



**CIVIL SOCIETY & DEMOCRACY
LATVIA**



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TO REMIND

- Late 16th century: French *démocratie*, late Latin from Greek *dēmokratia*

Dēmos - the people
kratia - power, rule.



Channels for participation



■ 1. FAVORABLE LEGISLATION

- - Constitution – freedom of association
- - Law on associations and Foundations
- Law on public benefit organizations – special status

2. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING NGOS & GOV

3. SPECIAL DECLARATION NGOS & PARLIAMENT

- ensuring the favourable environment for development of civil society and NGOs.
- Equal partners & access to information



Channels for participation

4. NGOS REPRESENTATIVE IN THE HIGH OFFICIAL MEETINGS

- Possibility to consult with other NGOs
- Possibility to change the regulation

5. POLICY DOCUMENTS – AIMS TO STRENGTHEN CSO'S

- National development plan 2020
- Policy document on integration, civil society participation 2018

6. ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT MEETINGS DIRECTLY AND VIA INTERNET



2015 FOR US

1. **Security – changes in regulation**
2. **NGO fund – never as close as this year**
3. **Refugees – we want to compliment work of state and municipalities**



OUR WEALTH

1. **WORLD'S NGO DAY 27.02.**
2. **www.manabalss.lv**
3. **Measurement of individual participation**
4. **Self assessment tool for NGOs**
5. **NGO monitoring system about to come**



DEVIL HIDES IN DETAILS

- Institutionalized instruments allow policy makers to hide behind the procedures
- Not popular suggestions can be easily avoided or neglected using procedures
- Political decision to support civil society might turn out to be formal



Thank you!

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