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Bridging Users and Producers: Latvia's Approach to Statistical Council and NSI Collaboration

**Joint seminar of the European Statistical Advisory Committee and National User Councils
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The State Chancellery



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Statistical System in Latvia

- The **Statistics Law** defines the statistical system in Latvia
<https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/274749>
- The **Central Statistical Bureau (CSB)** is the **leading statistical institution** in Latvia
- CSB is responsible for **coordinating the system of official statistics (OSS)**
- There are **36 institutions** producing statistics in Latvia
- Of these, **7 institutions** providing Official European Statistics (**ONAs**)
<https://www.csp.gov.lv/en/official-statistics-institutions>
- CSB shall implement functional subordination over other statistical institutions
- The **Statistical Council** is an **advisory body**
<https://www.csp.gov.lv/en/statisticalcouncil>
- **Purpose:**
 - To **develop** the system of official statistics
 - To **facilitate cooperation** between statistical institutions, data providers (respondents) and users
- **Members are approved** by the Minister for Economics
- **Chair:** Director General of the CSB
- **12 Members:**
 - 5 from ministries and the State Chancellery
 - 1 from the Bank of Latvia
 - 6 from **employers' organizations and NGOs**



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System for the Production of Official Statistics

Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia

The leading institution of the statistical system for the production of official statistics as determined by the Statistics Law

<https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/274749>

ONAs

Statistical Institutions providing Official European Statistics.

The Bureau shall implement functional subordination over other statistical institutions

<https://www.csp.gov.lv/en/official-statistics-institutions>

Statistical Council

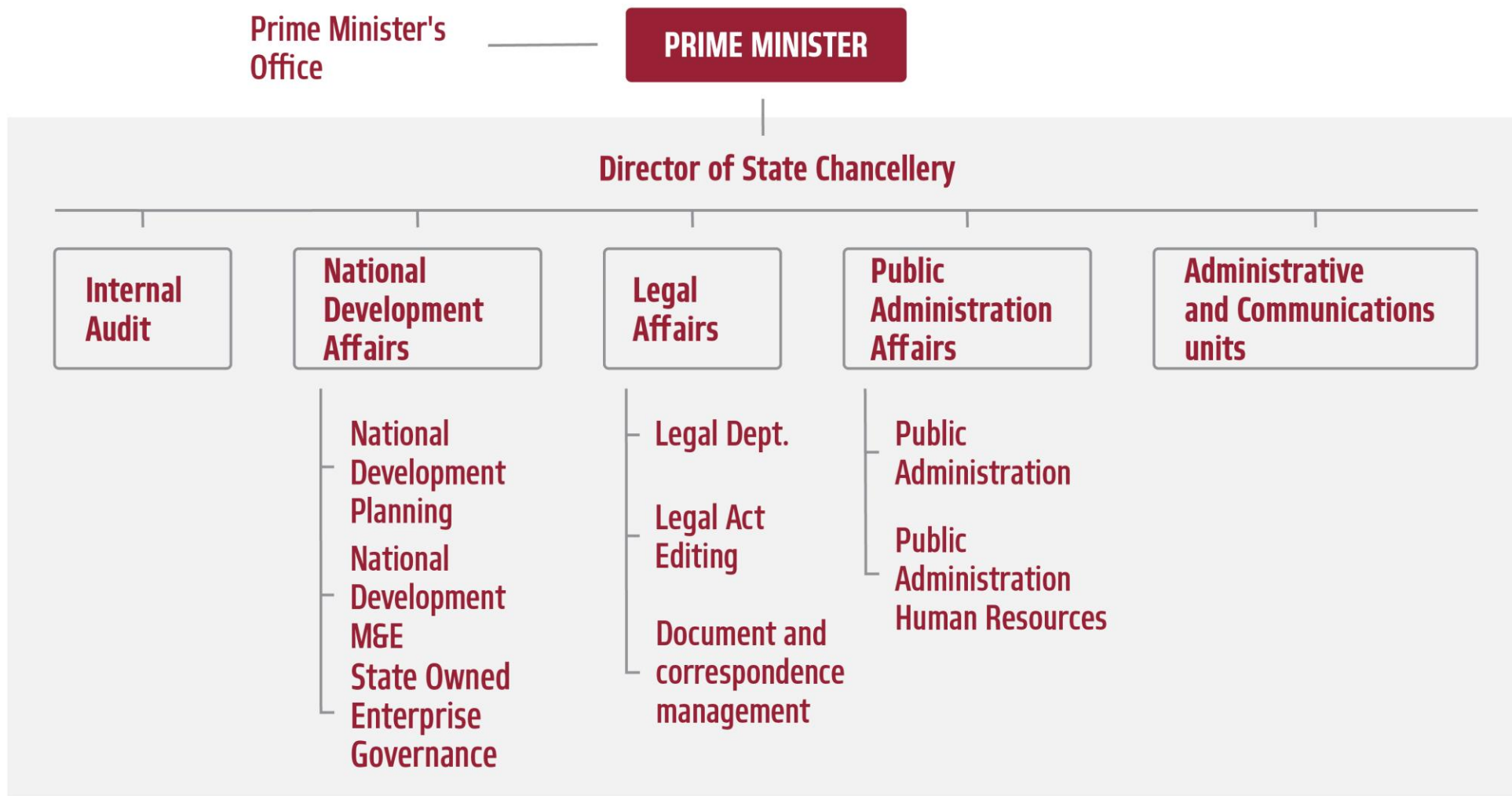
System for the production of official statistics shall be developed by statistical institutions and the Statistical Council

<https://www.csp.gov.lv/en/statisticalcouncil>



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THE CENTRE OF GOVERNMENT



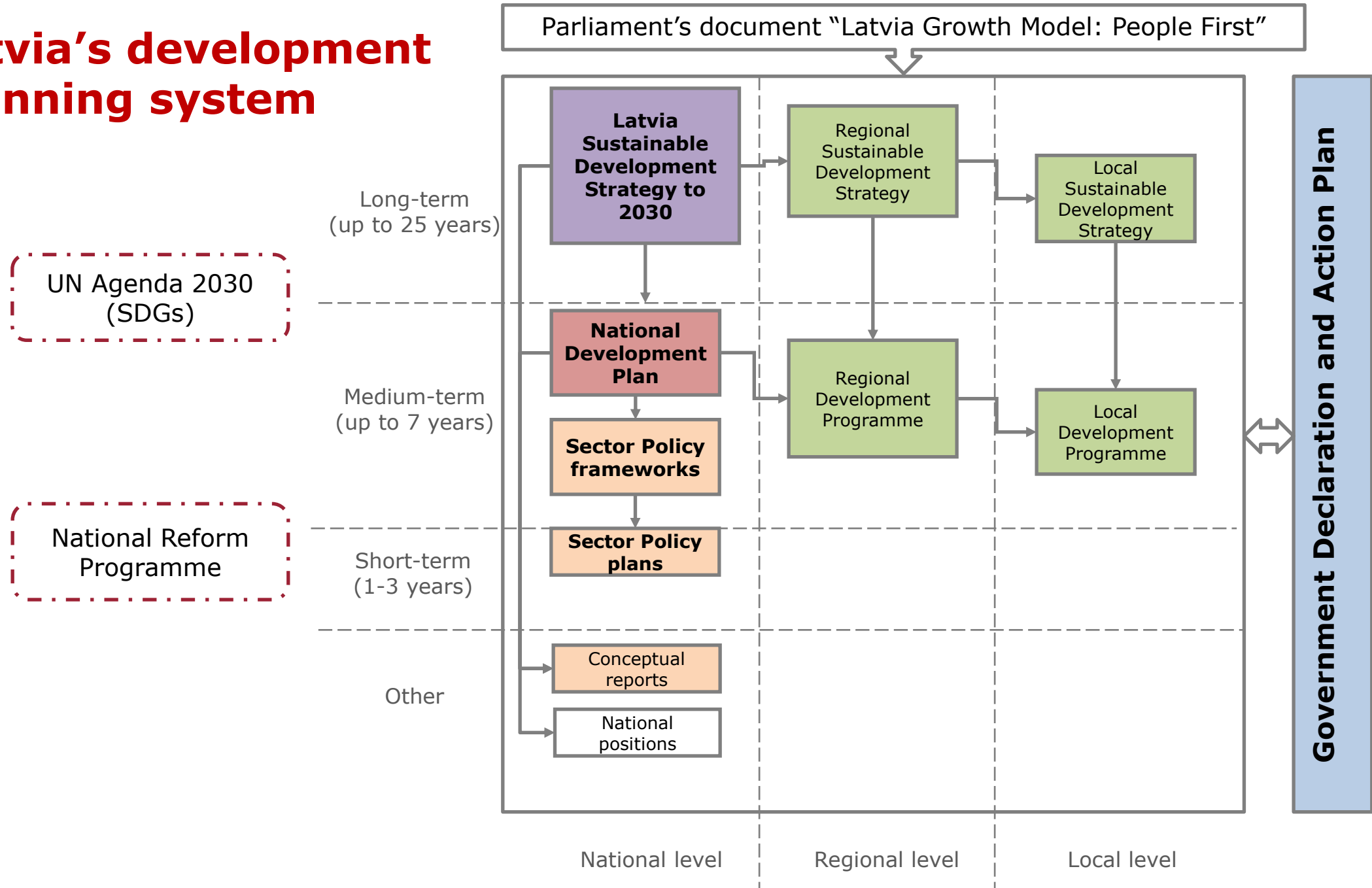


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Cross-sectoral Coordination Department

- Improve the System
 - Monitoring Latvia2030
 - Create National Development Plans
 - Sectoral plan alignment with NDP2027 and Latvia2030
 - Evaluate ministry budget submissions
- Assist with Government Declaration
 - Coordinate & monitor Government Action Plans
 - Planners' network
 - Secretariat of the National Development Council
 - Horizontal reforms for the Cabinet of Ministers or Prime Minister

Latvia's development planning system





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Using of monitoring and evaluation information

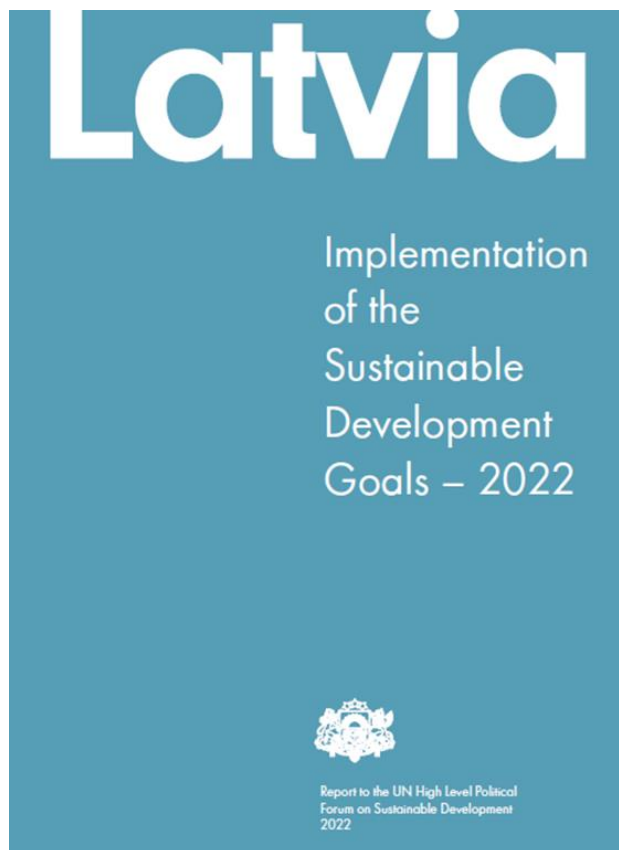
- **Prime Minister's reports to Saeima**
 - Every year - Government Declaration
 - Every 2 years - NDP & Latvia2030 report
- **Saeima Sustainable Development Commission**
- **Mid-term evaluations**
 - Sectoral (mostly in 2025)
 - NDP mid-term evaluation (2025)
- **Latvia's VNR to the UN on SDGs**





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Latvia's Report to the UN on the SDGs ex-post of NDP2020 and sectoral plans/information on the NDP2027 goals



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IMPLEMENTATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS – SDG 1



No Poverty – reducing the depth of poverty

Latvia's goal is to reduce the depth of poverty of the population with the lowest incomes, especially people of retirement age, people with disabilities, and children at social risk. Economic growth, an efficient tax system, lifelong learning, decent work, and appropriate social inclusion measures decrease the risk of poverty. Paying taxes ensures health care services, pensions and other forms of social security. The state helps people improve their circumstances and provides financial support to those on low incomes.

AT-RISK-OF-POVERTY RATE BEFORE SOCIAL TRANSFERS



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IMPLEMENTATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS – SDG 1 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS

- ▲ 1.1 The share of persons with income below the minimum income level has gradually decreased, reaching 7.7% in 2020.
- ▼ 1.2 In 2020, 23.4% of the population was at risk of poverty. The largest group – persons aged 65 and over.
- ▲ 1.3 Starting from 2021, fundamental changes have been made in the minimum income level system to provide monetary support to persons with the lowest incomes.
- ▼ 1.4 Half of households below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold have no savings.
- ▼ 1.5 Low impact of social transfers (17.1%) on poverty reduction, especially for people over retirement age.

Key actions

- The guaranteed minimum income level almost doubled (from 2021).
- Minimum old-age and disability pension payments increased significantly (from 2021).
- Child benefit payments greatly raised.
- The minimum wage gradually increased.
- During the Covid-19 pandemic, financial support was provided to those most in need.
- From 2018, tax relief for dependents and non-taxable minimum for pensioners was significantly increased.

REFORM OF THE MINIMUM INCOME LEVEL SYSTEM

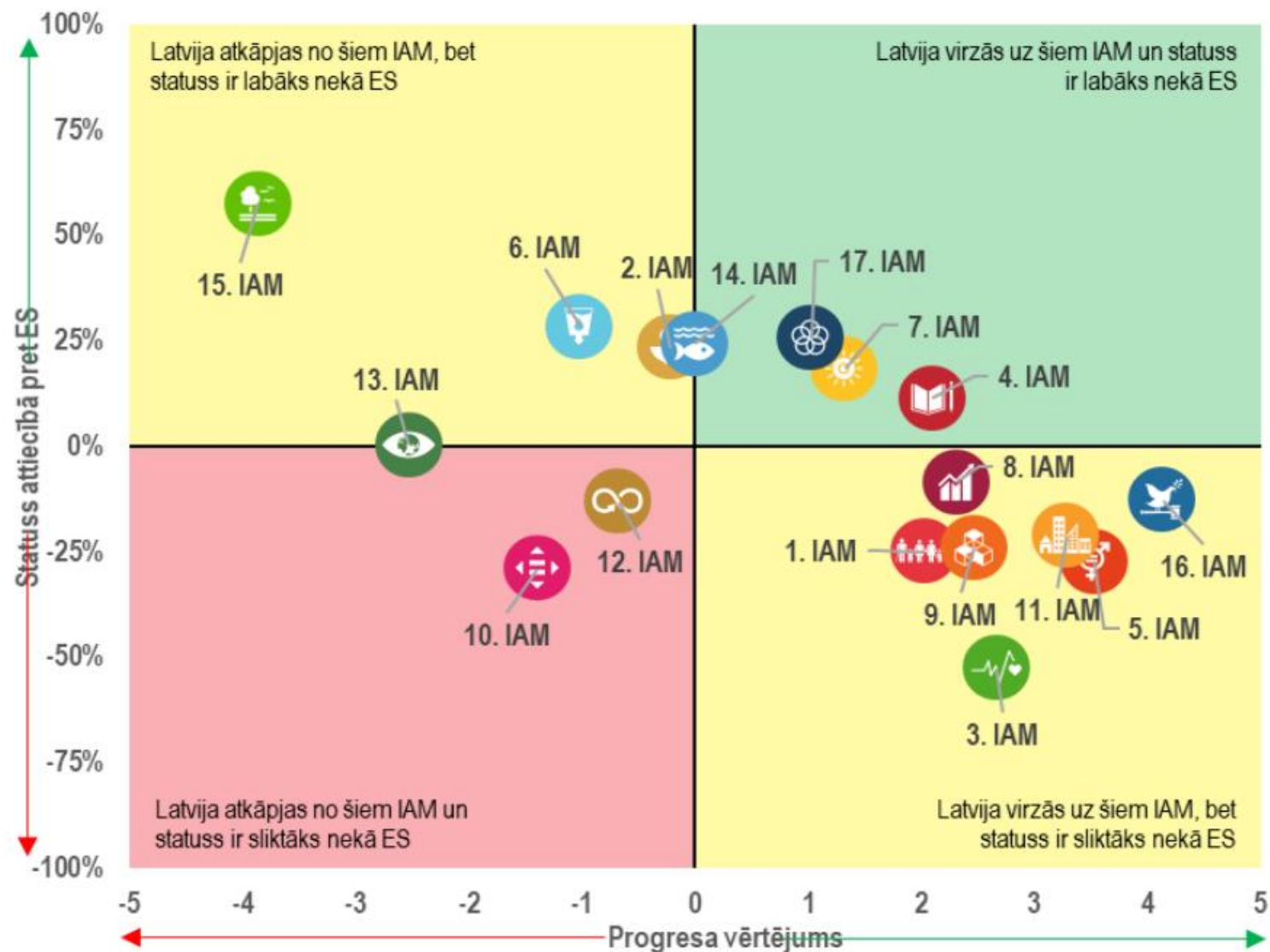
The minimum income level reform was launched in 2021 and is one of the country's most significant achievements in reducing poverty over the past 15 years. The statutory minimum income threshold, a reference level for granting various benefits, and its periodic review will improve the situation for persons with the lowest incomes while ensuring transparency of minimum benefit and pension calculations. Microsimulation data demonstrate the effect on inequality of an annual review of the minimum income level (Scenario 1) compared to a review conducted every three years (Scenario 2).



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Monitoring and international comparison

A1.1. grafiks. Latvijas progress IAM sasniegšanā pēdējos piecos gados





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Moto of the NDP 2027 and strategic goals



Strategic goals as a basis for decision-making

Productivity – main precondition for economic growth

Change of habits – it is not easy, but it helps to achieve goals



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Example of NDP's strategic goals progress

Mērķa Indikators	Bāzes vērtība (gads)	Aktuālā vērtība (gads)	Sasniedzamā vērtība 2024. gadā	Sasniedzamā vērtība 2027. gadā	Novērtējums
[43] Nominālais darba ražīgums uz vienu darba stundu, procentos no ES-27 vidējā rādītāja	59,2 (2018)	63,1 (2022)	65	68	
[44] IKP uz vienu iedzīvotāju, procentos no ES vidējā līmeņa, pēc pirktspējas paritātes līmeņa	71 (2018)	71 (2023)	75	80	
[45] Džini indekss	35,6 (2018)	34,3 (2022)	34	30	
[46] Nabadzības riska indekss bērniem (0–17)	17,5 (2018)	16,2 (2022)	13	11,5	
[47] Apmierinātība ar dzīvi	73,6 (2018)	N/A	77	81	
[47] Apmierinātība ar dzīvi (CSP dati)	6,7 (2018)	6,9 (2023)			
[48] Savstarpējā uzticēšanās (no 16 g.)	6,4 (2018)	6,4 (2022)	6,8	>7	
[49] Reģionālā IKP starpība – četru mazāk attīstīto plānošanas reģionu vidējais IKP uz vienu iedzīvotāju līmenis pret augstāk attīstīto plānošanas reģionu	47 (2017)	50 (2021)	52	55	



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Summary of NDP's goals overall progress

Mērķi / novērtējumi	↑	↶	↷	⬇	⬇	⬇
NAP2027 stratēģiskie mērķi	2	2	2			1
Prioritāte "Stipras ģimenes, veseli un aktīvi cilvēki"						
Rīcības virziens "Uz cilvēku centrēta veselības aprūpe"	4	1			6	
Rīcības virziens "Psiholoģiskā un emocionālā labklājība"	3	1			2	
Rīcības virziens "Stipras ģimenes paaudzēs"	1			1	2	1
Rīcības virziens "Sociālā iekļaušana"	5		1		1	
Prioritāte "Zināšanas un prasmes personības un valsts izaugsmei"						
Rīcības virziens "Zinātne sabiedrības attīstībai, tautsaimniecības izaugsmei un drošībai"	3	2	1			
Rīcības virziens "Kvalitatīva, pieejama, iekļaujoša izglītība"	3	6		2	2	
Prioritāte Uzņēmumu konkurētspēja un materiālā labklājība						
Rīcības virziens "Produktivitāte, inovācija un eksports"	1	1				3
Rīcības virziens "Darbs un ienākumi"	7				1	
Rīcības virziens "Kapitāls un uzņēmējdarbības vide"	1		1		3	2
Prioritāte "Kvalitatīva dzīves vide un teritoriju attīstība"						
Rīcības virziens "Daba un vide – "Zaļais kurss"	6	3			2	1
Rīcības virziens "Tehnoloģiskā vide un pakalpojumi"	4	2	3			1
Rīcības virziens "Līdzsvarota reģionālā attīstība"	3		1			
Rīcības virziens "Majoklis"	4		1		1	
Prioritāte "Kultūra un sports aktīvai un pilnvērtīgai dzīvei"						
Rīcības virziens "Cilvēku līdzdalība kultūras un sporta aktivitātēs"	2			1		
Rīcības virziens "Kultūras un sporta devums ilgtspējīgai sabiedrībai"	2			3		
Prioritāte "Vienota, droša un atvērta sabiedrība"						
Rīcības virziens "Saldētība"		1	1	1	2	3
Rīcības virziens "Tiesiskums un pārvaldība"	6	2	4	2	3	1
Rīcības virziens "Drošība"	1	1				3
Kopā = 146	58	22	15	10	25	16
Kopā = 100 %	39,7	15,1	10,3	6,8	17,1	11,0



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Currently relevant issues*



***Flexible enough so that development can be sustained even if there are some Black Swans**

- NDP 2021-2027 & Covid
- War of Russia against Ukraine & Energy crisis & Inflation & changing trade chains
- Sovereignty & Defence expenditure
- EU Political Guidelines for 2024-2029
- Post-2027 in EU
Post-2030 at the UN
- Pact for the Future
- Aging & population decrease
- Next EU Cohesion policy framework



Work on Latvia 2050 sustainable development strategy

- **Identification of Values and Defining Axioms for the Future Vision**

- Identify core values.
- Define axioms to guide the future vision

- **Analysis of Global Development Trends for the Future**

- Examine key global trends shaping future developments

- **Assessment of Latvia's Development Vectors up to 2050 and Scenario Creation**

- Assess development directions for Latvia up to the year 2050

- **Identify societal values and align with public expectations.**

- **Provide content for discussion topics and preliminary content for Latvia 2050.**

- **Highlight and address "uncomfortable/painful" issues critical to sustainable development, including:**

- - Key topics with divided public opinions
- - Long-term plans from various stakeholders

- **Offer recommendations for actions to be implemented during the development of Latvia 2050**

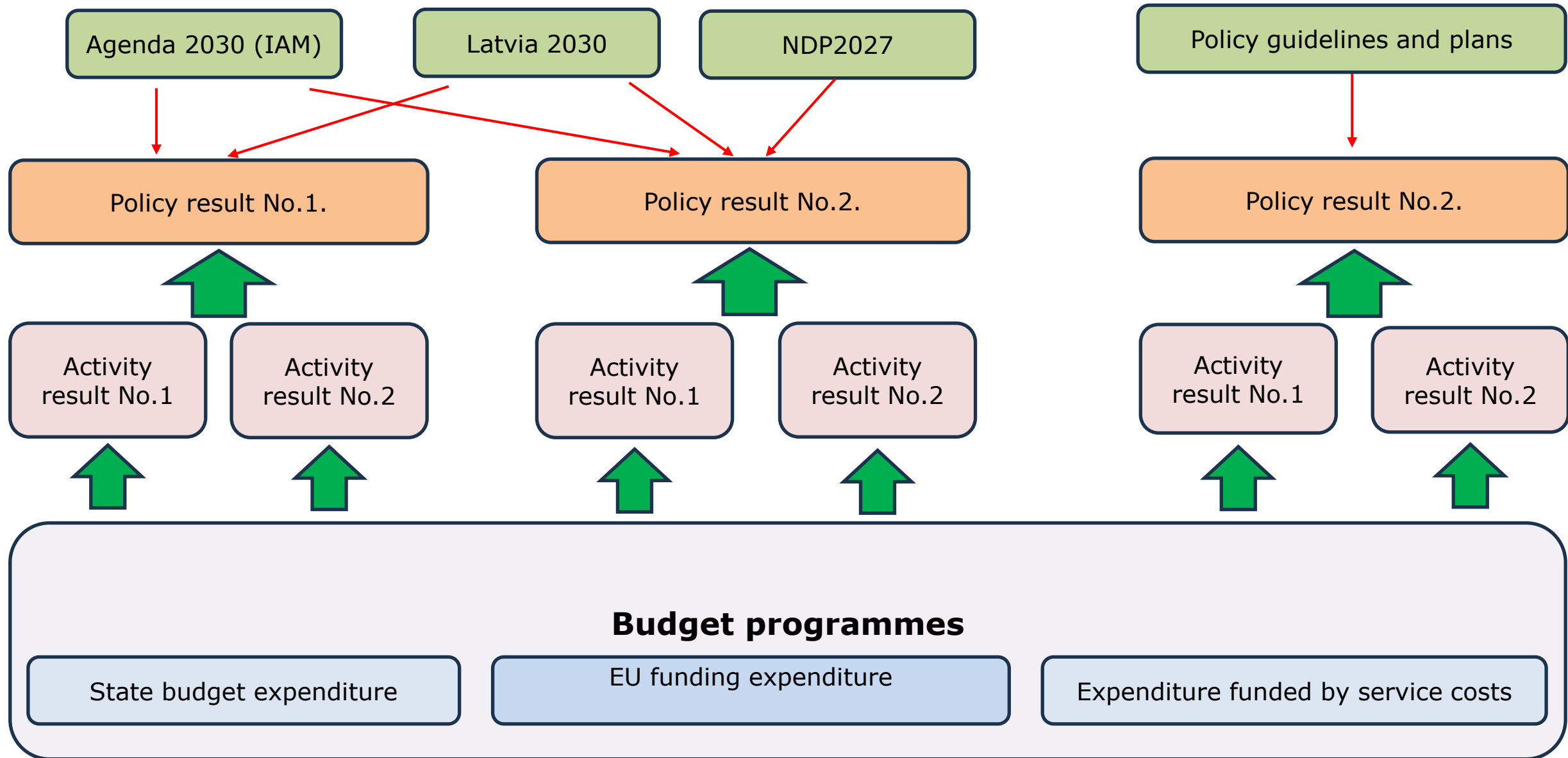


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Work on introduction of performance based budgeting

Budget planning today	New approach
<u>Starting point:</u> Expenditure of previous year	<u>Starting point:</u> Goals for the next year
<u>Financial resources:</u> Allocation by line ministries	<u>Financial resources:</u> Allocation by priority goals and performance targets
<u>Proposals of ministries:</u> How resources will be spent?	<u>Proposals of ministries:</u> What goals and results will be achieved?
<u>Debates:</u> Additional resources for what?	<u>Debates:</u> What needs to be stopped, kept and recreated?
<u>Policy planning documents:</u> Weak link with financial resources	<u>Policy planning documents:</u> Clear link with financial resources
<u>Flexibility:</u> Budget 2024 - 561 budgetary programm	<u>Flexibility:</u> Less of budgetary programm, Higher flexibility – increase of minister’s responsibility
<u>Monitoring:</u> Analysis of budget spending	<u>Monitoring:</u> Regular evaluation – discussions on policy goals and policy targets/results

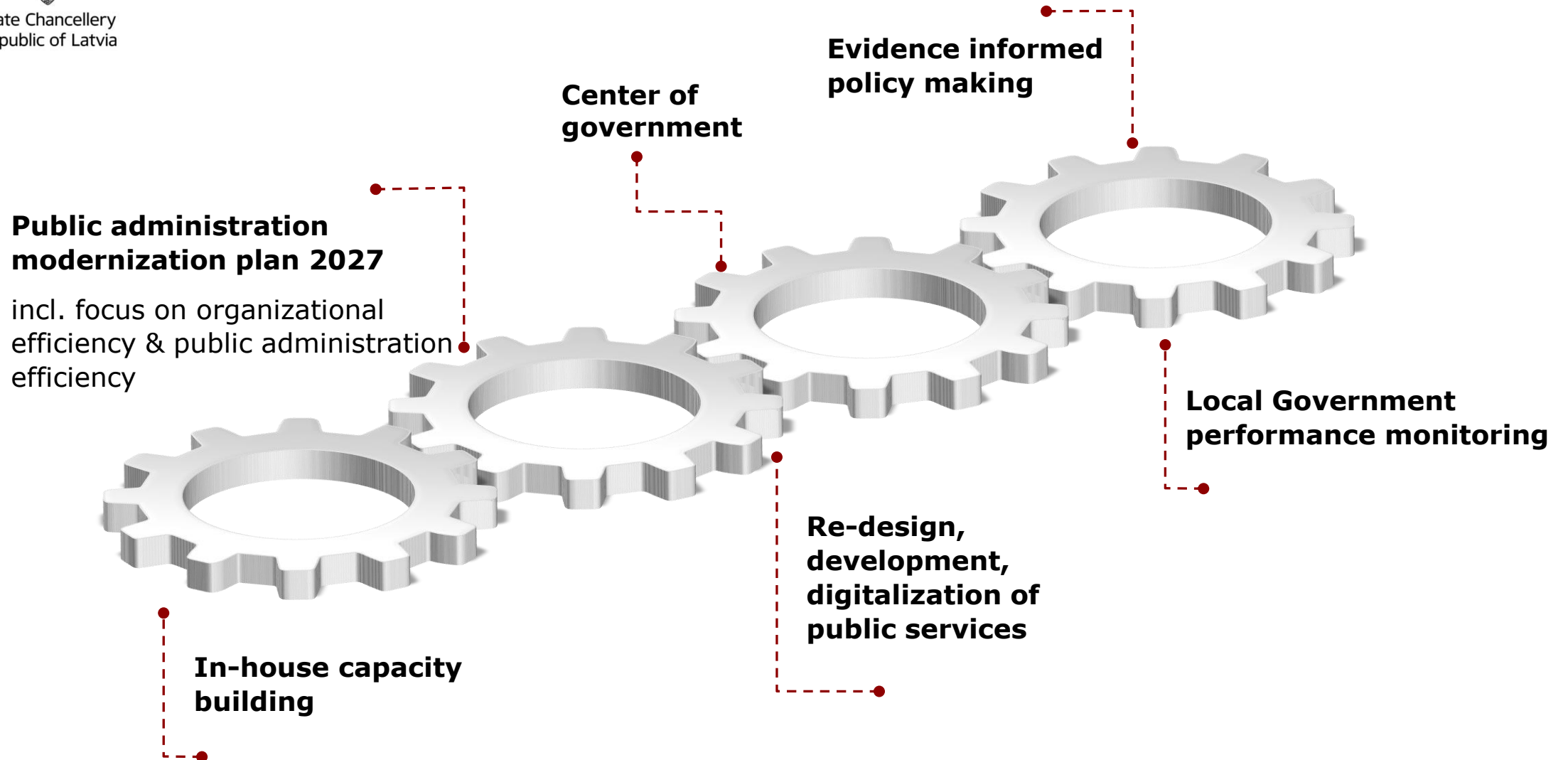
Work on introduction of performance based budgeting





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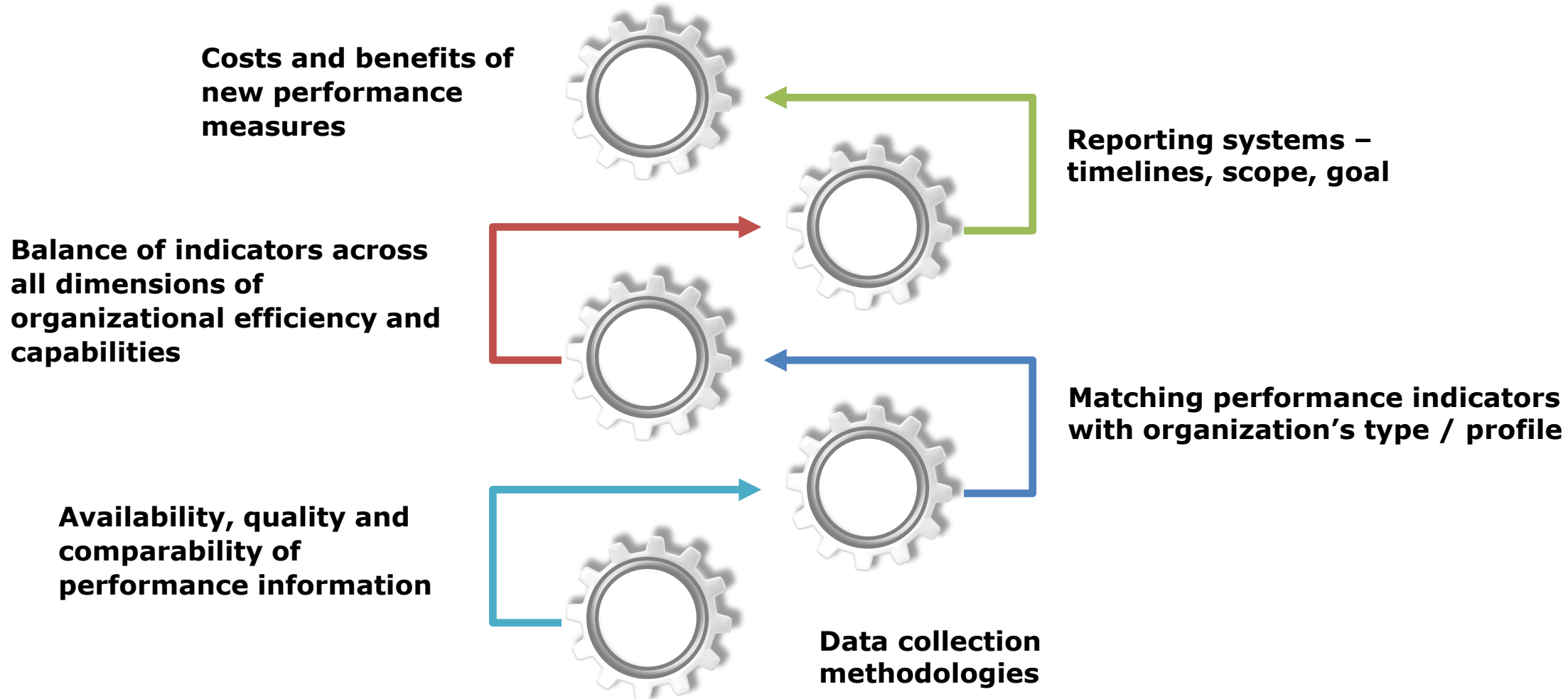
Policy performance and service performance portal - why now?





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Performance of an institution - challenges identified



Scope of performance indicators

Institution's operational strategy
effectiveness/ capabilities/
development

State performance
long-term planning
targets/indicators

International comparative indicators

Human resources

Better spending

Service delivery

Evidence based decisions

Institutional capacity and development (maturity) parameters

Public administration institutions

- Policy making
- Policy implementation
- Service provision

Sectoral development performance policy objectives / indicators

incl. Public administration performance*
Development of Public Administration
policy objectives / indicators

incl. Budget Performance**
budget program objectives / indicators

Government performance
fulfilling the objectives of the
government declaration

*SC plans and implements policy of the public administration development, the human resources development policy of the public administration, the communication policy of the public administration, including the strategic communication policy.

** Will be clarified in the process of developing the PBB approach

For example:

- Innovation barometer
- Open data barometer
- Citizen participation index
- Digital government index
- Open, Useful and Re-usable data (OURdata) Index
- Corruption perception index
- Sustainable public procurement index
- Trust survey
- Open government survey
- Public service leadership & capability survey, etc

International comparisons of sector performance

UN / OECD / EC etc. benchmarks and defined development goals



Challenges from perspective of data use for policy planning and performance measuring

Challenge to get better indicators to evaluate policy impact because data did not exist earlier and data collection may require substantial resources

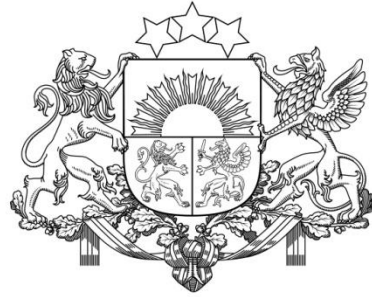
Challenge of replacing discontinued indicators or low regularity indicators, in particular, in case of indicators developed by international organizations

Challenge of replacing indicators or following progress on indicators if there are changes in definition or methodology

Objectives and indicators of policy planning documents should be chosen so that they properly serve as a basis for measuring the effectiveness of budget expenditure and decision-making about policy change.

More indicators and data on progress towards Agenda 2030 need to be provided

Crisis require much faster response in terms of data (Covid-19 as an example)



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