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The new Local Government Law - new tools and opportunities, and digitally-driven changes in governance and society's everyday habits

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Local Government Law – an instrument for good governance

- ❖ Defines **measures in order to inform and to involve** the public in the **day-to-day work** of a local government - increases opportunities for the public to receive information on the development of documents and decision-making in local government;
- ❖ Strengthens the principle of **priority of autonomous functions** and the possibility for the public to express its views on the **proportionality of voluntary initiatives** of the local government;
- ❖ **Introduces new** public **participation tools** for more effective participation in **decision-making** in the local government



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Openness in local government Consultation with the public

The local government council (hereinafter - the Council) has the **right**, and in certain cases the **obligation**, to organize **consultations with citizens** and to establish other forms of public participation in order to **promote the interests of citizens and the sustainable development of the local government**.

In order to involve the public in the performance of its functions, the **local government** may set up **advisory councils and commissions**, the meetings of which shall:

- ✓ be **open to the public** → the time and agenda shall be published on the website
- ✓ be **minuted** → the minutes shall be published on the website



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Openness in local government Meetings of the Council and committees

Meetings and votes are **public**, except on restricted matters;

Agendas shall be made **publicly available on the website** before the meetings take place;

Minutes are **publicly available on the website**;

Live audiovisual broadcast of the Council meeting on the website.





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Openness in local government Explanatory Memorandum to the Binding Regulations

Explanatory Memorandum to the Draft Binding Regulation

=

Comprehensive assessment of the initial impact of the binding provisions



- **fiscal impact** on the municipal budget with specific calculations (*except for binding regulations on municipal charges*)
 - social, environmental, public health, business, competition impacts
 - impact on administrative procedures and their costs for all parties involved
 - **proportionality of the requirements and costs** in relation to the expected benefits
 - **consultation with citizens** and institutions
- (etc.)



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Openness in local government Public opinion on the draft binding regulations

Representatives of the public can be **involved** already at the initial phase of **the draft** binding regulation.

The **draft** binding regulation and its explanatory memorandum shall be published on the official **website** of the local government for a period of not less than **two weeks**.

The received **opinions** shall be summarised and reflected in **the explanatory memorandum**.





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Public participation tools The Council of citizens

A consultative body that a local government **can set up to represent** the interests of **local communities** and **to develop the territory** of the local government .



The Council of citizens is competent for matters, including the possibility of submitting a draft decision to the Council, which affect the interests of the inhabitants of the territory concerned and arise at least from the following **functions of the local government:**

- ✓ the improvement and sanitation of the territory
- ✓ cultural offer and support for cultural activities
- ✓ the promotion and support of economic activities.

The Council is obliged to seek the views of the Council of citizens before deciding on any changes to the way in which the above mentioned functions of local governments are carried out, where these may affect the interests of the residents of the area in which the Council of citizens operates.



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Public participation tools Collective submission

Content of the submission - a request to the local government on matters within its competence, including the grounds on which it is based.



The local government **assesses** the submission within **seven working days** →

- considers it at the next regular **meeting of the Council**
- decides on the **further progress** of the submission
- designates the **responsible** municipal **authority**



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Public participation tools Participation budget

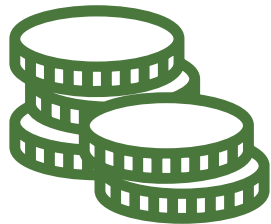
From 2025 the municipality shall provide in its annual **budget for a participation budget** of at least **0.5% of the average personal income tax and property tax** revenues for the last 3 years.

To be used for **community-initiated territorial development projects** that provide for:

- investment in a property owned by the local government
- investment in property owned by another person for the exercise of autonomous functions or voluntary initiatives of the local government
- other action by the local government resulting in an improvement in the exercise of the municipality's autonomous functions or voluntary initiatives

The participatory budget shall be **divided** into participatory budget planning units

- set out in the development programme
- organize the submission and selection of projects





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Public participation tools Public consultations

On matters of **autonomous competence** of the municipality - **proposes**:

- ✓ inhabitants - the local government may set a minimum number
- ✓ the Council of citizens
- ✓ the Council
- ✓ the chairperson of the Council

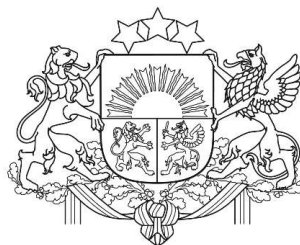
→ **decision of the Council**

Receipt of public opinion - orally or in writing

→ The local government **collects the views** and approves the summary

→ **the Council decides** within 1 month on the document submitted for public consultation

Note: the law determines the range of issues on which public consultation is not held (e.g. municipal budget, tax and fee rates, appointment of officials, etc.)



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Thank you for your attention