

Cabinet Order
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Architecture Policy Guidelines 2009

Table of Contents

Abbreviations Used

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ACE

Introduction

Within the scope of this document the concept

related to architecture

I. Characterisation of the Situation

Upon describing the present situation in architecture, the most important factors determining it are being evaluated at the global and national level.

At the Global Level

Architecture has multifunctional and synthesising role in the modern urbanised environment. Nowadays the urban environment, in which approximately 70% of the world inhabitants reside, faces such challenges as demographic changes and increasing urbanisation, environmental problems and fight against climate changes, as well as preservation of social cohesion, particularly within the context of economic and cultural changes. The answer to these challenges is sustainable urban development or creative and integrated approach, under which culture, economy, social and environmental issues have equally significant role. Sustainable urban development means:

- *paying particular attention to the quality and diversity of architecture*, marking the heritage of architecture and the individual identity of natural or urban landscape;
- implementation of such projects, which promote the *use and transformation of the existing buildings*, concurrently promoting the efficiency and control of the use of energy resources, as well as the reduction of pollution;
- *adequate reaction to changes in the lifestyle of inhabitants*, particularly in relation to the issues of mobility and demographic changes, as well as objectives of social cohesion and intercultural dialogue; and
- *support to creativity in architecture* as a factor promoting the development of economy and tourism in the urban environment.

At present the global tendencies in architecture are focused on ecology, sustainability, social inclusion. Project outlines, with increasing frequency, are concentrating on such project components as cost analysis of the life cycle, more efficient use of energy (application of the

cultural identity of the nation and the State image, as well as serves as an important resource of cultural tourism. Inclusion of the historic centre of Riga on the list of the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage is a proof of the importance of the architecture of Latvia also at the international level. However, adequate instruments and resources have not been created in the State in order to ensure wholesomely the preservation, development and maintenance of the cultural environment of good quality. If adequate conditions for the creation of architecture of good quality are not defined and ensured, the values of nature and cultural and historic environment may be lost, upon the State and self-government institutions losing control over the environmental planning process and the quality of architecture. In order to prevent the degradation of the cultural environment and to ensure the creation of qualitative living space in long-term, as well as to arrange the legal base of the sector of architecture, it is necessary to develop and introduce the Law On the Quality of Architecture.

In the existing system of sketch competitions for architectural projects procurement procedures not appropriate for the sector of architecture are being specified, which move aside the creation of qualitative cultural environment and objects, which naturally blend therein, mostly bringing forward the project costs as the determining criterion.

Within the context of the sector of architecture sufficient attention to the ecological issues is not being paid in Latvia. Inefficient use of energy resources and non-renewable materials takes place. The proportion of energy resources consumed in the sector of buildings constitutes 40% of the total energy consumption in the State. Particularly the houses built during the Soviet time are physically and morally worn out, they have low thermal stability

Geography and Earth Sciences of the UL since 2007. The study programme provides for specialisation in spatial planning, environmental planning and geoinformatics. In 2009 the accreditation process of the referred to programme was commenced. Spatial planning issues are comprised also in individual study programmes of the Faculty of Rural Engineering of the LUA. No individual study programme for training of spatial planners has been created in RTU, urban planning and spatial planning studies have been integrated in the vocational master

Riga a multicultural and multinational regional metropolis where the field of architecture is developing dynamically. However, there is a lack of new, contemporary public architecture in the capital, which would form the new, contemporary identity thereof and basis for future cultural heritage. Therefore, the implementation of three significant projects

III. Basic Principles of the Architecture Policy

The architecture policy is based on the following basic principles:

- **the principle of quality and excellence**

- to promote the participation of the society and to raise awareness regarding the responsibility thereof in the creation of the living and public space;
- to promote the identification and competitiveness of the architecture of Latvia at the international level; and
- to promote the introduction of the solutions of universal design in order to create such environment, which is accessible to all members of the society.

UNESCO Cultural Heritage Laws Database
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V. Results of the Policy Implemented

Policy Results and Result-based Indicators Thereof

Policy results	Result-based Indicators	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
The public participation in the creation of the living space has increased	The number of projects, which have been publicly discussed, from the total number of projects implemented, %	20	22	24	26	29	33	38
The quality of architecture has improved	The number of international diplomas acquired	2	2	3	3	4	5	5
	The number of self-governments, in which a specialist in the quality of architecture is working	1	1	1	2	2	2	3
The proportion of the students who have acquired a diploma at the end of studies, and the proportion of foreign students in the study programmes in architecture has increased	The proportion of students who have acquired a document certifying education at the end of a study programme, % of the number of persons who had commenced studies	70	70	75	76	78	80	80
	The proportion of foreign students in the study programmes in architecture, % of the number of persons studying in study programmes in architecture	2	2	3	3	4	4	5

Results of the Activity and Result-based Indicators Thereof

Results of the activity	Result-based Indicators	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1. Conformity of the education system in architecture to the position of the EU Member States, %	Licensed and accredited study programmes in architecture, number	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
2. The number of the regulatory enactments developed, which determine the quality standards in architecture	The number of the developed and adopted regulatory enactments and policy planning documents, which determine the policy and quality of architecture	1	1	2	-	1	-	1
3. The society has been informed regarding the participation possibilities in the creation of the public space	a. The number of the supported NGOs, which participate in policy planning and implementation	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
	b. The number of events promoting architecture	2	2	2	2	3	4	4

VI. Action Directions of the Architecture Policy

In order to ensure the achievement of the objectives put forward by the architecture policy of Latvia and to solve the problems identified, the following action directions and priority tasks have been specified:

Action Direction	Priority Tasks	Participating Institutions
<p>1. Promotion of the quality of architecture, by creating and improving the sectoral regulatory base and the necessary mechanisms for planning and creation of a living space of good quality</p>	<p>1.1. To draw up the Law On the Quality of Architecture.</p> <p>1.2. For Latvia to adopt a corresponding experience of the EU Member States and to co-ordinate with the regulatory enactments of Latvia, observing the national interests.</p> <p>1.3. To improve the certification system of architects.</p> <p>1.4. To invite self-governments to include and respect the principles and measures promoting the quality of architecture in planning of urban and rural environment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to stimulate self-governments to include a structure ensuring the quality of architecture in the structure of development institutions thereof; - to introduce and improve the mechanism of public discussions regarding projects significant to the society, providing every inhabitant with a possibility to participate in taking of decisions, which concern the quality of his or her living space; - to stimulate the commissioning parties to organise sketch competitions in architecture for the promotion of the quality of architecture. <p>1.5. To stimulate the SCCF to establish a Council for Sub-sector of Architecture and Design.</p>	<p>MoC, MoE, MoRDLG, MoES, MoE, self-governments, LAA, sectoral NGOs, SCCF, National Council of Architecture</p>

2. Creation of a living space of good quality, by harmoniously joining natural values, cultural heritage and contemporary architecture

2.1. To improve creative co-operation among representatives of related areas

Action Direction	Priority Tasks	Participating Institutions
	develop a concept regarding the determination of the	

Action Direction	Priority Tasks	Participating Institutions
<p>4. Improvement of the quality of education in architecture, support to research, innovations and the project development of experimental architecture</p>	<p>4.1. For the MoC in co-operation with the MoES to commission an analytical intersectoral study on the quality of architecture, urban planning, spatial planning and landscape architecture and, on the basis of the results of the study, to develop recommendations for commensuration thereof with the EU requirements and standards.</p> <p>4.2. To create interdisciplinary study and further education programmes for the preparation of qualified professionals, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in co-operation with the MoES to improve training programmes for architects on the basis of the training programmes for architects of the developed countries; - for RTU to promote the possibilities of supplementary education in urban planning, the history of architecture, theory. <p>4.3. For RTU to create bilateral and multilateral co-operation contracts and programmes for acquisition of international experience.</p> <p>4.4. To develop the theory and science of architecture and planning.</p> <p>4.5. In co-operation with the LAS to expand the utilisation of creative experiments and innovations and to promote the learning and use of future technologies.</p>	<p>MoC, MoES, RTU, UL, LUA, LAA, LAS</p>
<p>5. Creation of a co-ordinated model for the management of the architecture sector, ensuring linking thereof with the management of spatial planning and building design processes</p>	<p>5.1. To create the National Council of Architecture for the solution of issues of national significance related to the development and quality of architecture in co-operation with the MoE, MoRDLG, MoE, MoES and sectoral NGOs.</p> <p>5.2. To develop recommendations for the creation of the co-operation and management model of the architecture sector.</p> <p>5.3. To improve the mutual link between spatial planning and building design processes.</p> <p>5.4. For the involved institutions to co-operate in improvement of mutual co-</p>	<p>MoC, LAA, SIHP, MoE, MoRDLG, MoES, self-governments, sectoral NGOs</p>

Action Direction	Priority Tasks	Participating Institutions
	<p>ordination in the spatial planning process and the provision of spatial planning with the necessary instruments, which are oriented towards sustainable development of Latvia.</p> <p>5.5. To ensure arrangement of the planning system, involving the public in the planning process, including ensuring qualitative public discussion of projects at early stages of design with the necessary alternatives of solutions.</p>	
<p>6. Promotion of identification and competitiveness of the architecture of Latvia</p>	<p>6.1. For the LAA and sectoral NGOs to operate actively and to represent the interests of Latvia in international organisations, including UIA, BAUA, ACE.</p> <p>6.2. For the MoC and MoFA to ensure the participation of Latvia in events important for the sector of architecture, including Venice Biennale of Architecture.</p> <p>6.3. For the MoC and LAA to provide information regarding international sketch competitions in order to promote export of architecture of Latvia.</p> <p>6.4. For the LI to create the image of architecture of Latvia as an internationally open sector of good quality and beneficial for investments.</p>	<p>LAA, sectoral NGOs, MoC, MoFA, LI, SCCF</p>

VII. Impact on the State Budget and Self-government Budgets

The financial sources planned for the implementation of the Architecture Policy Guidelines are the State and self-government budget, international financing, including EU structural funds, as well as private capital to be attracted by successful development of public-private relationship and strategies for cultural sponsorship.

The Architecture Policy Guidelines 2009-2015 are implemented within the framework of the existing budget resources.

VIII. Planning of Further Action

	Measure	Term for the execution	Responsible institution
1.	To establish the National Council of Architecture.	30.12.2009.	MoC
2.	To specify more precisely the functions of the institutions involved in the implementation of the architecture policy and to define the co-operation mechanism of institutions in order to ensure that their functions do not overlap, as well as the co-operation in the issues of the architecture policy	30.09.2010.	MoC
3.	To draw up the Law On the Quality of Architecture	15.12.2010.	MoC
4.	To draw up proposals for the creation of the sectoral management model	30.12.2010.	MoC

IX. Procedures for the Submission and Evaluation of Reports

1. The Ministry of Culture prepares and, in accordance with specified procedures, submits to the Cabinet the following informative reports on the fulfilment and evaluation of the Guidelines:

1.1. the informative interim report