

*Unofficial translation*

**Declaration of the Intended Activities of the Cabinet of  
Ministers Headed by  
Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš**

# Content

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	4
<b>I. SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY</b>	6
National defence	6
Internal security and public order	8
Rule of law and fight against corruption	9
Foreign affairs	11
<b>II. EDUCATION</b>	13
Official language	14
Educational management	14
Content and quality of education	15
Vocational and adult education	16
Higher education, science and innovation	16
Sport, youth policy and interest-related education	17
<b>III. ENERGY, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT</b>	18
Energy	19
Climate and environment	20
Environmental protection	21
<b>IV. COMPETITIVENESS</b>	22
Financial sector policy	23
Fiscal policy	24
Development of the state budget and financial system of local governments	25
Tax policy and tax administration	25
Public administration and investment	26
Business and investment environment	27
Housing	29
Human capital and employment	29
Transport	30
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	32
Regional development, environment and digitalisation	34
Regional development policy	35
Investment policy targeted at regional disparities and opportunities	36
National ICT governance and data security	37
Development of data economy	38
<b>V. QUALITY OF LIFE</b>	38

<b>Family and child support policies and violence reduction</b>	39
<b>Material support and access to the environment to reduce social inequality</b>	40
<b>Individual needs-based services and investment in human resources</b>	40
<b>Health</b>	41
<b>Modern governance</b>	44
<b>Cultural space, national identity and information space</b>	46

## INTRODUCTION

### **The goal of government headed by Krišjānis Kariņš: Transformation of the Latvian economy towards a better life in Latvia**

Since the restoration of Latvia's independence, the country and its people have gone through enormous changes – the transition from the command economy to the market economy, the privatisation of state and local government property, the establishment and strengthening of democratic institutions, the implementation of money and land reform, the accession to the European Union (EU) and NATO military alliance. Different challenges have been overcome on this path. Today we are facing the aggressive hostilities of Russia in Ukraine, which undermine the international practices governed by the rule of law and represent the major security threat to Europe, resulting in enormous human suffering. The war has led to inflation and energy crisis in Latvia and across the world. The government is aware that the changing circumstances affect the situation in Latvia, and will make every effort to safeguard national security and socio-economic development.

In addition to strengthening our country's growth path, it is necessary to continue to implement policies providing security and well-being for the people of Latvia. Over the last years, fundamental changes have been made in higher education and science, the financial sector, investment attraction, administrative division and other areas, which have laid important foundations for future development. Our efforts should be geared towards economic growth, stability and strengthening security while continuing with the reforms undertaken and introducing new changes. The number of companies exporting high value-added goods is growing in Latvia, the average salary of the population is increasing, the international rankings of our universities are improving. These are the trends of our national economy, which need to be strengthened.

A human being is the core value of Latvia, and we must therefore mobilise for economic growth that will improve our lives and lives of future generations. In order to ensure a major economic transformation, it is necessary to refocus work in five closely interlinked areas:

- 1. Security.** A secure environment is the basis for economic transformation and development of the country. This is particularly important at a time when neighbouring country Russia is conducting aggressive hostilities against Ukraine. The citizens of our country and any investor need confidence that Latvia is and will be a safe country, governed by the rule of law, where to live and exercise an economic activity. The security area covers not only external military security and foreign policy, but also internal security, the rule of law and the strengthening of the rule of law,

including both police, firefighters, border guards and anti-corruption forces.

- 2. Education.** It serves as the basis for transformation of country's economy. High-quality and accessible education is essential for economic growth, successful development and sustainability of every individual, society and country as a whole. Through all stages of lifelong learning – pre-school, primary, secondary, vocational and vocationally oriented education, special and interest-related education, as well as higher education – we must continue to work towards a demanded and effective education system that enables each individual to grow and prepares for real economic conditions. We need to invest far more in higher education and science in order to achieve a dynamic investment development in Latvia, to expand and strengthen the framework for exports with high value-added, as well as to enhance the national human capital.
- 3. Energy.** This is an engine for economic transformation. The Latvian economy has for a long time relied on relatively cheap imports of Russian gas to produce both heat and electricity. Russia's war in Ukraine has finally destroyed the illusion that Latvia can continue its usual path in the field of energy. It is therefore necessary to develop an energy sector that provides sufficient, predictable and price-competitive energy supplies for the future economic development and a clear plan on how Latvia will achieve its binding EU climate targets. The use of renewable energy sources should be promoted, as it is not only part of the climate policy, but it also significantly reduces Latvia's import balance.
- 4. Competitiveness.** This is a guarantee for economic transformation. In order to continue economic and export growth, we need to foster high value-added investment in Latvia. Not only must the *Rail Baltica* railway project be developed, but the whole of our railway system and the potential of ports need to be refocused. There is the need to further develop the profitable agricultural and forestry sectors in order to increase their value-added. We need to live up to the economic development of the new regional centres, incl. access to housing, the development of education, health and social care services and physical connectivity with the immediate surroundings and other regional centres. Strengthening Rīga's competitiveness is a prerequisite for faster economic growth of the country. We will achieve a major reduction in the scale of the shadow economy.

- 5. Quality of life, human and public health.** The improvement of the quality of life will lead to sustainable economic transformation because the skills, knowledge and creativity required by the labour market, as well as their skilful use through mutual cooperation constitute the main resource for growth. In order to ensure that everyone experiences the improvements in the quality of life, it is necessary to strengthen the rule of law, the quality of health care, the Latvian cultural space, the development of local communities, as well as the child care and welfare system; it is necessary to ensure that the person is at the centre of effective services. The government commits itself to ensuring the sustainable and patient-centred operation of the healthcare system. The Nordic countries' experience shows that the overall perception of the quality of life is more important for attracting investors and economic development than the cost of living or the tax burden. The quality of life, in turn, is the determining factor for our children's and entrepreneurs' decision in favour of their country Latvia.

The government should work in close cooperation with social and cooperation partners and non-governmental organisations towards the shared goal of strengthening the independence of our country, economic transformation and quality of life of the population. This could be achieved through good cooperation between society and the government.

## **I. SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY**

### **National defence**

The ultimate goal of national defence is to ensure the protection of the state of Latvia against modern conventional and unconventional threats. The NATO principle of collective security, cooperation with transatlantic partners, as well as regional cooperation with the Baltic States, Poland, the Nordic countries and the United Kingdom are essential for Latvia's national defence policy. We will implement the principles of comprehensive national defence, promoting the readiness of citizens to defend Latvia and its national values. The ability to provide national protection, including with Latvia's own resources, is crucial for the long-term existence of the state. We will continue to provide military assistance and support to Ukraine to enable it to liberate the territories occupied by Russia.

1. We will develop the National Armed Forces (NAF) to enable them to protect the population of Latvia against new and military threats. To that end, we will provide the national defence budget of at least 3 % of GDP by 2027.
2. We will staff the NAF units with relevant personnel, we will also ensure greater public preparedness for the protection of the country. To achieve this, we will set up a national defence service with the first call in mid-2023. We will strengthen the NAF's reserve staff system, incl. by developing an active reserve and the equipped reserve units. We will continue to develop the military infrastructure by improving the service conditions for soldiers.
3. Recognizing the importance of NATO and transatlantic cooperation, we will continue to participate in NATO's collective defence system and actively participate in the EU foreign and security policy initiatives. We will ensure Latvia's external security, including sustained and significant presence of NATO forces in Latvia in accordance with the NATO strategic concept, by strengthening the Eastern flank and increasing the NATO battle group deployed in Latvia to the team level. With the enlargement of NATO in the Baltic Sea region, we will insist on the development of a new regional defence plan. We will provide the necessary support of the host country, including the establishment of the Selonia Military Training Area. We will stand for enhanced cooperation between the European Union and NATO in countering hybrid threats, building security infrastructure and developing military mobility.
4. In the light of geopolitical conditions, we will accelerate the examination and approval of the National Security and State Defence concepts.
5. We will continue to modernise the National Guard, by improving its combat readiness and providing with modern combat and combat support weapons, as well as equipment. We will expand the location of the National Guard units in the regions. We will promote the storage of national guardsmen's weapons at the unit support points and at the place of residence.
6. We will provide the NAF's Land Forces with armament, as well as material and technical means. We will build new capabilities of the NAF, especially air-defence and coastal defence, as well as increase numerical composition of NAF by developing Land Forces.
7. We will develop a comprehensive national defence system, by strengthening the preparedness of state institutions, local governments and general public for crisis situations and threats to the state, by informing and organising training. We will strengthen the psychological resilience and resistance of society to disinformation.
8. We will enhance the patriotic and national education of the youth. When developing a sense of belonging to Latvia, we will expand the Youth Guard

movement, as well as introduce the national defence training as a mandatory subject in secondary education.

9. We will strengthen national cyber security and cyber defence capabilities. We will build a National Cybersecurity Centre and improve cybersecurity governance in the country in order to improve resilience to cyber-attacks and reduce risks to digital security. We will strengthen society's ability to use technological solutions wisely and acquire skills for self-defence in the context of cybersecurity challenges.
10. We will support the development of the national defence industry. We will strengthen the capacity of the local industry to meet the basic operational needs of the NAF under all circumstances, as well as to contribute to the development of EU and NATO military capabilities. We will promote innovation and the development of new products to meet defence needs. The principle of security of supply will be respected in defence procurements.

### **Internal security and public order**

Internal security and an effective crisis management mechanism are essential for ensuring the country's independence. We will actively promote the resilience of society against different types of hybrid threats, strengthen the mechanism to fight against the activities of organisations and individuals supporting Russia's aggressive policies, improving the work and legislative base of home services and national security institutions. We will increase the funding for public order and security (according to the classification of state budget functions – police, court, and prosecutor's office, border guard and migration, fire safety and rescue, cross-sectoral functions, the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB)) to reach 2.5 % of gross domestic product in 2026.

11. We will improve the crisis management system by setting up a Crisis Management Centre and an inter-institutional crisis communication mechanism at national level.
12. We will review the national civil protection system as part of the national security system.
13. We will develop and implement a national-level and regional-level strategy for reducing and management of disaster risks.
14. We will carry out an audit of the State material reserves system and improve it in accordance with the risk analysis.
15. We will improve the early warning system.
16. We will continue to implement a targeted inter-institutional support for Ukrainian civilians, promoting their socio-economic inclusion in society and

ensuring the allocation of the necessary state budget funding for support measures.

17. We will develop and implement a new remuneration system for employees of the interior services, providing support for introducing competitive remuneration and social guarantees for employees of the interior system, in order to eliminate critical staff shortages leading to significant restrictions on the intensity and delivery of internal security services to society.
18. We will strengthen the capacity of national security institutions to prevent threats to national security, the spread of Russian disinformation and the justification of aggression.
19. We will ensure the launch and development of the Consortium of the Internal Security Academy.
20. We will ensure the acquisition, maintenance and restoration of infrastructure, special transport, equipment, special means and equipment necessary for the provision of internal security services, assuming long-term financial liabilities of the state budget.
21. We will ensure the construction of the country's external border by strengthening the security of the border of the European Union, as well as the necessary staff mobility and equipment. We will implement an effective strategy to address the illegal immigration-related risks and cross-border organised crime at the external border. We will review the norms of the Immigration Law and the work of the controlling authorities, which must prevent illegal entry and residence of persons into the territory of the Republic of Latvia.
22. We will carry out digitisation and innovation projects relevant to the European Union's and national security, by maximising digitisation in the interior system.
23. We will extend the competence and responsibility of the municipal police in cooperation with local governments.
24. We will strengthen the operation of voluntary firefighting posts in the regions in cooperation with local governments and in agreement on the sharing of financial obligations.

### **Rule of law and fight against corruption**

The rule of law is the fundamental principle of Latvia as a democratic state governed by the rule of law and one of the most important cornerstones of the internal and external security of the country. We aim to protect the fundamental rights of everyone,

as well as to strengthen the independence and capacity of the judiciary in order to increase public trust in the judiciary and the state as a whole. It is equally important to strengthen the country's capacity to prevent and combat the illegal use of state power – corruption – at all levels.

25. We will strengthen justice and the rule of law by observing the fundamental principles and values of the rule of law and democratic state, by introducing an effective mechanism for the execution of rulings of the Constitutional Court and other courts.
26. We will ensure effective observance of human rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, the European Union's and international legal norms.
27. We will ensure the protection of the rights and interests of people living in the same household, regardless of gender and age.
28. We will continue our work on the elimination of the consequences of occupation and restoration of historical justice.
29. We will strengthen the independence and capacity of courts, including by promoting education and improving the qualification of employees of the judiciary and investigative institutions. We will continue work on the establishment of the Academy of Justice.
30. We will strengthen the status and functions of the Council for the Judiciary in matters related to the budget of the judiciary, personnel policy, work organisation and infrastructure.
31. We will provide access to justice for an individual and effective protection of the rights and interests of a person in the judicial system, including by improving investigative and judicial procedures by completing the implementation of the e-case and ensuring its successful operation, by developing e-services of courts, as well as promoting motivation and opportunities for a person to defend his or her rights.
32. We will improve the efficiency of the justice system in investment protection and promote trust in the independence of courts and judges in business environment.
33. We will strengthen the system of investigative institutions, ensuring faster and more efficient criminal proceedings.
34. We will ensure that the interests of victims are effectively respected and defended in criminal proceedings.
35. We will reform the system of enforcement of criminal penalties by adopting a new Sentence Execution Code.

36. We will develop a prison infrastructure in line with the established human rights standards.
37. We will promote the development of the resocialisation system and improve the probation system in order to promote social inclusion of offenders.
38. We will develop a legal environment favourable for minors. We will develop a system that responds to children's abuses with measures that take into account children's needs, ensure their socialisation and prevention of new offences.
39. We will promote the compliance with the principle of public credibility of land registers and protection of the bona fide acquirer of real estate.
40. We will implement the reform of the inheritance law by modernising the regulation of the inheritance law and adapting it to the trends and requirements of a modern law.
41. We will ensure the openness of interest representation by introducing the Law on Openness of Interest Representation.
42. We will implement a ruthless fight against corruption by ensuring effective national anti-corruption policy, strengthening the capacity of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau as well as promoting intolerance against corruption in the public and private sectors.

## **Foreign affairs**

The foreign policy of Latvia is aimed at enhancing sustainability and irreversibility of Latvia's independence. The main objectives of Latvia's foreign policy are sustainable external security, economic development, public welfare and international rule of law. In the context of the foreign policy of Latvia, we will continue the unwavering western geopolitical orientation and stand for the maintenance and development of the rules-based international order and cooperation system.

43. We will strengthen NATO's position as a guarantor of Europe's security and close transatlantic relations with the US and Canada.
44. We will provide political, military, financial, humanitarian and economic support to Ukraine in its fight against Russia's aggression, by continuing to deliver arms and equipment to Ukraine and training soldiers of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, as well as calling on the partners and the international community for such action. We will actively engage in Ukraine's reconstruction and strengthening processes. We will support the dynamic integration of Ukraine into the structures of the European Union and NATO. We will stand for the establishment of a special tribunal to investigate and punish crimes of aggression by Russia against Ukraine. We will continue to

participate in international legal proceedings against Russia for its war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine.

45. We will stand for a strong and wide-ranging policy of sanctions against the Russian Federation and Belarus, as well as the isolation of the Russian Federation in international organisations, until it completely stops aggression against Ukraine and starts to comply with the principles of international law and international commitments it has undertaken. We will stand for the restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.
46. We will promote further strengthening of an internally and externally strong European Union as a global union of national states united by shared democratic values and support for human rights. We will deepen cooperation between the Baltic States and the Baltic and Nordic countries (NB8), as well as intensify their relations with the United Kingdom, promoting security, prosperity and sustainability in the region, thus contributing to the development of the European Union. We will strengthen cooperation between the countries of the north-south axis of Europe, paying particular attention to the format of the Three Seas Initiative (Baltic, Black and Adriatic).
47. We will support the development of the European Union's external and security policy, based on the Treaties of the European Union, which strengthens the European Union as a whole. We will support the European Union's security and defence policy that is coordinated with NATO. We will insist on the need to consistently protect the external borders of the European Union. We will oppose the mandatory introduction of a system of redistribution of migrants. We will stand for a unified policy of the Member States of the European Union in their relations with China.
48. We will contribute to stability, security and sustainable development in the neighbourhood regions of the European Union through the European Neighbourhood Policy instruments. We will strengthen the development cooperation policy instruments and increase the funding available to them.
49. We will support the enlargement of the European Union, thereby strengthening Latvia's long-term national interests and democracy, security, stability and the rule of law in Europe. We will support the accession of the candidate countries to the European Union and NATO, which fully support and implement the foreign policy of these organisations.

50. We will stand up for the need to carry out extensive reforms at the United Nations. We will ensure Latvia's successful candidacy in the election of a non-permanent member state of the UN Security Council for the 2026-2027 term, thus creating unprecedented opportunities for the international agenda to defend the most important issues for the security of Latvia and the region and to strengthen the international rule of law.
51. We will implement a coherent, dynamic and targeted diaspora policy based on a coordinated cross-sectoral approach. In addition to strengthening the Latvian language and culture and promoting remigration, we will develop closer cooperation in the economy and science, promoting Latvia's external image and attraction of talents for work in Latvia, as well as advancing the international agenda of Latvia and promoting the civic and political participation of the diaspora.
52. In order to efficiently represent the country on an international scale and participate in the strengthening of external security of Latvia and protect the interests of legal and natural persons of Latvia, we will strengthen the Foreign Service of Latvia by increasing remuneration of employees, including the service abroad, as well as improve the social guarantees for spouses of employees. We will expand the network of Latvian representations abroad according to the political and economic interests of the country.
53. We will step up the fight against disinformation internationally to protect democracy and human rights and prevent the spread of illegal or harmful content to society and the individual.

## **II. EDUCATION**

The education system is based on the harmonious linking of interests of each individual, industry, society and the state. Everyone should have access to high-quality, inclusive education, regardless of their place of residence; while the employees of the sector – to competitive wages, reasonable workload and growth opportunities. In order to develop, Latvia requires people who are able to create and export innovative products and services worldwide. We want to build a harmonious, cohesive society where people – the patriots of Latvia – form the political nation of a Latvian country.

We commit to provide, through the implementation of new reforms or improvement of the launched ones, at all levels of education, adequate resources for high-quality and timely implementation, as well as to involve the social and cooperation partners of the sector through the establishment of an industry council.

We aim to ensure that Latvia is among top 10 leaders in the world by 2030, as part of the OECD PISA study.

## **Official language**

54. In order to enhance the use of the Latvian language as the only official language and a factor uniting the society in daily communication, we will reduce self-sufficiency of Russian and other foreign languages, strengthen the coordination of the implementation of the official language policy, including by introducing a practice to communicate with Latvian residents in the public and private sector only in the official language, creating a nationally united and centralized system for the acquisition of the official language for permanent residents of Latvia, Ukrainian civilians, nationals of the EU, EEA, OECD, Swiss Confederation and third-country nationals who have legally settled in Latvia.
55. We will ensure the implementation of the Education Law and the General Education Law for the transition to learning only in Latvian within three years in general education, pre-school and primary education, including the development of guidelines for the necessary action and its support mechanisms for different groups.
56. We will start a gradual transition towards the second foreign language – one language of the European Union, in primary education.
57. We will preserve and develop the linguistic richness of Latvia by developing and strengthening the Latgalian written language and promoting the vitality of the Liv language, incl. by ensuring the acquisition of the Latgalian language and local teaching (in Latvian) both in Latgale and abroad.

## **Educational management**

58. We will ensure the digital transformation of education to promote learning experiences and access to education, including adult learning, for pupils and students. We will implement the digitalisation of the education system and content in order to make services and internal processes more efficient and reduce the administrative burden for users.
59. In order to ensure high-quality education at all stages of education and to effectively implement educational content reforms by providing adequate resources, we will improve a meaningful, effective education quality monitoring system based on scientifically verified criteria (including STEM subjects), as well as strengthen the management of educational institutions and annual in-depth analysis of the results of national tests.

60. We will create an educational environment that is physically and emotionally safe and free from violence.
61. We will develop a strategy for the development of human capital based on data and national economic and social development plans, which will integrate the objectives to be achieved in the Education Development and Science, Technological Development and Innovation Guidelines. We will carry out an annual evaluation of the progress and adjustment of the relevant action plans in cooperation with co-responsible institutions.
62. We will move towards a balanced school network in line with the demographic situation, ensuring the quality of education, access to education and timeframe for raising the salaries of teachers. We will assess the needs of the European Union's external border school network.
63. We will establish a system of teacher training, support and motivation for attracting, retaining, as well as growth at all levels of education. We will review the public contracts of higher education institutions, provide training for teachers in line with modern requirements, sufficient number of budget places for subjects in the state language, EU languages and STEM subjects.
64. We will ensure the hourly pay rate for teachers of at least 120 % of the average wage of employees in the public sector.

### **Content and quality of education**

65. We will evaluate the implementation of the "School 2030" project, making the necessary changes. We will develop an optimal content management model in education.
66. We will promote the use of entrepreneurship programs, including "Junior Achievement Latvia" in all schools in Latvia.
67. We will ensure an optimal balance between teaching STEM and other subjects, while ensuring the resources necessary for a high-quality educational process – infrastructure, collaborative learning tools and e-resources to strengthen the fields of science and technology, as well as to promote STEM.
68. We will provide a comprehensive, structured, tailor-made aid package to support the development needs of children and young people, including special needs. We will also ensure the development of talents through inclusive education.
69. We will ensure an increase in funding for the support staff in educational institutions throughout the territory of Latvia by developing criteria for providing support staff in all educational institutions.

70. We will move towards the introduction of mandatory secondary education, by including the state examination in one of the subjects of natural sciences.
71. We will introduce a health literacy programme, state defence training and a program promoting patriotism in the content of general secondary education, strengthen the national self-confidence of the residents of Latvia and the implementation of the values laid down in the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia.

### **Vocational and adult education**

72. We will improve the financing of vocational guidance and vocational education programmes, approaching the excellence of vocational education and international competitiveness, by developing a content for sustainable vocational education, including examination. We will ensure that vocational education is prestigious, adequately funded, strategically specialised and involves a significant number of employers.
73. We will develop a national strategy to achieve the proportion of 50/50 pupils in general and vocational education, providing for appropriate redistribution of education funding to programmes promoting economic development, providing career support to pupils. We will encourage students to continue learning in vocational education.
74. We will continue to reform the content of education in line with the balance between labour skills and market demand, by making more efficient reskilling, integrating digital competences, promoting work-based learning for adults and establishing joint coordination in adult learning.

### **Higher education, science and innovation**

75. We will increase the total R&D funding of not less than 1.5 % of GDP by implementing the Smart Specialisation Strategy of Latvia, by implementing international cooperation and cooperation with industry, by attracting international funding with the prime focus on the Horizon Europe programme and participation in world-class research organisations, as well as expanding the activities of the Innovation Fund in accordance with the principles of transparency, fair competition and effectiveness. We will promote the innovation process in research organisations.
76. We will invest in the competitiveness of science universities, bringing science universities into international rankings of Top 500.
77. In order to improve the overall quality and competitiveness of higher education in line with the demand of the Latvian economy, we will improve the higher education and science funding models, providing the funding that corresponds to real costs.

78. We will support the progress towards greater access to higher education for Latvian students and review the base funding for one study place, without reducing the number of state-funded budget places.
79. We will continue to develop the ecosystems of scientific universities as the backbone of the higher education system of Latvia, by improving the network of Latvian universities and scientific institutions. We will determine the role and specific functions of universities, colleges, including in regional development.
80. We will establish an effective quality assurance mechanism in higher education, which will include the international evaluation of the activities of scientific institutions. We will abolish the previous process of assessing the quality of higher education by shifting towards an institutional accreditation model.
81. We will carry out data-based analysis and develop a mechanism to reduce student drop-outs in universities.
82. We will develop a common regulatory framework for higher education and science, including the introduction of a new academic career model and a tenure professor support fund, we will develop the Law on Universities of Science.
83. We will create an innovation ecosystem in Latvia that includes the public and private sectors. We will deal with the issue of intellectual property in scientific institutes of public sector to promote not only the innovation process in universities and scientific institutions, but also the development of new technologies and products and patenting and valorisation of inventions.
84. We will further improve a high-quality cultural education system, by supporting the pursuit of excellence at all levels of cultural education, from professional orientation and intermediate level cultural education, including university education of arts and culture, ensuring international competitiveness, continuity of programmes, through flexible adaptation of educational programmes according to requirements of the labour market of the cultural and creative sector.
85. We will promote the export of education by attracting highly motivated foreign students, by reducing the administrative burden.
86. We will provide support to Ukrainian students and researchers who have chosen to study and work in the Latvian universities and scientific institutes.

### **Sport, youth policy and interest-related education**

87. We will improve the legal framework of the sports sector, the financing and management system, incl. by reviewing the tasks delegated by the state to non-governmental sports organisations, as well as create a long-term predictable

financing model for high-achievement sports, including the paralympic movement.

88. We will develop and facilitate access to the sports infrastructure.

89. We will give priority to the development of sports for children and young people.

90. We will improve access to health-enhancing sports activities for all groups of society in all regions, especially children and young people, as well as review the role of the state and local governments in financing sports education programmes.

91. We will develop national guidelines for youth policy and provide independent funding for research of young people's needs, as well as the implementation of the fundamental function of the local government – work with the youth, and independent basic funding for national youth organisations.

92. We will improve the system of interest-related education by implementing the changes required to ensure high-quality and accessible programmes of interest-related education, including technical innovation and creative industry programmes.

### **III. ENERGY, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT**

The global fight against climate change must lead to substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and the introduction of a fair European Green Deal, continuing consistently the path towards climate neutrality. The national energy self-sufficiency is based on increasing electricity generation capacity, primarily developing the use of renewable energy sources, as well as ensuring stable supply of liquefied natural gas. Energy efficiency is a prerequisite for economic development, promoting it in all sectors of the economy. The circular economy should become comprehensive, incl. by reducing the share of municipal waste landfilled and promoting the use of secondary materials in the economy. We will promote changes in daily habits of society by reducing consumption, supporting a zero-waste lifestyle and the choice of bio-produced products, as well as healthy recreation in nature. The objectives will be achieved through common governance and coordination in the areas of climate and energy.

## Energy

93. We will ensure progress towards Latvia's energy self-sufficiency by promoting the use of zero-emission technologies and renewable energy sources in energy production, achieving Latvia's energy independence from Russia and stabilising the supply of the energy production sector to the economy, by examining possibilities to increase electricity generation capacity, incl. by studying the integration of electricity produced by a modular nuclear power plant into the energy system. We will promote the development of energy accumulation technologies.
94. We will achieve a significant increase in and export of renewable energy production capacity, ensuring attraction of investments and reduction of bureaucracy barriers to the creation of solar, onshore wind and offshore wind farms, including by continuing the construction of strategic wind parks of Latvia on land owned by the state and municipality and in the territorial waters of Latvia. We will provide a long-term predictable investment environment for renewable energy capacity generation and storage projects.
95. In order to ensure swift integration of renewable energy sources, we will create a regulatory environment (management) that will ensure optimal operation of the electricity supply system, by making efficient use of the existing system and reducing the need for significant additional investments.
96. We will contribute to the development of electrification in Latvia by introducing special simplified and economic solutions for the transmission network connection and network service tariff structure.
97. When creating a liquefied natural gas terminal in Skulte, which would take full advantage of the Inčukalns underground gas storage, we will evaluate its perspective from economic and safety aspects in order to avoid additional financial burden for consumers and conflict with environmental protection policy, climate policy objectives and citizens' interests. We will achieve a stable supply of liquefied natural gas and its price.
98. We will increase self-generation and self-consumption of economically viable energy in the economy, thus contributing to the formation and development of energy communities.
99. We will promote the improvement of energy efficiency, including the energy efficiency of buildings and the promotion of renewable energy technologies in heating, cooling and industry. We will review the support of measures to promote energy efficiency in multi-apartment residential buildings, providing the possibility to take energy efficiency measures by dividing the activities into parts. We will introduce standard projects for energy efficiency/renovation of

- multi-apartment buildings. We will promote the involvement of heating companies in the implementation of energy efficiency measures in buildings.
100. We will promote the use of renewable energy technologies in transport, including the expansion of the existing railway electrification, electric car charging network, as well as the use of the public transport system.
  101. We will promote the development and expansion of centralised heating systems based on renewable natural resources. We will contribute to the connection to centralised heating systems.
  102. We will introduce an effective and transparent regulation regarding renewable power plants, demolition and disposal of production facilities, that governs the procedure for sustainable dismantling of installations after their decommissioning.
  103. We will promote cooperation between the Baltic States to ensure joint development and coordination of the energy sector, including the synchronisation of the Baltic energy system with the Energy System of Continental Europe by the end of 2025.
  104. We will promote the use of local natural resources in heating in order to reduce heating costs.
  105. We will review Latvia's national energy and climate plan, taking into account the need for a swifter transition from fossil energy to renewable energy sources, as well as taking into account the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. We will coordinate the development and implementation of the plan with stakeholders (distribution and transmission network operators, the regulator and non-governmental organisations), by setting clear short-term, medium and long-term objectives.
  106. We will provide energy reserves to cope with crisis situations.

## **Climate and environment**

107. We will implement the European Green Deal in a comprehensive and socially fair manner towards achieving climate neutrality by 2050, the targets set in the European Green Deal package and the "Fit for 55" climate objectives, taking into account the country's development goals and social security, prioritising Latvia's competitiveness in the region and the development of a balanced and sustainable economy. We will ensure science-based decision-making, regular public participation and mechanisms for traceability of public funding towards the objectives of the European Green Deal.
108. We will support research to achieve the climate neutrality objectives, including increased funding for research that develops and produces climate-neutral products and technologies. We will support research and innovation

that gradually shifts the export structure from low value-added to high value-added goods. We will support companies that finance research projects and implement the resulting products and technologies.

109. We will establish a Ministry of Climate and Energy by implementing joint governance in the fields of energy and climate, as well as horizontal coordination of the implementation of energy and climate policies in economic sectors.
110. We will reduce the share of municipal waste to be landfilled by extending the system of producer responsibility. We will encourage the use of packaging for recycling by establishing a definition of recyclable packaging in legislation. We will create a full-fledged regulatory framework for the development of re-use of goods and the use of secondary raw materials.
111. We will ensure economically efficient and smart use of resources through the development of the circular economy, the development of the green public procurement framework to promote its wider use, as well as the introduction of a specific programme of measures to change the daily habits of society, supporting a zero-waste lifestyle and the choice of local, organic products.
112. We will improve and implement a framework for terminating the waste status for reusable materials.
113. We will support the regeneration of bio-waste in biogas plants with the efficient use of the resulting gas calorific value.
114. We will actively work on the prevention and mitigation of the effects of various climate change, we will support municipalities in the prevention of flood risks, erosion of coasts of rivers and the Baltic Sea.
115. Taking into account that knowledge and human education are a guarantee of green thinking and management, we will fund research for the development of environmental quality-enhancing activities or technologies, develop innovations and technologies in the areas of climate neutrality and environmental protection.
116. We will start the development of a system for inventory and monitoring of Latvia's natural capital.

### **Environmental protection**

117. We will strengthen the capacity of the Nature Conservation Agency, the State Environmental Service, the State Environmental Monitoring Bureau and other institutions involved in environmental protection to achieve the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, which is a key element of the European Green Deal and a tool to reduce environmental pollution.
118. We will prevent the deterioration of protected species and habitats of European interest and promote the improvement. We will invest in the

development of species protection plans and rules for the management of protected areas, which will reduce uncertainties relating to forest and rural areas management possibilities.

119. We will build a network of nature conservation areas in line with the current situation in nature according to the principle of presence of endangered species, habitats and natural objects, aligning it with economic interests.
120. We will ensure that the assessment of effects on environment is taken into account as an essential part of development planning in all areas of economic and policy planning.
121. We will ensure that every national position of Latvia in the field of environmental policy will also be viewed through the prism of energy and economic independence, by balancing areas intended for environmental protection and the use of agricultural/forestry areas.
122. We will improve the compensation system and determine appropriate compensation amounts for restrictions on economic activity, including forestry activities, in specially protected nature areas and restrictions related to the conservation of specially protected and migratory species and specially protected habitats. We will promote rational use and management of natural capital, as well as public understanding of the quality of nature and the environment as an essential and integral part of the quality of human life and an element of ecotourism.

#### **IV. COMPETITIVENESS**

Competitiveness is crucial to the transformation of the Latvian economy, however, structural changes and increased productivity are required to change Latvia's growth trajectory. The main challenges relate to Latvia's ability to implement technological modernisation, to develop innovations, to expand participation in global and regional value chains, to take advantage of the opportunities created by digitalisation, as well as to provide a skilled workforce for change.

In order to reduce Latvia's productivity lag from the EU average and ensure progress towards faster economic growth and increase the well-being of society as a whole, we need to increase the:

- share of high-tech in the structure of the economy;
- number of export capable companies and export volume;
- integration of digital technologies in enterprises;
- investment in science, research and innovation;

- productive investment in the adult education system to ensure the transition of the workforce from non-productive sectors to developing sectors;

The main lines of activity in the field of competitiveness in addition to ensuring the stability and sustainability of public finances are the:

- promotion of the private investment and innovation system;
- increasing foreign direct investment;
- improving the business environment;
- expansion of financial services;
- further development of the capital market;
- building of public confidence and systemic dialogue with economic operators;
- investing in human capital, improving reskilling and upskilling.

The national fiscal policy must contribute to effective stabilisation of economic cycles and sound public finances that provide for sufficient resources for public services today and do not place an excessive debt burden on future generations.

We will make Latvia a country whose exports of goods and services outperform imports, with an increasing share of educated population, which successfully fits into the labour market where everyone knows and uses the official language on a daily basis. We will create the preconditions to ensure that Latvia is a growth platform for exporting, energy-efficient and productive companies that create knowledge-intensive services and technology-intensive products.

We will ensure the most competitive business environment in the Baltics and cooperation with the industry. We will promote the economic activity of the population and involvement in commercial activities, incl. by addressing the return of residents who are involved in the shadow economy or are bound by credit liabilities to the legal economy, as well as by facilitating access to capital and housing on an equal basis throughout the territory of Latvia. We will strengthen data analysis capacity and facilitate access to high-quality and up-to-date data to implement data-based decision-making, ensuring public information and involvement.

## **Financial sector policy**

123. We will develop a financial sector policy that promotes and supports sustainable development of the Latvian economy by improving access to finance and providing the citizens and businesses with competitive, convenient, safe and modern financial services, including by carefully

focusing state aid on reducing market failures in areas with the greatest long-term return potential for national economy.

124. We will create an appropriate and proportionate regulation for Latvian citizens, businesses and the financial sector that contributes to a stable, safe and development-focused financial sector, competition among financial service providers that ensures competitive access to capital, as well as an innovation-friendly financial service environment.
125. We will continue to develop a competitive capital market with neighbouring countries, by expanding companies' access to finance and opportunities for investments in the Latvian economy. Strategic public assets and critical infrastructure will remain under state control. In some cases, where it is necessary to raise capital and ensure the development of a company, we will use the financial instruments contributing to economic development.
126. We will introduce high governance standards in state-owned capital companies. We will evaluate the establishment of joint management for individual state-owned capital companies.
127. We will integrate sustainability aspects into financial sector policy in order to facilitate the transition to climate objectives, while continuing to identify and monitor vulnerabilities and risks related to climate and environmental change to which the Latvian economy and financial system are exposed.
128. To ensure the security and stability of Latvia and the financial system, we will implement competitive leadership to prevent the flow of regional and international financial crime and proceeds through Latvia, promoting the positive impact of Latvia's success on security, economic and social well-being, significantly reducing tolerance to selfish and criminal interests disrupting the healthy functioning of the financial system for the benefit of national economy. We will promote a risk-based approach by further improving the effectiveness of supervisory and control authorities while facilitating the access to services for honest citizens and businesses.

## **Fiscal policy**

129. We will develop a counter-cyclical fiscal policy to provide targeted support for citizens and entrepreneurs in crisis, and to transform the economy towards faster export and GDP growth.
130. We will gradually reduce the general government structural deficit to 0.5 % of GDP in 2025 and keep it at this level in the future.
131. Apart from this condition, we will finance the increase in defence and internal security expenditure and one-off expenditure related to mitigating the consequences of the crisis caused by Russia's war in Ukraine and ensuring the country's energy independence from Russia.

132. In order to ensure economic resilience to potential shocks in the future, after the end of the war crisis, we will pursue fiscal policies that reduce the general government debt below 40 % of GDP.

### **Development of the state budget and financial system of local governments**

133. We will develop draft laws on the state budget in accordance with the priorities set by the government (coalition) and development planning documents. We will maintain the principles of sustainability in the public finance management, ensuring the availability of responsibly assessed funding for the state budget expenditures and a transparent process of planning, allocating, using and monitoring it, by offering long-term balanced solutions.
134. We will carry out an independent and systematic review of the state budget expenditure to optimise and assess the effectiveness and efficiency in the context of priorities set by the government, by summarising proposals for improvement of budgetary processes and systems that promote economic use of funds, reduction of administrative burden and increase the efficiency of activities of the authorities.
135. We will promote the responsibility and interest of local governments in the development of their territory, including in the field of entrepreneurship and employment development. We will ensure stable and regionally balanced access to financial resources for local governments in a fiscally responsible manner, by creating equal conditions for the exercise of their functions and the provision of high-quality services to citizens. We will prepare changes to the local government financial equalisation system and improve borrowing conditions for local governments.

### **Tax policy and tax administration**

136. We will promote the country's competitiveness through a stable, simple, taxpayer-friendly and flexible tax policy that meets the country's fiscal needs and strategic development goals. We will develop and approve the medium-term tax policy guidelines in 2023 in cooperation with social and cooperation partners.
137. We will implement a competitive labour tax policy in the region and ensure that it is easy to administer and simple. We will reduce the shadow economy and promote entrepreneurship and employment. We will pay particular attention to small and new businesses.
138. We will reduce income inequality and poverty in Latvia through tax policy instruments and by strengthening social policy. We will provide targeted support to socially vulnerable groups by improving the previous state support

- programmes in 2023. We will continue the trend towards gradual increasing of the relief for dependent persons and review the amount of tax relief for persons with disabilities and politically repressed persons.
139. We will shape a sustainable tax policy by implementing the goals set out in the European Green Deal.
  140. We will insist that tax policy is a national competence of each country.
  141. We will continue to review the tax administration process, by implementing the digitalisation and automation of processes, by evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of existing legal norms, as well as expanding the scope of publicly available tax information.
  142. We will contribute to the decline of the shadow economy by focusing on identified factors affecting the shadow economy, as well as the risks identified, together with specialists in the field, evaluating possible solutions to reduce their impact in specific sectors of the economy with a high risk of shadow economy. We will address priority horizontal issues: the restriction of cash in transactions, the expansion and availability of information for public administrations and taxpayers, the automation of tax administration processes and the simplification of payment. We will promote the cost-effectiveness of tax collection and increase the revenue of the State budget by reducing the share of the shadow economy. We will improve the governance of the design and monitoring of measures to reduce the shadow economy, as well as define clear performance indicators to be achieved.
  143. We will continue to implement the accrual principle regarding the accounting of fines, as well as the use of a single tax account to reduce the number of state budget revenue accounts.
  144. The National Tripartite Cooperation Council and its sub-committees shall carry out regular monitoring of the situation until the end of the global energy crisis, by assessing additional support possibilities, if any.
  145. We will limit the scope of the tax system abuse by implementing the safeguard measures compatible with those established at the EU level by restricting further the offshore companies' access to national or EU-level aid, grants, incentives, subsidies, tax reliefs and other economic and social support measures funded from the state budget.
  146. We will limit the availability of state budget and incentive or support mechanisms to dishonest companies and individuals in cases where significant violations have been made in the areas of imposition of sanctions, taxation, security and other areas, obliging them to return the aid paid up to that date.

## **Public administration and investment**

147. We will implement the reforms agreed in the Recovery and Resilience Facility Plan and meet the investment targets. We will make the best use of the resources and financial instruments available under the European Recovery and Resilience Facility Programme and invest in Latvia's economy, competitiveness and export promotion. We will make effective use of the opportunities of *RePowerEU* to strengthen the country's energy security.
148. We will carry out targeted and effective implementation of investments included in the EU Cohesion Policy Programme 2021-2027 in the Latvian economy.
149. We will promote the mobilisation of long-term resources from international financial institutions, primarily the European Investment Bank Group, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to finance important public objectives (such as the implementation of energy efficiency and housing policies).
150. We will strengthen the internal control systems of the state and local governments and introduce the internal audit in local governments.
151. We will ensure the digital transformation of public procurement by improving existing technological solutions and increasing their efficiency, by reducing the burden on public purchasers and suppliers.

## **Business and investment environment**

152. We will invest in the innovative capacity of Latvian companies – human capital, science, research development and commercialisation, by developing a full-cycle innovation system, as well as support investment in scalable, deep technologies, social and European Green Deal start-ups, thus approaching the indicators of the leading EU countries.
153. We will promote the circular economy and the reuse of raw materials by strengthening innovation and technological capacity of Latvian companies.
154. We will promote the development of Latvian industrial capital by creating a favourable environment for business development, continuing to support investments in large, exportable projects important for the economy and the creation of new competitive enterprises, as well as the acquisition of new markets.
155. We will develop a strategy and a concrete action plan for the development of the capital market in Latvia, which would allow private companies to gain access to the capital required for substantial growth.
156. We will continue to improve ALTUM programs to ensure the availability of credits for productivity and export growth with a competitive offer. We will

create available ALTUM financial instruments to ensure corporate restructuring, continuity or liquidity.

157. We will set the green component as one of the evaluation criteria and promote the use of local products in public procurement.
158. We will strengthen Latvia's international position, incl. ensuring that the single market of the European Union works for the benefit of Latvia, as well as by further strengthening the development of the European Union's single market (including the digital single market), reducing cross-border barriers and thus supporting the export of Latvian goods and services.
159. In cooperation with the Ministry of Economics, the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, we will contribute to the development of industrial zones in the regions, by stimulating the interest of local and foreign investors to build or relocate their production facilities. We will support the development of high value-added services and product factories and science parks in large industrial centres, in cooperation with science universities. We will invest in regional development by creating an attractive and high-quality living environment, supporting investment in infrastructure essential for business development, modern and productive production that meets future needs.
160. We will promote the regeneration, growth and export capacity of Latvian tourism, ensuring the implementation of local and international tourism marketing activities, the creation of large-scale tourism anchor projects in the regions, supporting businesses within the framework of tourism cooperation networks.
161. We will support the development and export of high-tech goods and knowledge-intensive services, by developing a network of representative offices outside Latvia, ensuring cooperation of Latvian embassies and support to Latvian exporting companies.
162. By strengthening the network of regional business incubators and optimising the administration and accounting processes for start-ups, we will promote the involvement of citizens in commercial activities and start-ups of new companies.
163. We will simplify the real estate development processes from spatial planning to the registration of real estate in the Land Register, as well as strengthen investment security by modernising and improving the regulation of protection of real estate owners and bona fide acquirers. We will promote uniform application of construction regulation throughout the territory of Latvia, including standard documentation and equivalent horizontal operation in all construction authorities. We will simplify and speed up the procedure for bringing the buildings into use.

## **Housing**

164. We will promote the renovation and energy efficiency of residential and non-residential buildings.
165. We will establish a long-term Housing Development Fund, promote investment in the construction of apartment rental housing, by building at least 1000 new housing a year.
166. We will continue to provide housing programs for young professionals and families with children, providing ALTUM housing guarantees for loans, as well as the first instalment subsidies for large families.
167. We will increase the availability of housing in the regions by introducing ALTUM rental housing programmes with redemption rights for economic-type private houses on municipal land, ensuring the availability of housing and capital on an equal footing throughout the country, also outside cities and in border areas.
168. We will improve the regulatory framework for an individual's right to housing.

## **Human capital and employment**

169. We will improve the management of labour-related matters, labour supply, as well as the skills and life-long learning policy. We will develop know-how in the context of a market-balanced employment policy under the responsibility of the Ministry of Economics.
170. We will develop and implement a data-based National Human Capital Development Strategy, incl. support the attraction of highly qualified and professionally trained workforce, in particular by promoting remigration of compatriots, as well as knowledge transfer and retraining required by the labour market, in order to ensure growth and export capacity of Latvian companies. We will improve remigration programmes by making them more effective and more targeted to different groups of people and facilitating their participation in the labour market.
171. We will contribute to the development of human resources according to future demand and transformation of the economy towards the creation of higher added-value by monitoring the graduates of Latvian universities and vocational education institutions, the participants of training programmes and by improving the system of retraining, professional development and lifelong learning, by channelling the funds to finance training, which benefits the Latvian economy and society as a whole.

172. We will promote cooperation between the state, employers and employees enhancing the compliance of vocational education to requirements of the labour market, as well as increasing its efficiency and quality. We will promote cooperation between educational institutions and employers in education management, education content creation, promotion of excellence, quality assurance and examination process.
173. We will encourage labour mobility by providing citizens with adequate information on labour market opportunities, support for new professional qualifications, support for accessible rental housing, as well as support for family integration in the new workplace.
174. We will put in place clear and predictable conditions for the algorithm for raising the minimum wage, as well as the use of collective agreements as a form of social dialogue in cooperation with the social partners.
175. We will develop social and socially responsible entrepreneurship by expanding the involvement of different social groups in the labour market and society.

## **Transport**

The implementation of a responsible transport policy is one of the preconditions for country's further economic growth, balanced regional development and improvement of welfare of population. We will implement a transport policy that promotes safe, efficient, available, accessible, modern and sustainable mobility.

We will increase transport safety and road safety in order to reduce the number of fatalities on Latvian roads, bringing it closer to the EU average.

In transport infrastructure, priority should be given to solutions that ensure rapid accessibility to a region – at international, national and regional level. We will continue to invest in the development of railway infrastructure by implementing the *Rail Baltica* project as a priority.

We will improve reachability and mobility opportunities for all residents of Latvia, regardless of their place of residence, material or health status. In the light of the administrative-territorial reform, we will organise the road network, incl. by improving the connections of regions and local development centres to transport corridors of international and national importance. This way, we will ensure better reach of the county's administrative centres and improve access to services and jobs provided by the state and local governments, which is an essential prerequisite for strengthening economic and regional development.

We will establish a cross-sectoral cooperation and monitoring format for the timely adoption of strategic decisions necessary for the implementation of *Rail Baltica* and for updating Latvia's national position.

176. We will ensure access to public transport and appropriate service quality throughout Latvia with the railway as the main mode of public transport, subordinating the public bus traffic so as not to create competition with railway.
177. We will provide the passenger transport by railway with modern trains, prioritising the main intercity directions, making the railway the fastest and most convenient mode of transport with a timetable suitable for recreation and work, thus promoting the desire of Latvian citizens to change their daily travel habits from private to public transport.
178. We will promote the inclusion of regional passenger transport services in the Public Transport Plan of the Riga Metropolitan Area and the inclusion of the required volume of regional transport in the state-funded public transport order.
179. We will create a single billing system for different modes of public transport.
180. We will pay particular attention to road safety. We will continue the introduction of photoradars and introduce the distance speed photoradars (average speed photo radars), as well as promote the development of new and illuminated pedestrian and cycle tracks, promote the development of more environmentally friendly infrastructure suitable for special accessories, bicycles, other micromobility means, as well as improve public transport. We will introduce a safety-enhancing infrastructure standard for national roads throughout Latvia.
181. We will continue to improve and complete the reform of port management by improving the involvement of local governments in port management. We will use the socio-economic potential of Latvian ports more effectively, by attracting transit cargoes from new directions.
182. We will ensure efficient use of infrastructure of *Latvijas Dzelzsceļš*, taking into account the geopolitical situation and related challenges. We will ensure a sustainable model of financing the infrastructure of *Latvijas Dzelzsceļš*.
183. We will provide the necessary political, strategic and financial support for the implementation of *Rail Baltica* as a single cross-border project of EU importance within the framework of the North Sea-Baltic Corridor of the EU transport network with a direct and important role for the sustainable development and security of Latvia and the region, incl. by supporting further development of the corridor in the Arctic and Black Sea directions.

184. When implementing the *Rail Baltica* railway project, we will evaluate and plan 1 435 mm rail connection to the port infrastructure in order not to lose cargo flow in competition with Estonia and Lithuania.
185. We will ensure the sustainable development of the national airline *Air Baltic* and shift its operations towards climate neutrality. We will adapt *Air Baltic's* operations to the new market conditions.
186. We will increase the number of recharging points for electric transport in Latvia through the European Recovery and Resilience Facility and the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) facility. We will remove bureaucratic and legislative obstacles to the development of private charging points.
187. The course should be changed from car-centred traffic infrastructure to a general mobility environment. We will ensure the construction of new road infrastructure and the maintenance of existing infrastructure, making wider use of the public-private partnership (PPP) mechanism, thus encouraging that following the implementation of the administrative-territorial reform the road network between the county centres is improved.
188. We will ensure the availability of postal services and delivery of the press throughout the territory of the country, by improving the operation of *Latvijas Pasts*.
189. Together with local authorities, we will create a solution for better management and use of regional airports for economic growth.
190. We will implement smart and cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector, taking into account the socio-economic impact.
191. We will provide state aid for the 'last mile' of the broadband network and for the 'medium mile' in remote regions.
192. We will contribute to the development of small ports by establishing a mechanism for coordinating the operation of a port network.

### **Agriculture, forestry and fisheries**

Sustainable management of land and water resources, by maintaining balanced socio-economic growth, ensuring meaningful achievement of environmental and climate neutrality objectives, strengthening the potential of Latvia as a food producer in global and local markets. We will support the following strategic lines of action:

- sustainable management and value-building of land and water as a resource for production and recreation;
- economic growth by boosting revenue growth and overall prosperity;

- development of human resources to preserve and enhance production potential;
  - balanced, meaningful implementation of measures to protect the environment and climate neutrality without losing socio-economic growth potential.
193. We will provide smart and targeted support for the production of agricultural and forestry products and the maintenance of the environment, thus guaranteeing the contribution to employment, economic growth and biodiversity conservation. When making significant decisions for sectors, we will carry out a socio-economic assessment in order to identify the impact of potential decisions on the development and competitiveness of the country's economy.
194. We will update and improve the strategic plan of the European Common Agricultural Policy prepared by Latvia, achieving a reasonable implementation of the Green Deal in line with national interests.
195. We will implement the European Green Deal in a scientifically, socially and economically sound manner, in line with national interests, without jeopardising the self-sufficiency of resources in industry and energy. In order to significantly reduce emissions from the land sector, we will support the change of the land use target to non-agricultural land.
196. We will promote the efficient and sustainable use of land as a resource for agricultural, forestry and peat production to ensure the country's economic growth and social well-being and to contribute to climate neutrality.
197. We will establish a precise balance of peat as a slowly-renewable local resource so that its extraction and processing can deliver a positive increase in the resource without negative effects on biodiversity and greenhouse gas emissions.
198. We will promote an increase in the value of agricultural and forestry products and exports. We will support strategic projects for the creation of high value-added products in the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors.
199. National and EU support mechanisms will contribute to the creation and development of cooperatives of farmers, foresters, fishers and producers. We will create preconditions that facilitate the merger of second-level cooperative societies.
200. We will promote the production of innovative, carbon-intensive products based on the transfer of scientific knowledge to ensure sustainability of agriculture, peat extraction and processing, forestry and related industries and the production with high value-added.

201. We will develop and implement support programmes focusing on voluntary schemes for biodiversity conservation and climate-smart agriculture and forestry.
202. We will promote the development of organic farming, support organic food production, demand, accessibility and promotion, by increasing the proportion of organic food in catering of state and local government education, medical and social institutions.
203. We will balance the creation of new protected areas with the introduction of a fair compensation system and changes in legislation that provide for more flexible conditions for management of forest and agricultural land.
204. We will increase funding for research that develops and produces climate-neutral products or technologies. We will support research and innovation in the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors that changes the structure of exports from low value-added to high value-added goods.
205. We will support companies that finance research projects and implement the resulting products and technologies. We will carry out a socio-economic evaluation of the European Green Deal in the agricultural and forestry sectors.
206. We will promote the preservation of Latvia's cultural and historical values by supporting the preservation of coastal fishery.
207. We will develop a land use policy and a long-term rural development plan until 2050, with a focus on national interests, ensuring a stable supply of high-quality food to the Latvian population.
208. We will encourage young people to engage in entrepreneurship in rural areas by creating specific support mechanisms for business start-ups.
209. We will strengthen the Latvian Land Fund and the criteria for the acquisition of agricultural land.

## **Regional development, environment and digitalisation**

The government will improve cooperation between state institutions and local governments, strengthening the capacity of public administration of Latvia to develop high-quality living environment, attractive business environment, provide convenient and accessible public services to citizens and entrepreneurs in every region.

When considering the development issues and the development of a network of public services in the regions, the government will engage in a dialogue with the general public – citizens, communities and non-governmental organisations.

In the field of digital transformation, the government will make efforts to increase the skills of society and public administration alongside the development of digital technologies in all areas of life, to improve the efficiency of public administration, to enable citizens and entrepreneurs to receive services faster, in a more convenient and more efficient manner.

We will ensure, in a fiscally responsible manner, a stable and regionally balanced access to financial resources for local governments by creating equal conditions to exercise their functions and provide high-quality services to citizens.

### **Regional development policy**

210. We will establish an effective territory development management system for growth, polycentric development and cohesion of the regions of Latvia.
211. We will improve the government's dialogue with local governments, cooperation of local governments among themselves and cooperation with state institutions. We will promote the development and functioning of communities' democracy within the framework of local governments.
212. In cooperation with planning regions and local governments, we will develop and implement regional policy aimed at the cohesion of regional socio-economic development, according the local government resources, opportunities and using the available development promotion instruments in a coordinated manner.
213. We will evaluate the results of the administrative-territorial reform, social and economic impact, ensure broad and effective involvement of society and communities in the development management processes of the territories of Latvia.
214. We will evaluate the strengthening or transfer of state functions of public importance to regions and local governments in order to ensure coordinated organisation of sectoral services in the regions of Latvia.
215. We will extensively involve local governments and society in the prevention of economic and social crises.
216. In order to facilitate data-based decision-making, we will ensure access to data held by the State, improve national information systems, ensure the availability of territorial statistics in detail geospatial units of different size, develop analytical tools and capacities for local governments and at regional level.
217. We will improve and further develop, through a coordinated use of state and local government resources, in each region a common area of high-quality

and inclusive secondary and vocational education (including vocational and adult education for a competitive economy), as well as area for health and social care.

218. We will promote the competitiveness of Rīga and Rīga Metropolitan Area in Northern Europe by developing the Rīga Metropolitan Area management model in cooperation with Pierīga municipalities.
219. We will reduce the administrative burden in local governments in the areas of spatial planning, investment attraction and environmental protection by making changes to the regulatory framework.
220. We will ensure the entry into force of the new Rīga Spatial Plan as soon as possible in order to ensure the development of the capital city and attract investment.

### **Investment policy targeted at regional disparities and opportunities**

221. We will improve the EU funds planning approach, taking into account the needs and opportunities set out in the strategic documents for socio-economic development of each region.
222. We will prepare and implement targeted programmes to support and develop business competitiveness and access to services in the eastern border regions of Latvia, using the state, local government, the EU and other foreign financial support.
223. We will promote balanced and sustainable coastal development and support local governments in preventing flood risks, erosion of rivers and Baltic coasts and reducing pollution.
224. We will create programmes for the development of new housing in the regions of Latvia, as well as to support the establishment of pre-school educational institutions
225. We will stimulate the availability of productive jobs in the centres of regions by developing industrial territories and business parks.

### **Digital skills and more user-friendly services**

226. We will continue to transform public services in order to reduce regulatory, bureaucratic and administrative burden for citizens and businesses. We will develop a unified network of public service centres in local governments.
227. We will implement the largest possible automation of processes using the data available in the national information systems, as well as the mutual exchange of data between them.

228. We will contribute to the reduction of the digital divide between Latvian population groups, ensuring that the digital basic skills are significantly improved for a wide range of Latvian citizens, which will allow them to better integrate into society of the digital age.
229. We will strengthen and develop existing customer service centres in local governments, improve the digital skills of local government employees, including employees of parish administrations and librarians to ensure that the public also has access to the services provided by the state and local governments.
230. We will improve the user-friendly version of the Latvija.lv portal and mobile app, make sure that e-services of state institutions and local governments are understandable and easy to use.
231. We will pay special attention to the availability of internet services and mobile communications throughout the territory of Latvia. We will ensure that the service centres of each local government have access to internet connection.

### **National ICT governance and data security**

232. We will provide a model for maintenance and data management of public administration information systems that meet today's requirements and apply public administration services in the mobile environment in the most convenient way for citizens.
233. We will strengthen the mutual coordination and management of national ICT development projects, avoiding the duplication and combining the currently fragmented solutions as necessary.
234. In order to foster digital transformation, we will develop a unified digital policy under responsibility of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development.
235. We will complete and implement the Common Information System of Facilitation to ensure the efficient use of administrative resources and public funds.
236. We will develop a professional National Digital Development Agency, which will provide high-quality ICT sharing services for institutions, lead nationally important digital transformation initiatives, as well as create integrated and convenient services for citizens.
237. We will provide proactive information on public services available to citizens in the national electronic environment.

## **Development of data economy**

238. We will set up a high-level management group “Digital Latvia” for the implementation of the Digital Strategy of Latvia in order to ensure management of the implementation of the Digital Strategy of Latvia, coordination of cross-sectoral cooperation issues, including facilitating the implementation of public sector ICT projects and faster data-driven economic development.
239. We will continue to implement the principle of data openness – everything is open; exceptions need to be justified. We will create a legal and organisational framework, technical support for wider sharing of national data for research and development of new products and services.
240. We will establish a Data Analytical Competence Centre for public administration, which will have the competence and ability to provide data analytics capabilities for government purposes, as well as to guide the development of data-based decision-making capacity and culture in public administration as a whole.
241. Stakeholder ecosystems and, where appropriate, national platforms will be set up for relevant national ICT development projects open to cooperation with private sector applications, particularly in areas of public interest (health, education, etc.).
242. We will promote innovation, ICT and legal “sandboxes”, as well as encourage international funding for the development of innovative solutions in the economy, including in the areas of health, education and public services.
243. We will ensure an increase in the use of innovation procurement in the public sector by providing the necessary practical methodological and legal support to public purchasers.

## **V.QUALITY OF LIFE**

We will contribute to raising the standard of quality of life in society by diversifying people’s opportunities to engage in economic and social life and we will take care of the sustainability of social budgets for dignified ageing. The existing material forms of support and services not always address people’s real life needs. We will strive to provide more targeted social support according to individual needs, as well as opportunities for people to acquire relevant labour skills based on market requirements for their talents. This will reduce the risk of poverty and the causes of inequality.

In order to promote the reproduction of population in Latvia, we will improve the support for children and families by identifying the one who is responsible for cross-sectoral coordination of this policy, since strengthening children's well-being and quality of life is the major investment for the future.

We will invest in the welfare sector and its human resources to ensure a targeted state aid.

### **Family and child support policies and violence reduction**

244. We will implement a sustainable policy for the reproduction of the population to improve the demographic situation, which is aimed at providing the services based on the best interests of the child and other support for families with children, guided by the principle – the child in the centre.
245. We will introduce a unified, preventive early support system for children and families, ensuring the child's well-being-oriented development of the child's physical and mental health.
246. We will specialise the support for people who take care of children alone and those who have a child with disabilities.
247. We will improve the opportunities for parents to be economically active during the period of child care until the age of 1.5 years.
248. We will improve pre-school education and child supervision services in accordance with the best interests of the child and equal access throughout Latvia.
249. We will improve the support system for children in out-of-family care. We will continue the process of deinstitutionalisation for the transition of children and young people left without parental care from care institutions to family care, by developing a high-quality foster family institute, as well as introducing social services close to the family environment for children with severe functional disorders.
250. We will improve the support system for teenagers to respond to age-appropriate needs in a timely manner.
251. We will expand the scope of the social scholarship "Honour to Study". We will improve the procedure for deleting study loans in cases of birth of children.
252. We will expand the activities of family support programmes – the Honorary Family of Latvia, Family-friendly Municipality and Family-friendly Workplace – to ensure a family-friendly environment.

253. We will reduce violence, especially within the family, as well as against women and minors, by promoting prevention, coordination and cooperation between institutions, as well as by collecting data on violence to eliminate it.
254. We will improve the social rehabilitation system for perpetrators of violence.

### **Material support and access to the environment to reduce social inequality**

255. We will take care of the resilience and sustainability of social budgets for dignified ageing by continuing the indexation of pensions to the cost of living and, in particular, by supporting seniors at risk of poverty.
256. We will improve the minimum income support system (minimum pensions, state social security benefit, guaranteed minimum income threshold, income threshold for poor and low-income households), regularly reviewing their amounts and linking them to the percentage of the median household income.
257. We will link the amount of the childcare allowance to a specific socio-economic indicator and ensure that it is regularly reviewed.
258. We will introduce an automated and integrated system for determining the support based on the needs of the population, including the calculation of income per member of the household based on the exchange of data between public administration and local government institutions, as well as establishing a single register of large families to facilitate the provision of various forms of support avoiding unnecessary bureaucratic procedures.
259. We will continue to implement a targeted aid system to support people in need, including in a context of high inflation and higher energy prices.
260. We will promote the adaption and accessibility of infrastructure for people with disabilities, including by promoting healthy lifestyle and integration into society.

### **Individual needs-based services and investment in human resources**

261. We will introduce the principle ‘money follows the client’ in the provision of social services, regardless of the responsibility for the task (state or local government).
262. We will set a single basket of minimum social services for local governments.
263. We will continue to develop community-based social services and access to care services close to the family environment for adults, including seniors.

264. We will strengthen the welfare sector and the prestige of work of welfare professionals by moving towards a more competitive salary.
265. We will improve the system and supervision of the network of social service institutions, by improving the quality of life of service recipients and reviewing the system of organising the provision of individual services.
266. We will expand the knowledge and skills of specialists working with children and for the benefit of children on a daily basis, incl. on the fundamental principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
267. We will ensure training for state-funded welfare professionals from the State budget resources, taking into account the needs of employers – social service providers.

## **Health**

The commitments of this government in the area of health include the action to reduce health inequalities, premature mortality and incapacity, improve the quality of healthcare, strengthen patient-centred care and health as a value, towards achieving the public health policy objectives set out in the Public Health Policy Guidelines 2021-2027. The government commits to ensuring the sustainable functioning of the health system, including by supporting health sector capacity building and resilience, thereby strengthening public security and resilience under today's circumstances of uncertainty. We will implement the 'health in all policies' principle by strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation, thus recognising that good health for citizens is not only the result of the functioning of the health policy area, but is largely determined by policies in other policy areas.

268. We will provide a single basket of state-funded services to all tax residents of Latvia, including children, pensioners and residents who earn income in Latvia by introducing state health insurance.
269. We will continue to increase public funding for healthcare, moving towards a health budget of at least 12 % of total public spending, thus reducing the high direct payments for residents and financial barriers to healthcare.
270. We will take measures to increase cost-effectiveness by striving to make more effective use of the funds already allocated to the health sector.
271. In order to ensure the number of doctors and nurses corresponding to the EU level, we will contribute to the sustainable development and attraction of medical staff in the provision of publicly funded health care services, by improving the remuneration system of medical staff and employees of the health sector, as well as by contributing to increasing the remuneration for employees of the sector. We will ensure a sufficient number of state-funded

study places in residency and nursing study programmes to ensure the renewal of medical staff.

272. We will prepare a plan for tariff revision and ensure that they are gradually revised, thus by moving towards a situation where the public pay for healthcare services is commensurate with the actual costs incurred. We will create and implement a tariff indexation system.
273. We will increase the role of primary healthcare in providing patient-centred healthcare, by improving its quality and cooperation with the local government. To achieve this, we will review and calibrate the quality requirements, improve the remuneration system, increase the quality bonuses, strengthen the team of general practitioners as a multidisciplinary team, as well as define the responsibilities of the parties in relations between general practitioners and local governments.
274. We will ensure the improvement of secondary healthcare and chronic patient care network, maintaining the availability of services in regions – as close as possible to the patient’s place of residence.
275. We will continue to improve the hospital network by creating regional consortia of hospitals and strengthening state participation in regional level (level 4) hospitals of strategic importance.
276. We will establish competence centres (methodological management) in priority health areas and rehabilitation at the leading hospitals in order to develop a common approach to the content and delivery of health care services in the country and to ensure more efficient and higher quality services, as well as to avoid duplication of functions and high-end tertiary health services.
277. In order to ensure more timely detection of oncological diseases and better treatment of oncological patients, we will build, in cooperation with higher education and research institutions, a State Cancer Centre based on the Riga East Clinical University Hospital as a competence centre in the field of cancer treatment and research, which will promote the availability of examinations and necessary screenings in risk groups, the inclusion of modern treatment methods in the range of state-funded services and eliminate queues on chemotherapy services.
278. We will reduce preventable mortality from cardiovascular diseases, by strengthening healthy lifestyle habits in society and prevention, by improving diagnosis and treatment, thereby increasing the number of years of healthy life and life expectancy.
279. We will improve the availability and quality of outpatient health care services for children, incl. by improving the involvement of general practitioners in the timely identification of child development risks and disorders and the introduction of algorithms for further action, especially in the field of mental health of children, as well as developing a range of

preventive and early intervention services available to families with children. We will improve maternal and child health care.

280. Recognising that crises have the prime impact on the emotional and mental health of the population and affect work capacity, product quality, income, relationships and public participation, we will strengthen the emotional and psychologic resilience of the population. We will ensure early diagnosis of mental disorders and target-oriented prevention and early intervention, development of services based on society and the educational environment in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Welfare and local governments.
281. We will strengthen the protection of patients' rights and, by providing patient-centred healthcare, we will continue to implement a patient experience monitoring system.
282. We will strengthen integrated care by developing cross-sectoral cooperation-based services, including short-term care services, palliative and hospice care, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Welfare and social services of local governments, using uniform service guidelines and funding model, thus bridging the gap between health, social care and rehabilitation.
283. We will review and clarify the functions of local governments in the field of health care.
284. We will continue to introduce freer and fairer competition in the pharmaceutical market by improving national pharmaceutical policy to improve the availability of medicines and reduce their prices. We will expand the range of state reimbursable medicines.
285. We will improve health literacy of the population by developing health promotion and disease prevention measures at both national and local level in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Welfare.
286. We will reduce the risks of spreading infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and tuberculosis, and their impact on public health, incl. by reducing cross-border threats and the spread of antimicrobial resistance.
287. In order to reduce the prevalence of substance and gambling addictions, we will improve harm reduction, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes, as well as advocate initiatives that contribute to reducing the availability of addiction-causing substances, especially among minors, including through tax instruments.
288. The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior, will improve the preparedness of the health sector

for emergencies, including the arrangement of civil protection system and infrastructure in hospitals, state methodological support for the development of civil protection plans in hospitals and other medical institutions, ensuring unified and comprehensive implementation of civil protection functions throughout the health care system, as well as strengthening military medicine and disaster medical system of the State Emergency Medical Service.

289. The Ministry of Health in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Economics, will promote research and innovation development in biomedicine and bio pharmacy, by involving the leading Latvian universities, scientific institutes, hospitals and entrepreneurs.
290. We will strengthen the governance of the health sector by increasing its capacity and ensuring the attraction of highly qualified experts, as well as experts from the Riga Strains University and the University of Latvia.
291. We will develop and implement a modern digital health system that will link all systems, incl. by evaluating the existing health sector information systems, which will include all the patient's health data, thus ensuring free availability of data for the patient, data exchange between institutions, gradually abandoning the use of paper documents and integrating into a single European data space. We will develop remote counselling and telemedicine services in the provision of personalised healthcare. We will create the possibility of data sharing between the health sector and other sectors, including by increasing citizens' access to health and social services.

## **Modern governance**

292. We will improve the public administration in line with up-to-date requirements, by reducing bureaucracy, using the opportunities offered by modern technologies and achieving greater flexibility in coordination and implementation of priority policies. We will improve the public administration, paying particular attention to efficiency of administrative functions and the reduction of bureaucracy, reviewing and optimising the processes in administration institutions.
293. We will improve the implementation of the fundamental tasks of public administration – policy development and implementation, as well as service provision, while reviewing the role and scope of the civil service in public administration and local governments.
294. We will develop service quality standards based on people's needs and user experience. We will ensure continuous review and improvement of services to ensure that citizens get better, more convenient and more accessible services.

295. We will ensure innovative approaches, data-based and comprehensive assessment-based decision-making in public administration in service and policy-making processes. We will reduce the regulatory and administrative burden by increasing the discretion of the heads of institutions. We will encourage decisions to be made in a forward-looking and timely manner.
296. We will strengthen capacity of human resources of the public administration by improving the skills and abilities of employees, as well as ensuring that motivated, productive and professional employees work for the public administration, who are oriented towards the implementation of change.
297. Being aware of the importance of public participation in political processes, we will promote the participation in elections and develop the electoral system in Latvia, by increasing the capacity of the Central Election Commission, by timely allocating sufficient resources to ensure elections, digitalisation of electoral processes, training of election commissions, informing and educating voters.
298. We will strengthen the government's strategic management and coordination capacity by introducing a flexible approach to addressing cross-sectoral issues. In order to increase the efficiency of operation of the Cabinet of Ministers in solving cross-sectoral issues, we will establish several Committees of the Cabinet of Ministers, which are chaired by the Prime Minister or appointed minister.
299. We will promote the involvement of local governments and industry leaders in government decision-making. We will review the functions of planning regions, by strengthening them as an effective decision-making platform between line ministries and local governments in each region.
300. We will optimise the physical infrastructure of state resources, while investing in existing premises, technologies and digital environments to make public administration a modern workplace.
301. We will promote the provision of centralised support functions throughout the public administration.
302. We will stand up for the honest actions and work of state institutions and officials in the public interest, thereby increasing public trust. We will draw up a code of ethics for the government.
303. We will develop and support self-organisation and resilience mechanisms of the population by expanding a civil dialogue. We will promote active public participation in decision-making processes through targeted civil society development policies and permanent state budget funding to build and strengthen the capacity of civil society.

## **Cultural space, national identity and information space**

The cultural nation of Latvia is composed of a culturally educated society that actively participates in cultural processes. It preserves and honours its national heritage and traditions, which are supported by an extensive network of amateur arts and united by the Song and Dance Festival movement. In addition, the nation is closely integrated into a modern cultural space and is recognisable in the global context with its identity and achievements in culture. A targeted, community-wide and accessible cultural education system where both educated consumers of culture, creators of the cultural process and outstanding stars are recognised globally, plays a decisive role. We will adhere to the development principles in line with the UN resolution of 2015 “Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, giving culture a key role in ensuring sustainable development, peace, stability, social inclusion, environmental protection, cohesion and inclusive growth.

As regards the comprehensive protection of the state where the citizens’ sense of belonging to the state of Latvia and the desire to defend it play a central role, we will ensure the people’s resistance to internal and external security risks and threats in the information space.

304. We will continue to develop a high-quality cultural education system, by supporting the pursuit of excellence at all levels of cultural education: from vocational and secondary cultural education to arts and cultural education at university level (strengthening universities in line with the development strategies), ensuring international competitiveness, continuity of programmes, flexible adaptation of educational programmes according to the labour market requirements of the age, culture and creative sector.
305. We will cooperate with scientific institutions to ensure systematic research of the cultural, artistic and creative sectors by implementing the national research programme in culture, promoting research-based cultural policy making, as well as strengthening self-confidence and integrity of the cultural and creative sector.
306. We will create an optimal model of continuity and organisation of the Song and Dance Celebration, including the School Youth Song and Dance Celebration as a natural component of the General Song and Dance Festival movement, establishing joint and several responsibilities between the state and local governments, civil society and its organisations.
307. We will continue to support all sectors of professional arts – including film projects that strengthen statehood and affiliation to Latvia, promoting the Latvian culture in the world, supporting participation in ambitious international projects.
308. We will ensure that the remuneration of employees in state cultural institutions is not lower than the average remuneration in the public sector. We

will ensure an increase in remuneration and social security also for professionals working outside the public sector, thus improving the quality of life of employees in the cultural sector. We will improve the definition of the status of a creative person.

309. We will continue the development of cultural infrastructure throughout Latvia, renovation and restoration of buildings of national cultural institutions, advocating the need for a long-term plan to ensure state funding for national infrastructure. In cooperation with the Riga City Council, we will start the construction of the Latvian National Concert Hall and the project of the Latvian Museum of Contemporary Art in Rīga. We will continue to develop and improve the infrastructure of cultural education institutions in Rīga and regions, creating a favourable environment for creative partnerships of business, creative sector, education and science, the implementation of new technologies and internationalisation of higher education in Latvia.
310. We will take care of the preservation, research and transfer of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Latvia, continuing the preservation and restoration of cultural monuments and sacred heritage, preservation of traditions developed by the exile.
311. We will gradually increase the financing of the State Culture Capital Foundation.
312. We will develop cultural life in regions in cooperation with the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, through more extensive support to the involvement of local collectives and role in local cultural life by activating the Law on Cultural Centres and building the professional competence of cultural centre employees.
313. We will create a legal framework for the involvement of national and regional governments in ensuring the sustainability of professional cultural institutions of regional significance (concert halls, theatres, etc.) and access to professional art in the regions of Latvia.
314. We will effectively implement the Law on Historical Lands, support the preservation and development of the identity and cultural spaces of historical counties, cultural communities and their activities. The State and local governments will bear joint responsibility for the implementation of the law.
315. We will continue to expand the offer of culture and accessibility for children and youth audiences by implementing the project “Latvian School Bag” in the long term. We will develop the offer for people with special needs, incl. by introducing support for this type of projects as a horizontal priority in tenders by the State Culture Capital Foundation and ensuring that appropriate infrastructure of cultural institutions is adapted for people with special needs.

316. We will support the development opportunities of creative industries. We will continue to involve the cultural sector in the implementation of cultural policy.
317. We will support and encourage the New European Bauhaus initiatives in Latvia, promoting sustainable, inclusive and aesthetic cultural environment and strengthening the role of contemporary art, design and architecture in climate change processes.
318. We will promote the acquisition of Latgalian written language, as well as its use in public events, in the information space (including the increase in the volume of broadcasts in public and commercial media content) and in the cultural environment in Latgale.
319. We will contribute to an in-depth understanding of the formation of statehood and the impact of history on modern geopolitical processes in order to strengthen national identity.
320. The future state information space protection and development policy will be fundamentally based on the official language and values enshrined in the Constitution of Latvia. We will create a media policy and legislative environment that supports the content in the official language, and will ensure that the state will not further support the additional content in Russian.
321. We will achieve a significant reduction in the unlawful distribution of television programmes and other types of audio and audio-visual content, including by reducing illegal content distribution both online and using illegal equipment, making the elimination of illegal distribution of audio and audio-visual content one of the main priorities of the Ministry of the Interior to be implemented in cooperation with the National Electronic Mass Media Council of Latvia.
322. We will strengthen all security pillars of the information space, incl. we will: 1) develop the centralised strategic communication and information space monitoring capabilities of public administration through effective and professional communication of the public administration and local governments with the public; 2) strengthen media independence, quality and safety, adaptability to the challenges of the 21st century media environment; 3) promote the resilience of society to manipulations in the information space, including the media and information literacy.

323. We will strengthen capacity of both technical and human resources of the National Electronic Mass Media Council of Latvia, thus increasing the possibility to fully monitor, supervise, develop and protect information space of Latvia.
324. We will support the creation of a combined public electronic mass medium and its financing model in accordance with the Law on Public Electronic Mass Media and Management thereof. We will strengthen the technological capacity of the merged media and promote the operation of the Public Electronic Mass Media Council as a shareholder and the highest decision-making body in public electronic mass media.
325. We will expand the activities of the Media Support Fund by supporting national media, providing targeted support to regional media, especially in the Latgale region, and diaspora media, creating preconditions for the development of diverse and high-quality content in Latvian, based on the values of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, in various media formats and for different audiences, promoting a diverse, high-quality, safe and unified information environment – both in respect of content and technologically, encouraging media criticism and international networking of media organisations.
326. We will improve the reception of the Latvian media, promote Internet accessibility and signal capacity in the border area of Russia and Belarus.
327. We will implement a coordinated and strategic policy to promote media literacy in Latvia in order to increase the resilience of society to disinformation and the propaganda of aggressors, thus strengthening the security of the Latvian information space. The policy will be implemented through cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Culture, the National Electronic Mass Media Council of Latvia and the State Chancellery.
328. We will ensure a coordinated and effective involvement of non-governmental, private and academic sectors in strengthening the security of the information space.