

CIVIC ALLIANCE LATVIA ACTUALITIES OF CSO IN LATVIA

I CSOS LEGAL AND FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT

The President Stands Ready to Address Issues Important for Development of the Non-Governmental Sector

On August 13, the representatives met with **President of Latvia Egils Levits**. During the meeting, the civil society representatives emphasised that non-governmental organisations play an important role as partners which cooperate with the government and local authorities in order to address issues of public concern. It is therefore essential that the government is able to ensure a transparent and participation-oriented distribution of aid funding to the non-governmental sector.



During the meeting they also discussed the practices of European countries in engaging the NGO sector in dialogue with the government, as well as the adverse effects on NGO activities that have emerged in the last two years since the tax reform was introduced.

The First Meeting of the New SIF Board

On August 16, **the new SIF Board had a meeting for the first time since the SIF Law's passage**. The meeting addressed issues regarding the **election of the chairman of the SIF Board, competition for the post of Director of the Secretariat and budget request for 2020**.

On July 23, amendments to the SIF Law came into force aimed at improving the operation and supervision of the Fund. The main task is to change the composition of the Board which will make the operation of the Fund more efficient and transparent.

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Meeting with Minister of Defence Artis Pabriks

On August 19, representatives of the Civic Alliance – Latvia Kristine Zonberga and Uldis Dūmiņš **will meet with Minister of Defence Artis Pabriks** to discuss possible further cooperation on civil society issues, since a strong civil society is an important precondition for a democratic state and plays a significant role in national security.

Meeting of the NGO Fund's Planning Committee

On August 13, a **meeting of the Planning Committee of the NGO Fund** was held to start discussions on the NGO Fund proposals for 2020. **The Social Integration Fund presented its vision, but since it included conceptual changes, it was decided that the Committee would meet in a week, on August 20, to allow the involved parties to assess the proposal in more detail and make their own proposal for NGO Fund priorities for next year.**

II UPCOMING EVENTS

We Invite You to the Gala Dinner of the Human Development Awards Ceremony


The Human Development awards ceremony will be held on September 19 at 5 p.m. in Grand Hotel Kempinski, at Aspazijas bulvāris 22, Riga, **to honour inspirational Latvian people, organisations and companies for their contribution to human development and the society's well-being through their selfless work.**

For the sixth year in a row, the awards ceremony is organised by the Civic Alliance – Latvia in cooperation with the US Embassy in Latvia and the American Chamber of Commerce in Latvia.

The aim of the award is **to promote education, health and well-being of the Latvian population as well as to highlight initiatives for social responsibility and sustainable future.**

Invitation for one person is 60 EUR, for two persons – 100 EUR.

Learn more about the award [here](#).
Apply for event [here](#).



The Alliance will Promote Civil Society and Intercultural Cooperation Through Projects

The Civic Alliance – Latvia will implement the project of the Ministry of Culture **“On the Performance of Special Tasks of the Public Administration in the Development of Civil Society and Intercultural Cooperation”**. The Alliance will continue to operate as a resource centre for the Riga region whose **aim is to strengthen the capacity and mutual cooperation of NGOs in the Riga region.**

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NGO Sector Leaders will Discuss the Importance of the Public Benefit Organisation Status

On August 22, NGO leaders will have a meeting to discuss **the meaning of the public benefit organisation status**. The meeting is a follow-up to the July event on the threat to the image of NGOs, where participants expressed their desire **to go into the specifics of public benefit organisations (PBOs) and consider ways to support them**.

Workshop Led by Lolita Tomsone

On August 23, from 10.00 a.m. to 3 p.m. the **workshop “How Can a Civic Activist Organise a Protest?”** will be held for NGO representatives. The workshop will be led by Lolita Tomsone.

How to apply for and coordinate a protest? How to plan the course and ensure publicity of the protest? In addition, there will be a picket poster workshop and a picket simulation.

The workshop is organised by the Civic Alliance – Latvia and the think-tank Providus in cooperation with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany within the framework of the project “Thematic Training for NGO leaders”.

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