The *Saeima*1 has adopted and

the President has proclaimed the following law:

**Law on the Grant Management of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre for the Programming Period 2021–2027**

**Chapter I**

**General Provisions**

**Section 1. Terms Used in the Law**

The following terms are used in the Law:

1) **Agency**– an institution of direct administration which is implementing a part of the functions of the National Coordination Centre specified in Regulation (EU) 2021/887 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres (hereinafter – Regulation 2021/887) as an intermediary body within the extent specified in this Law;

2) **European Cybersecurity Competence Centre**– the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre which has been established in accordance with Regulation 2021/887;

3) **beneficiary**– a project applicant approved by the Agency;

4) **financing**– financial resources which, in accordance with this Law, are allocated or which are ensured by the beneficiary for the project implementation. The financing shall consist of:

a) grant financing (co-financing);

b) co-financing from the State budget;

c) co-financing of the beneficiary;

5) **grants**– the financing of aid programmes at the level of the European Union which, in accordance with Regulation 2021/887, is ensured by the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre with the intermediation of the National Coordination Centre;

6) **Cybersecurity Competence Community** (hereinafter – the Community) – an aggregate of such subjects which conform to that specified in Article 8 of Regulation 2021/887 and have been registered in accordance with the procedures laid down in this Law in the register of members of the Community maintained by the National Coordination Centre;

7) **National Coordination Centre**– a State administration institution which is implementing the functions specified in Regulation 2021/887, including invests grants in the amount and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Regulation 2021/887 and in other legal acts of the European Union;

8) **Agenda**– an aggregate of measures approved by the European Commission or the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre which is planned to be implemented with the aid of grants and which is directed towards achievement of specific results and objectives;

9) **Agenda contract**– a contract regarding implementation of the Agenda which is entered into by the National Coordination Centre and the European Commission or the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre after approval of the Agenda;

10) **project applicant**– a person who submits a project application. The following may be a project applicant:

a) an institution of direct or indirect administration, another State authority, or a derived public entity;

b) a legal person governed by private law or a partnership with legal capacity;

11) **project application**– an application (filled-in form, its annexes, and other documents) which are submitted by a project applicant in order to apply for the financing necessary for the project;

12) **project file**– a project application, the assessment documents of the project application, a project contract, and other documents related to the project which are at the disposal of the National Coordination Centre or the Agency;

13) **project contract**– a contract regarding the project implementation which is entered into by the Agency and the beneficiary. This contract may be:

a) an agreement if the beneficiary is an institution of direct or indirect administration, another State authority, or a derived public entity;

b) a contract governed by civil law if the beneficiary is a legal person governed by private law or a partnership with legal capacity;

14) **project**– a project application which conforms to the project application assessment criteria and which has been approved by the Agency;

15) **project application assessment criteria**– regulations according to which a project application is assessed and a decision on approval, conditional approval, or rejection thereof is taken;

16) **supervisory authority**– an institution involved in the management of grants which monitors the course of introduction of grants.

**Section 2. Purpose of the Law**

The purpose of this Law is to ensure introduction of efficient, transparent grants corresponding to the principles of sound financial management in the field of support of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre in Latvia.

**Section 3. Scope of Application of the Law**

The Law prescribes the rights and obligations of the authorities involved in the grant management, the project applicant, and the beneficiary, the procedures for taking, contesting, and appealing decisions of the authorities involved in the grant management, and also the conditions for granting financing and shall apply to the programming period 2021–2027.

**Chapter II**

**Grant Management**

**Section 4. Authorities Involved in the Grant Management**

Grant management shall be ensured by the following authorities involved in the grant management:

1) the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre;

2) the National Coordination Centre;

3) the Agency;

4) the supervisory authority;

5) the audit authority.

**Section 5. National Coordination Centre**

(1) The Ministry of Defence shall perform the functions of the National Coordination Centre.

(2) The National Coordination Centre has the following obligations:

1) to coordinate the creation of the grant management and control system;

2) to ensure efficient introduction and supervision of grants;

3) to ensure the development of the draft laws and regulations related to the introduction and supervision of grants;

4) to enter into an Agenda contract;

5) to develop and approve the project application assessment criteria;

6) to ensure the publicity for the introduction of grants in Latvia;

7) to inform the European Commission of expenditures for project implementation;

8) to inform the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre and the audit authority of the results of the Agenda implementation;

9) other obligations of the National Coordination Centre specified in Regulation 2021/887 and this Law.

(3) The National Coordination Centre has the following rights:

1) to request and receive information from the authorities involved in the grant management and from the beneficiaries which is necessary for the fulfilment of the obligations of the National Coordination Centre;

2) to suggest and perform control and audit of the introduction of grants.

(4) The Ministry of Defence shall ensure that the functions performed thereby as the National Coordination Centre are separated from other functions thereof, including functions performed thereby as the supervisory authority or beneficiary.

**Section 6. Agency**

(1) The Central Finance and Contracting Agency shall perform the functions of the Agency.

(2) The Agency has the following obligations:

1) according to the competence and upon request, to provide information to the National Coordination Centre and other authorities involved in the grant management which is necessary for the fulfilment of the obligations of such authorities;

2) to provide consultations to project applicants regarding submission of project applications;

3) to carry out selection of project applications and to enter into project contracts;

4) to consult the beneficiaries on project implementation;

5) to ensure supervision and control of project implementation, supervision of achievement of project objectives and outcome indicators, to analyse problems in project implementation, and to submit proposals to the National Coordination Centre for the improvement of project implementation;

6) to check and approve the eligible expenditures included in the request for payment of the beneficiary, to make payments, if applicable, to prepare and submit information to the National Coordination Centre on the eligible expenditures to be included in the request for payment, and also to provide other information at its disposal which is necessary for the preparation of a request for payment;

7) to ensure entering of the data related to grant management in the information systems of the European Union if it is provided for by the regulations of the Agenda, and also to ensure storage of project files in accordance with the procedures laid down in this Law.

(3) The Agency has the following rights:

1) to request information from the authorities involved in the grant management and from the beneficiaries which is necessary for the fulfilment of the obligations of the Agency;

2) to temporarily suspend payments to the beneficiary.

(4) The Central Finance and Contracting Agency shall ensure that the functions performed thereby as the Agency are separated from other functions thereof, including functions performed thereby as the beneficiary.

**Section 7. Supervisory Authority**

(1) The Ministry of Defence shall perform the functions of the supervisory authority.

(2) The supervisory authority has the following obligations:

1) to carry out audit of the grant management and to provide an assessment on the conformity of the operation of the National Coordination Centre and the Agency with the requirements of this Law;

2) at the end of the audit, to prepare a report, providing recommendations for the necessary improvements to the grant management, and also determining the activities to be carried out for the relevant authority and the time period for the elimination of deficiencies.

(3) The supervisory authority has the right to request information from the authorities involved in the grant management and from the beneficiaries which is necessary for the fulfilment of the obligations of the supervisory authority.

(4) The Ministry of Defence shall ensure that the functions performed thereby, in accordance with this Law, as the supervisory authority are separated from other functions thereof, including functions performed thereby as the National Coordination Centre or beneficiary.

**Section 8. Obligations and Rights of the Beneficiary**

(1) The beneficiary has the following obligations:

1) to ensure project implementation in accordance with the project contract, and also the requirements laid down in Regulation 2021/887 and the laws and regulations related to project implementation;

2) to ensure separate accounting for each project;

3) to provide information on project implementation and to ensure access for the representatives of the authorities involved in the grant management, and also the competent national and European Union authorities to original copies of all the documents related to project implementation and to the site of implementation of the relevant project;

4) to ensure compliance with the publicity requirements of projects;

5) to refund to the Agency the financing disbursed by the Agency which has not been used or has been used not in conformity with the conditions of Paragraph one, Clause 1 of this Section.

(2) The beneficiary has the following rights:

1) to receive grant financing if a project is being implemented in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 2021/887 and the laws and regulations of the Republic of Latvia and the project contract;

2) to receive the information necessary for project implementation from the National Coordination Centre and the Agency.

**Section 9. Competence of the Cabinet in Ensuring the Grant Management**

In order to ensure the grant management, the Cabinet shall determine:

1) the procedures for the implementation of the measures for the introduction, management, supervision, assessment, and control of grants;

2) the procedures by which funds shall be planned in the State budget for technical assistance to introduction of Agendas and for the implementation of the projects co-financed from the State budget;

3) the procedures for making payments related to project implementation and also the conditions and procedures for financing projects;

4) the eligibility conditions of project costs;

5) the procedures for the mutual settlement of accounts of the authorities involved in the grant management;

6) the procedures for reporting on non-conformities detected in introduction of grants;

7) the procedures for writing off, deducting, or recovering irregular expenditure in accordance with Article 202 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (hereinafter – Regulation 2018/1046);

8) the procedures for determining the project application assessment criteria in an open project application selection and the requirements for the project applicant and the beneficiary;

9) the cases when the Agency is entitled to suspend payments to the beneficiary and also the procedures for suspending payments.

**Chapter III**

**Community**

**Section 10. Requirements for the Subjects Forming the Community**

A Community may consist only of such institutions of direct or indirect administration, other State authorities, derived public entities, or legal persons governed by private law or partnerships with legal capacity registered in the Republic of Latvia which are able to contribute to the fulfilment of the mission of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre and the network of the national coordination centres specified in Article 3 of Regulation 2021/887 and which have cybersecurity expertise with regard to at least one of the domains referred to in Article 8(3) of Regulation 2021/887 (hereinafter – the members of the Community).

**Section 11. Registration of the Members of the Community**

(1) In order to become a member of the Community, the person referred to in Section 10 of this Law shall submit a submission of the member of the Community to the National Coordination Centre, indicating therein:

1) the name, registration number, legal address, and other contact details of the submitter of the submission of the member of the Community;

2) information on the beneficial owners (legal persons governed by private law) of the submitter of the submission of the member of the Community;

3) information on members and beneficial owners (partnerships with legal capacity) of the submitter of the submission of the member of the Community;

4) a certification that none of the criteria for exclusion specified in Article 136 of Regulation 2018/1046 apply to the submitter of the submission of the member of the Community;

5) information on the ability of the submitter of the submission of the member of the Community to contribute to the fulfilment of the mission of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre and the network of the national coordination centres specified in Article 3 of Regulation 2021/887;

6) information on the cybersecurity expertise of the submitter of the submission of the member of the Community with regard to at least one of the domains referred to in Article 8(3) of Regulation 2021/887 (detailed description of expertise).

(2) The National Coordination Centre shall assess the information included in the submission of the member of the Community and at the disposal thereof and, within a month from the day of receipt of the submission of the member of the Community, take the decision:

1) to register the submitter of the submission of the member of the Community in the register of members of the Community;

2) to refuse registration of the submitter of the submission of the member of the Community in the register of members of the Community.

(3) If the submitter of the submission of the member of the Community is a legal person governed by private law or partnership with legal capacity, the decision of the National Coordination Centre referred to in Paragraph two of this Section shall be an administrative act.

(4) If the submitter of the submission of the member of the Community is an institution of direct or indirect administration, another State authority, or a derived public entity, the decision of the National Coordination Centre referred to in Paragraph two of this Section shall not be an administrative act.

(5) In case of refusal, the submitter of the submission of the member of the Community is entitled to re-submit the submission of the member of the Community. The National Coordination Centre is entitled not to re-assess the re-submitted submission of the member of the Community if:

1) less than two months have passed since the decision taken previously on refusal to register the submitter of the submission of the member of the Community in the register of members of the Community;

2) the actual circumstances of the case which were the basis for taking of the decision on refusal to register the submitter of the submission of the member of the Community in the register of members of the Community have changed.

**Section 12. Exclusion of a Member of the Community from the Register of Members of the Community**

(1) The National Coordination Centre shall exclude a member of the Community from the register of members of the Community:

1) if the member of the Community has submitted a submission regarding the wish to be excluded from the register of members of the Community;

2) if the member of the Community does not conform to that specified in Section 10 of this Law;

3) due to justified security considerations.

(2) The National Coordination Centre shall take the decision on exclusion of a member of the Community from the register of members of the Community within a month from the moment when a submission of the member of the Community regarding the wish to be excluded from the register of members of the Community has been received or from the moment when such facts have become known which attest to the non-conformity of the member of the Community with that specified in Section 10 of this Law.

**Section 13. Register of Members of the Community**

(1) The register of members of the Community shall be maintained by the National Coordination Centre.

(2) The following information shall be included in the register of members of the Community:

1) the name of the member of the Community;

2) the registration number of the member of the Community;

3) the legal status of the member of the Community;

4) the date when the decision on registration of the member of the Community has been taken.

**Section 14. Procedures for Contesting and Appealing the Decision on Registration of a Member of the Community, Refusal of Registration, or Exclusion from the Register of Members of the Community**

The decision of the National Coordination Centre referred to in Section 11, Paragraph two or Section 12, Paragraph one of this Law, if it is an administrative act, may be contested and appealed in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Administrative Procedure Law. If the abovementioned decision of the National Coordination Centre is not an administrative act, it shall be contestable but not appealable.

**Chapter IV**

**Selection of Project Applications and Taking of a Decision on a Project Application**

**Section 15. Participation of a Project Applicant in the Community**

Applying for the receipt of the financing intended for the support of members of the Community shall be possible only if a project application is registered, at the moment of submitting a project application, with the register of members of the Community maintained by the National Coordination Centre in accordance with the procedures laid down in Section 11 of this Law.

**Section 16. Selection of Project Applications**

(1) The selection of project applications may be:

1) open, if equal competition regarding approval of the project application and allocation of the grant financing (co-financing) is occurring among project applicants;

2) restricted, if such range of project applicants has been pre-determined which are invited to submit a project application. In such case, all such project applications which meet the project application assessment criteria shall be approved and financed unless any of the reasons for exclusion referred to in Section 18 of this Law applies to the project applicant.

(2) If the grant financing is intended for the support to the Community, the National Coordination Centre is entitled to determine the share of the grant financing to be dedicated to the projects to be supported in the open project application selection and the share – to the projects to be supported in the restricted project application selection.

(3) The Agency shall perform selection of project applications according to the by-laws of the project application selection. The by-laws of the project application selection shall be developed and, after harmonisation with the National Coordination Centre, approved by the Agency.

(4) The project application assessment criteria shall be included in the by-laws of the project application selection.

(5) The Agency shall submit the notification regarding announcement of an open project application selection and a reference to the website on which the by-laws of the project application selection have been published, and also the notification regarding extension, discontinuation, or termination of an open project application selection for publishing in the official gazette *Latvijas Vēstnesis*.

(6) The project applicant shall prepare and submit a project application according to the requirements laid down in the by-laws of the project application selection.

**Section 17. Project Application Assessment Commission**

(1) The Agency shall establish a project application assessment commission for the assessment of project applications the composition of which shall include at least one representative of the National Coordination Centre. In establishing the project application assessment commission, the Agency shall take into account the provisions of the Agenda contract.

(2) The National Coordination Centre shall ensure the expertise in cybersecurity issues necessary for the operation of the project application assessment commission and also, if necessary, consult the Agency on the strategic, operational, and technical issues of cybersecurity.

(3) In fulfilling its obligations, the project application assessment commission is entitled to invite experts.

**Section 18. Provisions for Exclusion of Project Applicants**

The Agency shall reject a project application:

1) if any of the criteria for exclusion referred to in Article 136 of Regulation 2018/1046 applies to the project applicant;

2) if, in conformity with that specified in Article 8(4) of Regulation 2021/887, it has been recognised that the participation of the project applicant in project selection or the project does not correspond to the interests of national security.

**Section 19. Types of a Decision of the Agency**

(1) If the project applicant is a legal person governed by private law or partnership with legal capacity, the decision of the Agency shall be an administrative act.

(2) If the project applicant is an institution of direct or indirect administration, another State authority, or a derived public entity, the decision of the Agency shall not be an administrative act.

(3) The decision referred to in Paragraph two of this Section shall be issued in writing and it shall have the following parts:

1) the name and address of the Agency;

2) the addressee – the project applicant;

3) the determination of facts;

4) the justification of the decision;

5) a separate listing of the legal norms applied (indicating also Section of the regulatory enactment, its Paragraph, Clause, or Sub-clause);

6) the rights granted to the addressee and the rights rejected;

7) the conditions (if necessary);

8) the procedures for contesting a decision.

**Section 20. Approval, Conditional Approval, or Rejection of a Project Application in an Open Project Application Selection**

(1) On the basis of the opinion provided by the project application assessment commission, the Agency shall take a decision on approval, conditional approval, or rejection of a project application.

(2) The decision on approval of a project application shall be taken if all of the following conditions are met:

1) none of the reasons for exclusion referred to in Section 18 of this Law apply to the project applicant;

2) the project application conforms to the project application assessment criteria;

3) the financing for project implementation is available within the scope of the project application selection round.

(3) The decision on rejection of a project application shall be taken if at least one of the following conditions has set in:

1) at least one of the reasons for exclusion referred to in Section 18 of this Law applies to the project applicant;

2) the project application does not conform to the project application assessment criteria and elimination of the non-conformity in accordance with Paragraph four of this Section would affect the project application according to substance;

3) the financing for project implementation is not available within the scope of the project application selection round.

(4) The decision on conditional approval of a project application shall be taken if the project applicant must perform activities stipulated by the Agency in order for the project application to fully conform to the project application assessment criteria. Conditions shall be included in the decision and their fulfilment shall be controlled in conformity with the by-laws of the project application selection. If any of the conditions specified in the decision is not fulfilled or is not fulfilled within the time period specified in the decision, the Agency shall reject the project application.

(5) If a project application has been submitted after the deadline for the submission of project applications, it is not assessed. The Agency shall inform the project applicant thereof. If, due to the reason referred to in this Paragraph, acceptance of a project application is refused and the project applicant appeals the refusal in a court, the judgment of the District Administrative Court regarding the relevant issue shall not be subject to appeal.

**Section 21. Approval, Conditional Approval, or Rejection of a Project Application in a Restricted Project Application Selection**

(1) On the basis of the opinion of the project application assessment commission, the Agency shall take a decision on approval, conditional approval, or rejection of a project application.

(2) The decision on approval of a project application shall be taken if all of the following conditions are met:

1) none of the reasons for exclusion referred to in Section 18 of this Law apply to the project applicant;

2) the project application conforms to the project application assessment criteria.

(3) The decision on rejection of a project application shall be taken if at least one of the following conditions has set in:

1) the project applicant has not been invited to submit a project application;

2) at least one of the reasons for exclusion referred to in Section 18 of this Law applies to the project applicant.

(4) The decision on conditional approval of a project application shall be taken if the project applicant must perform activities stipulated by the Agency in order for the project application to fully conform to the project application assessment criteria and it would be possible to implement the project according to the provisions of the Agency and the objectives provided for in the Agenda. Conditions shall be included in the decision and their fulfilment shall be controlled in conformity with the by-laws of the project application selection.

(5) If a project applicant does not fulfil the conditions included in the decision on conditional approval of a project application or does not fulfil them within the time period specified in the decision, the Agency shall reject the project application.

**Section 22. Time Period for Taking a Decision**

(1) The Agency shall take a decision on approval, conditional approval, or rejection of a project application within three months after the end date of the time period for the submission of project applications.

(2) If, due to objective reasons, it is not possible to conform to the time period specified in Paragraph one of this Section, the Agency may extend it for a period not exceeding six months from the end date of the time period for the submission of project applications, notifying the project applicant thereof. The decision on extending the time period shall be subject to contesting but shall not be subject to appeal.

**Section 23. Clarification of Project Applications**

(1) The project application submitted within the scope of an open project selection may not be clarified after the submission thereof until the day when a decision on approval, conditional approval, or rejection of the project application is taken.

(2) The project application submitted within the scope of a restricted project selection may be clarified after the submission thereof until the day when a decision on approval, conditional approval, or rejection of the project application is taken, agreeing thereupon with the National Coordination Centre beforehand. The National Coordination Centre is entitled not to agree with the clarification of the project application if the project application has already been previously clarified or at least 30 days have passed from the end of the time period for the submission of project applications.

**Section 24. Contesting and Appeal of Decisions of the Agency**

A project applicant may contest the decision of the Agency referred to in Section 19, Paragraph one or two of this Law by submitting a relevant submission to the head of the National Coordination Centre. The administrative act issued by the National Coordination Centre regarding the contested decision of the Agency may be contested and appealed in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Administrative Procedure Law. If the decision taken by the National Coordination Centre on the contested decision of the Agency is not an administrative act, it shall be subject to contesting but shall not be subject to appeal.

**Chapter V**

**Procedures for Settling Disputes Regarding the Grant Financing Allocated**

**Section 25. Procedures for Settling Disputes if the Beneficiary is a Legal Person Governed by Private Law or a Partnership with Legal Capacity**

If the beneficiary is a legal person governed by private law or a partnership with legal capacity, disputes relating to the performance of the project contract, including disbursement of the financial resources allocated, continuation of disbursements, or recovery of resources, shall be settled in accordance with civil procedures.

**Section 26. Procedures for Settling Disputes if the Beneficiary is an Institution of Direct or Indirect Administration, Another State Authority, or a Derived Public Entity**

(1) If a dispute arises between the beneficiary which is an institution of direct or indirect administration, another State authority, or a derived public entity and the Agency in relation to the decision taken within the scope of the project contract on disbursement of the financing allocated or continuation of disbursement thereof or another decision and an agreement has not been reached through negotiations, the beneficiary may contest it by submitting a relevant submission to the head of the National Coordination Centre.

(2) The head of the National Coordination Centre shall assess the submission of the beneficiary referred to in Paragraph one of this Section and, within a month from the day of the receipt thereof, take at least one of the following decisions:

1) to leave the decision of the Agency unchanged;

2) to revoke the decision of the Agency in full or in any part thereof and, if necessary, to assign the Agency to re-examine the objections of the beneficiary, taking into account the instructions of the National Coordination Centre;

3) to issue a decision that is different in content.

(3) If a dispute arises between the beneficiary which is an institution of direct or indirect administration, another State authority, or a derived public entity and the National Coordination Centre in relation to the decision taken by the National Coordination Centre within the scope of the project contract and an agreement has not been reached through negotiations, the beneficiary may contest it by submitting a relevant submission to the Minister for Defence.

(4) The Minister for Defence shall assess the submission of the beneficiary referred to in Paragraph three of this Section and, within a month from the day of the receipt thereof, take at least one of the following decisions:

1) to leave the decision of the National Coordination Centre unchanged;

2) to revoke the decision of the National Coordination Centre in full or in any part thereof and, if necessary, to assign the National Coordination Centre to re-examine the objections of the beneficiary;

3) to issue a decision that is different in content.

(5) If, due to objective reasons, it is not possible to conform to the time period specified in Paragraph two or four of this Section, the head of the National Coordination Centre or the Minister for Defence may extend it for a time period not exceeding four months from the day of receipt of the submission, notifying the submitter thereof.

(6) The head of the National Coordination Centre or the Minister for Defence shall obtain the information which is necessary for taking the decision referred to in Paragraph two or four of this Section in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Administrative Procedure Law and the State Administration Structure Law for cooperation of institutions and for obtaining of information in the administrative proceedings in an institution.

(7) The decision referred to in Paragraph two or four of this Section and taken by the head of the National Coordination Centre or the Minister for Defence shall not be subject to appeal.

**Section 27. Payment of the State Fee by Addressing a Court**

The National Coordination Centre and the Agency shall not pay the State fee when addressing a court of general jurisdiction regarding a contractual dispute.

**Chapter VI**

**Final Provisions**

**Section 28. Right to Become Acquainted with a Project File**

(1) A project applicant has the right to become acquainted with the project file submitted thereby at any stage of the process. The project applicant has the right to become acquainted with the assessment materials of the submitted project application (including expert opinions, minutes and decisions of the assessment commission) only after a decision on approval, conditional approval, or rejection of a project application has entered into effect.

(2) The National Coordination Centre and the Agency shall provide the information referred to in Paragraph one of this Section within 10 working days after receipt of the request.

**Section 29. Freedom of Information**

(1) The project file of a legal person governed by private law or partnership with legal capacity is restricted access information until the moment when a decision on approval or rejection of a project application or an opinion on fulfilment of the conditions included in the decision enters into effect. After entering into effect of the abovementioned decision or opinion, the project file shall be available in the amount and in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Freedom of Information Law.

(2) The project file of an institution of direct administration, a derived public entity, or another State institution shall be generally accessible information, except for the budget summary of the project, including cost plan of the project. Information on the abovementioned project shall be available in the amount and in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Freedom of Information Law after the end of the time period for the submission of project applications. The information referred to in Section 28, Paragraph one of this Law in relation to the assessment of the project application shall be available after a decision on approval, conditional approval, or rejection of the project application has entered into effect.

**Section 30. Document Storage Period**

The authorities involved in ensuring the grant management shall store project files, but the beneficiaries – original copies of project documents for at least five years after approval of the request for final payment of the project unless other procedures for the storage of documents are provided for in the project contract.

**Transitional Provision**

The Cabinet shall, by 1 July 2023, issue the regulations referred to in Section 9 of this Law.

The Law has been adopted by the *Saeima* on 29 September 2022.

Acting for the President, Chairperson of the *Saeima* I. Mūrniece

Rīga, 4 October 2022