

# **Experiences of Latvian NGOs in the programming of EU funds for 2007-2013**

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# Contents

- Programming process in Latvia
- Opportunities for involvement
- Participation of environmental and other NGOs
- Outcomes and conclusions



# Time line

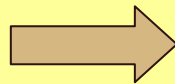
National strategic  
reference  
framework

Consultations with  
EC on NSRF started  
on February 6, 2006

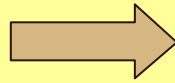
Operational  
programmes



Start of programming on  
October 18, 2005



First draft on November 16,  
2005 (without allocations)



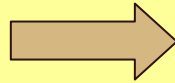
Second draft on January 31,  
2006 (including allocations)



First drafts available from  
January 16



Several drafts during  
February - April



Start of public consultation  
on OPs on May 18

Tallinn, 25.04.2006.



# National Strategic Reference Framework – general info

- Based on the main principles and guidelines of:
  - Community Strategic Guidelines,
  - **National development plan 2007-2013**
  - Lisbon National Reform Programme
  - Joint Economic Strategy
- Three tematix axes:
  - Development and efficient utilization of resources
  - Strenthening competitiveness and progress towards a knowledge-based economy
  - Improvements in public services and infrastructure as a precondition for balanced national and territorial development



# Main stakeholders

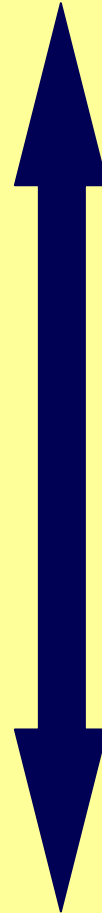
<b>Government</b>	Approval of NSRF, allocations and OPs
<b>Ministry of Finance</b>	Leading institution Coordinating the programming in Latvia Ensuring coherence with National Development Plan Communicating with European Commission
<b>Sector ministries</b>	Preparing the content of sections in NSRF, operational programmes and justification of allocations
<b>Social partners and NGOs</b>	Providing comments and input into draft documents
<b>Shadow monitoring committee</b>	Reviewing the state of programming, no active involvement in the programming

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# Allocations

- Wish-list of sector ministries together with draft description of OPs
- First proposal of allocations for sectors approved by Government
- Report to Government on programming prepared by Ministry of Finance
- Political discussions within Government, but no agreement reached
- Second draft allocations approved by Government; to be submitted to EC



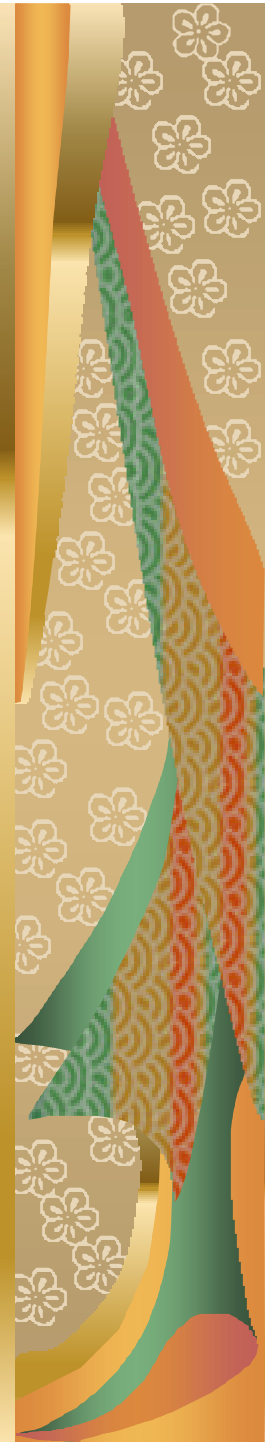
- January 9
- January 31
- March 30
- April 11
- April 18

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# Involvement opportunities for social partners and NGOs

- Written comments on NSRF and draft OPs
  - One month commenting period from November 16 up to December 9, 2005
  - “Passive” commenting period during February – May 2, 2006
- Stakeholder meetings with Ministry of Finance
  - About comments on NSRF (January 10)
  - About comments on draft OPs (February 14-16)
- Bilateral meetings with sector ministries
- Bilateral meetings with Ministry of Finance and representatives from Prime minister office
  - About priorities and allocations



# Availability of information

- Most of information is available from [www.esfondi.lv](http://www.esfondi.lv)
  - Draft NSRF
  - Draft OPs and several updates
  - Comments on NSRF and OPs by sector ministries, social partners and NGOs
  - Reports and presentations prepared by MoF to the Government about programming
  - Time line of programming and public consultations
  - First reaction and comments from EC on NSRF
- E-mail communication to social partners from Ministry of Finance about upcoming activities





# Participation of environmental NGOs

- No official working groups for elaboration of NSRF and OPs
- 3-5 environmental NGOs and Advisory Council of Environmental NGOs permanently following the programming
  - **Latvian Green Movement**
  - **WWF Latvia**
  - **Environmental Protection Club**
  - Latvian Eco-tourism association
  - Latvian Small Energy Association
- Position papers focusing on energy efficiency, nature protection, sustainable transport and implementation of Water framework directive
- Press releases and articles in national newspapers
- Bilateral lobby meetings with Ministry of Environment



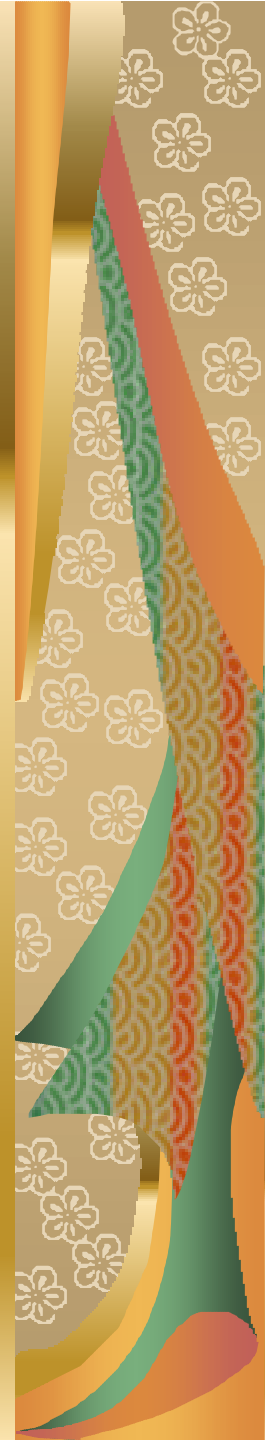
# Main concerns and discussion points of environmental NGOs

- Allocated funds not sufficient for environment to meet requirements of EU directives (water and wastewater management, waste management)
- Lack of integration of environment as horizontal objective
- Lack of integration of environmental aspects in the transport sector
- No soft measures envisaged in the OPs “Infrastructure and services” environmental part



# Participation of social NGOs

- Involvement of most active NGOs
- Position papers and comments to the draft documents
- Media work
- Several bilateral meetings with sector ministries and Ministry of Finance
- Main demands:
  - Increase financing for development of human resources
  - Increase the share of ESF against ERDF
  - “More money in humans and less in the asphalt”



# Conclusions

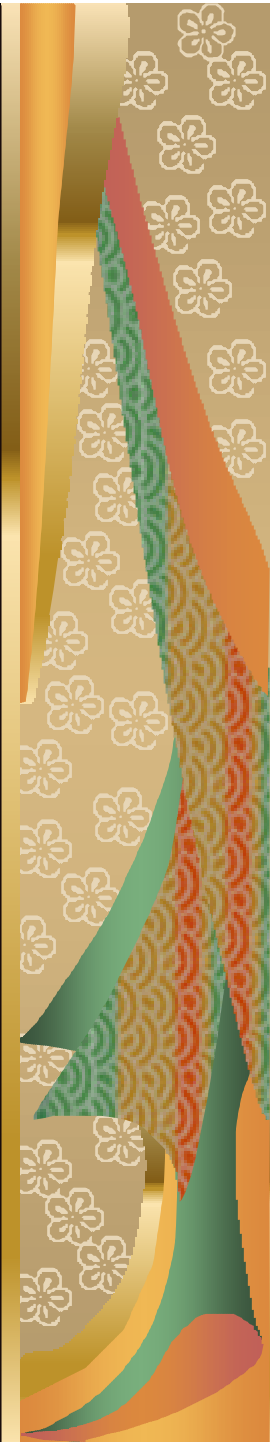
## *Positive remarks*

### ■ The process

- Draft proposals and communication of ministries published in the website
- Institutions open to meetings with social partners and NGOs
- NGOs can play constructive role and have a position
- Issues broadly discussed in the media

### ■ The contents

- Financing from CF envisaged for energy efficiency under sustainable development priority
- Financing increased for development of human resources and environment
- Environmental and social NGOs have had some influence on the content of OPs



# Conclusions

## *Negative remarks*

### ■ The process

- Changing the deadlines
- Poor coordination between sector ministries
- Some ministries were not active in defending their priorities

### ■ The contents

- Lack of integration of environmental aspects into other sectors
- The increase of financing for environment from Cohesion Fund was less than MoE and environmental NGOs asked for
- Political priorities appearing without justification for their need



# Thank you for attention!

Tallinn, 25.04.2006.

