The *Saeima*1 has adopted and

the President has proclaimed the following law:

**Law on the Management of the European Social Fund Plus Programme for Reducing Material Deprivation for the 2021–2027 Programming Period**

**Chapter I**

**General Provisions**

**Section 1. Purpose of the Law**

The purpose of the Law is to ensure that the implementation of the European Social Fund Plus programme for reducing material deprivation (hereinafter – the programme) in Latvia is efficient, transparent, and compliant with the principles of sound financial management in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 (hereinafter – Regulation No 2021/1057) and Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (hereinafter – Regulation No 2021/1060).

**Section 2. Scope of Application of the Law**

The Law sets out the responsibilities and rights of the authorities involved in the management and implementation of the programme, the procedures by which the authorities involved in the management of the programme shall take, contest, and appeal decisions, and the conditions for the allocation of programme funding.

**Section 3. Management of the Programme**

Management of the programme shall be the preparation of, agreement on, and approval of programming documents, the development and operation of the programme management system, the development of the rules for the selection of partner organisations and their selection, the supervision, evaluation, and audit of the programme management system and support, the approval of the expenditure made within the programme, the preparation and submission of reports to the European Commission, the development and maintenance of the programme information system, and also the provision of information to the public on programme support.

**Chapter II**

**Ensuring Management of Programme**

**Section 4. Authorities Involved in the Management of the Programme**

(1) Management of the programme shall be ensured by the following authorities involved in the management of the programme:

1) the managing authority;

2) the intermediate body;

3) the audit authority.

(2) In order to achieve the objective of this Law, the authorities involved in the management of the programme shall develop methodology materials and co-operate with other authorities in accordance with the procedures laid down in the State Administration Structure Law.

(3) In order to effectively fulfil the responsibilities referred to in Section 6, Paragraph three of this Law, the intermediate body and other institutions of direct administration may conclude an interdepartmental agreement by agreeing thereupon with the managing authority.

**Section 5. Managing Authority, Responsibilities and Rights Thereof**

(1) The functions of the managing authority shall be performed by the Ministry of Welfare.

(2) The managing authority has the following responsibilities:

1) ensure efficient management of the implementation of the programme;

2) ensure the development of programming documents in line with the partnership principle;

3) develop a description of the management and control system and submit it to the audit authority in accordance with Article 69(11) of Regulation No 2021/1060;

4) supervise the operation of the intermediate body in accordance with Article 72(1)(d) of Regulation No 2021/1060;

5) ensure the management of the technical assistance of the programme and the efficiency of its implementation;

6) ensure the accessibility of information in accordance with Article 49(1) of Regulation No 2021/1060;

7) within the limits of its competence, provide information to the intermediate body and the beneficiary;

8) develop criteria for the selection of partner organisations and for the public procurement of food and basic material assistance products in accordance with Article 73(1) and (3) of Regulation No 2021/1060;

9) within the limits of its competence, develop the procedures referred to in Article 69(6) of Regulation No 2021/1060;

10) introduce anti-fraud measures in accordance with Article 74(1)(c) of Regulation No 2021/1060;

11) ensure evaluation of the implementation of the programme in accordance with Article 44(1) of Regulation No 2021/1060 and Article 23(3) of Regulation No 2021/1057;

12) implement the following programme management and accounting tasks in accordance with Article 72(1)(b) and Article 76 of Regulation No 2021/1060:

a) in accordance with Article 74(1)(a) and (2) of Regulation No 2021/1060, carry out management verifications of the information prepared by the intermediate body on the expenditure to be included in the payment application;

b) in accordance with Article 76(1)(a) of Regulation No 2021/1060, prepare and submit payment applications to the European Commission;

c) in accordance with Article 74(1)(e) of Regulation No 2021/1060, confirm that the expenditure included in the closure of accounts is eligible;

d) in accordance with Article 76(1)(b) of Regulation No 2021/1060, prepare and submit a closure of accounts to the European Commission;

e) within the limits of its competence, develop the management declaration in accordance with Article 74(1)(f) of Regulation No 2021/1060;

13) perform the functions referred to in Article 42(1), Article 43(1), Article 69(10) and (11) of Regulation No 2021/1060;

14) fulfil other responsibilities laid down in this Law.

(3) The managing authority has the following rights:

1) to propose and carry out the control and audit of the implementation of the programme;

2) to request and receive from the authorities involved in the management of the programme and the beneficiary the information necessary for ensuring the management of the programme;

3) to temporarily suspend further inclusion of the expenditure made within the programme in the payment application for submission to the European Commission and adjust the amount of expenditure submitted previously;

4) to request and obtain direct access to data in State information systems in such amount which is provided for in the legal acts governing the relevant system and which is necessary for the performance of the accounting function.

(4) The Ministry of Welfare shall ensure that the functions which it performs as the managing authority in accordance with this Law are separated from other functions.

**Section 6. Intermediate Body, Responsibilities and Rights Thereof**

(1) The functions of the intermediate body shall be performed by the Society Integration Foundation.

(2) When fulfilling the responsibilities laid down in Paragraph three of this Section, the intermediate body shall be under functional subordination of the Minister for Welfare which is implemented in the form of subordination. The Minister for Welfare shall implement the subordination with the intermediation of the authorised official (head of the managing authority).

(3) The intermediate body has the following responsibilities:

1) within the limits of its competence, provide information to the managing authority which is essential for the fulfilment of the responsibilities of this authority;

2) perform the function referred to in Article 46 of Regulation No 2021/1060, including advising the partner organisation on the provision of information to the public about the programme support;

3) develop a procedure for the selection of partner organisations in accordance with Article 73(1) of Regulation No 2021/1060;

4) select partner organisations in accordance with Article 73(2)(a), (d), and (g) of Regulation No 2021/1060;

5) taking into consideration the legal status of the applicant partner organisation, conclude a contract or an agreement with the partner organisation for the storage and distribution of food and basic material assistance products and the implementation of accompanying measures;

6) advise the partner organisation on matters relevant for the performance of the tasks laid down in the contract or agreement;

7) in accordance with Article 72(1)(b) of Regulation No 2021/1060, implement the following programme management tasks:

a) in accordance with Article 74(1)(a) and (2) of Regulation No 2021/1060, verify and approve the report of the partner organisation and the payment claim of the beneficiary;

b) prepare and submit to the managing authority information on the expenditure to be included in the payment application and to the European Commission information for the approval of the reports to be submitted;

c) within the limits of its competence, perform the functions referred to in Article 74(1)(c) and (d) and (2) of Commission Regulation No 2021/1060;

8) ensure supervision and control of the implementation of the programme, supervision of the overall outcome and result indicators, analyse the problems related to the supply and distribution of food and basic material assistance products and the implementation of accompanying measures, and make proposals to the managing authority for the improvement of the supply and distribution of food and basic material assistance products and the implementation of accompanying measures;

9) carry out ex-ante control on the documentation and the course of public procurement and ensure supervision of the procurement contract;

10) within the limits of its competence, develop the procedures referred to in Article 69(6) of Regulation No 2021/1060;

11) ensure accessibility of information in accordance with Article 49 of Regulation No 2021/1060;

12) ensure functioning of the programme management information system by performing the functions referred to in Article 72(1)(e) of Regulation No 2021/1060;

13) fulfil other responsibilities laid down in this Law.

(4) The intermediate body has the following rights:

1) to request and receive from the authorities involved in the management of the programme, the person applying to be a partner organisation (hereinafter – the applicant partner organisation), the partner organisation, and the beneficiary the information necessary to conclude a contract or agreement for the storage and distribution of food and basic material assistance products and the implementation of accompanying measures, and ensure the supervision and control of the implementation thereof;

2) in accordance with Article 74(1)(b) of Regulation No 2021/1060, to temporarily suspend payments to a partner organisation;

3) to request and obtain direct access to data in the State information systems in such amount which is provided for in the legal acts governing the relevant system and which is necessary for the fulfilment of the responsibilities of the intermediate body.

(5) The Society Integration Foundation shall ensure that the functions which it performs as the intermediate body in accordance with this Law are separated from the other functions thereof, including the functions which it performs as a beneficiary.

**Section 7. Audit Authority, Responsibilities and Rights Thereof**

(1) The functions of the audit authority shall be performed by the Ministry of Finance.

(2) The audit authority has the responsibility to perform the functions specified in Article 77(1) and (3) and Article 78 of Regulation No 2021/1060.

(3) The audit authority has the following rights:

1) to request and receive from the authorities involved in the management of the programme, other authorities, the partner organisation and the beneficiary the information necessary for the fulfilments of the responsibilities of the audit authority;

2) to request and obtain direct access to data in the State information systems in such amount which is provided for in the legal acts governing the relevant system and which is necessary for the fulfilment of the responsibilities of the audit authority.

(4) The Ministry of Finance shall ensure that the functions which it performs as the audit authority in accordance with this Law are separated from the other functions thereof.

**Section 8. Responsibilities and Rights of the Procurement Monitoring Bureau**

(1) The Procurement Monitoring Bureau has the responsibility to carry out ex-ante control on the public procurement documentation and the course of procurement procedures performed by the beneficiary and to provide advisory opinions.

(2) The Procurement Monitoring Bureau has the right to request from the authorities involved in the management of the programme and from the beneficiary information that is necessary to ensure the fulfilment of the responsibilities referred to in Paragraph one of this Section.

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

In order to ensure the management of the programme, the Cabinet shall determine:

1) the criteria for households eligible to receive food and basic material assistance products financed by the programme and to participate in accompanying measures;

2) the content, quality, delivery, storage, and distribution requirements for the food and basic material assistance products financed by the programme;

3) the partner organisation selection criteria, the procedures for organising the selection of partner organisations, and the procedures for evaluating the conditions for rejecting applications by an applicant partner organisation;

4) the content of the contract or agreement for the storage and distribution of food and basic material assistance products and the implementation of accompanying measures, the procedures for conclusion, amendment, and termination;

5) the conditions and procedures for the eligibility of costs and the application of flat-rate payments;

6) the procedures for planning funds in the State budget for the implementation of the programme;

7) the procedures for verifying payment claims, making payments, and preparing the payment application and the closure of accounts to be submitted to the European Commission;

8) the procedures for carrying out on-the-spot checks at the place of the distribution of food and basic material assistance products and the implementation of accompanying measures;

9) the basic principles of risk management and the procedures for reporting irregularities detected in the implementation of the programme, for withholding, recovering, or writing off irregular expenditure, and for applying the proportional financial correction;

10) the procedures for ensuring the functions of the audit authority in the management of the programme;

11) the procedures for the development and use of the programme information system.

**Chapter III**

**Ensuring Implementation of the Programme**

**Section 10. Authorities Involved in the Implementation of the Programme**

The authorities involved in the implementation of the programme are:

1) a partner organisation selected through an open selection procedure;

2) the beneficiary as defined in this Law.

**Section 11. Partner Organisation**

The partner organisation can be an association, a foundation, a religious organisation, and a local government or an institution thereof.

**Section 12. Eligibility for Programme Funding**

The submission of an application for the selection of partner organisations in accordance with this Law does not create an obligation for the authority involved in the management of the programme to grant the right to be a partner organisation and the right to receive programme funding.

**Section 13. Selection of Partner Organisations and the Evaluation Commission**

(1) Partner organisations shall be selected by the intermediate body in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Cabinet. The evaluation commission set up by the intermediate body shall evaluate the applications for the selection of partner organisations and draw up an opinion.

(2) The evaluation commission shall be composed of the representatives of the intermediate body and may also include one representative of the Ministry of Welfare. A representative of the managing authority, representatives of local governments, and representatives of organisations representing the interests of low-income households have the right to attend the meetings of the commission as an observer.

**Section 14. Conditions for the Rejection of Applications by Applicant Partner Organisations for the Selection of Partner Organisations**

The intermediate body shall reject the application for the selection of partner organisations if the applicant partner organisation, i.e. an association, a foundation, or a religious organisation, is subject to any of the following conditions:

1) a person who is a member of the executive board of the applicant partner organisation, a beneficial owner or a person authorised to represent the applicant partner organisation in activities relating to its branch or structural unit has been convicted of any of the following criminal offences by a final ruling, and less than three years have elapsed from the date of entry into effect thereof and the date of submission of the application:

a) accepting bribes, giving bribes, misappropriation of a bribe, intermediation in bribery, unauthorised receipt of benefits;

b) fraud, misappropriation, or money laundering;

c) evasion of the payment of taxes and payments equivalent thereto;

2) a coercive measure has been imposed on the applicant partner organisation for one of the offences referred to in Clause 1 of this Section and less than three years have elapsed from the date of entry into effect of the final ruling and the date of submission of the application;

3) insolvency proceedings of the applicant partner organisation have been declared, a matter of legal protection proceedings has been initiated, or legal protection proceedings are being implemented, economic activity of the applicant partner organisation has been suspended or discontinued, or the applicant partner organisation is being liquidated;

4) the applicant partner organisation or a person who is a member of the executive board of the applicant partner organisation, a beneficial owner or a person authorised to represent the applicant partner organisation in activities related to its branch or structural unit is subject to the restrictions set out in the Law on International Sanctions and National Sanctions of the Republic of Latvia;

5) the decision of the intermediate body referred to in Section 17 of this Law on the prohibition to participate in the selection of partner organisations has entered into effect.

**Section 15. Types of Decisions of the Managing Authority and the Intermediate Body**

(1) If the applicant partner organisation is an association, a foundation, or a religious organisation, the decision of the managing authority and intermediate body is an administrative act.

(2) If the applicant partner organisation is a local government or an institution thereof, the decision of the managing authority and intermediate body is not an administrative act.

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

1) the name and address of the managing authority or intermediate body;

2) the addressee, i.e. the applicant partner organisation;

3) the finding of facts;

4) substantiation of the decision;

5) a separate list of legal rules applied;

6) the rights assigned to the addressee or the rights rejected;

7) conditions (where necessary);

8) the procedures for contesting a decision of the intermediate body.

**Section 16. Granting, Conditional Granting, or Refusal of the Right to be a Partner Organisation**

(1) The intermediate body shall, on the basis of the opinion of the evaluation commission, decide whether to grant the right to be a partner organisation, to grant that right conditionally, or to refuse it.

(2) The decision to grant the right to be a partner organisation shall be taken if all of the following conditions are met:

1) the application for the selection of partner organisations meets the criteria for the selection of partner organisations;

2) funding is available for the implementation of actions.

(3) The decision to refuse the right to be a partner organisation shall be taken if at least one of the following conditions has set in:

1) at least one of the refusal provisions referred to in Section 14 of this Law applies to the applicant partner organisation;

2) the application for the selection of partner organisations does not meet the criteria for the selection of partner organisations and the rectification of deficiency in accordance with Paragraph four of this Section would affect the application for the selection of partner organisations on merit;

3) funding is not available for the implementation of actions.

4) The decision to grant the right to be a partner organisation shall be conditional if the intermediate body instructs the applicant partner organisation to take steps to ensure that the application for the selection of partner organisations fully meets the criteria for the selection of partner organisations. If any of the conditions specified in the decision is not fulfilled or is not fulfilled within the term specified in the decision, the right to be a partner organisation shall be regarded as refused.

(5) If the application for the selection of partner organisations is submitted after the closing date for the submission of applications, it shall not be evaluated. The intermediate body shall inform the applicant partner organisation thereof. If the application for the selection of partner organisations is rejected and the applicant partner organisation referred to in Section 15, Paragraph two of this Law appeals the rejection to a court, the court judgment of the District Administrative Court on the relevant issue may not be appealed.

**Section 17. Decision to Prohibit to Participate Temporarily in the Selection of Partner Organisations**

The intermediate body is entitled to take the decision prohibiting a person from participating in the selection of partner organisations for a period not exceeding three years from the date of entry into effect of the decision if any of the following applies to an applicant partner organisation, i.e. an association, a foundation, or a religious organisation, the applicant partner organisation or a person who is a member of the executive board of the relevant applicant partner organisation or who is authorised to represent the applicant partner organisation in activities relating to its branch or structural unit:

1) has knowingly provided false information that is essential for the evaluation of the application for the selection of partner organisations;

2) when fulfilling the responsibilities of the partner organisation, has knowingly provided false information to the intermediate body or acted otherwise ill-intentioned in relation to fulfilling the responsibilities of the partner organisation and this has served as the basis for the withholding or recovery of irregular expenditure, or the intermediate body has used the right provided for in the legal act issued in accordance with Section 9, Clause 4 of this Law to withdraw unilaterally from the contract;

3) has created artificial conditions or knowingly provided information not corresponding to the factual circumstances in order to gain advantage over other applicants so that the intermediate body would take a favourable decision thereon.

**Section 18. Contestation and Appeal of a Decision**

(1) An applicant partner organisation may contest the decision of the intermediate body referred to in Sections 16 and 17 of this Law to the managing authority within one month after entry into effect thereof. The administrative act issued by the managing authority regarding the contested decision of the intermediate body may be appealed by submitting an application to the courthouse of the relevant District Administrative Court. The decision of the managing authority referred to in Section 15, Paragraph two of this Law on the contested decision of the intermediate body may not be appealed.

(2) An opinion of the intermediate body on the fulfilment of the condition included in the decision referred to in Section 16, Paragraph four of this Law shall be contested and appealed in accordance with the same procedures and within the same terms as a decision on the fulfilment of the condition included in which the opinion has been prepared.

(3) When appealing the decision, the applicant may only request to declare this decision unlawful in a court but it may not request the issuing of a favourable administrative act.

**Section 19. Term for Taking a Decision**

(1) The intermediate body shall take the decision on granting, conditional granting, or refusal of the right to be a partner organisation within three months after the closing date for the submission of applications for the selection of partner organisations.

(2) If the term specified in Paragraph one of this Section cannot be complied with due to objective reasons, the intermediate body may extend it for a period that is not longer than six months from the closing date for the submission of applications for the selection of partner organisations, notifying the applicant partner organisation thereof. The decision to extend the term may be contested at the managing authority but may not be appealed.

**Section 20. Adjustment of the Application for the Selection of Partner Organisations**

The application for the selection of partner organisations may not be adjusted after submission thereof until taking of the decision on approval, conditional approval, or refusal thereof.

**Section 21. Responsibilities and Rights of a Partner Organisation**

(1) A partner organisation has the following responsibilities:

1) ensure the storage and distribution of the food and basic material assistance products and the implementation of accompanying measures in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Latvia and directly applicable European Union legal acts and in line with the provisions of the contract concluded with the intermediate body if the partner organisation is an association, a foundation, or a religious organisation, or in line with the provisions of the agreement concluded with the intermediate body if the partner organisation is a local government or an institution thereof;

2) provide to the intermediate body reports and information on the distribution of food and basic material assistance products and the implementation of accompanying measures;

3) inform immediately the intermediate body of any changes and conditions that may negatively affect the distribution of food and basic material assistance products and the implementation of accompanying measures;

4) provide a separate accounting code to the revenues from flat-rate financing for the distribution of food and basic material assistance products or the implemented accompanying measures;

5) inform the public of the programme support in accordance with Article 50(1)(a) and (b) of Regulation No 2021/1060;

6) ensure that representatives of the European Commission, the European Anti-fraud Office, the European Public Prosecutor’s Office, the European Court of Auditors, and the authorities involved in the management of the programme have access to all original documents relating to the distribution of food and basic material assistance products and the implementation of accompanying measures, to the accounting system, and also to the place where the distribution of food and basic material assistance products and the implementation of accompanying measures take place.

(2) A partner organisation has the following rights:

1) to receive funding from the programme if it has fulfilled the responsibilities laid down in the legal acts of the European Union and the laws and regulations of the Republic of Latvia regarding the provision of food and basic material assistance to the most deprived persons and the responsibilities specified in the contract or agreement with the intermediate body;

2) to receive from the authorities involved in the management of the programme the information necessary for the distribution of food and basic material assistance products and for the implementation of accompanying measures.

**Section 22. Beneficiary, Responsibilities and Rights Thereof**

(1) The function of the beneficiary shall be performed by the Society Integration Foundation.

(2) The beneficiary has the following responsibilities:

1) select the suppliers of food and basic material assistance products in compliance with the laws and regulations governing public procurements and the programme requirements determined by the Cabinet in accordance with Section 9, Clause 2 of this Law;

2) ensure that the funding allocated thereto is used in accordance with the principle of sound financial management by taking into account the principles of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness;

3) ensure that expenditures made thereby are directly related to the achievement of the objectives for implementing the programme and conform to the conditions for the use of the allocated funding;

4) inform immediately the intermediate body of any changes and conditions that may negatively affect the purchase of food and basic material assistance products;

5) inform the public of the programme support in accordance with Article 50(1)(a) and (b) of Regulation No 2021/1060;

6) ensure separate accounting records for the expenditure incurred and paid or an appropriate system of accounting codes for all transactions relating to the implementation of the programme which are to be disclosed for proper audit purposes;

7) ensure that representatives of the European Commission, the European Anti-fraud Office, the European Public Prosecutor’s Office, the European Court of Auditors, and the authorities involved in the management of the programme have access to all original documents relating to the purchase of food and basic material assistance products and the accounting system.

(3) The beneficiary has the following rights:

1) to receive funding from the programme if it has fulfilled the responsibilities specified in laws and regulations and in the agreement;

2) to receive from the authorities involved in the management of the programme and the Procurement Monitoring Bureau the information necessary for the purchase of food and basic material assistance products.

(4) The Society Integration Foundation shall ensure that the functions which it performs as the beneficiary in accordance with this Law are separated from the other functions specified in this Law, including from the functions which it performs as the intermediate body.

**Chapter IV**

**Procedures for the Resolution of Disputes Over the Operation of the Programme**

**Section 23. Procedures for the Resolution of Disputes if the Partner Organisation is an Association, a Foundation, or a Religious Organisation**

If the partner organisation is an association, a foundation, or a religious organisation, disputes over the performance of the contract for the storage, distribution, and supply of food and basic material assistance products and the implementation of accompanying measures, including the disbursement, continuation of disbursement, or recovery of allocated funds, shall be resolved according to civil legal procedures.

**Section 24. Procedures for the Resolution of Disputes if the Partner Organisation is a Local Government or an Institution Thereof**

(1) If the partner organisation which is a local government or an institution thereof and the intermediate body have concluded an agreement for the storage and distribution of food and basic material assistance products and provision of accompanying measures, and in the course of the performance of that agreement a disagreement arises over a decision taken by the intermediate body under the agreement in relation to the disbursement of the allocated funds, continuation of disbursement or another decision, and no agreement has been reached through mutual negotiations, the partner organisation may contest that decision by submitting a relevant application to the managing authority.

(2) The managing authority shall evaluate the application of the partner organisation referred to in Paragraph one of this Section and take one of the following decisions within a month after receipt of the application:

1) to leave the decision of the intermediate body unchanged;

2) to revoke the decision of the intermediate body entirely or in any part thereof and, where appropriate, order the intermediate body to re-examine the objections of the local government or its institution by taking into account the instructions of the managing authority;

3) to issue a different decision in terms of its content.

(3) If the term laid down in Paragraph two of this Section cannot be complied with due to objective reasons, the managing authority may extend it for a period that is not longer than four months from the day of receipt of the application by notifying the applicant thereof.

(4) The managing authority shall acquire information that is necessary to take the decision referred to in Paragraph two of this Section by applying the procedures for the co-operation of institutions and the acquisition of information in the administrative proceedings in the institution.

(5) The decision taken by the managing authority referred to in Paragraph two of this Section may not be appealed.

**Section 25. Procedures for the Resolution of Disputes between the Beneficiary and the Intermediate Body**

(1) The decision of the intermediate body referred to in Section 15, Paragraph two of this Law which has been taken on the implementation of the programme in respect of the beneficiary may be contested by the beneficiary before the managing authority within one month from the date of entry into effect of the decision of the intermediate body.

(2) The decision of the managing authority on the contested decision of the intermediate body may not be contested or appealed.

**Section 26. State Fee for Referring to the Court**

The intermediate body shall not pay a State fee when referring to a court of general jurisdiction regarding a contractual dispute.

**Chapter V**

**Availability of Information and Eligibility of Costs**

**Section 27. Right to Get Acquainted with the Process for the Selection of Partner Organisations**

(1) At any stage of the process, an applicant partner organisation has the right to get acquainted with the progress of the application for the selection of partner organisations, taking into consideration Paragraph two of this Section.

(2) An applicant partner organisation is entitled to get acquainted with the evaluation materials (including expert opinions, minutes and decisions of the evaluation commission) of the application for the selection of partner organisations only after the decision on the approval, conditional approval, or refusal of the application for the selection of partner organisations has entered into effect. The issuing of information shall be restricted by the laws and regulations regarding the issuing of information, the processing and protection of data.

(3) The intermediate body shall provide the information referred to in Paragraph two of this Section within 10 working days after receipt of the request or shall, within five working days after receipt of the request, invite an applicant partner organisation to get acquainted with the requested information at the intermediate body at a mutually acceptable time.

**Section 28. Freedom of Information**

(1) The application for the selection of partner organisations of an association, a foundation, or a religious organisation and the evaluation documents shall be restricted access information until the date on which the decision to grant or refuse the right to become a partner organisation or the opinion on the fulfilment of the conditions set out in the decision enters into effect. The information shall be available in the amount and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 49 of Regulation No 2021/1060 and also other legal acts regarding the issuing of information, the processing and protection of data after entry into effect of the abovementioned decision or opinion.

(2) The application for the selection of partner organisations submitted by a local government or an institution thereof shall be generally accessible information. It shall be available in the amount and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article 49 of Regulation No 2021/1060 and also in other legal acts regarding the issuing of information, the processing and protection of data after the closing date for the submission of applications for the selection of partner organisations. Information relating to the evaluation of the application for the selection of partner organisations shall be available after entry into effect of the decision to grant the right to be a partner organisation, to grant this right conditionally, or to refuse it.

**Section 29. Eligibility Period for Costs Supported by the Programme**

According to Article 63(2) of Regulation No 2021/1060, costs supported by the programme may be considered eligible if they are incurred by the authority involved in the management of the programme, the partner organisation, or the beneficiary and paid in the period between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2029.

**Transitional Provision**

The Cabinet shall, by 30 June 2022, issue the regulations referred to in Section 9 of this Law.

This Law has been adopted by the *Saeima* on 5 May 2022.

President E. Levits

Rīga, 9 May 2022