



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS SAEIMA



Valsts kanceleja

## **Conference on Social Trust and Trust in Public Institutions**

**Time:** 27 October 2023, from 9:00 – 14:00

**Venue:** the Saeima (Parliament of the Republic of Latvia), Jēkaba iela 6/8, Rīga

### **Introduction**

Latvia's National Development Plan for 2021-2027 approved in 2020 by the Saeima defines social trust as one of four Latvia's strategic objectives.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in its Trust Survey of 2021 found that 41.4 % of citizens trust in their national government, while 41.1 % of citizens do not trust. Meanwhile, in Latvia only 24.5 % of citizens trust the national government.<sup>1</sup>

On 24 August 2023, the State Chancellery in co-operation with non-governmental organisation "Latvian Rural Forum" launched a series of discussions with citizens on [the issue of] trust, using a dialogue method practised in Finland.<sup>2</sup>

Discussions with citizens on trust using the dialogue method were organised in 14 places across Latvia – in the capital city Rīga, as well as in Pierīga, Vidzeme, Kurzeme, Zemgale, Latgale un Sēlija regions and historical lands. Finally, the main conclusions driven from these discussions will be presented to decision-makers at this conference.

Members of the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia, ensuring diversity of parliamentary groups, as well as executive political officials, representatives of public institutions, organisers and participants of dialogues on trust, researchers and non-governmental organisations will gather at this conference. Representative from Finland will inform about results of the dialogues conducted in Finland.

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<sup>1</sup> More information at: [www.oecd.org/governance/trust-in-government](http://www.oecd.org/governance/trust-in-government)

<sup>2</sup> More information at: [www.mk.gov.lv/lv/dialoga-apli](http://www.mk.gov.lv/lv/dialoga-apli)

## Programme

**Moderator of the conference:** journalist Arnis Krauze

9:00 **Registration and coffee**

9:30 **Opening session: Trust – our common challenge**

**Daiga Mieriņa**, Speaker of the Saeima

**Oļegs Burovs**, Chairman of the Saeima Public Administration and Local Government Committee

**Jānis Citskovskis**, Director of the State Chancellery

**Katju Holkeri**, Chair of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Open Government Working Group, Head of Governance Policy Unit, Public Governance Department, Ministry of Finance, Finland

**Ilze Oša**, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Republic of Latvia

10:15 **Dialogues with citizens about trust – main results and conclusions**

Presentation of the summary prepared by Latvian Rural Forum

Experience of citizens involved in dialogues and their impressions

*Questions and discussions*

11:15 **Coffee break and snacks**

11:45 **Studies in Latvia and international studies: trust dynamics, reasons for lack of trust and factors building trust**

**Dr.sc.soc. Inta Mieriņa**, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Latvia

The importance of studying trust, research conclusions in Europe, latest study on trust in the Baltic and Nordic countries

**Dr.sc.soc. Jurijs Nikišins**, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Latvia

Latest data on social and political trust, trust-inducing factors, change of impact of these factors over years, results of *Trust anatomy*, how to correctly interpret data on trust

**12:35 Decision-makers' discussion: How to reinforce trust in Latvia's society and trust towards public institutions?**

Participants: Members of Parliament representing different parliamentary groups and political officials from the executive branch of power, with interventions from citizens participating in dialogues on trust

**14:00 Conclusions**

Working language: Latvian

(Opening Session of the conference will be translated into English)