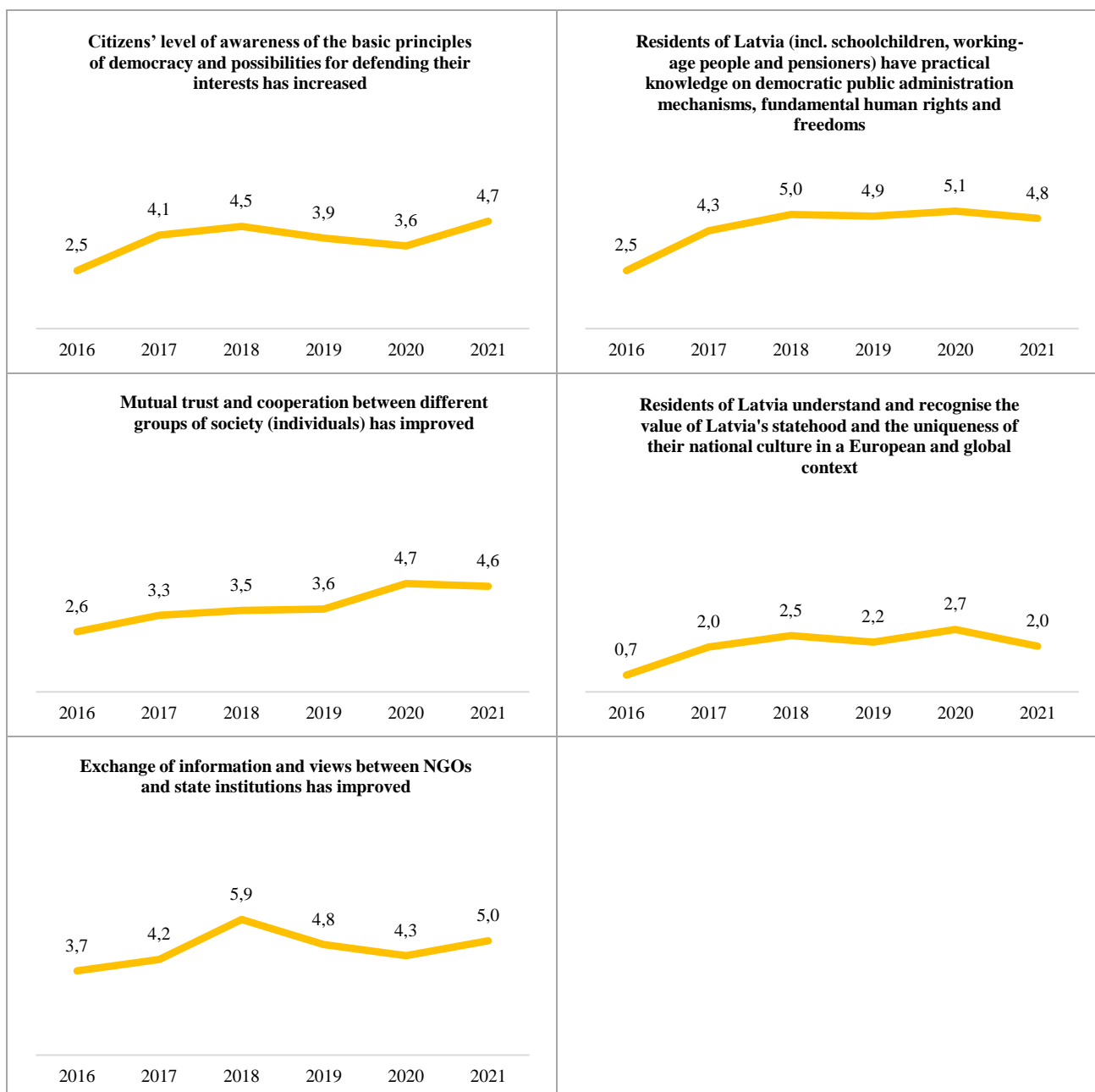


**Chart 43. Importance of the Projects' Contribution to the Achievement of Policy Results: Assessment for the Period of 2020 – 2021**

	2020	2021	MAC	MIC
Involvement of residents in various activities of public participation has increased	4,4	5,2	5,3	4,6
Exchange of information and views between NGOs and state institutions has improved	4,3	5,0	7,0	3,3
Residents of Latvia (incl. schoolchildren, working-age people and pensioners) have practical knowledge on democratic public administration mechanisms, fundamental human rights and freedoms	5,1	4,8	5,7	4,6
Citizens' level of awareness of the basic principles of democracy and possibilities for defending their interests has increased	3,6	4,7	4,9	3,7
Mutual trust and cooperation between different groups of society (individuals) has improved	4,7	4,6	4,8	4,6
Residents of Latvia have a sense of belonging to Latvia and believe in their ability to influence the decision-making process in order to promote the growth of the country's well-being and society	3,5	3,7	3,9	3,4
Residents of Latvia understand and recognise the value of Latvia's statehood and the uniqueness of their national culture in a European and global context	2,7	2,0	2,8	2,1

**Chart 44. Importance of the Projects' Contribution to the Achievement of Policy Results: Breakdown by Year**





The technical specification of this Evaluation also included the task of **assessing the future contribution of the Programme and the potential of “The Guidelines for the Development of a Cohesive and Civically Active Society for 2021 - 2027” for implementing the set tasks** and achieving performance indicators. Given that the newly developed guidelines maintain continuity as far as possible with the previous programming document, the potential contribution of the NGO Fund to the tasks identified in the document can also be identified.

Impacts can be identified in the areas of activities and tasks which are included, directly or indirectly, in the results of the Programme as defined by the project competitions of 2020 and 2021. However, the areas of activities and tasks which have not been defined in the Programme’s results, the impact has not been identified, or cannot be identified, since it has not been indicated by the project implementers in their projects’ content. In particular, **the impact and contribution of the Programme are to be determined if the specific impacts have already been defined in advance as desirable in the project competition regulations**, according to which the potential project implementers plan their activities. Consequently, **in order to initiate or increase the impact of the Programme on the areas of activities and tasks defined in the new guidelines, it would be necessary to integrate them into the regulations for the future project competitions** (e.g. by adjusting the definition of the Programme’s results).

**Table 9. The Existing and Potential Contribution by the NGO Fund Programme in Achieving the Tasks Determined by “The Guidelines for the Development of a Cohesive and Civically Active Society for 2021 - 2027”**

“The Guidelines for the Development of a Cohesive and Civically Active Society for 2021 - 2027””, areas of activities and tasks	The potential input of the “NGO Fund” Programme (based on the impact identified in this Evaluation Report on achieving the Programme’s and policy results in 2020 – 2021)
1. Area of activity: National identity and affiliation	
1.1. Strengthen the awareness of statehood and sense of belonging to Latvia.	Following impacts can be observed already now: 90 % of the projects include activities aimed at belonging to Latvia 93 % of the projects are aimed at strengthening Latvia’s residents sense of belonging to Latvia 71 % of the projects are aimed at awareness of the values of Latvia’s statehood and the uniqueness of national culture.
1.2. Encourage embedding of Latvian language in daily communication as a society unifying foundation.	There is no impact at present: no project has been implemented with corresponding activities to be carried out directly or indirectly.
1.3. Promote the formation of unifying social memory awareness in society.	There is no impact at present: no project has been implemented with corresponding activities to be carried out directly or indirectly.
2. Area of activity: Democracy culture and inclusive citizenship	
2.1. Promote the acquisition of democracy skills and knowledge by the population in line with the global challenges of this age, within the context of lifelong learning.	Following impacts can be observed already now: 91 % of the projects foster public activity and civic engagement 83 % of the projects foster public awareness of civic engagement 84 % of the projects are aimed at providing practical knowledge for residents of Latvia on the mechanisms for the democratic state administration, fundamental human rights and freedoms 83 % of the projects are aimed at informing residents on the basic principles of democracy
2.2. Strengthen the development and sustainability of civil society by creating a civil culture and encouraging inclusive citizenship.	Following impacts can be observed already now: 97 % of the projects foster NGO capacity 95 % of the projects encourage trust in NGO sector 91 % of the projects foster civic activity and engagement 83 % of the projects foster public awareness of the civic engagement
2.3. Build a high-quality, secure and inclusive space for democratic participation and information.	Following impacts can be observed already now: 91 % of the projects foster civic activity and engagement 67 % of the projects foster public participation in policy-making 56 % of the projects ensure the development of data and evidence-based proposals and policy initiatives 46 % of the projects promote collaboration between NGOs and their cooperation with the public sector

	64 % of the projects are aimed at exchange of information and views between NGOs and state institutions
3. Area of activity: Integration	
3.1. Foster social integration of foreign citizens living in Latvia.	Following impacts can be observed already now: 6 projects targeting minority representatives, 1 project targeting foreign nationals living in Latvia, 1 project targeting people with refugee or alternative status and 1 project targeting foreign students in Latvia have been implemented. However, it should be stressed that these have so far been separate projects and there is no systemic contribution of the Programme to the performance of this task.
3.2. Foster residents' awareness of social diversity by reducing attitudes based on negative stereotypes towards different groups of society.	Following impacts can be observed already now: 92 % of the projects are aimed at encouraging trust among different groups of society. See also the information in point 3.1. Also in this case, it should be stressed that there has not been a systemic and successive impact of the Programme on performance of this task until now, although specific topics have been included in some projects.

#### 6.4. Sustainability of the Projects Implemented under the Programme

In order to obtain a joint assessment of the projects carried out as regards their potential sustainability, the evaluation experts performed a sustainability assessment for each project as part of the content analysis, defining whether the project has short-term, medium-term or long-term impacts. The sustainability assessment was based on the project activities, target groups reached, potential sustainability of the activities implemented. The main consideration taken into account in the award of these assessments was whether the project activities implemented had been single activities, or whether they had led to further impacts. For example, cultural events, publications, interviews are likely to have a short-term impact, while experience-sharing trips, methodological materials development, interest advocacy activities are likely to have a medium or long-term impact.

Over the last six years, sustainability assessments of the projects have been variable, particularly for projects with short-term impacts whose share has increased in some years and decreased significantly in others. **Projects evaluated as having a short-term impact are those whose activities have a minimal impact on the achievement of the results and objectives of the Programme.** The figures show that in 2020, approximately every third project, and, in 2021, every fourth was like that. When interpreting these indicators, it should be taken into account that both small and large-scale projects are implemented under the Programme, and it is understandable that sustainability with small-scale projects is less pronounced than that with large-scale projects.

**Sustainability assessments by the project types show that namely for the micro projects short-term impacts have been identified in almost all cases.** At the same time, it should be noted that the proportion of such projects has decreased in 2021, and the number of the micro projects that can be assessed as having a long-term impact has increased. It should also be stressed that **each macro project can have a long-term impact,**

while the sustainability of the micro projects is mostly shaped when evaluating all micro-projects as a whole, and not individual projects separately. However, as indicated above, there may be legitimate doubts about some of these projects as regards their sustainability and relevance to the objectives and results of the Programme.

Chart 45. Evaluation of the Project Sustainability (%)

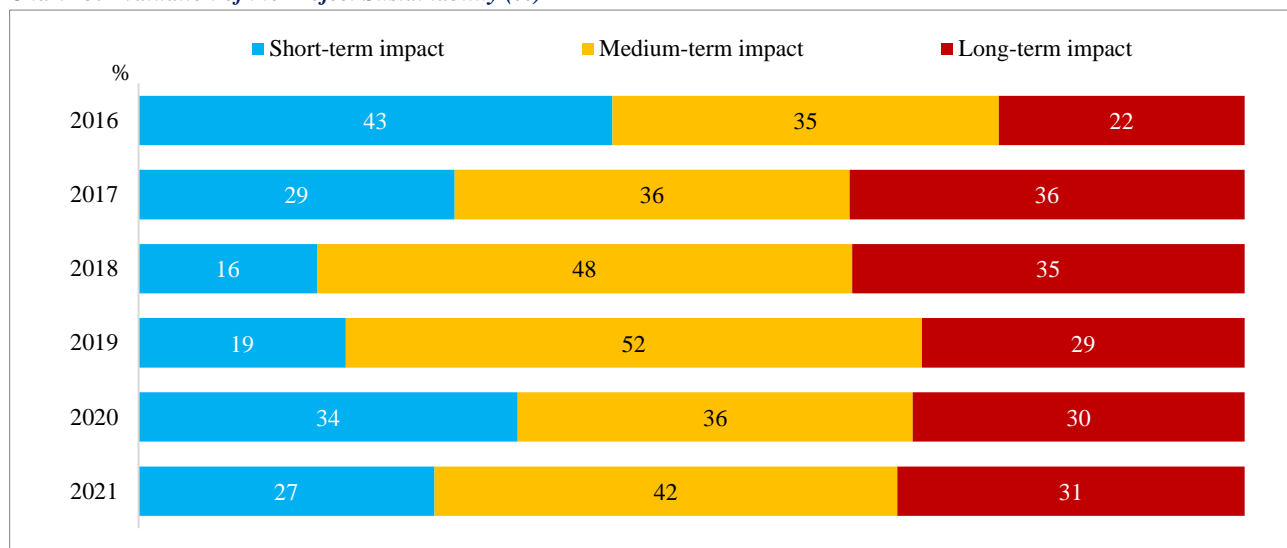
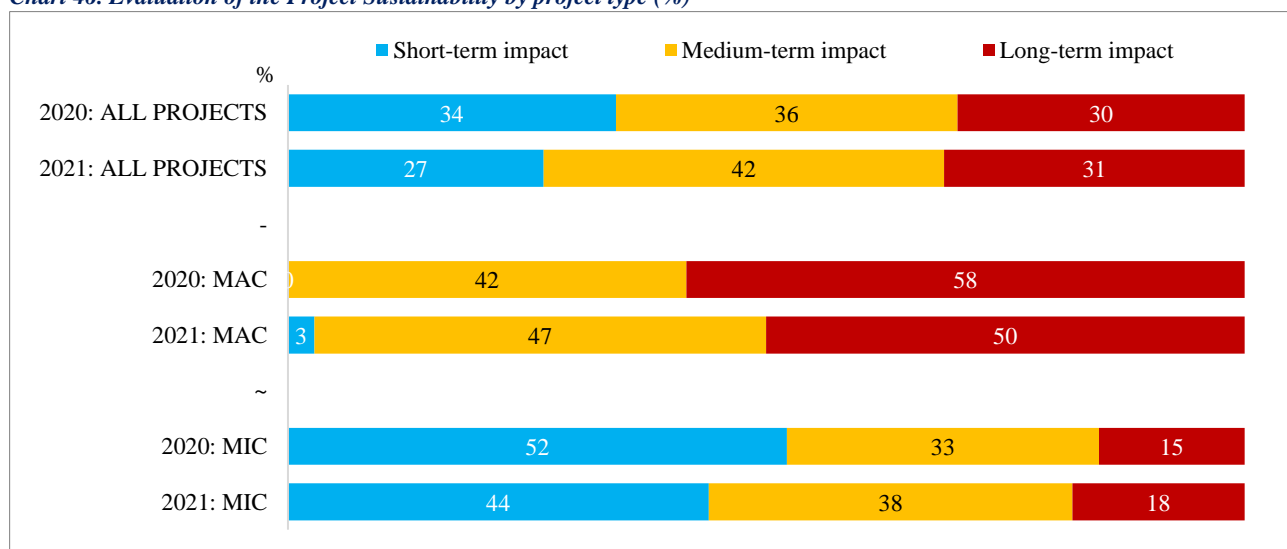


Chart 46. Evaluation of the Project Sustainability by project type (%)



In the NGO sector survey, the project implementers were asked to **assess the impact of the projects implemented on the organisations themselves**. These data describe the sustainability of the projects implemented in the context of the development of organisations. **50 % and more organisations indicate that their projects have had the following effects:** the projects implemented have strengthened their capacity, the awareness of organisation has increased, new ideas have emerged for other projects, competencies

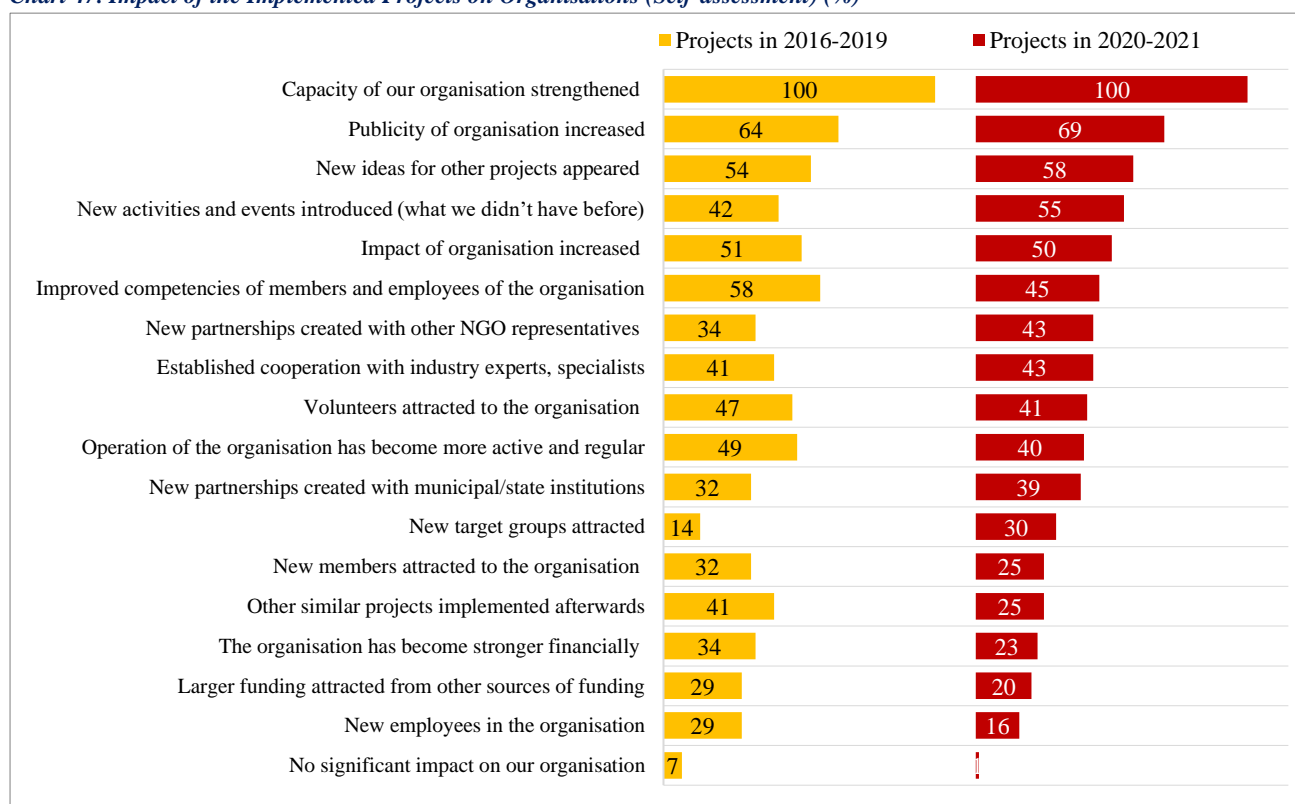


organisation’s members and employees have improved, organisational impact has increased, new activities and events (that had not taken place before) have been fostered. Interestingly, all organisations have pointed out that the project implementation has strengthened their capacity, although the evaluations of the factors that could demonstrate this (like financial stability, operational activation, new members and volunteers, etc.) are lower. This shows that, in a general assessment, organisations claim to have had a significant impact on their capacity, but they do not indicate that when analysing particular aspects.

**On the other hand, the most rarely identified impacts by organisations are:** more funding from other sources of funding has been attracted (only 20 % of organisations have indicated this in 2020 - 2021), new employees in the organisation (16 %), the organisation has been financially consolidated (23 %). In general, these data show that the benefits of organisations are mainly related to acquiring experience, but less frequently to aspects of financial capacity and sustainability. As a whole, these data indicate that **the projects carried out under the Programme have impacted not only the policy and Programme’s results, but also the NGO sector itself.**

However, it should be noted that **only a small percentage of organisations indicate that other similar projects have subsequently been implemented** (25 %), which implicitly shows that the succession of activities carried out in the projects is a major challenge.

*Chart 47. Impact of the Implemented Projects on Organisations (Self-assessment) (%)*



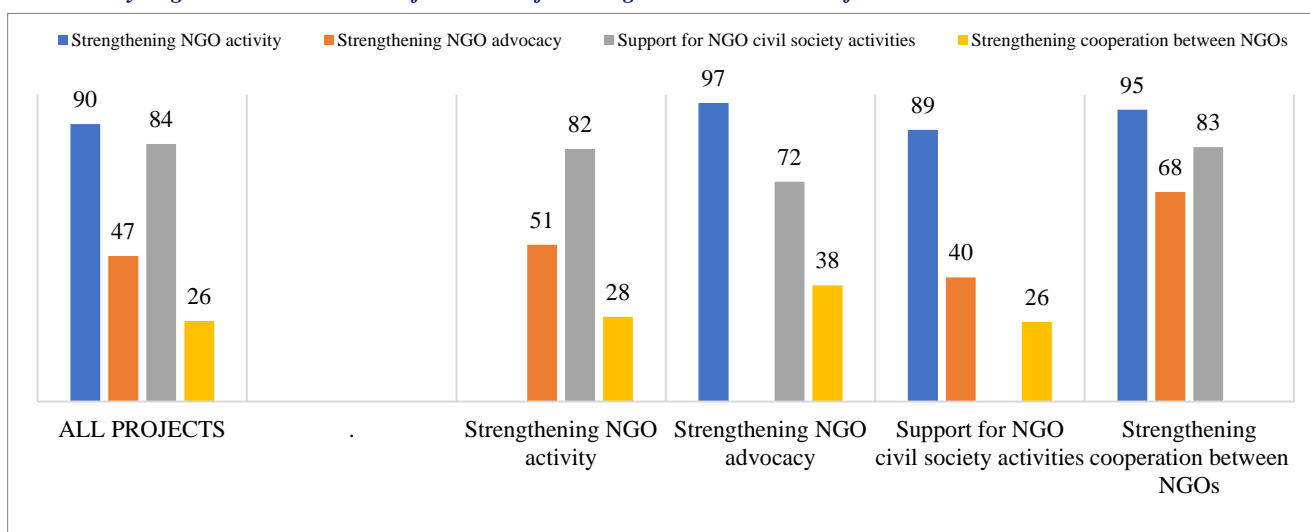
In terms of sustainability, **synergies between the project activities were also analysed**. In their project applications, organisations mark one or several areas of activities to which the project relates. However, the content analysis of the projects shows that organisations (particularly in the field of micro projects) are not always able to assess objectively which areas of activity are most relevant for the project, therefore the **information included in these project reports does not necessarily provide a full profile of activities**.

Therefore, the evaluation experts also carried out the content analysis of the projects and identified compliance of each project with specific areas of activities. When comparing the expert assessments of compliance with the areas of activities marked by the project applicants, **the areas marked by the organisations do not coincide with the assessment performed by the experts approximately per each fourth project** (18 % in the case of macro projects, 32 % in the case of micro projects). **Discrepancies can be observed particularly in the case of NGO cooperation area of activities**.

The obtained data show that 90 % of the projects implemented in 2020 - 2021 have been directly or indirectly focused on strengthening NGO activity, 84 % of the projects have had civil society activities, 47 % of the projects have strengthened advocacy of interests, while 26 % of the projects focused on strengthening mutual cooperation.

The analysis of the synergies between these activities shows that **any of these areas also leave an impact on any other area of activities**. For example, 82 % of projects aimed at strengthening NGO activity are also focused on the implementation of civil activities, 51 % on strengthening interest advocacy and 28 % on NGO mutual cooperation. Synergies between them are expressed regarding all areas of activities. These indicators show, to a large extent, that **the division of activities is notional. Regardless of the specific defined area of activities, projects at the same time have a multilateral impact on any other area of activities**.

*Chart 48. Synergies between the Areas of Activities of the Programme: Evaluation of the Period 2020 - 2021*



The 2020 Evaluation showed that **neither project topics nor activities implemented have a direct link to the project sustainability**. Projects of identical topics and activities have been assessed both as projects with short-term and long-term impacts. Some exceptions, however, can be identified. For example, projects implementing cultural events, hikes, team-building activities, lectures to the employees, etc., are more often considered as short-term impact projects. On the other hand, projects where assessments have been carried out on a specific topic or field, cooperation with other NGOs, fundraising activities, voluntary work activities, development of methodological materials, information campaigns, etc., are more often defined as having a long-term impact. It should also be stressed that **the cross-thematic nature of activities is essential**: if the activities included in the projects are well considered and complementary (synergistic), it is more likely that the project as a whole will have a long-term impact. This means that **sustainability is ensured by the nature and quality of the project implementation, not by specific topics of the project or by the activities carried out**.

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## 7. ANNEXES

### 7.1. Examples of Good Practice

#### Association "Ascendum"

Project implementer	Association "Ascendum" Riga neighborhoods, Latvia (online campaign)
Project name	Promoting civic activism and access to culture in the neighborhoods of Riga and among Satori.lv readers
Project number	2021.LV/NVOF/ MAC/042/21
Project direction	"Strengthening NGO advocacy" "Support for NGO civil society activities" "Strengthening cooperation between NGOs and citizens"
The aim of the project	To inform the population of Latvia about the forms of civic activity and to inspire people to get involved in civic participation, as well as to promote the availability of culture in the vicinities of Riga, thus strengthening the sense of belonging to Latvia.
Topicality of the project	In the world, culture is considered to be an important tool in the cohesion of society, and the role of national culture and cultural space in creating a sense of belonging is also emphasized in Latvia's main planning documents. At the same time, the data of the European Commission's Culture Monitor show that, for example, the success of Riga's cultural infrastructure in terms of the city's "viability" ratio and population participation in cultural life is insufficient, but it is one of the paths to greater civic activism. 95% of Rigans live in the neighborhoods of Riga outside the city center. However, the cultural infrastructure and activities are mostly concentrated in the center - accordingly, solutions must be sought to increase the accessibility of culture in the neighborhoods of Riga. Research shows that audiences who are interested in the analysis of cultural and political processes on a daily basis have great potential to be active citizens. They are often educated and interested people, able to delve into complex issues and judge the common interests of society, i.e. from active reasoning they could become active in doing something. However, as the Ascendum surveys show, there is a need to improve the understanding of the individual's responsibility to solve common problems.
Project target groups	80,000 Satori.lv readers; 30 Riga Neighborhood Associations; Neighborhood residents as an indirect audience. 500 NGOs with the status of public benefit organizations.
Project activities	Four public discussions in cooperation with the Alliance of Riga Neighborhood Association, the result of which is not only the involvement of the residents themselves in the events, but also the development of proposals for the Riga Municipality. In turn, Satori's current and potential readers are invited to participate in the donation campaign, which would ensure the further publication of the magazine and the availability of cultural content to the residents of Latvia, regardless of their place of residence. It not only strengthens the capacity and performance of the NGO, but also implements civic participation, involvement in solving problems important to society, increases social responsibility in society and a sense of belonging to the community and Latvia.

## Association „Cita Riga”

Project implementer	Association „Cita Riga” The city of Riga
Project name	365 days in Riga
Project number	2021.LV/NVOF/ MIC/017/21
Project direction	"Support for NGO civil society activities"
The aim of the project	To strengthen the capacity and performance of the association as well as to create a sense of belonging to Latvia and Riga.
Topicality of the project	<p>Today, the learning process in schools is focused on raising awareness, not memorizing dry facts - to understand the context of things and the causes of events. The history of Latvia is no longer a separate subject, but integrated in the course of world history. However, there is a lack of knowledge related to local history - even if the topics of local history are included in primary school lessons, teachers most often talk about Old Riga / Riga center, because there is a lack of specific knowledge about the immediate surroundings. As a result, students also lack knowledge about the city in which they live, the historical development of neighborhoods, period buildings, and so on.</p> <p>The results of a survey of Riga residents conducted in 2017 show that more than 80% of Rigans feel closely connected with Riga, explaining their sense of belonging by the fact that Riga is their place of residence, birth or place of work. However, when asked to name the most important places in their neighborhood, people most often mentioned supermarkets, small shops and playgrounds. The Old Town, in turn, is associated with restaurants or public events.</p> <p>In accordance with the goals of the integration policy of the city of Riga, it is important to create a lasting sense of belonging to Riga, and one of the ways is to create an understanding of the development of the city of Riga from its beginnings to the present day, focusing on families with children.</p>
Project target groups	Rigans, people interested in the history of Riga and families with children.
Project activities	<p>365 facts about Riga have been collected - one fact is dedicated to each day and information is published on the website <a href="http://www.citariga.lv">www.citariga.lv</a>, where a new section has been created for this purpose.</p> <p>25 informative routes have been developed around Riga, which are especially suitable for COVID-19 time family walks.</p> <p>The account of the association “Cita Riga” in social networks has been renewed and supplemented, and the home page of the website <a href="http://www.citariga.lv">www.citariga.lv</a>, which is the association's business card, has been updated and improved.</p>

## Association "Education Development Center" (IAC)

Project implementer	Association "Education Development Center" (IAC), Latvia
Project name	"Participate and shape the future!"
Project number	2021.LV/NVOF/ MAC/024/23
Project direction	"Support for NGO civil society activities"
The aim of the project	Strengthen the sustainability, social and political responsibility of civil society by implementing civic participation activities of young people - exploring the democratic values set out in the Satversme and practicing civic participation in election simulations and discussions.

Topicality of the project	Turnout is one of the indicators of civil society, but the 2018 Saeima elections show the lowest turnout (54.6%) in the last 25 years. Among them, young people are the group with the lowest activity. Research also shows that young people are not active voters in elections, do not trust state and local government institutions, and this is due to a lack of knowledge, skills and motivation. Teachers, on the other hand, point out that civic education is included in the school curriculum, although teaching materials are insufficient and the development of critical thinking is a particularly important goal.
Project target groups	660 young people, students from different regions of Latvia as participants in election simulations; 40 youth leaders from different regions of Latvia as participants in discussions and 24 teachers, youth work organizers and non-formal education specialists from different regions of Latvia.
Project activities	<p>A practical civic participation program has been developed and implemented to address these issues. In the youth target group, the program has helped to get acquainted with the regulatory enactments regulating elections, to get acquainted with the lists of candidates nominated in their local government, to analyze party pre-election programs, as well as to organize voting and vote; to collect and analyze data and compare them with real results (election simulations took place shortly before the municipal elections in order to generate more interest in political processes and motivate young people to get involved).</p> <p>Active youth leaders from local communities took part in the discussions at the four project venues, offering their content and agenda to practice youth representation in decision-making.</p> <p>Teachers, youth work organizers and non-formal education specialists from different regions of Latvia learned in seminars how to organize local election simulations and discussions. They then put this knowledge into practice in their communities / schools as part of civic participation activities, thus ensuring the further transfer of civic participation knowledge and skills to young people and other groups in society.</p> <p>In addition, based on the IAC's previous experience with European Parliament and Saeima election simulations, the project developed training materials and an activity-based methodology that will be widely available after the project.</p>

### Association „For the Development of Jelgava”

Project implementer	Association „For the Development of Jelgava” The city of Jelgava
Project name	Set of measures to promote civic participation of citizens in urban development issues in Jelgava
Project number	2021.LV/NVOF/ MIC/007/27
Project direction	"Support for NGO civil society activities"
The aim of the project	Promote the participation of the residents of Jelgava in policy-making and in solving problems important to the residents.
Topicality of the project	Only a part of Jelgava residents are active citizens, as evidenced by the Saeima and local government election statistics - 58.50% of the city residents participated in the 13th Saeima elections, and 43.37% in local government elections. However, in the context of local governments, there are positive trends in civic activity, which could be further intensified by organizing more accessible forms of participation, allowing anyone interested to get involved. Research also shows that citizens have an opinion on, for example, urban development. It is therefore worth creating favorable conditions for a productive dialogue with the municipality, as this would

	help both to attract new residents and to make the city more attractive to visitors as an environment where the needs of the residents are listened to and taken into account. In addition, Jelgava Municipality, for its part, has already started and is committed to continuing to listen to NGOs in the development of projects important to the city - it is only necessary to activate the residents themselves so that they can express their wishes.
Project target groups	Residents of Jelgava, incl. 50 face-to-face participants and 100 survey participants.
Project activities	The participation of Jelgava residents in policy-making has been achieved in a direct and indirect way. A quantitative population survey on urban development has been conducted, with a special focus on neighborhoods. Discussions have taken place with representatives of Jelgava municipality and responsible institutions on topics related to the city's green zoning, public infrastructure and mobility; use of public waters and Jelgava development planning. The project ended with a two-day co-production event to develop concepts for solving people's problems.

### Association "Latvian Rural Forum"

Project implementer	Association "Latvian Rural Forum" All Latvia
Project name	"Strengthening cooperation between rural communities and ensuring the representation of interests"
Project number	2021.LV/NVOF/ MAC/028/01
Project direction	"Strengthening NGO advocacy" "Strengthening cooperation between NGOs and citizens"
The aim of the project	To promote the integration of issues important to rural communities in political and public administration decisions, to strengthen the strategic partnership between LLF members - rural community NGOs, and other partners involved in rural development, as well as to continue the development of the Latvian Rural Parliament.
Topicality of the project	32% of Latvia's population lives and works in rural areas, but an economically diverse and active rural space in Latvia with high-quality social capital and the availability of diverse services is a serious challenge to sustainable development. Unlike other European countries, Latvia does not have a rural development strategy or an up-to-date action plan, which would determine the priorities to be implemented in the coming years and which would look at rural areas in cross-sectoral i.e. in the context of rural development.  Latvia has the third highest regional inequality (OECD), and the measures and investments taken so far have not reduced it. It is therefore important to hear the needs of rural communities - to ensure their representation, cooperation and capacity building, so that these needs are integrated into the conditions of financial allocation for the next programming period (until 2027) and heard in public institutions. The pandemic has also highlighted the importance of cooperation, the availability of support networks and services at the local level.
Project target groups	81 LLF members and associate members, >1400 LLF member members (representatives of NGOs, private persons, merchants, farms and municipalities, etc.; Latvian Council of Rural Communities and 35 strategic cooperation partners; Other rural NGOs (70)) and 200 representatives of active rural communities.
Project activities	Advocacy activities in developing and applying "rural filters" to planned policies; thematic research, development of opinion documents and

	<p>participation in various working groups, conciliation meetings and other activities.</p> <p>Throughout the project, an information space and a cooperation platform were created, which facilitates the identification of new initiatives and involvement in cooperation activities.</p> <p>The largest meeting of rural NGOs, residents, rural development experts and enthusiasts was organized - the 5th Latvian Rural Community Parliament, which aimed to jointly find successful solutions and new opportunities for rural development by promoting cooperation between various local stakeholders at the regional and national level.</p>
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## Association "Latvijas Mazpulki"

Project implementer	Association "Latvijas Mazpulki" Latvia
Project name	A step towards growth!
Project number	2021.LV/NVOF/ MAC/053/07
Project direction	"Strengthening the activities of NGOs" "Strengthening NGO advocacy" "Support for NGO civil society activities" "Strengthening cooperation between NGOs and citizens"
The aim of the project	Implement the interests of rural youth, strengthen the capacity of the organization and improve publicity, as well as promote the participation of members, develop the involvement of regional clubs in solving local problems and exchange experiences, thus promoting the development of civil society and awareness of belonging to the organisation and Latvia.
Topicality of the project	<p>Research shows that youth NGOs in Latvia have low administrative capacity, different understanding of participation opportunities and experience in cooperation with local governments. The experience of Mazpulki is also different - not equally successful everywhere. The role of boards of regional units in implementing youth initiatives and developing participatory skills and leaders is crucial.</p> <p>European and Latvian youth policy documents point to the need to strengthen the participation of young people and, in particular, to promote opportunities for the growth of young people in rural areas, as there are still significant differences between young people's opportunities in rural and urban areas. Territorial segregation reduces young people's opportunities to communicate with peers; in the context of the organization, this means that it is more difficult for those young people to understand its national structure, role and potential. Remote communication allows young people to get involved in organizational decision-making, gives them the opportunity to get involved and reduces the feeling of isolation, but face-to-face activities are more effective and more motivating for young people. The knowledge and skills of youth workers are also important here, so that Mazpulki work is attractive to young people and builds the overall capacity of the organization.</p>
Project target groups	Members of the organisation - 30 participants in a face-to-face seminar, 1200 (remote). Leaders of the organisation - 20 (in experience visits), 30 (in training), 120 (remote). 8 office staff and Mazpulki council. 10 other NGOs or interest groups.
Project activities	<p>Online meetings of small group leaders were held regularly to share experiences, provide support and learn.</p> <p>Mazpulki council has been established from voluntary board representatives who have mastered methods to implement work in the small regiment more effectively (organization of elections, distribution of positions and</p>



	<p>development of group projects) and gained knowledge about the importance of public relations and communication in ensuring the organization's visibility and viability.</p> <p>The young people trained in the seminars were invited to carry out cooperation activities with local NGOs, informal interest groups or other population groups, thus developing cooperation skills and including civic participation activities.</p> <p>There have also been brainstorming, discussions and evaluations of young people's views on policy issues, so that the organization can essentially represent the views of young people and nurture future leaders.</p> <p>In order to promote a sense of belonging to Latvia, patriotism towards their country and their village, young people were invited to learn something important about their place of residence, which has changed over time and is important for the growth of young people today and in the future.</p>
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## Association "Neklusē"

Project implementer	Association "Neklusē" Latgale, Kurzeme, Vidzeme, Zemgale, Riga
Project name	# Don't be silent and act in a mobbing situation ASAP: Recognize, Say, Activate and Help!
Project number	2021.LV/NVOF/ MIC/032/17
Project direction	"Support for NGO civil society activities"
The aim of the project	To offer a solution to at least 50 Latvian schools to reduce mobbing in the school environment.
Topicality of the project	<p>Latvia ranks 1st in OECD countries in terms of mobbing rates in schools - one in three students in Latvia admits to suffering from mobbing several times a month. However, 54% of these students have not sought help. In the case of mobbing, students would most often like to get help from parents (55%), friends (37%) and teachers (27%). At the same time, only 1/3 of teachers and parents know how to handle mobbing situations.</p> <p>Mobbing is equally harmful to victims, perpetrators and observers - their performance may decline or they may drop out of school, as well as an increases the risk of mental health problems and suicide. In order to solve the problem, it is important not only to promote public awareness of violence risks or involve public institutions in solving them, but also to develop specific action programs to reduce the level of violence and increase student satisfaction with learning environment. International research and the experience of other countries show that it is very important to prevent mobbing - to educate school staff, parents and students how to act and cooperate; develop school, classroom values and rules and an action plan for what happens if they are violated. In addition, assistance should be provided to students directly involved in mobbing. Solutions need to be available both face-to-face and digitally, as research shows that students often do not seek help from a teacher, parent or psychologist.</p>
Project target groups	School staff - 1000 Pupils - 20,000 Parents - 10,000
Project activities	Online training, methodological support and discussions with experts were provided to all stakeholders, namely fifty Latvian school staff, class teachers, pupils and parents on what mobbing is, how to recognize it, how to prevent and reduce mobbing and where to go for help. if the child is a victim, abuser or observer. All schools involved in the project have a free mobile app for students to report abuse and get help from a school psychologist, helpdesk, Adolescent Resource Center or police.

## Association “tabureTE”

Project implementer	Association “tabureTE” Gulbene
Project name	tabureTE: grow and do HERE (TE)
Project number	2021.LV/NVOF/MIC/062/08
Project direction	"Strengthening the activities of NGOs" "Strengthening NGO advocacy" "Support for NGO civil society activities"
The aim of the project	To draw the attention of the local population to the current processes, to offer an opportunity to get involved and participate in them; to increase compassion, understanding and solidarity between citizens with different values and beliefs.
Topicality of the project	Distance from Riga, territorial isolation of rural population may contribute to lack of interest in the processes taking place in society, as well as it may limit people's opportunities to use the offer of cultural services or this offer does not sufficiently cover the needs and interests of different population groups (especially young people). The lack of such opportunities or supply creates a breeding ground for intergenerational conflicts: older generations do not understand young people, but young people feel limited as to why they leave their home town or give up after leaving school because they do not see potential for growth. In this situation, it is important to address and involve people of all ages, but especially young people, emphasizing the importance of each person's participation and contribution to the local community. Citizens' organizations have a key role to play: they must be recognizable, active, up-to-date and inspiring. They need to work with other organizations and institutions. One way is to promote the work of the organization and its representatives; to share inspiring human stories to encourage people to look at things from a different perspective; to promote compassion, empathy, understanding and mutual respect..
Project target groups	Residents of Gulbene region, young people studying in Gulbene or studying in other cities. Representatives of other organizations and executive agencies.
Project activities	Development of organisation’s identity and promotion in the virtual space to increase understanding of its goals and tasks. Cooperation forum “SIN (en) ERGIJA”, where the forms of cooperation between the local people, local government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector were discussed and cooperation plans were developed. Motivational content has been created for the video series "Bļāviens!", in which various residents of Gulbene region share their experiences of individual boundaries and experiences of getting out of the comfort zone, as well as a series of stories - "Why is it cool doing?" about local activists working to improve the quality of life for peers; to improve the environment and volunteers playing an important role in the local community and its development. In cooperation with the youth center “Bāze” and the youth council, the views, needs and vision of young people about the ongoing processes, as well as the involvement of young people and opportunities for volunteering have been explored.

## Association „Ūdenszīmes”

Project implementer	Association „Ūdenszīmes” Jekabpils region
Project name	"A catalyst for Community growth. Identity"
Project number	2021.LV/NVOF/ MAC/008/35
Project direction	"Strengthening NGO advocacy" "Support for NGO civil society" "Strengthening cooperation between NGOs and citizens"
The aim of the project	To develop and strengthen the network of civic active communities of Sēlija region, ensuring the meaningful participation of these communities in the formation of the historical identity of the land of Sēlija; their impact on decision-making processes at the municipal level and the operation of the Latvian Historical Lands Law at the national level.
Topicality of the project	Over the last 10 years, the population of the rural areas of Sēlija has decreased by 30-40% and the population data show that the proportion of elderly and socially vulnerable people is increasing, but the proportion of qualified and educated people is decreasing. In addition, as a result of the administrative-territorial reform, the distance of some communities to the new municipal centers in Sēlija is as high as 35-55 km. This means that the role of each small community and the role of self-cooperation are growing, consolidating the intellectual resources for meaningful work, for example to work together and make constructive proposals to the new municipalities.
Project target groups	Residents of 26 remote rural parishes, their initiative groups - on average 5 people from one community, a total of 130 people.
Project activities	Maintenance of a network of activities and community cooperation, involving new communities from the already covered territory and expansion of the scope of activities, including the communities of Daugavpils region, which are located in the territory of the historical Sēlija land. This means closer communication and planning of joint activities between the communities of Zemgale and Latgale planning regions, with which there has been no such experience of joint cooperation before. The creation of a digital 'Selia Community Map', a geographical map, complemented by interviews and photographs from at least 26 communities to promote the role of civil society in the region, as well as the development of an 'identity palette' for each networked community, recognizing the region's common identity. By strengthening cooperation with local governments, a package of proposals addressed to the newly established local governments has been developed; a Sēlija NGO forum was organized and a package of proposals for the implementation of practical support measures in the context of the Latvian Historical Lands Law was prepared. Project activities help to increase the knowledge and skills of communities in formulating their needs and finding real and adequate solutions, to use new tools and methods for this purpose, as well as to establish a dialogue with municipal and state institutions.

## The foundation “Viduslatgales pārnovadu fonds”

Project implementer	The foundation “Viduslatgales pārnovadu fonds” Preiļi
Project name	Strengthening the Foundation's capacity and advocacy work.
Project number	2021.LV/NVOF/MIC/027/01
Project direction	"Strengthening NGO advocacy"
The aim of the project	Aim of the project To strengthen the activities of the foundation „Viduslatgales pārnovadu fonds” in philanthropy and to implement measures to protect the interests of children with special needs and their caregivers.
Topicality of the project	<p>There are several population groups in the region that are relatively isolated due to a lack of services and unequal opportunities. In the summer of 2020, the organization’s funding was used to cover the costs of rehabilitation services and medical supplies for 12 children with special needs. Starting in 2013, the charity campaign "Fulfill your dream" takes place every year, in which the life stories of at least 20 families with children with special needs are heard, and during the campaign the foundation tries to fulfill their wishes for useful things. It is a way for the Foundation to fulfill its civic responsibility by advocating for the well-being of children and families and an inclusive community, in order to increase the sense of security of its citizens.</p> <p>As the number of the Foundation's staff and volunteers has increased over the past year, as well as the number of activities to be carried out, the Foundation itself needs to develop a strategic plan to strengthen growth in order to work hard to build a stable and strong local community. One of the challenges for the near future is to engage in dialogue with policy makers. As the Preiļi region expands as a result of regional reform, it is important to promote the political will to find sustainable solutions for the observance of the interests and rights of the population and to prevent the territorial stratification or marginalization of the population.</p>
Project target groups	Foundation staff and volunteers. Parents, guardians and carers of children with special needs, especially those caring for children / young people with long - term or lifelong illnesses. Representatives of civil society organizations targeting families and children. Policy makers, local government leaders.
Project activities	<p>The needs of new services and the possibilities of existing services, the necessary resources and the political commitment of local governments to act in order to protect the interests of children with special needs and their caregivers have been identified. As a result of the activity, a written document has been created - a letter of intent, which is a documentary basis for further activities to defend the interests of civic organizations.</p> <p>As part of strengthening the Foundation’s activities, a five-year strategic plan has been drawn up to make the organisations day-to-day work and funding strategy more focused.</p> <p>A donation campaign "Impossible Opportunities" has been developed and implemented to meet the needs of children with special needs and their carers.</p>

## 7.2. Available financial instruments for NGO sector

Several financial sources are available for non-governmental organizations in Latvia – public sources (financed by state institutions or local authorities), different international funds or support programmes, and private funds. International funds or support programmes are mainly targeted at projects that are developing partnerships between institutions and organisations operating in different countries.

Most of the NGOs operate in the particular field, such as cultural, environmental, educational etc. field. Meanwhile, a certain number of NGOs cannot be attributed to a particular field – for the most part those organisations develop activities fostering civil society, protecting human rights and contributing to the other problems of the civil society and democracy development. The overview of financial sources is divided according to the sectors; while funding available for the development of civil society and democracy has been identified separately.

The information on financial sources available for NGOs during the coming years has been identified (prospects, as for the most part there is no information available on next planning period).

### Financial sources for the development of civil society and democracy

#### European Economic Area and Norway Finance Mechanism programme “Active Citizens Fund”

##### **Aim of the support:**

The objective of the Active Citizens Fund is – civil society and active citizenship strengthened and vulnerable groups empowered.

##### **Operating authority:**

NGO Consortium: Civic Alliance-Latvia, Latvian Rural Forum, Dienvidlatgale NGO Support Centre, Kurzeme NGO Centre, Valmiera Region Community Foundation and Zemgale NGO Centre

##### **Allocated funding:**

By combining challenges and solutions, from 2020 to 2024, the Active Citizens Fund will focus on four programs:

1. “Democracy culture”: its objective is to strengthen democratic culture and civic awareness in Latvia. The total amount available for the program is 4 405 000 EUR.
2. “Human rights”: its objective is to increase awareness on human rights in Latvian society. The total amount available for the program is 630 000 EUR.
3. “Sustainability and capacity”: its objective is to enhance the capacity and sustainability of civil society in Latvia. The total amount available for the program is 2 020 000 EUR.
4. “Bilateral and regional cooperation”: its objective is to enhance cross-border collaboration of civic society in Latvia with organizations in Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and all EEA/Norway Financial Mechanism beneficiary states. The total amount available for the program is 345 000 EUR.

##### **Rules and guidelines:**

All projects supported shall contribute to at least one of three following thematic areas:

- Democracy, active citizenship, good governance and transparency;
- Human rights and equal treatment through combating any discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation or gender identity;
- Social justice and inclusion of vulnerable groups.

##### **Additional information:**

<https://www.activecitizensfund.lv/lv/par-fondu/aktivo-iedzivotaju-fonds.html>

#### EU Structural Funds

*Programming documents 2021-2027 are in the development phase, therefore more detailed information on rules and guidelines for support are not available.*

##### **Aim of the support:**

Corresponding task of the National Development Plan of Latvia for 2021-2027: Increasing skills and opportunities for networking and civic engagement, especially through youth civic education, participation in non-governmental organizations, trade unions and voluntary work, support from the Latvia NGO Fund.

Goal of the specific support goal No 4.3.4.: Increasing active engagement to foster equal opportunities and active participation, as well as to increase employment.

**Allocated funding:**

3 675 750 EUR (European Social Fund, state budget)

**Rules and guidelines:**

Target audience: NGO, residents of Latvia, in particular – groups having low participatory patterns.

Activities:

- Support for the Latvia NGO Fund, including support for operation of NGOs (support for regional NGO centres, participation of minority groups, support for diaspora organisations etc.), fostering capacity building and interest representation;
- Co-funding for implementation of the EU NGO projects;
- Support for civic participatory activities and activities fostering a cohesive and socially active society, in particular in groups with low participatory rate.

**Additional information:**

<https://www.esfondi.lv/es-fondi-2021---2027>

**EU Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme****Aim of the support:**

General objective of the programme is to protect and promote the rights and values enshrined in the Treaties, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and in the applicable international human rights conventions. The programme does this in particular by supporting civil society organisations and other stakeholders active at local, regional, national and transnational level, and by encouraging civic and democratic participation, in order to sustain and further develop open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies based on the rule of law. It pays particular attention to encouraging the participation of regional and local civil society organisations.

Programme supports the following specific objectives, which correspond to its strands of activity:

- to protect and promote Union values (Union values strand);
- to promote rights, non-discrimination and equality, including gender equality, and to advance gender mainstreaming and the mainstreaming of non-discrimination (equality, rights and gender equality strand);
- to promote citizens' engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union and exchanges between citizens of different Member States, and to raise awareness of their common European history (citizens' engagement and participation strand);
- to prevent and combat gender-based violence and violence against children (Daphne strand).

**Atbalsta jomas:**

- Fundamental rights
- Upholding the rule of law
- Democracy and human rights
- Combatting discrimination
- Tackling discrimination
- Fight against racism and xenophobia
- Combating antisemitism
- Combating anti-Muslim hatred
- Gender equality
- Rights of the child
- Violence against women, children
- EU citizenship policy
- EU citizenship
- European Citizens Initiative
- Cultural heritage and diversity

**Operating authority:**

European Commission, the Ministry of Culture – Contact point in Latvia

**Allocated funding:**

91 169 2873 EUR for year 2021 and 200 901 193 EUR for year 2022.

*The conditions for participation in project competitions are specified in the invitation to each project competition separately.*

**Additional information:**

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/cerv>

## Nordic Council of Ministers' Funding Programme for NGOs in Nordic and Baltic Countries

### **Aim of the support:**

The Nordic-Baltic NGO program aims at fostering cooperation between Nordic and Baltic NGOs, strengthening the civic society and providing support to new sustainable initiatives.

### **Areas of support:**

- promote a green transition of our societies and work towards carbon neutrality and a sustainable circular and bio-based economy;
- promote green growth in the Nordic region based on knowledge, innovation, mobility and digital integration;
- promote an inclusive, equal and interconnected region with shared values and strengthened cultural exchange and welfare.

### **Operating authority:**

Nordic Council of Ministers'

### **Allocated funding:**

A total of approximately 60 000 EUR has been earmarked in the programme.

The minimum grant is 2700 EUR, and the maximum – 13.5000 EUR. In some cases, projects where a bigger grant size can be motivated, the maximum grant for the project could be up to 20.000 EUR.

### **Eligible actions:**

- Network activities, such as seminars and workshops with the aim to strengthen cooperation within the priority areas of the programme;
- Study visits for exchange of experience;
- Trainings, societal education projects;
- Research projects.

### **Additional information:**

<https://www.norden.lv/lv/grantu-programmas/ziemelvalstu-un-baltijas-valstu-nvo-programma/>

<https://www.ncmgrants.org/>

## Nordic Council of Ministers' funding programme for NGO co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region

### **Aim of the support:**

The overall objective of the programme is to promote co-operation between Nordic, Baltic, Polish, Belarusian and Russian NGOs to underline the key role that NGOs play in building networks and cross-border co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region.

### **Areas of support:**

- Social and health
- Culture
- Environment
- Development of democracy

### **Operating authority:**

Nordic Council of Ministers'

### **Allocated funding:**

The maximum grant that can be applied for is 500.000 DKK (approximately 67 000 EUR per project)

### **Eligible actions:**

- Launching new initiatives,
- Building capacity and establishing/strengthening networks,
- Ensuring exchange of experiences and best practices,
- Communicate about its results to relevant target groups,

### **Additional information:**

<https://www.norden.lv/lv/grantu-programmas/nvo-programmas-baltijas-juras-regionam/>

<https://www.norden.org/en/funding-opportunities/nordic-council-ministers-funding-programme-ngo-co-operation-baltic-sea-region>

### **EU Funds Programme ‘LEADER’ (from 2021 – ‘Community-Led Local Development’)**

*Programming documents 2021-2027 are in the development phase, therefore more detailed information on rules and guidelines for support are not available.*

#### **Aim of the support:**

**LEADER** is a local development method, which has been used for 20 years to engage local actors in the design and delivery of strategies, decision-making and resource allocation for the development of their rural areas. Its basic principle is ‘bottom up’ approach involving local residents.

#### **Additional information:**

<http://www.lad.gov.lv/lv/atbalsta-veidi/projekti-un-investicijas/leader/leader-pieejas-istenosana-2014-2020/>  
[https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/leader-clld\\_en](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/leader-clld_en)

### **The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund**

*Programming documents 2021-2027 are in the development phase, therefore more detailed information on rules and guidelines for support are not available.*

#### **Aim of the support:**

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund will contribute to –

- the efficient management of migration
- the implementation, strengthening and development of the common policy on asylum
- the common immigration policy, in line with the relevant Union acquis and international obligations of the Union and the Member States arising from international instruments to which they are parties.

#### **Operating authority:**

Ministry of the Interior, European Commission

#### **Additional information:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund_en)

### **European Social Fund Plus, The Employment and Social Innovation strand**

*Programming documents 2021-2027 are in the development phase, therefore more detailed information on rules and guidelines for support are not available.*

#### **Aim of the support:**

The programme is centred on the following main policy priorities:

- employment and skills,
- labour markets and labour mobility,
- social protection and active inclusion and
- working conditions

#### **Operating authority:**

European Commission

#### **Additional information:**

<https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en>  
<https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en/esf-direct-easi>

### **The U.S. Embassy Riga’s Small Grants Program**

#### **Aim of the support:**

Small Grants Program is initiated as a flexible mechanism to enable to support initiatives that contribute to more open and competitive political and economic systems and the protection of human rights.

#### **Areas of support:**

- Promotion of civil society.
- Free flow of information (including support for independent media, except for direct support for development of content of any particular media outlet).
- Transparency in government.
- Public education and advocacy.
- Rule of law and legal reform.



- Conflict resolution.
- Human rights.
- Civic education.
- STEM education.
- Market economy.
- Anti-trafficking and anti-corruption awareness campaigns and training.
- Ethnic, minority, and women's equality.
- American art and culture (the project should include an educational or public engagement component).

**Operating authority:**

U.S Embassy

**Allocated funding:**

No single grant may exceed \$10,000 USD.

**Rules and guidelines:**

Projects should include a strong link to the United States or promote U.S. – Latvian cooperation.

**Additional information:**

<https://lv.usembassy.gov/lv/education-culture-lv/grants-lv/>

### British Council in Latvia “People to People Cultural Engagement” programme

The programme aims at whole-society to 1) enhance social-cohesion between communities, 2) facilitate community access to culture, civic society activity and education and, 3) improve 21st century skills, especially in relation to critical thinking and digitalization.

**Allocated funding:**

Funding for activities is available in amount up to 10 000 EUR per project.

**Rules and guidelines:**

The implementation of the project activities has to be completed by March 20th, 2022

**Operating authority:** British Council in Latvia

**Additional information:**

<https://www.britishcouncil.lv/programmas/people-people-cultural-engagement-programme-phase-ii>

### Community Philanthropy Development Programme, Community Foundations

**Aim of the support:**

The Foundation is helping community philanthropy to take root in Latvia by supporting the work of existing community foundations and the formation of new regional community foundations. The community foundations - charitable organisations that ascertain the needs of their local community, attract donations and other resources required for the fulfilment of important projects conceived by local residents, and oversee their implementation. Currently, there are nine active community foundations in Latvia: in Talsi, Lielvārde, Valmiera, Alūksne and Ape, Kandava, Limbaži, Middle Latgale, Ķekava and Liepāja.

**Operating authority:**

The Boris and Ināra Teterev Foundation

**Additional information:**

<https://www.teterevufonds.lv/musu-darbi/kopienu-filantropija>

Talsi Community Foundation – <http://www.tnf.lv/>

Lielvārde Development Fund –

[http://www.lielvarde.lv/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3731172&Itemid=1146](http://www.lielvarde.lv/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3731172&Itemid=1146)

Valmiera Region Community Foundation – <http://www.vnf.lv/>

Alūksne and Apes Regional Community Foundation – <https://www.aanf.lv/>

Kandava District Opportunity Foundation – <https://www.knif.lv/>

Limbaži Foundation – <https://www.limbazufonds.lv/>

Middle Latgale Trans-District Foundation – <https://www.vlpf.lv/>

Ķekava District Foundation – <https://www.knf.lv/>

Liepāja District Foundation – <https://lnf.lv/>

## Funding for particular sectors

Summary includes support programme most often used by NGOs in Latvia; programmes are implemented in 2020 and it is planned to provide funding at least in 2021.

### CULTURE

#### Support programmes of the State Culture Capital Foundation

The aim is to promote a balanced development of creativity in all the branches of art and preservation of the cultural heritage in the country in conjunction with the guidelines of the state cultural policy. The SCCF announces and administers culture projects' competitions, allots life long grants for culture and arts workers for their life achievement in development of culture and art and gives financial support to short term educational, creative or scientific travels abroad.

#### Additional information:

<http://www.kkf.lv/>

#### The EEA and Norway Grant Programme “Local development, Poverty reduction and Cultural Cooperation”

Promoting the development of entrepreneurship and the accessibility of arts and culture in the regions, and strengthening the cooperation and capacity of regional and local authorities. . In order to improve access to professional contemporary art and culture in all regions of Latvia, promoting an inclusive society, as well as improving the quality of life of individuals and society, it is planned to provided support for improving the accessibility of professional contemporary art and culture for children and young people of school age

#### Additional information:

<https://eeagrants.lv/regionala-attistiba-un-kultura/par-programmu/>

<https://www.varam.gov.lv/lv/eez-fi-programma-vieteja-attistiba-nabadzibas-mazinasana-un-kulturas-sadarbiba>

<https://www.km.gov.lv/lv/fondi-un-es-politika/eez-finansu-instruments-un-norvegijas-finansu-instruments/eez-finansu-instruments/2014-2021-programma>

#### EU programme “Creative Europe”

The programme encourages cooperation and exchanges among cultural organisations and artists within Europe and beyond. Creative Europe aims to

- foster artistic creation and innovation;
- support the promotion and the distribution of European content across Europe and beyond;
- help artists find creation and performance opportunities across borders;
- stimulate the digital and environmental transition of the European Culture and Creative Sectors.

*The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia co-finances projects through the open competition.*

#### Additional information:

[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/node\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/node_en)

<https://www.km.gov.lv/lv/es-programma-radosa-eiropa-2021-2027>

#### Nordic Council of Ministers' Funding Programme “Nordic Culture and Art Programme”

Nordic Culture and Art programme supports Nordic projects within all areas of art and culture, in all project phases: preliminary work, production, presentation and dissemination. The overall goal is to provide support for innovative, high artistic and cultural value projects that promote the diversity and sustainability of the Nordic region.

#### Additional information:

<https://www.norden.lv/lv/grantu-programmas/ziemelvalstu-kulturas-un-makslas-programma/>

<https://www.nordiskkulturkontakt.org/en/grants/about-the-grant-programmes/culture-and-art-programme/>

### ENVIRONMENT

#### Programmes of the Administration of Latvian Environmental Protection Fund

The objective of the Administration of Latvian Environmental Protection Fund is to foster sustainable development of economy, integrating environmental protection in all economic sectors aiming to provide opportunity for residents to live

in qualitative environment in accordance to state environmental policy guidelines. It also ensures activities for safeguarding biological diversity and protecting ecosystems.

**Additional information:**

Additional information: <https://lvafa.vraa.gov.lv/>

**The EEA and Norway Grant Programme “Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Environment”**

Climate change impacts on the sustainability of society, the potential for economic growth, the state of ecosystems and the quality of life of citizens. In order to address these challenges, it is planned to climate change mitigated and vulnerability to climate change reduced.

Additional information:

<https://eeagrants.lv/klimats-un-vide/par-programmu/>

<https://www.varam.gov.lv/lv/nfi-programma-klimata-parmainu-mazinasana-pielagosanas-tam-un-vide>

**EC financial instrument LIFE**

LIFE programme is a financial instrument of the European Commission (EC) for implementation of innovative and sustainable improvements of environmental quality and climate change. The main objective of the LIFE programme is promotion of the implementation, development, and updating of the environmental and climate policy of the European Union (EU) by co-funding the projects that comply with the objectives of the LIFE programme and creating a value added for the EU.

Additional information:

<https://www.lifeprogramma.lv/lv/sakums>

**European Territorial Cooperation Programmes “Interreg”**

Latvian partners in cooperation with neighbouring partners are addressing such common issues as employment and labour mobility, educational and social inclusion, entrepreneurship and transfer of innovations, efficient management of environmental resources and protection of natural/cultural heritage, promoting low-carbon economy, interconnecting transport networks, improving security of border regions, increasing institutional capacity and public administration efficiency, etc

Additional information:

<https://www.interreg.lv/lv/>

## EDUCATION AND SPORTS

**EU Programme “Erasmus+”**

The Erasmus + program is designed to support national efforts to make effective use of Europe's talent potential and social resources in a lifelong learning perspective, linking support for formal, non-formal and informal learning in all areas of education, training and youth. The program also promotes opportunities for cooperation and mobility with partner countries, especially in the fields of higher education and youth.

The main goals of the program 2021-2027:

- To support the knowledge, professional and personal development of individuals in the fields of education, training, youth and sport
- Promote the modernization of Member States' education and training systems and organizations
- Promoting sustainable growth, employment and social inclusion
- Strengthen European identity
- Promote the creation of a European Education Area
- Support strategic European cooperation in education, training and youth
- Developing the European dimension in sport

Additional information:

<http://www.erasmusplus.lv/lat/>

[https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/grants/2021-2027/erasmus\\_en](https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/grants/2021-2027/erasmus_en)

**Nordic Council of Ministers’ Programme “Nordplus”**

The Nordplus Programme offers financial support between partners in the area of lifelong learning from the eight participating countries and three autonomous regions in the Baltic and Nordic area.

Additional information:

<https://www.viaa.gov.lv/lv/par-nordplus>

<https://www.nordplusonline.org/>

## YOUTH

### **National Youth Policy Programme**

National Youth Policy Programme focuses on the state, local authorities, youth organisations and associations that work with youth targeted cooperation in order to create a favourable environment for young people in full and comprehensive development.

Additional information:

<https://www.izm.gov.lv/lv/jaunatnes-politikas-valsts-programma>

<https://jaunatne.gov.lv/par-agenturu/programmas-projekti/valsts-programma/>

### **EU Programme “Erasmus+”**

Erasmus + is an EU program in the field of education, training, youth and sport, in which young people between the ages of 13 and 30, youth workers and others involved in youth work, in cooperation with foreign partners, have the opportunity to acquire new competencies and experience themselves. designing and implementing projects.

Programme priorities:

- Inclusion and Diversity;
- Digital Transformation;
- Environment and fight against climate change;
- Participation in democratic life.

Additional information:

<https://jaunatne.gov.lv/par-agenturu/programmas-projekti/erasmus/>

<http://www.erasmusplus.lv/lat/>

[https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/grants/2021-2027/erasmus\\_en](https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/grants/2021-2027/erasmus_en)

### **EU programme “European Solidarity Corps”**

The European Solidarity Corps helps young people take part in projects that benefit communities, either abroad or in their own country. These projects offer an inspiring and empowering experience, as well as the chance to bring change while developing skills and competences.

Programme priorities:

- inclusion and diversity;
- digital transformation;
- environmental sustainability and climate goals;
- participation in democratic life;
- prevention, promotion and support in the field of health.

Additional information:

<https://jaunatne.gov.lv/par-agenturu/programmas-projekti/eiropas-solidaritates-korpuss/>

## Other funding sources

### **Support of local authorities**

Support of local authorities for non-governmental organisations has been legally determined in the legislation: (1) aimed at support for civil society or (2) to carry out certain tasks of local authority.

According to The Law on Local Governments local authorities may support activities of civil society aiming to develop local community and to serve interests of local residents. Local authorities can provide support in several ways:

- open calls for project proposals for NGOs (support for capacity building, operational costs etc.);
- buying services through a public tender process;
- providing in-kind or no-material support (renting premises, providing legal or financial consultations etc.);

- assigning tax allowance;
- assigning grants or subsidies to carry out public functions. For example, local authority may allocate in its budget subsidy for a crises centre and later assign a delegating contract with an NGO.

### Autonomous and delegated functions of public authorities

Law On Budget and Financial Management proposes that associations and foundations according to the procedures laid down in laws and regulations in order to ensure the performance of the State or local government functions may receive grants (budgetary funds).

As provided by the State Administration Structure Law, a public person may delegate a private individual and another public person administration tasks if the authorised person can perform the relevant task more effectively. It is considered one of ways of increasing participation of civil society.

According to The Law on Local Governments, it is possible to delegate a non-governmental organisation certain autonomous tasks of municipalities.

Details of cooperation are described in the delegation or cooperation contract between a public authority and an NGO.

### Private foundations and sponsorship

*Summary includes most often mentioned private foundations that support projects and initiatives of nongovernmental organisations.*

Name	Source of information
The Boris and Ināra Teterev Foundation	<a href="http://www.teterevufonds.lv/">http://www.teterevufonds.lv/</a>
Fon Rogges Charity Foundation	<a href="http://www.fonrogge.lv/lv/">http://www.fonrogge.lv/lv/</a>
Future Support Fund	<a href="http://www.naf.lv/">http://www.naf.lv/</a>
SEB banka	<a href="http://www.seb.lv/par-seb/seb-sabiedriba/sponsoresana-un-investicijas-sabiedriba#sports-un-kultura">http://www.seb.lv/par-seb/seb-sabiedriba/sponsoresana-un-investicijas-sabiedriba#sports-un-kultura</a>
Joint Stock Company "Latvia's State Forests"	<a href="http://www.lvm.lv/par-mums/sociala-atbildiba/ziedojumi/ziedojumu-politika">http://www.lvm.lv/par-mums/sociala-atbildiba/ziedojumi/ziedojumu-politika</a>
Joint Stock Company "Valmieras stikla šķiedra"	<a href="http://www.valmiera-glass.com/lv/group-1/sponsoresana">http://www.valmiera-glass.com/lv/group-1/sponsoresana</a>
"Neste Latvija", ltd	<a href="https://www.neste.lv/lv/content/sponsor%C4%93%C5%A1ana-0">https://www.neste.lv/lv/content/sponsor%C4%93%C5%A1ana-0</a>
Joint Stock Company "Cēsu alus"	<a href="https://www.cesualus.lv/sociala-atbildiba/">https://www.cesualus.lv/sociala-atbildiba/</a>
Latvian Foundation (founded in USA)	<a href="http://www.latviesufonds.info/projektu-konkurss">http://www.latviesufonds.info/projektu-konkurss</a>
The World Federation of Free Latvians (founded in Canada)	<a href="http://www.pbla.lv/kulturas-fonds/">http://www.pbla.lv/kulturas-fonds/</a>

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**Additional table 1. Areas of activity of project implementing organizations (number of organizations)**

Data source: content analysis of the projects implemented in the program.

Notes: MAC - macro projects, MIC - micro projects.

	2020			2021		
	TOTAL	MAC	MIC	TOTAL	MAC	MIC
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>50</b>
Community and Neighborhood Development (88.99)	18	2	16	25	7	18
Social protection (88.99)	7	4	3	13	7	6
Activities of advocacy organizations (94.99)	12	9	3	12	9	3
Public health and health education (88.99)	8	1	7	11	5	6
Society or foundation not elsewhere classified (94.99)	0	0	0	9	2	7
Protection of civil and human rights (94.99)	4	4	0	7	7	0
Youth association or foundation (94.99)	10	2	8	5	3	2
Support for families and children (88.99)	6	3	3	5	4	1
Other cultural activities (94.99)	2	1	1	5	3	2
Environmental Protection (94.99)	1	1	0	4	4	0
Environment protection. Pollution reduction and control (94.99)	1	0	1	4	3	1
Environmental awareness (94.99)	0	0	0	4	1	3
Education (85.59)	2	1	1	3	1	2
Music, dance, theater (90.01)	2	0	2	3	0	3
Protection and sustainable use of natural resources (94.99)	1	1	0	3	2	1
Visual Arts (94.99)	1	0	1	3	0	3
Folk art and intangible heritage (94.99)	0	0	0	3	0	3
Gender equality (94.99)	3	1	2	2	1	1
Promotion of voluntary work (88.99)	2	0	2	2	2	0
Rehabilitation (86.90)	1	1	0	2	0	2
History and Humanities (94.99)	0	0	0	2	0	2
Cultural exchange (94.99)	1	0	1	1	0	1
Environmental cleaning (81.30)	0	0	0	1	1	0
Mediation of philanthropy (88.99)	0	0	0	1	1	0
Social and socio-political research (72.20)	0	0	0	1	0	1
Rehabilitation of offenders (87.90)	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sports support (94.99)	0	0	0	1	0	1
Museums (91.02)	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sports federations and associations (93.19)	1	1	0	0	0	0
International human rights and peacekeeping (94.99)	1	0	1	0	0	0
Architecture and restoration (71.11)	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other amusement and recreation activities (93.29)	1	0	1	0	0	0

**Additional table 2. Topics of the implemented projects 2020-2021 by type of project (number of projects)**

Data source: content analysis of the projects implemented in the program.

Notes: MAC - macro projects, MIC - micro projects.

	2020			2021		
	TOTAL	MAC	MIC	TOTAL	MAC	MIC
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>50</b>
Promotion of civic participation, activity (directly, involving the population)	14	5	9	25	14	11
Local community development	6	0	6	19	8	11
Ensuring the operation of the specific organization, development	1	1	0	16	13	3
Promoting youth participation	10	1	9	14	4	10
Strengthening the capacity of regional NGOs	5	2	3	9	6	3
Improving the situation of children				8	2	6
Promotion of civic participation, activity (indirectly)	5	4	1	8	5	3
Improving the quality of policy at national level	3	3	0	8	7	1
Development of volunteer work	4	2	2	7	5	2
Promotion of nature protection	3	1	2	7	4	3
Free time activities	1	0	1	5	0	5
Improving the quality of life of people with disabilities	1	1	0	5	2	3
Attracting new members to the organization				4	3	1
Development of the non - governmental sector	3	2	1	4	3	1
Support for people living with HIV	1	0	1	3	0	3
Non - formal education for young people				3	2	1
Prevention of violence against children	2	1	1	3	1	2
Defending the interests of the diaspora	2	1	1	2	1	1
Protection of youth interests				2	2	0
Promoting good governance	1	1	0	2	2	0
Minority integration activities	1	1	0	2	0	2
Operation of the arts center				2	0	2
Protection of the interests of persons with GRT				2	2	0
Protection of the interests of persons with disabilities	2	1	1	2	2	0
Promoting public tolerance	2	1	1	2	0	2
Advocacy for seniors	1	0	1	2	0	2
Advocacy for women 's interests	2	1	1	2	1	1
Social services for children with special needs				2	2	0
Tourism				2	0	2
Local cultural history: municipality, county				2	0	2
Improving children's palliative care				1	1	0
Promotion of outdoor pedagogy				1	0	1
Advocating for the interests of large families	1	0	1	1	0	1
Preservation of the railway heritage				1	0	1
Reducing corruption	1	1	0	1	1	0
Development of the cultural sector				1	0	1
Rural development				1	1	0
Protection of LGBT interests	1	1	0	1	1	0
Protection of the interests of national minorities				1	0	1
Development of independent cultural media	1	1	0	1	1	0
Preservation of intangible cultural heritage				1	0	1
Providing information to the blind				1	1	0
Assistance to refugees	1	0	1	1	1	0
Protection of the interests of persons with rare diseases	1	1	0	1	1	0
Reproductive, sexual health				1	1	0
Public swimming skills, safety on the water	1	1	0	1	1	0

	2020			2021		
	TOTAL	MAC	MIC	TOTAL	MAC	MIC
Protection of the interests of social risk groups				1	1	0
Provision of social rehabilitation services				1	1	0
Integration of third - country nationals				1	0	1
Prevention of violence against women	1	0	1	1	0	1
Protection of the interests of the German minority in Latvia				1	0	1
Local cultural history: parish, city	1	0	1	1	0	1
Protecting the interests of people with diabetes	1	0	1			
Improving the care of children in out-of-home care	2	1	1			
Awareness raising for melanoma	1	0	1			
Development of minority culture	2	0	2			
Advocacy for patients with blood clotting disorders	1	0	1			
Advocacy for patients with cystic fibrosis	1	0	1			
Development of permaculture	1	1	0			
Promoting the participation of people with GRT	2	1	1			
Combating tuberculosis	1	0	1			
Addressing men 's health issues	2	0	2			

**Additional table 3. Activities implemented in the projects in 2020-2021 by type of project (number of projects)**

Data source: content analysis of the projects implemented in the program.

Notes: MAC - macro projects, MIC - micro projects.

	2020			2021		
	TOTAL	MAC	MIC	TOTAL	MAC	MIC
<b>IN TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>TARGETED ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>49</b>
Seminar for the target group, discussions of the target groups	35	12	23	34	16	18
Advocacy: working groups, commissions	23	15	8	26	21	5
Informing the public about the organization, the activities of the organization	5	4	1	26	16	10
Advocacy: development of recommendations and proposals	22	12	10	24	15	9
Training for the target group	24	9	15	22	8	14
Information campaign, promotion	9	5	4	21	13	8
Conference, forum	11	6	5	18	10	8
Creative lessons, activities	22	6	16	16	5	11
Meetings, discussions with decision makers, politicians	4	2	2	13	7	6
Methodical material, manual	7	4	3	12	4	8
Sociological research: surveys	12	7	5	12	6	6
Expert, specialist consultations for the target group	8	5	3	11	8	3
Lectures, lectures for the target group	9	5	4	10	3	7
Organization of voluntary work, coordination	6	1	5	7	5	2
Cultural event (theater, concert, exhibition, cinema)	7	2	5	7	1	6
Articles, publications (on the topic of the project, not the project itself)	2	1	1	7	5	2
Volunteer work: cleaning up the surroundings	4	0	4	6	1	5
Volunteering: not specified	1	1	0	6	4	2
Camps	1	1	0	6	3	3
Informative film, video	8	2	6	5	0	5
Provision of social services				5	4	1
Sociological research: focus groups, discussions, interviews	4	1	3	5	5	0
Excursions, trips	1	1	0	4	2	2
Informative materials	3	0	3	4	4	0
Creating a separate website (for a specific purpose)	3	1	2	3	0	3
Mentoring, mentor preparation	1	0	1	3	3	0



	2020			2021		
	TOTAL	MAC	MIC	TOTAL	MAC	MIC
Development of a policy planning document at the national level				3	3	0
Expert discussions	1	1	0	1	1	0
Marching organization				1	1	0
Infographic				1	1	0
Charity action, event				1	0	1
Hate speech monitoring	1	1	0	1	1	0
Non-formal education activities (groups, projects)				1	0	1
Creating a walking trail				1	0	1
Hike in nature	5	0	5	1	0	1
Sport activities	2	0	2	1	0	1
Environmental availability monitoring				1	0	1
Donation campaigns, events				1	1	0
Collecting memory stories	1	0	1			
The work of photographers	1	0	1			
Book preparation, publishing	1	0	1			
Creation of interactive information stands	1	0	1			
Legal advice for the target group	1	1	0			
Creating a 3D model of the Perse River	1	0	1			
Handicraft master classes	2	0	2			
<b>ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
Ensuring the core business of the organization	6	4	2	21	12	9
Cooperation with other NGOs	9	6	3	19	13	6
Experience exchange activities (trips, meetings)	9	4	5	12	6	6
Training organization staff	15	7	8	11	8	3
Assessment of the specific area	17	7	10	11	7	4
Creation and improvement of the organization's website	8	5	3	10	4	6
Purchase of equipment, inventory (office equipment, computer equipment, etc.)	6	2	4	10	4	6
Fundraising activities	7	5	2	8	5	3
Discussions, meetings, work group organization staff	18	11	7	7	2	5
Informing the members of the organization about the organization, the activities of the organization	1	1	0	7	6	1
Development of an organizational development document	7	4	3	5	1	4
Preparation of project applications				5	3	2
Participation in events organized by others as participants	5	2	3	4	3	1
Organizational team building event	4	1	3	3	1	2
Seminar for the organization's staff				3	1	2
Membership in international organizations				3	3	0
Attracting volunteers				3	3	0
Maintenance of social networks of the organization / project				3	1	2
Attracting new members	2	2	0	2	2	0
Lectures for the staff of the organization	5	2	3	1	1	0
Membership in associations, alliances, councils				1	0	1

**Additional table 4. Target groups of implemented projects 2020-2021 by type of project (number of projects)**

Data source: content analysis of the projects implemented in the program.

Notes: MAC - macro projects, MIC - micro projects.

	2020			2021		
	TOTAL	MAC	MIC	TOTAL	MAC	MIC
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>50</b>
Members, employees, volunteers of the specific organization	35	14	21	37	22	15
Municipalities, residents of the region	20	4	16	24	8	16
Young people	12	4	8	21	10	11
National policy makers, decision makers	11	8	3	14	10	4
NGOs (unspecified)	11	7	4	14	10	4
NGOs in the regions	10	4	6	14	7	7
Parents of children				9	3	6
Children with special needs	1	1	0	7	4	3
Educators	1	1	0	7	3	4
Local policy makers: municipality, county				7	4	3
Children	2	0	2	6	3	3
Volunteers	13	2	11	6	4	2
Latvian citizens	5	4	1	6	5	1
Seniors	3	1	2	5	1	4
Residents of the region				4	3	1
Children and young people with reduced mobility				3	2	1
Representatives of the diaspora	1	0	1	3	2	1
Representatives of national minorities	3	2	1	3	3	0
Women victims of violence	2	0	2	3	1	2
Students				3	0	3
Social workers	2	1	1	3	0	3
HIV infected				2	0	2
Youth workers, youth affairs specialists	2	1	1	2	1	1
Artists	1	0	1	2	0	2
Children have been abused	2	1	1	2	1	1
Entrepreneurs, employers	2	1	1	2	2	0
Representatives of state institutions	4	3	1	2	2	0
Environmental NGOs	1	1	0	2	2	0
Foreign students in Latvia				1	0	1
People with information difficulties				1	0	1
Human rights NGOs				1	1	0
Large families	1	0	1	1	0	1
Immigrants				1	1	0
Youth NGOs				1	1	0
Field experts				1	1	0
Cultural NGOs				1	0	1
Owners of cultural monuments				1	0	1
Rural population	1	1	0	1	1	0
Foreigners living in Latvia				1	1	0
People in the LGBT community	1	1	0	1	1	0
Minority NGOs	1	0	1	1	0	1
Media, journalists				1	1	0
Micro-enterprises				1	1	0
Branch educational institutions				1	0	1
NGOs - social service providers	1	1	0	1	1	0
Self - employed				1	1	0

	2020			2021		
	TOTAL	MAC	MIC	TOTAL	MAC	MIC
Municipal institutions				1	0	1
Persons with refugee or alternative status	1	0	1	1	1	0
Persons with GRT	2	1	1	1	1	0
Persons with disabilities	1	1	0	1	0	1
Persons with visual impairments				1	1	0
Remigrants				1	1	0
Romi	2	0	2	1	0	1
Senior NGO				1	0	1
SLO				1	1	0
Social support NGOs	1	0	1	1	0	1
Population at risk of social exclusion	1	0	1	1	0	1
Students				1	0	1
Representatives of law enforcement agencies				1	1	0
Health care NGOs	1	1	0	1	0	1
Healthcare professionals	2	0	2	1	0	1
Healthcare professionals				1	0	1
Opinion leaders				1	1	0
Guardians, foster parents, adopters	1	0	1			
People with diabetes	1	0	1			
Gardeners	1	1	0			
Artistic collectives	2	1	1			
Oncological patients	1	1	0			
Patients with blood clotting problems	1	0	1			
Representatives of municipal institutions	6	4	2			
Organizers of municipal cultural work	1	0	1			
Persons with rare diseases	1	1	0			
Prescription drug users	1	1	0			
Women	1	0	1			
Tuberculosis patients	1	0	1			
Environmental enthusiasts	1	1	0			
Men	1	0	1			

**Additional table 5. Geography of implemented projects by type of projects 2020-2021 (number of projects)**

Data source: content analysis of the projects implemented in the program.

Notes: MAC - macro projects, MIC - micro projects.

	2020			2021		
	TOTAL	MAC	MIC	TOTAL	MAC	MIC
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>AT LOCAL LEVEL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>39</b>
Aizkraukles novads				2	0	2
Babītes novads	1	0	1			
Cēsu novads				5	1	4
Daugavpils				1	1	0
Dienvidkurzemes novads				1	0	1
Dobeles novads				2	0	2
Gulbenes novads				2	1	1
Ikšķiles novads	1	0	1			
Jelgava				3	0	3
Jelgavas novads	1	0	1	1	0	1
Jēkabpils novads				3	0	3

	2020			2021		
	TOTAL	MAC	MIC	TOTAL	MAC	MIC
Jēkabpils novads	1	0	1			
Jēkabpils pilsēta	1	0	1			
Jūrmalas pilsēta	1	0	1			
Kokneses novads	2	0	2			
Krustpils novads	2	0	2			
Kuldīgas novads				1	0	1
Ķekavas novads	1	0	1	1	0	1
Liepāja	4	1	3	4	2	2
Limbažu novads				1	0	1
Mārupes novads	1	0	1			
Ogres novads				1	0	1
Olaines novads	1	0	1	1	0	1
Preiļu novads				1	0	1
Rēzekne	1	0	1	1	0	1
Rēzeknes novads				1	0	1
Rīga	5	1	4	14	3	11
Salaspils novads				1	0	1
Saldus novads	1	0	1			
Tukuma novads	1	0	1	3	0	3
Valmieras novads				3	1	2
6 at the big city level	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>AT NATIONAL LEVEL, ALL OF LATVIA</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>ON THE INTERNET</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>AT REGIONAL LEVEL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>
Rīga	1	0	1	1	1	0
Vidzeme	2	1	1	1	1	0
Kurzeme	3	1	2	2	1	1
Zemgale	3	1	2	2	2	0
Latgale	5	1	4	4	3	1
<b>ORGANIZATIONAL ONLY</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

## 7.4. Research annotation

<b>Aim, tasks and main results of the Study</b>	The aim of the research: to determine the results of the Latvian state budget-funded program “NGO Fund” in 2020-2021. and their contribution to the overarching goal of the program to strengthen the sustainable development of civil society in Latvia. It is concluded that the projects implemented within the framework of the Program are becoming more and more focused on the direct impact on civic participation every year, by involving the population in activities or implementing activities that indirectly promote the participation of the population. It is important that projects become more involved and practical. In the first years of the fund's existence, there were more projects that carried out activities within organizations without reaching such a wide range of externalities. The number of projects that ensure the practical involvement of the population is increasing every year - through the activation of the participation of the population, the NGO Fund has a direct impact on the promotion of civil society.
<b>Main themes of the Study</b>	Participation of civil society in Latvia Development of NGO sector “NGO Fund” programme results (themes of the implemented projects, activities, target groups, locations of the implemented projects, cooperation in the framework of the projects) Contribution of the Programme to the achievement of policy results Recommendations for the improvement of the Programme
<b>Contracting authority of the Study</b>	The Society Integration Fund
<b>Implementer of the Study</b>	The association of persons: Latvijas Kultūras akadēmija and Analītisko pētījumu un stratēģiju laboratorija, ltd
<b>The year of the implementation</b>	2021
<b>The budget of the Study and source of finance</b>	7897,50 EUR
<b>Classification of the Study</b>	In depth expertise study
<b>Policy sector, field</b>	9.3. Development of civic society
<b>Geographic scope of the Study</b>	Latvia
<b>Target group/s of the Study</b>	Applicants and implementers of the projects of the “NGO Fund” programme NGO sector Residents of Latvia
<b>Methods of the Study classified according to the sources of information:</b>	
<b>1) analysis of legislation or policy documents</b>	Yes
<b>2) analysis of statistical data</b>	Yes
<b>3) secondary analysis of data from previous studies</b>	Yes
<b>4) execution and analysis of data of in-depth interviews of experts</b>	No
<b>5) execution and analysis of data of focus group discussions</b>	No
<b>6) case studies</b>	Yes
<b>7) execution and analysis of data of quantitative survey</b>	Yes
<b>8) other methods (please, indicate)</b>	
<b>Quantitative methods:</b>	
<b>1) methods of survey sample</b>	Self-selection
<b>2) number of surveyed respondents/units</b>	874
<b>Qualitative methods:</b>	
<b>1) number of in-depth interviews with experts</b>	
<b>2) number of focus group discussions</b>	
<b>Contact information of the contracting authority</b>	Reinis Lasmanis, telephone 26114443, e-mail: <a href="mailto:reinis.lasmanis@sif.gov.lv">reinis.lasmanis@sif.gov.lv</a>
<b>Authors of the Study (subjects of a copyright)</b>	Anda Laķe, Baiba Tjarve, Gints Klāsons