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# **VIDZEME PLANNING REGION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2022-2027**

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# INTRODUCTION

Vidzeme Planning Region Development Programme 2022-2027 is a regional medium term territory development planning document. The Development Programme defines the medium-term regional development priorities, attainable goals and actions aimed at implementation of the strategic targets defined by Vidzeme Planning Region Sustainable Development Strategy 2015-2030.

Development programme 2022-2027 has been developed in compliance with the requirements of the laws and regulations of the Republic of Latvia, by adhering to the laws and Cabinet Regulations defining the necessity of development of the territorial development planning documents of planning regions, the procedure and principles:

- Law on Regional Development;
- Law on the Development Planning System;
- Law on Territory Development Planning;
- Cabinet Regulations No. 402 (16.07.2013) „Regulations on the territorial development planning documents of planning regions“;
- Cabinet Regulations No.970 (25.08.2009). „Procedure of the public involvement in the development planning process“.
- Cabinet Regulations No. 737 (02.12.2014) “Regulations on elaboration of development planning documents and impact assessment“.

Elaboration of Vidzeme Planning Region Development Programme was started based on Decision No. 2 of Vidzeme Planning Region Development Council of 27 September 2019 “On commencement of

elaboration of Vidzeme Planning Region Development Programme 2022-2027 and approval of the terms of reference“.

Vidzeme Planning Region Development Programme consists of the strategic part, action plan and the procedure of implementation and monitoring of the program. The strategic part defines Vidzeme development priorities, targets and the actions to be performed for attaining them, as well as indicators. The action plan lists medium term actions, responsible persons, involved and potential sources of funding. The implementation and monitoring procedure describes the mechanism of implementation and monitoring of the program, as well as monitoring indicators.

Vidzeme Planning Region Development Programme was developed by Vidzeme Planning Region (VPR) administration by involving experts of the regional municipalities, industry experts and residents, as well as in consultation of the line ministries. Vidzeme Planning Region Development Programme has been developed as a medium term development tool which, if properly used in joint cooperation between national, regional and local stakeholders, will contribute to development of Vidzeme Planning Region in compliance with the defined long-term strategic targets.

# SUMMARY

## What is Vidzeme?

Vidzeme is the biggest region of Latvia from the point of view of the territory which is the home for approximately 280 thousand people. Vidzeme borders with three regions and two countries. The quality of environment in Vidzeme is comparatively high and presents an important regional, as well as national value.

## What is our future vision?

Vidzeme would like to be an internally integrated and safe region attracting talented and active people and characterised by good connections, able to flexibly adapt to challenges, being competitive and aiming to attain excellence in relevant defined smart specialisation area of the region.

## What changes would we like to achieve?

We have four targets:

1. To maintain the nature eco systems and resources and manage them in a smart way.
2. To improve the quality of life of people.
3. To promote development and growth of the regional economy by transforming the models of economic activity.
4. To encourage cooperation and powerful organisations.

## What will we do for attaining our vision and targets?

We have set 12 priorities for the time period until 2027 and they are aimed at preservation and management of the nature capital, nature and culture heritage, development of accessible education, secure and healthy society, high quality and accessible services, promotion of mobility and accessibility, development of strong communities, promotion of availability of the living environment and housing, promotion of innovation, science and development, industry

transformation, circular and bioeconomy, efficient and clean energy. We envisage to achieve the above priorities by smart cooperation, promotion of adaptation to the climate change and digital transformation in all actions.

## Who will be our partners in creating future Vidzeme?

We all have to get involved and to closely cooperate for achieving the change, in particular, the residents of the region, organisations representing their interests, entrepreneurs, education and research institutions, local governments, regional and national state institutions. Our work and targets require comprehensive regional, national and international cooperation on all levels. Our perspectives and cooperation network is global, however, the desired effect of our work is mainly targeted at Vidzeme residents and their welfare.

## How should this document be used?

This document will help policy makers and implementers on the municipal, regional and national level to set common goals, to coordinate their plans and actions with neighbouring districts, other industries and areas, to substantiate and implement projects aimed at implementing them, to monitor their implementation and to verify their effect.

This document serves as the road map for entrepreneurs and active Vidzeme residents indicating the future direction of Vidzeme, the preferred business directions and the envisaged actions by institutions to ensure that everybody in the region can work easier, smarter and create higher added value.

This document encourages current and prospective residents of Vidzeme to get involved and to participate in creating a better life environment to ensure that each of 184 thousand residents of Vidzeme can lead the life they like.

## CURRENT SITUATION

Vidzeme Planning Region is one of the five planning regions in Latvia. Since 2021 it represents 11 Vidzeme municipalities and the cities of national significance Ogre and Valmiera within Ogre and Valmiera municipalities accordingly.

Vidzeme is the biggest region of Latvia from the point of view of the territory, it occupies 23.6% of the territory of the country, however, its population and population density is comparatively low (16.27 people per square kilometre). In 2021 the population of Vidzeme was 278,792 people or 14.7% of the total population of Latvia.

Population has been decreasing in all the municipalities and development centres of the region, except Saulkrasti municipality. The population of Vidzeme has decreased by one third during the last 30 years. The administrative territorial reform of 2021 resulted in the increase of the population of Vidzeme planning region by almost 100,000 people. The decrease of population is predicted in all the municipalities of Vidzeme Planning Region until 2030, with the biggest decrease in Alūksne and Valka municipalities (29.5% and 30.6% respectively), and considerably smaller decrease in Ogre,

Saulkrasti and Valmiera municipalities (8.4%, 8.3% and 7.5%). The decrease of the population clearly reveals the impact by Riga agglomeration.

The proportional share of population of working age in Vidzeme planning region is among lowest in Latvia (61.6%), it is lower only in Kurzeme region. The proportional share of future labour force, i.e. children and youth, is also low (15.5%); it is lower only in Latgale region. The population of the retirement age (people aged above 65 years) presents the age group growing most rapidly in the region while the youth aged from 15 to 29 years is the group decreasing fastest.

The border with two countries, in particular, Estonia and Russia, and experience of cross-border cooperation presents both an advantage and a challenge in Vidzeme planning region, as it can be successfully used for implementation of cross-border cooperation projects and development of transit services.

Vidzeme planning region is crossed by several major international transport corridors, providing Vidzeme with a direct connection to major regional centres in neighbouring

countries – Tartu and Tallinn in Estonia, as well as Pskov, Novgorod and St. Petersburg in Russia. Strategic development areas important for integration of the Baltic Sea region are formed along these transport corridors, namely, VIA Hanseatica development corridor, the South Baltic Ring development corridor, as well as VIA Baltica. Starting from 2021 Vidzeme region has also a direct access to the Baltic Sea via ports in Riga Sea Gulf in Salacgrīva, Kuiviži un Skulte.

Vidzeme planning region is both spatially and functionally closely linked with Riga planning region considering the link of the region with the capital as the national administrative centre and transport node. A part of Vidzeme region is included in Riga metropolis area.

The density of national and municipal roads is comparatively low in Vidzeme planning region in comparison to the mean national density. However, the low population density in the region should be taken into account, as a more expanded network of roads may not be necessary. Considering the low population density in Vidzeme planning region, the residents of the region have to be prepared to travel longer distances to work or to reach services. Data confirm that the proportional share of

commuting workers in the region is among highest in the county with Valmiera as the development centre and also Riga contributing to the high index. Generally, there is good accessibility of the Internet in Vidzeme region, however, it only surpasses Latgale and Kurzeme regions.

In the region there are 24 cities, more than 1000 settlements in rural territories and individual homesteads. 128.8 thousand or 46.2% of the region population live in cities in 2021.

#### *Findings:*

- *Vidzeme is the biggest region in Latvia from the point of view of its territory and it has the lowest population density. The population is decreasing continuously in Vidzeme.*
- *In comparison to other regions, in Vidzeme there are less people of working age and less children and youth population. The population of retirement age is increasing rapidly and the share of youth is decreasing in Vidzeme.*
- *In comparison to other regions, the city population is lowest and the rural population is highest in Vidzeme.*
- *The low population density and the decrease of population intensifies the difficulty of balancing the accessibility of services and population.*

15.63% of population had elementary education, 35.54% had secondary education, 11.09% had vocational education and 19.74% had higher education in Vidzeme planning region in 2020. Thus, 66.37% of population had education above the elementary level in the current territory of Vidzeme planning region in 2020.

The proportional share of economically active residents is low within the total structure of the region population in Vidzeme planning region. The employment level in Vidzeme planning region among population aged from 15 to 74 years is comparatively low, surpassing only Latgale region. The proportional share of economically inactive residents was high in Vidzeme before the administrative territorial reform and it has decreased thanks to the municipalities merged within the reform. Within the age group from 15 to 64 years the employment in Vidzeme region amounted to 69.7%.

The unemployment level in Vidzeme planning region in the first half of 2021 was (5.5%) and it is considerably lower than in Latgale (11.7%) and Kurzeme (5.9%) regions. The proportional share of long-term unemployed persons is high in the region (28.61%), still it is below the mean index in Latvia (31.82%). In

Vidzeme, Kurzeme and Latgale there is the highest proportion of disabled - unemployed persons. From among regions, in Vidzeme there is the highest unemployment risk for persons after the child-care leave and for pre-retirement age men. The proportion of unemployed persons is lowest in the age group from 35 to 44 years and highest in the age group from 55 to 59 years. The mean amount of the unemployment benefit was 280.54 EUR in 2019 and it was the second lowest benefit amount among regions.

The poverty risk index in Vidzeme planning region has been among highest in Latvia for a long time. In 2014-2019 Vidzeme lags behind Latgale and slightly from Kurzeme as regards this index. The mean wage in Vidzeme is among lowest in Latvia; wages are lower only in Latgale region, lagging behind the mean index in Latvia. Social aid and benefits account for one fourth of income of Vidzeme residents. The proportion of income provided by social aid and benefits had increased by 1.2% in 2020 in comparison to 2014.

Taking into account the population ageing, non-infectious diseases account for an increasingly more important part among mortality and disease Indicators in Vidzeme region. In comparison to other regions in Latvia and the overall Indicators in Latvia, the mortality caused by cardiovascular diseases in the region ranks as

second highest behind Latgale region. During the recent years mortality caused by malignant tumours has increased in Vidzeme planning region by exceeding the mean Indicators in Latvia. The number of residents per practising doctor has decreased since 2014 in Vidzeme planning region. In 2020 in Vidzeme region there were 439 people per practising doctor, which is close to 134 residents above the average index in Latvia.

#### *Findings:*

- *In Vidzeme the number of economically active residents is low, therefore also the employment level is low. In Vidzeme there are potentially many people who could return to the labour market.*
- *The unemployment level is low, however, there are comparatively many long-term unemployed persons. It is a challenge to encourage return of those people to the labour market by using life-long learning, career support and other initiatives.*
- *Vidzeme residents are subject to a high poverty risk which, along with a low wage level, increases the burden on the social care system.*
- *The proportional share of mortality caused by the life-style related diseases and malignant tumours is high in Vidzeme, which is partially encouraged by the low accessibility of doctors.*

The GDP produced in Vidzeme in 2018 amounted to 1.811 mill. EUR or 6.2% (traditionally the lowest proportional share in the national economy in comparison to other regions of Latvia), and this indicator increased in 2021 mainly due to merging of Ogre, Limbaži and Saulkrasti municipalities. On the scale of competition of the regions of Latvia in 2018 in Vidzeme there was the lowest value added amounting to 1.572 mill. EUR, which equals to only 6.2% of the value added produced in Latvia. The value added per employed person in Vidzeme planning region is higher than the mean index in the country, still lagging behind that of Riga region.

Agricultural economic structure with low value added and a low proportional share of innovative undertakings is characteristic for Vidzeme in general. The proportional share of the primary industry in the total added value is comparatively high in Vidzeme region (accounting for 13.8% in 2018). The proportional share of the manufacturing sector in the added value accounted for 23.7% in 2018 and was close to the desired level. In Vidzeme planning region processing industry, primary industries (agriculture, forestry and fishery), wholesale and retail, the state administration sector and transactions in real estate prevail.

The number of economically active units of the market sector per 1000 residents is comparatively high in Vidzeme planning region, surpassing all other regions of Latvia, except Riga city. Also the number of business companies per 1000 residents is high in Vidzeme region on the scale of the regional competition, it is only surpassed by Riga and Greater Riga. Business operations in the region are aimed at the national and regional development centres and their vicinity. Most undertakings are located around the territories of the biggest cities and in the biggest cities, namely, Valmiera, Ogre, Cēsis and Smiltene.

#### *Findings:*

- *Vidzeme is producing less value added in comparison to other regions. Still, one employed person produces a higher value added than on average in Latvia. The productivity level of the current economic system is low.*
- *Agricultural economic structure with low value added and a low proportional share of innovative undertakings prevails. There is potential for more development of the production sector.*
- *The number of undertakings in Vidzeme is comparatively high, however, they are small and mainly located around the biggest cities and centres.*



Vidzeme is one of the regions of Latvia with most forest - forest accounts for 54.1% of the territory. This provides the potential for development of wood processing enabling also production of products with high value added. In Vidzeme there is a substantial volume of raw materials for construction materials and peat. Kurzeme and Zemgale regions are considerably ahead of this region from the point of view of the reserves of raw materials of construction materials. As regards the reserves of peat, Vidzeme Planning Region follows Greater Riga and Latgale region where there are larger reserves of peat. Regarding more efficient use of the resources of

the region, Vidzeme Planning Region has development potential for recycling of biologically degradable waste.

The quality of environment in Vidzeme Planning Region is comparatively high and presents an important regional, as well as national value. In comparison to many regions worldwide and in European countries, the environment in the region has been less affected by economic activity, there is more stable balance of eco-systems and lower environmental pollution.

#### *Findings:*

*Vidzeme is one of the regions of Latvia with most forest, with a large proportion of nature resources which are extensively used in business.*

- *The quality of the environment is comparatively high in Vidzeme providing substantial competitive advantage.*
- *The offer of Vidzeme Highland: culture, nature, culture historical heritage and a range of services presents an indispensable name card of Vidzeme region.*

# STRATEGIC PART

## VISION 2030

**Vidzeme is an internally integrated and safe region attracting talented and active people and characterised by good connections, able to flexibly adapt to challenges, being competitive and aiming to attain excellence in relevant defined smart specialisation area of the region.**

The vision of Vidzeme is based on three interrelated strategic directions supported by good management solutions:

**PEOPLE:** healthy, active, talented, courageous and open to cooperation.

**ECONOMY:** competitive, excellent in certain niches and capable of adapting to external challenges.

**TERRITORY:** well-connected and internally integrated.

**MANAGEMENT:** targeted at cooperation, transfer of knowledge and specialisation.

## GOALS 2030

**VIDZEME STRATEGIC GOAL** is to promote balanced social, economic and territorial development of the region by implementing an edibility-oriented policy of integrated cross-sector development that ensures use of the region's economic and territorial benefits for welfare of the population and the increase of securitability.

**PEOPLE:** to improve the quality of action capacity and life of the region residents.

**ECONOMY:** to improve the economic value of Vidzeme region by improving the business environment and economic sustainability.

**TERRITORY:** to improve accessibility, availability and attractiveness of Vidzeme region. To maintain and to develop the characteristic culture space of Vidzeme; To create a sustainable and well functioning network of Vidzeme cities based on the principles of mutual cooperation and complementarity.

## HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES:

**ACCESSIBILITY** – performance of purposive actions for identification, establishment and development of reachability solutions.

**MANAGEMENT** – by 2030, effective and innovative public management solutions oriented on the regional area specifics will be introduced in the region. Invitation of different involved parties and institutions for joint actions will have become a common practice.

**SMART SPECIALISATION** – Vidzeme will especially focus on the development of smart specialisation areas, ensuring compliance of activities in all the priorities.

## ECONOMIC SPECIALISATION OF VIDZEME REGION

*The economic smart specialisation of Vidzeme planning region* is targeted transformation of the region economy aimed at higher added value, productivity and more efficient utilisation of the region resources.

The economic transformation of the region is closely related to the current level of development of the region economy and competitive advantages (current and prospective).

The goal of the economic smart specialisation of Vidzeme is to improve the economic capacity of the region, as well as to create and strengthen the innovation system promoting and supporting the technological progress in the region economy.

The overarching target of the economic specialisation of Vidzeme region *is setting continuous comparative competitive advantages, selection of strategic priorities and creation and implementation of the Vidzeme Planning Region policy tools which would enable maximum utilisation of the knowledge-based development potential of the region and promote its sustainable economic development.*

Vidzeme has set the target of attaining higher productivity and creating products with a higher value. In order to secure more rapid development the structure of the national economy needs to be modified in favour of more knowledge, including technology and export, intensity.

The smart specialisation of Vidzeme envisages promotion of stimulus to change the behaviour of undertakings, organisations and research institutions in favour of research, development and innovation actions, as well as the change of the conditions of the economic environment to ensure that these changes pay back within the economic of Vidzeme and Latvia.

The core idea of the economic smart specialisation of Vidzeme is to concentrate the limited resources of the region for securing increase of innovation capacity in the fields of know-how and innovation where there is the biggest growth potential for the national economy.

The objectives of the economic specialisation of Vidzeme are as follows:

- *To increase* the economic and innovation capacity of Vidzeme region by creating, supporting and promoting the target focused instruments promoting investment, business and research in the region in the public and private sector;
- *To develop* research and innovation within the strategically prioritised fields of economic smart specialisation of Vidzeme by promoting relevant target focused and mutually complimentary investment instruments;
- *To encourage* transfer and absorption of the results of public and private research, know-how and technologies in business and the strategically prioritised fields of economic smart specialisation of the region;
- *To encourage* production of more technology intense products and services possessing higher value added and export potential in the region and their inclusion in higher levels of the global value chains;
- *To regularly assess* the efficiency of the set goals of the economic smart specialisation of Vidzeme region and attained results and to implement adjustments if necessary.

Based on the EU and Latvia joint long term strategies of economic development binding for the region, including the EU strategic development vision 2050, the EU development strategy of future trends of rural regions and the assessment of

the current economic situation of Vidzeme Planning Region region during the last decades, several discussions and the expert survey, the economic specialisation priorities of Vidzeme region have been identified.

The fields of economic specialisation of Vidzeme region were selected taking *into account the following criteria:*

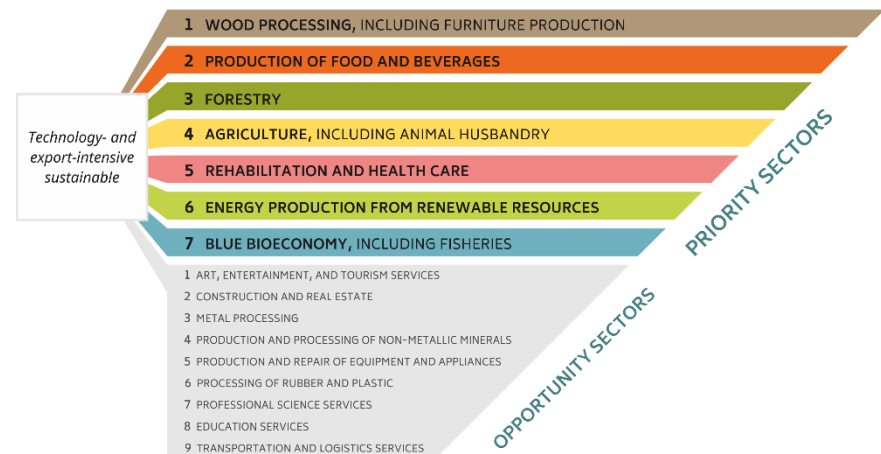
- The resources available to the region in the particular fields of economy, the existing business excellence (in terms of value added and export capacity) and related accumulated know-how;
- The historically higher proportion of competences, approach to knowledge in the region, the science excellence and potential in the region;
- The long-term vision of the overall development of the region;
- The global trends in relation to the high export potential perspective for the region and inclusion with higher levels of the global value chains;
- Compliance with the EU strategic development goals 2050;
- Compliance with the smart specialisation development goals of Latvia 2027;

Considering the above referred criteria, totally 16 directions of the national economy have been identified in the region where the application of smart specialisation would provide the highest value added for the region long-term:

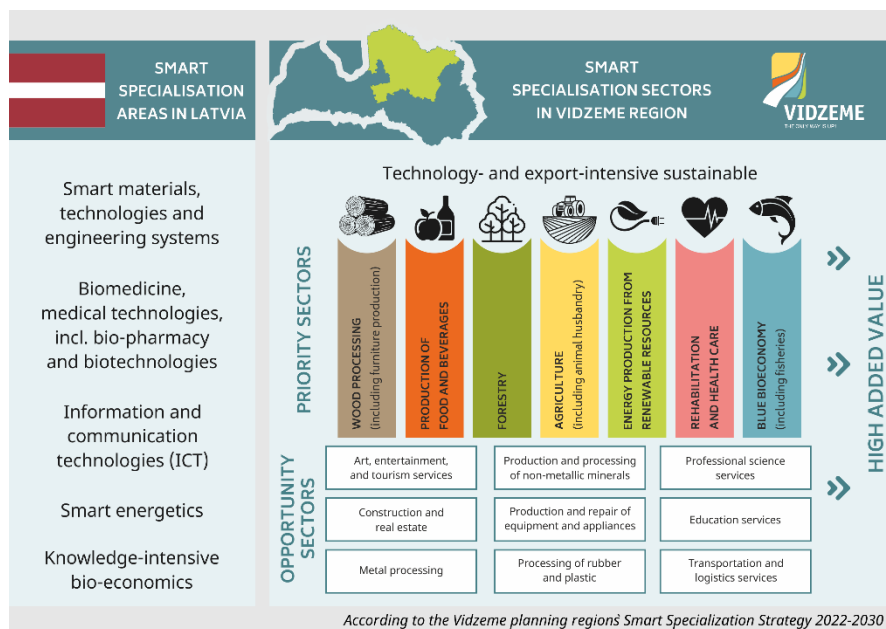
The priority fields and sectors of national economy of smart specialisation in Vidzeme region are as follows:

- *Technology and export intense sustainable wood processing, including furniture production;*
- *Technology and export intense sustainable food and beverages production;*
- *Technology and export intense sustainable forestry;*

- *Technology and export intense sustainable agriculture, including cattle farming;*
- *Technology and export intense sustainable health rehabilitation and care;*
- *Technology and export intense sustainable energy production from renewable resources;*
- *Technology and export intense sustainable blue bioeconomics, including fishery;*



The fields and sectors of the economic smart specialisation of Vidzeme region 2030 are integrated with the areas of smart specialisation defined in Latvia. The areas of smart specialisation defined in Latvia can be applied to any fields or sector of the national economy. The figure below illustrates the interaction between the smart specialisations defined in Latvia with the priority fields and sectors of the national economy of Vidzeme region.



Since 2021 also a coastal region has been included in the economic zone of Vidzeme planning region. At present the sea economy in the region is related to traditional activities, for example, fishing or transportation, however, there is an increasing number of new, innovative business sectors active in the field, including the energy sector of renewable sea energy resources. EU, which is the global leader in the area of sea energy technologies, has set the goal to generate up to 35% of its electricity from coastal sources latest by 2050, which opens up new opportunities for the economic transformation of Vidzeme region. Energy from renewable sea energy resources, food from the sea, sustainable coastal and sea tourism and many other activities comprised by the blue economy will contribute to the economic transformation of Vidzeme region.

It is recommended to direct the smart specialisation of the coastal economy of Vidzeme region towards technology and export intense sustainable health rehabilitation and care sectors and technology and export intense sustainable

fishery activities. *Blue bioeconomics* in the region should also be directed to inland waters. This is a new field in the region where there has been little smart development until now. Until now the coastal territories have mainly developed standard business solutions. Their potential includes not only renewable energy, food production, health restoration products and services, but also production of high quality pharmacy and chemical products, as well as port services.

### *GREEN COURSE of the economic specialisation of Vidzeme region 2030*

In compliance with the EU goal to achieve the climate neutrality by 2050, in particular, to have economy with zero greenhouse gas emission, the economic strategy of Vidzeme region provides for promotion of transition of the region to circular economy by reducing consumption of raw materials and minimising production of waste. Transition to the climate neutral economy is an urgent common challenge for EU and the global society, where Vidzeme region has an opportunity to both create better quality of life in Vidzeme region, as well as to offer products and services with high added value.

The economic strategy provides for preserving the value of economic resources as long as possible to improve efficiency of management processes of production, consumption and product life cycle by extending them as much as possible.

Production of renewable energy resources is among the priority smart specialisation areas of Vidzeme region by both providing them for the region and exporting them as much as possible.

*Growth opportunities* in order to continue gradual implementation of the economic transformation within the context of smart specialisation in the region, it is necessary to develop a concept approach, to develop tactic goals and the action plan by strengthening availability of funding, promotion of know-how, attraction of investment, development of partnerships and strengthening of research and innovation ecosystems in the region.

In order for Vidzeme region to attain the objectives set by the economic smart specialisation, it is recommended to direct 70% of the resources available for the

aid for priority activities, including human resources, finance, time, cooperation and other.

In Vidzeme region there are some powerful undertakings, start-ups and groups of researchers representing not prioritised areas and conforming with the smart specialisation. It is recommended to direct 30% of available aid for supporting the above within the scope of the smart specialisation areas.

In order to ensure that Vidzeme region attains the objectives set by the economic smart specialisation, it is recommended to introduce mechanisms directly promoting innovation and research in priority areas, like incubators, science parks, technology zones, financial reliefs, etc., as well as to promote transfer of know-how, aid approaches and technologies of other countries.

It is important to promote the region's ability to attract the EU aid instruments in both financial and cooperation areas within the scope of priority sectors. Promotion of aid in the region in the sectors of undertakings, non-governmental organisations and public administration is important.

The economic specialisation in Vidzeme region provides for promotion of know-how and competences, including development and transfer in the smart specialisation areas in the sectors defined as priorities in the region. The economic smart specialisation strategy of Vidzeme region provides for promotion of development the services sectors within the priority fields and sectors of the national economy.

## CHALLENGES AND DRIVING FORCES

Vidzeme Planning Region Development Programme 2022-2027 is based on the awareness of challenges and driving forces which will affect the regional development and change processes in future. Challenges are mutually interlinked within broader trends which can be seen on the global level and whose effect can also be observed on the regional and local level. In the beginning of 2020, the crisis caused by COVID-19 spread all over the world at a high speed, allowing to clearly see the close links and interaction between various processes and trends and their vulnerability. The climate change and the ecological sustainability crisis raise the necessity of fair and rapid transition to save the environment where we live. We face demographic changes on daily basis; changes in the people's way of thinking and outlook can also be seen. We are also prepared to reconsider the way we do things and the basis on which we base our national economy.

The biggest challenge which will affect the future of Vidzeme is *response to the ecological sustainability crisis* - the climate change, overconsumption of natural resources,

decrease of biological diversity, uneven availability of resources, waste related issues, etc. The next seven years will be decisive for the society of Vidzeme to become smarter, more sustainable and to be able to better adjust to the circumstances brought about by the climate change and decrease of biological diversity which present critical threat to the competitive advantages of the region and the quality of life.

### Potential effect on Vidzeme:

- Risks of storms, flood and forest fires increase under the impact of the climate change
- Extreme weather conditions can be observed more often
- Residents and entrepreneurs face restricted availability of natural resources increasingly often
- The environment quality deteriorates as the biological diversity decreases

- The demand for and the attempts to transfer to a low carbon emission model intensify in the society
- Demand for sustainable food solutions on a new type increases.

The second biggest challenge refers to the *fairness of these transition processes* and how the rapid change processes can be balanced with reduction of inequality? The society is ageing, its structure changes, the differences in opportunities and opinions increase. Development of technologies, uneven regional circumstances, changing work environment intensifies the inequality in the society and demands continuous development of new competences and ways of thinking. It is important to adjust to the change by reducing the current causes of inequality and refraining from creating new ones. Decrease of population, depopulation of rural areas, issues of accessibility and approachability critically affect the quality of life in the region, attraction of human resources and growth opportunities.

### Potential effect on Vidzeme:

- Ageing of the society and decrease of the birth rate increase the competition among municipalities for people choosing them as their living and work places
- Increasing urbanisation results in intensification of difficulties to balance accessibility of services in the whole region, to level out their costs as well as changing of the structure of population
- The burden on health and social care systems increases
- Insecurity of people regarding future, the possibility to access services and to receive them increases
- Increase of disinformation
- More pronounced stratification of the society
- Increasing role of alternative social movements/ activism
- Increasing role of communities, importance of the identity and values in the society

The third biggest challenge refers to the *economy and the necessity of transformation of its systems*. The issues of the current economic system become increasingly more visible contributing to inequality and having negative

effect on the environment, however, it is difficult to reform it. Will Vidzeme be able to change its focus from using the environment to improving the environment? The rapid development of technologies can both help in this process, as well as create additional challenges. Although technologies offer new solutions, for example, for energy production and more efficient use of resources, their development has also considerably increased the need for cleaner and more efficient energy and resources. Therefore smart use of both technologies and resources, as well as selection of technologies which do not contribute to the climate change should be promoted. The effect of the processes of global change can now be seen also on the regional and local level, they have critical effect on the competitiveness of the regional development, quality of life and growth opportunities.

Potential effect on Vidzeme:

- Negative effect of current economic models on the environment and the nature diversity intensifies
- Demand for circular economy and bioeconomy solutions increases
- Operational models of production and services change under the impact of technologies
- Demand for the models of tailor-made services and services on request increases
- Demand for employees with diverse competences increases on the labour market
- Diversity of new employment models increases
- Importance of cooperation solutions in business increases - networks, clusters
- Demand for more efficient and cleaner energy increases
- Demand for new solutions and competences increases under the impact of rapid digitalisation processes
- The role of cooperation of entrepreneurs, educational establishments and research institutions for development of products with higher added value and development of the labour market increases.



## TARGETS AND PRIORITIES OF VIDZEME 2027

Vidzeme is setting four medium-term objectives for year 2027:

1. To maintain the nature eco systems and resources and manage them in a smart way.
  2. To improve the quality of life of people.
  3. To promote development and growth of the regional economy by transforming the models of economic activity.
  4. To encourage cooperation and powerful organisations.
- 12 medium-term thematic priorities and three horizontal priorities have been set for achieving the targets of Vidzeme.

### Medium-term thematic priorities:

- T1. Nature capital
- T2. Nature and culture heritage
- C1. Accessible education
- C2. Safe, inclusive and healthy society
- C3. High quality and accessible social services
- T3. Mobility and accessibility
- T4. Identity and strong communities
- T5. Sustainable living environment and housing
- E1. Innovation, science and development
- E2. Industry transformation
- E3. circular and bioeconomy
- E4. Efficient and clean energy

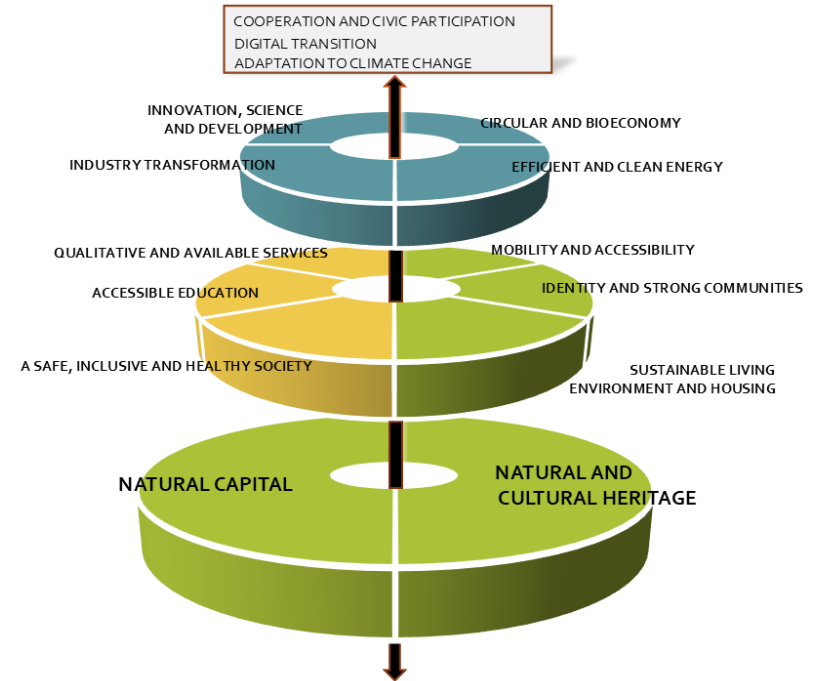
## VIDZEME STRATEGIC OUTLINE 2022-2027

### MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- ENCOURAGE COLLABORATION AND POWERFUL ORGANIZATIONS
- PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH BY TRANSFORMING BUSINESS MODELS
- IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PEOPLE IN THE REGION
- PRESERVE AND WISELY MANAGE NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

### Horizontal priorities:

- P1. Cooperation and civic participation
- P2. Climate neutrality and adaptation
- P3. Digitalisation



## Interrelation of Vidzeme priorities

Long-term priorities	IAS1: High quality, accessible and versatile education	IAS2: Social security and health	IAS3: Sustainable business and innovation environment	IAS4: Sustainable economy	IAS5: Accessible region	IAS6: Attractiveness of places
Medium-term priorities						
T1. Nature capital						
T2. Nature and culture heritage						
C1. Accessible education						
C2. Safe, inclusive and healthy society						
C3. High quality and accessible social services						
T3. Mobility and accessibility						
T4. Identity and strong communities						
T5. Sustainable living environment and housing						
E1. Innovation, science and development						
E2. Industry transformation						
E3. circular and bioeconomy						
E4. Efficient and clean energy						
P1. Cooperation and civic participation						
P2. Climate neutrality and adaptation						
P3. Digitalisation						

## Interrelation of Vidzeme targets

Targets 2027	Targets 2030 To improve the quality of action capacity and life of the region residents	To improve the economic competitiveness of the region by improving the business environment and economic sustainability	To improve accessibility, availability and attractiveness	To maintain and to develop the specific culture space of Vidzeme	To create a sustainable and well functioning network of cities based on the principles of mutual cooperation, specialisation of cities and complementarity
1. To maintain the nature eco systems and resources and manage them in a smart way					
2. To improve the quality of life of people					
3. To promote development and growth of the regional economy by transforming the models of economic activity					
4. To encourage cooperation and powerful organisations.					

## STRATEGIC MATRIX OF VIDZEME

Priorities 2027	Directions of actions and objectives	Indicators
<b>Goal: 1. To maintain the nature eco systems and resources and manage them in a smart way</b>		
T1. Nature capital	1) Protection of natural resources, maintenance of biologic diversity and smart management 2) Involvement of residents in management of the nature capital 3) Management of the environment infrastructure	#Favourable proportion of protected habitats of EU importance #Reduction of the anthropogenic burden SPNT (% of the relevant SPNT) #Residents who agree that the practice of management of the nature capital has become more sustainable #The proportion of residents who admit that their habits of management of natural resources have become more sustainable #Proportion of managed biologically valuable grassland (BVZ) territories (including grassland habitats of EU importance and grasslands important for birds (% of the total BVZ areas in Vidzeme Planning Region #Proportion of SPNT (%) of the territory of Vidzeme Planning Region #Number of protected nature territories of local importance #Number of connections to the district water supply system #Implemented public awareness raising measures regarding the environment and sustainable management of natural resources #Implemented green environment infrastructure solutions #Potable water - the proportion of residents to whom water conforming with safety and quality requirements is supplied #Residents who agree that the environment quality has improved
T2. Nature and culture heritage	1) Sustainable use and management of culture and nature heritage 2) Development of the culture environment	#Nights spent at hotels and other tourist accommodations #Number of created and supported culture and tourism sites #Proportion of residents who admit that sustainable/ integrated offer of tourism services is offered in the vicinity #Number of visitors per year at culture centres #Number of vocational culture education establishments and students #Proportion of residents who admit that they actively consume or take part in culture and art activities #Value added of undertakings of creative sectors #Proportion of surveyed residents who fully agree or agree to the statement "I am aware of the tourism development projects of Vidzeme Planning Region Industrial Heritage, Forest Path, Sea Path, Riverways, Via Hanseatica. etc." #Proportion of surveyed residents who fully agree or agree to the statement "Sustainable/ integrated offer of tourism services is offered and is available in the vicinity (culture heritage, nature, sports, local food, etc.)" " #Number of renewed, arranged culture historical sites #Expenses of households for recreation and culture as percentage of the total consumption expenses of households

		#Number of culture centres, culture sites
<b>Goal: 2. To improve the quality of life of people</b>		
C1. Accessible education	<p>1) Cooperation for provision of accessibility and quality of education on all the education levels</p> <p>2) Compliance of the offer of education, skills and life-long learning with the requirements and trends of the labour market</p> <p>3) Development of high quality and modern education environment</p>	<p>#Implemented cooperation initiatives aimed at improvement of accessibility or quality of education</p> <p>#Mean assessment (performance %) at the centralised exams of Grade 12 of students of the general education establishments of Vidzeme region</p> <p>#Proportion of residents aged 15 and above who have acquired a higher education level has increased</p> <p>#Proportion of persons aged from 15 to 64 involved in adult education has increased</p> <p>#Increase of the employment proportion in the age group from 15 to 64 years</p> <p>#Decrease of youth unemployment</p> <p>#Decreased unemployment</p> <p>#Proportion of residents aged 18 and above holding higher education or Ph.D degree has increased</p> <p>#Proportion of residents aged from 15 to 64 having acquired vocational education or vocational secondary education (ISCED level 3 and 4) has increased</p> <p>#Increased employment</p> <p>#Proportion of persons (aged from 15 to 74) with elementary or lower education has decreased</p> <p>#Number of economically active residents (15-64) has increased</p> <p>#Proportion of residents who admit that the education environment and quality has improved</p> <p>#Implemented initiatives aimed at improvement of the quality of education environment</p> <p><b>#Number of modernised education establishments</b></p>
C2. Safe, inclusive and healthy society	<p>1) Development of accessibility of health promotion and care services</p> <p>2) Safety of the society and civic protection</p> <p>3) Development of inclusive society</p>	<p>#Rate of increase of the cases of mortality due to vascular system diseases per 100,000 residents</p> <p>#Increase of the number of doctors per 10,000 residents</p> <p>#Decrease of the number of residents per a practising doctor</p> <p>#Increase of the proportion of residents engaging in physical and sports activities minimum 1-2 times per week</p> <p>#Changes of the subjective safety perception of the residents of the region - people who feel safe</p> <p>#Public trust index (trust in local governments, services)</p> <p>#Mutual support of people</p> <p>#Mortality due do external death circumstances has decreased</p> <p>#Increased level of digital skills in the society (basic skills, above the basic level)</p> <p>#Number of people subject to the exclusion risk (%)</p> <p># Proportion of residents who use the Internet minimum once a week has increased</p> <p>#The number of unemployed persons with disability has decreased</p>
C3. High quality and accessible social services	<p>1) Quality and accessibility of social services</p>	<p>#Number of users of alternative social services</p> <p>#Proportion of residents who admit that social services and possibilities of social assistance are available in the close vicinity</p> <p>#Number of residents per one social work expert</p> <p>#Number of institutions of social care and social rehabilitation</p> <p>#Capacity of new or modernised social housings</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#Number of social work experts per 1000 residents</li> <li>#The number of clients per a social worker has decreased</li> <li>#Number of children staying at long-term social care institutions has decreased</li> <li>#Number of persons with MNI at SSCC has decreased</li> </ul>
T3. Mobility and accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Environmentally friendly mobility</li> <li>2) Accessibility and approachability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#Number of people using environmentally friendly vehicles for mobility minimum 1-2 times a week</li> <li>#Increased total length of bicycle infrastructure</li> <li>#Improved or created infrastructure of environmentally friendly mobility</li> <li>#Improved or created bicycle infrastructure</li> <li>#Time consumption in public transportation between regional development centres</li> <li>#Increase of the total length of state black paved roads</li> <li>#Decrease of the total length of state gravel roads</li> <li>#Cities with new or modernised digitalised city transportation systems</li> <li>#Developed plans of sustainable mobility of cities/ municipalities</li> <li>#Increased number of electrical charging stations</li> <li>#Increased number of electrical vehicles</li> <li>#Number of passengers carried by public passenger road transportation has increased</li> <li>#Number of passengers carried by public railway transportation has increased</li> <li>#Proportion of state black paved roads in bad or very bad condition has decreased</li> <li>#Proportion of state gravel roads in bad or very bad condition has decreased</li> <li>#Proportion of residents who admit that accessibility and approachability in rural territories has improved</li> </ul>
T4. Identity and strong communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Strengthening of cooperation links between territories, sectors, communities</li> <li>2) Promotion of the feeling of affiliation and identity</li> <li>3) Development of active society, strengthening of the capacity of communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#Number of NGOs per 1000 residents</li> <li>#Number of re-emigrating people</li> <li>#Implemented public initiatives</li> <li>#Long-term migration of residents to Vidzeme region</li> <li>#Changes in the local, municipal and regional identity of people (pride for affiliation)</li> <li>#Implemented public initiatives</li> <li>#Participation of residents in municipal elections has increased</li> <li>#Proportion of residents who reply that they have good opportunities to participate in decision-making at the local government</li> <li>#Proportion of residents who reply that there are active communities and local activities initiated by residents in the territory</li> </ul>
T5. Sustainable living environment and housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Quality and accessibility of housing</li> <li>2) Development of sustainable living environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#Constructed apartments at municipal rental apartment houses</li> <li>#Proportion of residents who reply that the availability of housing is sufficient in the vicinity</li> <li>#Proportion of residents who admit that the quality of life has improved</li> <li>#Proportion of residents who admit that the accessibility of services has improved</li> <li>#Implemented innovative solutions for improvement of municipal services</li> </ul>

**Goal: 3. To promote development and growth of the regional economy by transforming the models of economic activity**

E1. Innovation, science and development for economic growth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Development of the eco-system of innovation</li> <li>2) Cooperation of industry, science and education</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#Increase of the proportion of undertakings active in the area of innovations</li> <li>#Increase of activity of undertakings in using available innovation aid instruments</li> <li>#Increase of the proportion of undertakings active in the area of innovations</li> <li>#Increased value added per employee</li> <li>#Foreign direct investment per 1000 residents</li> <li>#Increase of expense for performing research work in the region*</li> <li>#Implemented cooperation projects of entrepreneurs and researchers</li> </ul>
E2. Industry transformation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Industry transformation and competitiveness</li> <li>2) Business support measures</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#Proportion of value added products and services in the total GDP of the region</li> <li>#Increase of the proportion of undertakings active in the area of innovations</li> <li>#Total value added of Vidzeme RIS<sub>3</sub> fields (mill. EUR)</li> <li>#Increase of GDP per resident</li> <li>#Increase of the economically active units of the market sector per 1000 residents</li> <li>#Increase of activity of undertakings in using available innovation aid instruments</li> <li>#Nights spent at hotels and other tourist accommodations</li> <li>#Increased mean wage (gross)</li> <li>#Number of newly created undertakings*</li> <li>#Proportion of surveyed residents who agree that good opportunities are offered in the region to young entrepreneurs for business development</li> </ul>
E3. circular and bioeconomy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Development of circular economy in business</li> <li>2) Development of <b>bioeconomy</b></li> <li>3) Introduction of the circular principles in waste management</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#Increase of the proportion of recycled waste (% of collected waste per year)</li> <li>#Implemented investment projects in the fields of circular economy</li> <li>#Proportion of surveyed residents who agree that eco undertakings and sustainable business is supported in the region</li> <li>#Volume of waste produced per resident per year</li> <li>#Proportion of buried waste of the accepted waste</li> <li>#Proportion of utilisation of recycled materials</li> <li>#Amount of public and private investment in the fields of bio economy, including expenses for research and development</li> <li>#Turnover of the undertakings operating in the fields of bioeconomy</li> <li>#Amount of external investment in the field of bioeconomy</li> <li>#Increase of the proportion of recycled waste (% of collected waste per year)</li> <li>#Implemented community based waste sorting, resource sharing solutions</li> </ul>
E4. Efficient and clean energy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Strengthening of energy planning</li> <li>2) Energy efficiency</li> <li>3) Promotion of use of renewable energy</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#Number of implemented projects in the field of RES, energy efficiency</li> <li>#Public buildings with improved energy efficiency</li> <li>#Increase of the proportion of energy produced from renewable energy resources in the total gross energy consumption</li> <li>#Heat delivered to households</li> </ul>

<b>Goal: 4. To encourage cooperation and powerful organisations.</b>		
P1. Cooperation and civic participation	1) Cooperation 2) Civic participation and performance	#Integrated local government planning initiatives and cooperation projects in fields important for the region #Residents' perception regarding the possibility to affect the action policy #Mutual trust #Political trust index
P2. Climate neutrality and adaptation	1) Climate neutrality 2) Adaptation to the climate change	#Reduced GHG emissions #Ecologic footprint (ha per resident) #Municipal strategies of adaptation to the climate change
P3. Digitalisation	1) Cooperation in promotion of digitalisation	#Availability of the Internet at households #Proportion of residents who use the Internet minimum once a week #Increased number of residents using online banking #Proportion of residents who fill in the forms of state or public service providers online has increased



# OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES, ACTIONS

## Target 1. To maintain the nature eco systems and resources and manage them in a smart way

### Why is it important?

Nature systems and resources are critically important for existence and growth of Vidzeme Planning Region. Climate change, excessive consumption of nature resources, decrease of biological diversity, unbalanced accessibility of resources present a threat to the competitive advantage and quality of life of the region. Nature and culture heritage forms the basis for the identity of the residents of Vidzeme region, based on which new values are created and which creates the quality living environment. Loss of natural resources and the climate change are inter-related problems and they have to be resolved jointly, by creating shared understanding, by understanding and accepting changes and looking for common solutions. These issues are in the focus of attention in Vidzeme region already now, however, in order to reduce the future ecologic problems, more serious and systemic changes are required. This means, for example, redirection of the economic growth by discontinuing using overconsumption of natural resources as the basis for it. At the

same time, the adjustment ability should be strengthened to further restrict the negative effect of processes.

In addition to the institutional cooperation solutions, more support from the society is also required to restrict bad habits and to strengthen development. Development of sustainable solutions and efficient use of resources will improve the competitiveness, the adjustment ability and the recovery ability of Vidzeme. The next seven years will be decisive to ensure that the society of Vidzeme becomes more sustainable and resilient and to adjust to changes caused by the climate change and decrease of the biological diversity.

### What will Vidzeme people do?

Several priorities of Vidzeme are aimed at attaining this target.

#### T1. Nature capital

#### T2. Nature and culture heritage

### What do Vidzeme people want?

- # To maintain biological diversity and to promote development of sustainable management practices saving the biological diversity.
- # To handle nature resources in a more responsible and sustainable manner by more active involvement and by changing own habits and management practices.
- # To develop and manage the environment public and the private environment infrastructure in a smarter and more sustainable manner.
- # To engage in closer cooperation by maintaining, preserving and managing the culture and nature heritage, by promoting its sustainable use in tourism.
- # To implement solutions which promote considerate use of the nature, culture capital and landscape of Vidzeme.
- # To develop diverse culture environment by promoting accessibility of the art, providing an opportunity to everybody to participate in culture and art processes, to enjoy it and to improve oneself.

## T1. Nature capital

### RV1) Protection of natural resources, maintenance of biologic diversity and smart management

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To promote management practices preserving the biological diversity in the city environment and rural areas	Vidzeme Planning Region (hereinafter also referred to as VPR), local governments	land owners	#balanced use of territories; #management practices preserving the biological diversity; #restored and managed natural meadows
b) Management of the nature and protected territories, including preservation of biotopes and collection of data for sustainable monitoring	VPR, local governments, NPA, MoEPRD	territory owners / managers	#uniform vision of management of nature territories in the region; #representation of interests; #reduction of the anthropogenic burden; #sustainable solutions of use of nature territories
c) To improve management of waters (inland and sea)	VPR, local governments	Higher education establishments, research institutions	#sustainable water management practices; #strengthened capacity on the matters of water management
d) To promote development of sustainable agriculture without reducing the value of soils	Local governments, land owners	MoA	#sustainable agriculture practices
e) To promote preservation of forests and bogs and sustainable management	Local governments, land owners	MoEPRD, MoA	#forests and bogs managed in a sustainable manner
f) Provision of information to the society and building the public awareness on sustainable development and smart management of environment resources	VPR, local governments, entrepreneurs, NGO, NPA	territory owners / managers	#sustainable solutions of use of nature territories, # informed and knowledgeable society

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Favourable proportion of protected habitats of EU importance	NPA
#Reduction of the anthropogenic burden SPNT (% of the relevant SPNT)	NPA
Residents who agree that the practice of management of the nature capital has become more sustainable	VPR
Proportion of managed biologically valuable grassland (BVZ) territories (including grassland habitats of EU importance and grasslands important for birds (%)) of the total BVZ areas in VPR	NPA
Proportion of SPNT (%) of the territory of Vidzeme Planning Region	NPA
Number of protected nature territories of local importance	Local government, NPA

Sources of financing
Cross-border cooperation programs
State budget

## RV2) Involvement of residents in management of the nature capital

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To educate the society and to encourage change of its habits aimed at sustainable use and management of nature resources	VPR, local governments	Educational establishments	#Change of the society habits
b) Strengthening of the role of the society in preservation of the nature capital	VPR, higher education establishments, research institutions	NGO	#more active involvement of residents in society science solutions; #introduction of new practices in preservation of the nature capital
c) To strengthen the capacity of experts of local governments on the matters of preservation of the nature capital and the society involvement	Local governments	MoEPRD	#improved knowledge and skills of experts; #more active involvement of the society

g) Improvement of development of the nature and environment education centre	MoEPRD, ZAAO, local governments	territory owners	#educated society
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Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
The proportion of residents who admit that their habits of management of natural resources have become more sustainable	VPR
Implemented public awareness raising measures regarding the environment and sustainable management of natural resources	VPR survey

Sources of financing
Cross-border cooperation programs

### RV3) Management of the environment infrastructure

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To promote sustainable management of water works and rain water	VPR, local governments	LGMC, MoEPRD	#implemented green solutions in development of the environment infrastructure; #sustainable solutions of management of water works and rain water
b) To develop and to improve accessibility of the infrastructure of settlements by following the principles of the universal design	Local governments	NGO, undertakings	# improved accessibility of the infrastructure in the city environment and settlements
c) To develop the green public infrastructure, in particular, in the city environment	Local governments	MoEPRD, scientific institutions, NGO	#implemented green technologies in the public infrastructure
d) Management and arrangement of drainage systems	Local governments, owners	MoA	#better protection of flooded territories and territories threatened by flooding
e) To improve physical safety in the city environment	Local governments, owners	NGO, entrepreneurs	#More safe and comfortable city environment
f) Improvement of the potable water access infrastructure	Local governments, entrepreneurs	NGO	# improved infrastructure

<b>Attainment of targets will be attested by</b>	<b>Source</b>
Number of connections to the district water supply system	Local governments
Implemented green environment infrastructure solutions	Local governments
Volume of waste water released to surface waters	LEGMC
Potable water - the proportion of residents to whom water conforming with safety and quality requirements is supplied	Health Inspectorate
Residents who agree that the environment quality has improved	VPR survey

<b>Sources of financing</b>
EU funds
Cross-border cooperation programs

## T2. Nature and culture heritage

### RV1) Sustainable use and management of culture and nature heritage

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To promote cooperation in preservation of the culture and nature heritage, its maintenance and management	VPR, local governments	MoC, Managers of culture and nature sites, NGO, local communities	#closer cooperation between institutions and managers of the nature and culture heritage; #the society is involved in sustainable use of nature and culture heritage
b) To strengthen landscapes as important development potential of Vidzeme	VPR, local governments	MoEPRD, scientific institutions, NGO	#identified landscapes; #strengthened importance of landscapes in planning; #solutions for integration of renewable power generation systems within the landscape
c) To promote sustainable use of culture and nature heritage in tourism	VPR, tourism entrepreneurs, organisation of entrepreneurs	educational establishments, local governments, LIDA, MoEPRD, MoC	#considerate use of the culture and nature heritage in the tourism offer; #developed strategically important international tourism routes; #new tourism products
d) To educate experts, employees of local governments, entrepreneurs and residents regarding use of the nature capital, preservation and management of the culture and nature heritage, development and transformation of sustainable tourism	VPR, local governments	Higher education establishments, research institutions, MoEPRD	#more educated and skilful experts, employees and residents
e) To improve accessibility of culture sites, culture places and to promote modernisation of the public outdoor infrastructure	MoC, local governments	Residents, NGO	#improved accessibility, #arranged infrastructure

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Nights spent at hotels and other tourist accommodations	CSB

Sources of financing
Cross-border cooperation programs

Number of created and supported culture and tourism sites	MoE, CFLA, local governments
Proportion of residents who admit that sustainable/ integrated offer of tourism services is offered in the vicinity	VPR, survey

Vidzeme culture program
State budget

## RV2) Development of the culture environment

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To promote preservation of culture values and creation of new values	VPR, CCF, MoC	Local governments, NGO, residents	#newly created culture values; #initiatives and projects of preservation of culture values
b) To promote accessibility of professional arts	VPR, CCF, MoC	Local government, NGO	#broader offer of professional arts
c) To develop and promote the community arts	VPR, CCF, MoC	Local government, NGO	#community arts initiatives and projects
d) To develop and promote crafts arts	VPR, CCF, MoC	Local government, NGO	#crafts arts initiatives and projects
e) To promote development of culture education	VPR, educational establishments, local governments		#high quality offer of culture education
f) To develop diverse and accessible culture offer	VPR, local governments, NGO, MoC		#diverse and accessible culture offer
g) To promote culture and creative industries and activities	VPR, CCF, MoC	local governments, NGO	#culture and creative industries initiatives and projects
h) To promote preservation and sustainable development of intangible and tangible culture heritage	VPR, CCF, MoC	local governments, NGO	#initiatives and projects of preservation and use of intangible and tangible culture heritage
i) Strengthening of the identity of culture historical districts	VPR, CCF, MoC	local governments, NGO	

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Number of visitors per year at culture centres	MoC
Number of vocational culture education establishments and students	MoC
Proportion of residents who admit that they actively consume or take part in culture and art activities	VPR, survey
Value added of undertakings of creative sectors	CSB
Proportion of surveyed residents who full agree or agree to the statement "I am aware of the tourism development projects of Vidzeme Planning Region Industrial Heritage, Forest Path, Sea Path, Riverways, Via Hanseatica. etc."	VPR survey
Proportion of surveyed residents who fully agree or agree to the statement "Sustainable/ integrated offer of tourism services is offered and is available in the vicinity (culture heritage, nature, sports, local food, etc.) "	VPR survey
Number of renewed, arranged culture historical sites	Local governments
Expenses of households for recreation and culture as percentage of the total consumption expenses of households	CSB
Number of culture centres, culture sites	CSB

Sources of financing
State budget
KKF (Vidzeme culture program)



## Target 2. To improve the quality of life of people

### Why is it important?

The existence and growth of the region depends on Vidzeme residents. The fast change processes intensify stratification of the society and risks of inequality. Decrease of the number of population, ageing, depopulation of rural areas intensify development of uneven population of the region. As the population density decreases, the possibilities of mobility and approachability are very important to ensure quality of life to Vidzeme residents, including development of railway as the backbone of passenger transportation. Development of technologies requires continuous mastering of new competences and development of types of thinking. Security, quality and accessibility of services, availability of housing and strong communities are the factors which have substantial effect on the quality of life in the region, affect attraction of new talents and keeping the current ones. Solutions based on cooperation aimed at improvement of the quality of life and well-being of both rural and city residents are the preconditions for people to choose living and working in Vidzeme region.

### What will Vidzeme people do?

Several priorities of Vidzeme are aimed at attaining this target.

#### C1. Accessible education

#### C2. Safe, inclusive and healthy society

#### C3. High quality and accessible social services

#### T3. Mobility and accessibility

#### T4. Identity and strong communities

#### T5. Sustainable living environment and housing

### What do Vidzeme people want?

- # High quality, modern and competitive education accessible to everybody irrespective of the place of residence and age.
- # Improvement of the health condition of Vidzeme residents thanks to change of habits and better accessibility of health promotion and care services.
- # Improved feeling of security being aware how to act in a threatening situation and being prepared to participate.
- # Improvement of the social security of residents thanks to more modern, efficient and accessible social services.
- # Reduction of inequality in the society, the society becoming more open to diversity. More cooperation among Vidzeme residents, more help to each other, active involvement in improvement of the quality of life of their neighbourhood.
- # Increase of the feeling of affiliation and identity to own neighbourhood, municipality and Vidzeme.
- # More accessible and approachable territories of Vidzeme and more

- opportunities of environmentally friendly mobility.
- # High quality housing available to everybody and the possibility to choose the place of living according to own wishes.
- # Better quality of life thanks to improved and accessible services, high quality living space, at the same time not harming the environment and preserving it for next generations.

## C1. Accessible education

### RV1) Cooperation for provision of accessibility and quality of education on all the education levels

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To strengthen cooperation on education management matters	VPR, local governments. educational establishments	higher education establishments, research institutions, employers, career consultants, NEA, VIAA, LLKC, MoEd	#Regular cooperation and dialogue; #coordinated offer of education; #joint programs and projects; #uniform view on coordination of life-long learning
b) To develop accessible, flexible and easy to implement study process	VPR, local governments. educational establishments	employers, career consultants, NEA, MoES	#implemented joint initiatives; #representation of interests on education matters

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source	Sources of financing
Implemented cooperation initiatives aimed at improvement of accessibility or quality of education	VPR, survey	State budget
Mean assessment (performance %) at the centralised exams of Grade 12 of students of the general education establishments of Vidzeme region	MoES, CSB	EU funds

## RV2) Compliance of the offer of education, skills and life-long learning with the requirements and trends of the labour market

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To promote conformity of the education offer with the RIS3 fields, labour market demand and development trends of the region	VPR, local governments. educational establishments	higher education establishments, research institutions, employers, career consultants, NEA, VIAA, LLKC, MoES, LEC	#Regularly available data and statistics; #improved education programs; #reduced duplication; #encouraged specialisation
b) To promote improvement of knowledge and skills of employees	VPR, organisations of entrepreneurs. educational establishments	Local government, LEC	#Improved knowledge and skills of employees of various sectors; #efficient operation of skills funds
c) To develop the career development support system accessible to everybody	VPR, local governments. Vidzeme University, educational establishments	employers, career consultants, VIAA, NEA, MoES	#Career development support solutions accessible to people of various ages
d) To promote life-long learning by developing competences required for self-improvement and professional improvement	Local governments, educational establishments, employers,	career consultants, NEA, MoES	#Available life-long learning solutions compliant with the labour market demand and personal growth

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source	Sources of financing
Proportion of residents aged 15 and above who have acquired a higher education level	CSB	EU funds
Proportion of persons aged from 15 to 64 involved in adult education	MoES, CSB	Cross-border cooperation programs
Increase of the employment proportion in the age group from 15 to 64 years	CSB	State budget
Decrease of youth unemployment	SEA	
Decreased unemployment	SEA, CSB	
Proportion of residents aged from 15 to 64 having acquired vocational education or vocational secondary education (ISCED level 3 and 4) has increased	CSB	

Proportion of persons (aged from 15 to 74) with elementary or lower education has decreased	CSB
Proportion of economically active residents (15-64) has increased	CSB
Increased employment	CSB
Proportion of residents aged 18 and above holding higher education or Ph.D degree has increased	

### RV3) Development of high quality and modern education environment

#### Tasks

- a) To promote availability of modern technologies in the study process to everybody in the whole territory of the region
- b) To promote accessibility of the education environment suitable for everybody's needs
- c) To create modern study environment, including for provision of high quality study process
- d) To promote use of local resources (entrepreneurs, local government, nature) in the study process

#### Responsible entities

- local governments. educational establishments
- local governments. educational establishments
- Local governments, vocational educational establishments, higher educational establishments
- Local governments, educational establishments, employers,

#### Involved entities

- MoES, VIAA, VISC
- MoES, VIAA, VISC
- MoES, VIAA, VISC
- VPR

#### Desired outcomes

- #Available modern technological equipment and relevant work environment
- #Reduced obstacles for accessibility of education
- #Improved study environment, the infrastructure suitable to the study process; #strengthened capacity of education experts
- #More intense involvement of entrepreneurs, local resources in the study process

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Proportion of residents who admit that the education environment and quality has improved	VPR

Sources of financing
EU funds

Implemented initiatives aimed at improvement of the quality of education environment	Local governments
Number of modernised education establishments	Local governments

Cross-border cooperation programs
State budget

## C2. Safe, inclusive and healthy society

### RV1) Development of accessibility of health promotion and care services

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
1) Promotion of accessibility of health promotion and care services	VPR, local governments, entrepreneurs and organisations of entrepreneurs	MoH, MoW	#Improved accessibility of health promotion and care services; #consumers have access to high quality local food; #modernised medical treatment facilities; #created and operational platform for provision of consultations
b) To promote development of habits improving the public health	Local governments	VPR, MoH, NGO, general practitioners	#Informed and educated society; #various target groups have an opportunity and motivation to regularly engage in health improving habits
c) To promote healthy and safe living and work environment by minimising trauma rate and mortality due to external causes	Local governments	MoH, general practitioners	#Informed and educated society; #reduced trauma rate and mortality due to external cause of death
d) To improve the accessibility of health care and disease prevention services in the region	Local governments, health care service providers, MoH	VPR, MoH, regional hospitals, general practitioners	#More available specialists and services; #improved coordination of health care services; #improved and modernised health care; #implemented support services to young specialists; #improved accessibility of the services of general practitioners, dentists

e) Promotion of development of sports and health infrastructure, including for children and persons with functional impairment

Local governments

#improved accessibility of the health promotion infrastructure

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source	Sources of financing
Rate of increase of the cases of mortality due to vascular system diseases per 100,000 residents	DPCC	EU funds
Increase of the number of doctors per 10,000 residents	DPCC	Cross-border cooperation programs
Decrease of the number of residents per a practising doctor	DPCC	State budget
Increase of the proportion of residents engaging in physical and sports activities minimum 1-2 times per week	CSB, MoH	

## RV2) Safety of the society and civic protection

### Tasks

a) To develop a regional civil defence system in Vidzeme

### Responsible entities

Local governments, VPR, VUGD, Mol, SP, MP

### Involved entities

Higher education establishments, research institutions

### Desired outcomes

# Unified civil defence system; #Clear action algorithms; #regular risk monitoring and research

b) To improve awareness of residents about action in an emergency situation

Local governments, VUGD, Mol, SP, MP

VPR

#residents are aware about how to act in a situation of threat

c) To develop community based local society safety solutions

Local governments, community representatives, VUGD

VPR

#Developed network of volunteer rescuers/ fire-fighters; #Improved cooperation between services

d) To improve the infrastructure of services and work conditions, the material technical base and capacity

Mol, VUGD, SP, local governments

# Improved infrastructure of services and law enforcement institutions and work conditions; #uniform territorial coverage in the region

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Changes of the subjective safety perception of the residents of the region - people who feel safe	VPR
Public trust index (trust in local governments, services)	SKDS
Number of people who have died due to external death circumstances	SPKC/CSP

Sources of financing
EU funds (SAM 2.1.3)
State budget

### RV3) Development of inclusive society

#### Tasks

a) To promote the public awareness of diversity

#### Responsible entities

VPR, local governments

#### Involved entities

NGO, MoW

#### Desired outcomes

#more educated and understanding society; #reduction of exclusion of various groups of the society

b) To reduce exclusion caused by digitalisation and technology development

VPR, local governments

NGO

#measures and support reducing digital exclusion; #educated and informed society

c) To strengthen digital skills of the society, including vulnerable target groups

VPR, local governments

organisation of entrepreneurs, educational establishments, higher educational establishments, NGO, soc. service providers

#Improved digital skills of various target groups; #reduced risks of exclusion caused by technology development for various target groups

d) To reduce the effect of the administrative territorial reform to development of inequality

VPR, local governments, higher education establishments, research institutions

MoEPRD, MoW

#improved understanding of areas and processes contributing to development of inequality; #improved processes

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Mutual support of people	ESS
Increased level of digital skills in the society (basic skills, above the basic level)	DESI index

Sources of financing
EU funds, ANM
Cross-border cooperation programs

Number of people subject to the exclusion risk (%)	CSB
Proportion of residents who use the Internet minimum once a week has increased	CSB
The number of unemployed persons with disability has decreased	SEA

State budget



### C3. High quality and accessible social services

#### RV1) Quality and accessibility of social services

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) Efficient inter-institutional and inter-sectoral cooperation in provision of services	VPR, local governments, research institutions	MoW, social service providers	#the system of support measures targeted for persons with functional impairments; #improved inter-institutional cooperation and services, including for people with chronic diseases; #inter-disciplinary approach to provision of services; #implemented measures for promoting cooperation of hospitals
b) To promote creation of a modern and accessible system of social services	VPR, local governments, social service providers	MoW, NGO	#Implemented modern innovative services and solutions; #more efficient social services; #improved accessibility of social services; #available high quality and understandable information
c) To strengthen the capacity of social work and social service providers	VPR, local governments, social service providers	NGO, MoW	#Improved accessibility of specialists; #improved skills of specialists; #improved prestige of the profession

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Number of users of alternative social services	VPR
Proportion of residents who admit that social services and possibilities of social assistance are available in the close vicinity	VPR
Number of residents per one social work expert	MoW
Number of institutions of social care and social rehabilitation	MoW

Sources of financing
EU funds
Cross-border cooperation programs
State budget

Capacity of new or modernised social housings	LM, local governments
Number of social work experts per 1000 residents	MoW
Number of children staying at long-term social care institutions has decreased	BSAC
Number of persons with MNI at SSCC has decreased	VSAC

### T3. Mobility and accessibility

#### RV1) Environmentally friendly mobility

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To develop demand-focused public transportation solutions	VPR, local governments	MoT, ATD	#supportive legal regulation; #identified needs; #pilot solutions
b) To develop multi-modality solutions	VPR, local governments	MpT, LVC, state institutions, entrepreneurs	#developed mobility nodes by cooperation between the state, local governments, entrepreneurs; #identified best practices
c) To develop safe and convenient transport infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists	VPR, local governments	MoT, tourism organisations, LVC	#improved coverage and links of bicycle routes; #developed green routes
d) To promote development of environmentally friendly, energy efficient and innovative means of transportation and mobility	VPR, local governments	MoT, entrepreneurs	#initiatives promoting electrical mobility; #smart mobility solutions; #more extensive power charging network; #environmentally friendly vehicles
e) To develop micro mobility solutions, including construction of bicycle routes along roads	VPR, local governments	MoT, businesses	#micro mobility pilot solutions, #constructed bicycle routes
f) By modernising stations and stops, developing stations and stops into mobility points, integrating connections of various means of transportation, increasing the speed of trains	VPR, local governments	MoT, businesses	#Improved railway infrastructure

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Number of people using environmentally friendly vehicles for mobility minimum 1-2 times a week	VPR
Increased total length of bicycle infrastructure	MoT, local governments
Improved or created infrastructure of environmentally friendly mobility	VPR, local governments
Improved or created bicycle infrastructure	MoT, local governments
Proportion of residents who admit that accessibility and approachability in rural territories has improved	VPR
Developed plans of sustainable mobility of cities/ municipalities	MoEPRD, local governments
Increased number of electrical charging stations	CSDD
Increased number of electrical vehicles	CSDD

Sources of financing
EU funds. ANM
State budget
Cross-border cooperation programs
Cross-border cooperation programs

## RV2) Accessibility and approachability

### Tasks

- a) To encourage cooperation on mobility and traffic infrastructure matters
- b) To develop railway as the central axis of passenger transportation

### Responsible entities

MoT, VPR, local governments

MoT, local governments, entrepreneurs

### Involved entities

higher education establishments, research institutions, LVC

### Desired outcomes

#common vision and actions; #cross-sectoral cooperation #capacity

#integrated connections of various means of transportation; #faster connections;

c) To promote regional approachability and accessibility (Rail Baltica and TEN-T)	MoT, VPR, local governments, LDZ	LVC	#representation of interests of the stakeholders of the region
d) To develop cross-border connections	MoT, VPR, local governments	MoEPRD, LVC	#cross-border connections, #cross-border roads
e) Development of the infrastructure of digital traffic	MoT, ATD, VPR	MoEPRD, higher education establishments, research institutions	#digital traffic infrastructure solutions; #data and research
f) To improve the connections of the transport infrastructure which provide accessibility of residents to basic services, social and economic activities	MoT, ATD, VPR, local governments, MoEPRD	LVC, state institutions, entrepreneurs	#Improved approachability for various groups of residents
g) To improve the connections of the road traffic infrastructure	VPR, MoEPRD, SM, local governments, LVC		#improved quality of the state and municipal roads; #improved links and approachability
h) To develop water ways in the region	MoT, local governments, entrepreneurs		#development of the inland water and external water ways
i) Development of the railway, including Rail Baltica passenger service infrastructure	MoT	LDZ, A/S Pasažieru vilciens, ATD, local governments	#Improved railway infrastructure

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Time consumption in public transportation between regional development centres	VPR
Increase of the total length of state black paved roads	MoT, LVC
Decrease of the total length of state gravel roads	MoT, LVC
Cities with new or modernised digitalised city transportation systems	Local governments
Number of passengers carried by public passenger road transportation has increased	ATD

Sources of financing
EU funds
State budget

Number of passengers carried by public railway transportation has increased	ATD
Proportion of state black paved roads in bad or very bad condition has decreased	LVC, local governments
Proportion of state gravel roads in bad or very bad condition has decreased	LVC, local governments

## T4. Identity and strong communities

### RV1) Strengthening of cooperation links between territories, sectors, communities

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To strengthen cooperation between various organisations (local governments, communities, NGO, entrepreneurs, etc.)	VPR, local governments, VRG, LLF	Valmiera district fund, etc., NGO	#More frequent meetings; #cooperation projects and initiatives
b) To strengthen cooperation between city and rural territories	Local governments	communities, entrepreneurs, NGO	#Developed functional cooperation (services) at the interface of cities and rural territories
c) To promote re-immigration	VPR, local governments, MoEPRD	SIF	#measures promoting re-immigration; #cooperation with the diaspora
d) To promote arrival of newcomers	VPR, local governments	communities, NGO, VRG	#more newcomers; #open local communities

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Number of NGOs per 1000 residents	CSB
Number of re-emigrating people	CSB, OCMA, VPR
Implemented public initiatives	VRG, LLF
Long-term migration of residents to Vidzeme region	CSB

Sources of financing
State budget
Cross-border cooperation programs
Europe Direct

## RV2) Promotion of the feeling of affiliation and identity

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To promote local affiliation and identity	VPR, local governments	SEA, VRG, residents	#neighbours, local communities meet more often, cooperate and trust; #initiatives of survey of places
b) To promote the feeling of affiliation and identity of districts	Local governments	communities, VRG, NGO	#strengthened identity of new districts; #community initiatives in the whole territory of the district; #capacity of districts
c) Creation of the identity recognition of Vidzeme	VPR, local governments	NGO, communities	#identified new territories of Vidzeme; #strengthened identity of Vidzeme, in particular, in the new districts

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Changes in the local, municipal and regional identity of people (pride for affiliation - very close, close)	VPR
Participation of residents in municipal elections has increased	CSB

Sources of financing
State budget
Cross-border cooperation programs

### RV3) Development of active society, strengthening of the capacity of communities

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To promote development of community leaders for development of community initiatives	Local governments, VPR	NGO	#more leaders (managers of change processes); #more community initiatives
b) To promote development of volunteer initiatives in Vidzeme	NGO, communities, local governments	VPR, higher educational establishments	#identified offer of volunteer initiatives in Vidzeme; #increase of volunteer initiatives and self-assistance initiatives
c) To strengthen the link between residents and the local government	Local governments, communities	Residents	#more accessible and understandable local governments; #feedback
d) To develop community based solutions	VRG, local governments, NVO, LLF		#smart villages; #energy communities; #self-sufficient communities
e) Support to implementation of the initiatives of residents and communities	local governments, VRG, initiatives of residents		#more opportunities to implement small scale initiatives and support for their implementation; #the place for meeting; #accessible information

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Implemented public initiatives	VRG, LLF
Proportion of residents who reply that they have good opportunities to participate in decision-making at the local government	VPR
Proportion of residents who reply that there are active communities and local activities initiated by residents in the territory	VPR

Sources of financing
Cross-border cooperation programs
Budget of local governments



## T5. Sustainable living environment and housing

### RV1) Quality and accessibility of housing

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To develop sustainable, public and private partnership based housing solutions	Local governments, entrepreneurs, communities, VPR	Residents	#community based housing solutions; #municipalities and entrepreneurs are able to implement PPP projects; #prepared environment for construction of apartment houses
b) To promote availability of mortgage loans in rural territories and small scale centres	VPR, local governments, communities	Residents	#the resident of Vidzeme lives where he wants to and not where the bank provides funding
c) To promote provision of accessibility of the housing environment based on the universal design principles	Local governments, entrepreneurs, VPR	Residents	#more accessible housing
d) To promote development of construction of sustainable housing in the region	local governments, entrepreneurs	MoE, MoEPRD	#Sustainable standard designs
e) To improve accessibility of housing, in particular, for low income families and families facing difficulties	Local governments, communities	MoE, MoW, higher education establishments, research institutions	#available housing for everybody facing difficulties; #improved solutions of social housing
f) To promote development of the offer of the second/ alternative place of residence	Local governments		#identified and available information
g) arrangement of the rent market in the region	MoE, local governments		#increased offer of rental housing

<b>Attainment of targets will be attested by</b>	<b>Source</b>
Constructed apartments at municipal rental apartment houses	MoE, local governments
Proportion of residents who reply that the availability of housing is sufficient in the vicinity	VPR

<b>Sources of financing</b>
Cross-border cooperation programs
Budget of local governments, ANM

## RV2) Development of sustainable living environment

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To promote healthy and low consumption lifestyle	VPR, NGO, local governments	Residents	#informed society; #change of habits; #community based solutions
b) Involvement of communities in improvement/ creation of the quality of life	local governments, communities	Residents	#community initiatives
c) To promote accessibility and quality of services in the whole territory of Vidzeme	VPR, MoEPRD, local governments	NGO	#smart solutions; #service availability centres in libraries, closed schools
d) To develop and improve public outdoor spaces, including for recreation and tourism development	VPR, local governments	MoEPRD	#improved public outdoor space for recreation

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Proportion of residents who admit that the quality of life has improved	VPR
Proportion of residents who admit that the accessibility of services has improved	VPR
Implemented innovative solutions for improvement of municipal services	MoEPRD, local governments

Sources of financing
EU funds
Cross-border cooperation programs
ANM

## Target 3. To promote development and growth of the regional economy by transforming the models of economic activity

### Why is it important?

Global change processes cause the necessity to reduce vulnerability of the economy of the region by making it smarter, more sustainable and competitive. Climate change, reduction of the nature diversity have critical effect on the competitiveness of the economic of the region, quality of life and growth opportunities.

Prevailing systems of economy contribute to inequality and have negative effect on the environment, therefore the industry needs to be transformed in favour of preservation of the environment and resources. The rapid development of technologies can both help in this process, as well as create additional challenges. Although technologies offer new solutions, for example, for energy production and more efficient use of resources, their development has also considerably increased the need for cleaner and more efficient energy and resources. Promotion of cooperation between entrepreneurs, scientific institutions and educational establishments, strengthening of innovation ability and knowledge transfer by promoting smart use of both technologies and resources, producing and promoting on the market products with higher value added presents a priority.

### What will Vidzeme people do?

Several priorities of Vidzeme are aimed at attaining this target.

#### E1. Innovation, science and development

#### E2. Industry transformation

#### E3. Circular and bioeconomy

#### E4. Efficient and clean energy

### What do Vidzeme people want?

- # To develop efficient innovation support environment and to improve knowledge transfer between entrepreneurs, education and research institutions and local governments.
- # To improve cooperation of entrepreneurs, researchers and educational establishments resulting in development of new technologies and products with high value added and undertakings becoming more competitive.
- # To make support to business more clear, more accessible, diverse and efficient.
- # To develop circular economy in Vidzeme to ensure that the relevant principles become a daily routine not only for entrepreneurs, but also every resident of Vidzeme.
- # More efficient energy planning and ensuring that the involved parties become smarter. Efficient energy consumption and increasing use of renewable energy.

## E1. Innovation, science and development

### RV1) Development of the eco-system of innovation

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To ensure operation and capacity of a regional know-how and innovation platform	VPR, MoEPRD	local governments, All, PI, organisations of undertakings, ministries	#involved parties actively participate on the regional know-hoe and innovation platform
b) To strategically position innovation, science, investment and industries of the region	VPR, MoEPRD, MoE/LIAA, MoES	local governments, All, PI, organisations of undertakings, other ministries, MoFA, LV embassies	#strategic positioning of the innovation, science and industries of Vidzeme
c) To strategically develop clusters and thematic networks in Vidzeme RIS3 areas	VPR, MoE/LIAA	VIAA, local governments, All, PI, organisations of undertakings, other ministries, international organisations (EUSBSR, BSSSC)	#clusters and thematic networks develop and grow in Vidzeme RIS3 areas
d) To promote creation of efficient innovation support environment in Vidzeme	VPR	local governments, AI, PI, organisations of undertakings, ministries	#transparent and understandable innovation support environment
e) To increase the capacity of regional higher education establishments and research institutions, to create and implement innovations	ViA, RTU, VRI, AREI	VPR, VAA, organisations of entrepreneurs, local governments	#education and research institutions are more open towards entrepreneurs; #programs are more closely integrated with Vidzeme RIS3 areas

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Increase of the proportion of undertakings active in the area of innovations	CSB

Sources of financing
EU funds

Increase of activity of undertakings in using available innovation aid instruments	MoE, VPR, local governments
Increased value added per employee	CSB
Foreign direct investment per 1000 residents	SRS

Cross-border cooperation programs
State budget

## RV2) Cooperation of industry, science and education

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To improve cooperation between entrepreneurs and the education sector	VPR, local governments, organisations of entrepreneurs, MoES, MoE	All, PI, other ministries	#closer cooperation; #inter-sectoral projects; #improved programs
b) To promote networking of entrepreneurs and their cooperation with research institutions	All, PI, organisation of entrepreneurs	VPR, local governments, IZM, EM	#clear cooperation mechanisms; #support of brokers
c) To promote strategic cooperation of higher education establishments and research institutions	ViA, RTU, VRI, AREI	VPR, line ministries	#joint cooperation projects
d) To promote accessibility and use of new, strategic knowledge	VPR, All, PI	local governments, organisations of undertakings, ministries	#attracted expertise
e) To promote accessibility of research and development infrastructure	All, PI, VPR, VAA, MoE/LIAA, MoES	Ministries, organisations of undertakings, local governments	#pilot solutions of open and shared infrastructure; #motivated entrepreneurs
f) To promote development of new technologies and products and innovations in undertakings	VAA, MoE/LIDA	Undertakings, organisations of undertakings, VPR	#new products; #innovation motivation measures

g) To support formation of the demand for innovation (innovative procurement)

MoEPRD, local governments

VPR

#Innovative procurement

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Increase of the proportion of undertakings active in the area of innovations	CSB
Increase of expense for performing research work in the region*	CSB
Implemented cooperation projects of entrepreneurs and researchers	All, PI, MoE

Sources of financing
EU funds
Cross-border cooperation programs

## E2. Industry transformation

### RV1) Industry transformation and competitiveness

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To promote adjustment of Vidzeme fields to the change and know-how transfer	VPR, All, PI, organisations of entrepreneurs	Local governments	#innovation support in compliance with the development interests and the level of preparedness of undertakings
b) To improve the competitiveness and export capacity of undertakings (aimed at achieving high value added)	VPR, VAA, organisation of entrepreneurs	local governments, MoE, LIDA	#cooperation and networking of undertakings on the regional, national, international level; #attraction of investment; #innovative products
c) To develop the testing and experiment environment in the region to promote the ability of entrepreneurs to adjust to the change, to try innovations, to test solutions	VPR, VAA, organisation of entrepreneurs	local governments, MoE, LIDA	#local, municipal, regional level aid instruments for implementation of innovations in undertakings; #testing pilot sites
d) To support modernisation and digitalisation in business	VPR, VAA, organisation of entrepreneurs	All, PI, local governments, MoE	#digitalisation road maps; #digital audits; #data platforms and solutions
e) To support creation and development of sustainable business environment infrastructure	Local governments, MoEPRD, organisation of entrepreneurs		#green industrial territories
f) To promote cooperation between tourism entrepreneurs, the public sector	VPR, VAA, organisations of entrepreneurs, local governments	ministries, higher educational establishments	#provided management of tourism destinations, cooperation networks
g) Sustainable development of coastal and sea ecosystems	VPR, local governments, research institutions	MoEPRD, MoA, entrepreneurs and organisations of entrepreneurs	#potential research of the blue bioeconomy; #sustainable coastal and sea tourism
h) To promote development of local production, including products based on local resources, short food chains	VPR, business support organisations, All, PI, local governments	MoA, VRG	#cooperation of producers of organic products; #cooperation with science



i) To promote creation and development of the infrastructure necessary for business

VPR, business support organisations, All, PI, local governments

MoEPRD, entrepreneurs, organisation of entrepreneurs

institutions; #promotion of the farm to fork principle

#green industrial territories

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Proportion of value added products and services in the total GDP of the region	CSB
Increase of the proportion of undertakings active in the area of innovations	CSB
Total value added of Vidzeme RIS3 fields (mill. EUR)	CSB, VPR
Increase of GDP per resident	CSB
Nights spent at hotels and other tourist accommodations	CSB
Increased mean wage (gross)	CSB, SRS

Sources of financing
EU funds
Cross-border cooperation programs

## RV2) Business support measures

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To strengthen the role of VPR in provision of the business support	VPR	organisations of business support	#networking; #business support instruments; #support for development of product prototypes; #attraction of investment
b) To promote attraction of business support instruments and their accessibility to undertakings	VPR, organisations of business support	MoE, local governments, VRG	#clearer conditions; #better territorial accessibility; #mutually complimentary support instruments; #joint creation spots
c) To promote development of new business types in the region, including development of rapid growth undertakings, start-ups, social business, business tourism, creative industries, etc.	organisations of business support	MoE, LIDA, VPR, VAA, local governments	#accessibility of appropriate support instruments; #best practices of transfer
d) To strategically develop the support of local governments to business with the help of the business support infrastructure and smart solutions	VPR, local governments, organisations of business support		#regional projects of business support infrastructure
e) To promote involvement of youth in business	VPR, Youth Agency	Local governments, MoA, VRG	#newly created undertakings

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Increase of the economically active units of the market sector per 1000 residents	CSB
Increase of activity of undertakings in using available innovation aid instruments	MoE, VPR
Number of newly created undertakings*	ER

Sources of financing
EU funds
Cross-border cooperation programs
NFI

Proportion of surveyed residents who agree that good opportunities are offered in the region to young entrepreneurs for business development	VPR
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### E3. circular and bioeconomy

#### RV1) Development of circular economy in business

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) Promotion of knowledge and understanding of the circular economy	VPR, All, PI, organisations of entrepreneurs	MoA, LLKC, entrepreneurs	#understanding of the possibilities of use of biological resources; #new products
b) To attract expertise and know-how for promotion of circular in business	VPR, All, PI, organisations of entrepreneurs	MoA, LLKC, entrepreneurs	#implemented solutions in the circular economy and bioeconomy; #circular audits
c) To promote utilisation of production waste/ side flows and creation of value added	VPR, All, PI, organisations of entrepreneurs	Businesses, LIDA, MoEPRD, MoA	#identified potential of production side flows in undertakings of various sectors; #pilot solutions; #uniform platform for packaging matters
d) To promote industrial symbiosis by development the contact exchange of resources and implementing networking measures	VPR, organisation of entrepreneurs	MoE	#Contact exchange of resources; #networking
e) To create the infrastructure supporting the circular economy	VPR, All, PI, organisations of entrepreneurs	Entrepreneurs, MoEPRD, local governments	#cooperation of entrepreneurs and research institutions; #open and/ or shared pilot infrastructure; #biorefinery
f) To identify the barriers for introduction of circular in the public sector (not only legal, but also practical)	VPR, All, PI, MoE. MoA		#research studies on legal and practical barriers
g) To promote application of the circular procurement (the price of the total lifecycle of the product is evaluated in procurement)	VPR, local governments	MoA,	#transferred international experience
h) To promote the self-sufficiency of the regional economy and its resilience to the effect of external factors	VPR, local governments	MoE, MoA	#transferred international experience

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Increase of the proportion of recycled waste (% of collected waste per year)	CSB
Proportion of utilisation of recycled materials	Eurostat
Implemented investment projects in the fields of circular economy	MoE, local governments

Sources of financing
EU funds
Cross-border cooperation programs
NFI

## RV2) Development of the bioeconomy

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To improve the knowledge of parties interested in bioeconomy regarding the bioeconomics and smart and sustainable use of biological resources	VPR, All, PI, organisations of entrepreneurs	MoA, LLKC, Entrepreneurs, local governments, science institutions	#understanding of the possibilities of use of biological resources; #a bioeconomics science park
b) To promote development, accessibility and exchange of knowledge required for undertakings to produce biological resource based products and services	VPR, All, PI, organisations of entrepreneurs	Entrepreneurs, science institutions, educational establishments	#biological resource based innovative, products and services with high value added; #virtual storage of bioeconomics information, data and know-how
c) To strengthen the operation of the Latvian Food Bioeconomics cluster, to promote and encourage its activities	VPR, the cluster	cluster members	#intersectoral cooperation with clusters of other sectors and innovation centres; #internationalisation
d) To ensure updated, evidence based bioeconomics data and information accessibility and their dissemination to the parties interested in bioeconomics	VPR, All, PI, organisations of entrepreneurs	Education and research institutions	#research; #improvements of the bioeconomics statistics methodology
e) To promote the policy and strategy related to bioeconomic and improvement of the tools of its implementation	VPR, organisation of entrepreneurs	MoA, MoEPRD, MoE	#improved bioeconomics policies and strategies of the national level #improved support instruments
f) To improve the attractiveness of Vidzeme region as a desired place for innovation and investment in bioeconomics	VPR, organisation of entrepreneurs		#recognition of Vidzeme eco-system of bioeconomics innovation; #investment

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Amount of public and private investment in the fields of bio economy, including expenses for research and development	MoA, MoE, LLU

Sources of financing
EU funds

Turnover of the undertakings operating in the fields of bioeconomy	CSB, MoA, MoE
Amount of external investment in the field of bioeconomy	CSB, MoA, MoE

Cross-border cooperation programs

### RV3) Introduction of the circular principles in waste management

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To promote decrease of the volume of waste	ZAAO, waste handling organisation, local governments	MoEPRD, organisation of entrepreneurs, IT partners	#improvement of the public awareness and know-how; #reduced volume of waste (in particular, food waste)
b) To promote re-use of resources and sharing	VPR, local governments, NGO, AII, PI, LLKC, LLF, AREI	MoEPRD, organisation of entrepreneurs	#increase of repair services; #solutions of re-use of production waste and waste substances; #community based sorting and sharing solutions
c) To promote sorting of waste and to reduce barriers hindering it	VPR, waste handling entities, local governments	MoEPRD, residents	#Solutions convenient and accessible for residents to utilise various types of waste
d) To promote sorting and recycling of organic waste	AII, PI, organisation of entrepreneurs, waste handling entities, local governments, VPR	MoEPRD, residents	#Accessible solutions for use of organic waste; #solutions of processing food waste
e) To improve waste management in the region	VPR, waste handling entities, local governments	MoEPRD	#Cooperation between waste handling entities; #compatible solutions

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Increase of the proportion of recycled waste (% of collected waste per year)	CSB
Implemented community based waste sorting, resource sharing solutions	VRG, VPR

Sources of financing
EU funds
Cross-border cooperation programs

Proportion of surveyed residents who agree that eco undertakings and sustainable business is supported in the region	VPR
Volume of waste produced per resident per year	CSB
Proportion of buried waste of the accepted waste	MoEPRD

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## E4. Efficient and clean energy

### RV1) Strengthening of energy planning

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To develop the regional energy information system	VPR, local governments	MoE, MoEPRD	#regional energy consumption data base; #available collected information
b) To increase the institutional capacity of energy planning on all levels (local, municipal, regional)	VPR, local governments	MoEPRD	#regional energy management system; #trained experts; #district energy and climate action plans

### RV2) Energy efficiency

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) Development of energy efficient infrastructure and technologies (including RER) by ensuring transition of business to the climate neutrality, inter alia	VPR, local governments	MoEPRD, MoE, MoT, entrepreneurs	#Eastern Latvia energy efficiency centre
b) To promote energy efficiency	VPR, local governments	MoEPRD, MoE	#implemented principle "Energy efficiency first"; #educated experts and society

### RV3) Promotion of use of renewable energy

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To create and to implement new models and system for use of renewable energy	VPR, higher education establishments, research institutions, local governments	MoE	#action plan for attaining the proportion of RER in the transportation sector
b) Creation of energy communities	VPR, local governments, communities	MoE, MoEPRD	#energy communities; #increased self-production and self-consumption of RER
c) Use of sustainable energy	VPR, local governments, their institutions	MoEPRD, MoE	#sustainable energy and RER use in the buildings of local governments and their institutions

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Number of implemented projects in the field of RES, energy efficiency	CFLA, local governments
Public buildings with improved energy efficiency	local governments
Increase of the proportion of energy produced from renewable energy resources in the total gross energy consumption	MoE
Heat delivered to households	CSB

Sources of financing
EU funds
Cross-border cooperation programs

## Target 4. To encourage cooperation and powerful organisations.

### Why is it important?

Challenges Vidzeme will face during the next seven years are complicated, inter-dependent on each other and inter-linked. New challenges require new approaches for implementation of the future vision of the region. Therefore, Vidzeme has defined three horizontal priorities which help to ensure coordination between directions and priorities in order for efforts aimed at, for example, solution of mobility issues not to cause unnecessary effect on the environment or climate.

Close **cooperation** between various sectors/ industries, cooperation between cities and rural areas, creation of territorial partnerships, development of a shared knowledge base, implementation of joint projects and coordination of actions are the pre-conditions for attaining the common targets of Vidzeme. Active involvement of the society and **civic participation** in governance processes, as well as the ability of institutions to cooperate, to do it efficiently, to strive for improvement, to base decisions on evidence, to focus on the needs of clients, to be accessible and reliable are the preconditions for sustainable development in Vidzeme.

**Climate change** and its consequences will have more visible effect on the whole society. Everybody shares responsibility for this change due to his consumption habits contributing to CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emission, consuming large quantities of energy and natural resources which has a decisive impact on the development of the region.

**Digitalisation** is a global driving force which rapidly changes our habits, work, education and daily life. Digitalisation creates new opportunities for residents, undertakings, state and municipal institutions, however, it also requires new competences, changes the usual work circumstances and causes new risks related to safety and privacy. Uniform approach for inter-sectoral solutions aimed at encouraging digital transition in all groups and on all levels of the society is a priority.

### What will Vidzeme people do?

Several priorities of Vidzeme are aimed at attaining this target.

#### P1. Cooperation and civic participation

#### P2. Climate neutrality and adaptation

#### P3. Digitalisation

### What do Vidzeme people want?

- # Closer cooperation between cities and rural areas, between municipalities, with Riga, with other regions in Latvia and beyond its borders. To ensure that local governments ensure targeted representation of the interests of Vidzeme people in planning and implementing the projects important for development of the region.
- # To strengthen and support involvement of the society and civic participation in planning and governance processes by supporting and involving leaders, non-governmental organisations and undertakings.
- # To promote the climate neutrality and reduction of carbon emissions not only in words, but also by daily decisions and actions, as well as to be able to assess the effect of adopted decisions on the climate.
- # To ensure that remote location of the region is compensated by accessibility of fast communication connections. These

connections ensure not only communication, but also access to services, know-how and development of new directions of business.

## P1. Cooperation and civic participation

### RV1) Cooperation

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To promote thematic and inter-sectoral cooperation	VPR, local governments	Line ministries	#representation of interests of the stakeholders of the region in industry councils, committees
b) To promote good functional cooperation of cities and rural areas	VPR, local governments, communities	MoEPRD	#Higher quality territorial planning of cities and settlements; #developed functional territories of cities; #easier conditions for residing in rural areas
c) To promote territorial cooperation on the local, regional, national and international level	VPR, local governments	MoEPRD	#represented interests of Vidzeme in inter-country and cross-border cooperation programs and strategies, macro region and other strategies, inter-country and cross-border cooperation programs; #participation in thematic platforms and cooperation networks
d) To promote cooperation with science and research institutions	VPR, local governments, higher education establishments, research institutions	MoES, educational and research institutions	#joint research projects; #innovative solutions; #evidence base for adoption of decisions

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Integrated local government planning initiatives and cooperation projects in fields important for the region	VPR

Sources of financing
State budget
EU funds
Cross-border cooperation programs

## RV2) Civic participation and performance

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To promote civic participation	VPR, local governments, communities, NGO	LLF, SIF, MoC	#Efficiently functioning councils of residents; #increasing involvement of the society in governance processes, the budget; #youth participation
b) To strengthen the governance capacity	VPR, local governments, MoEPRD		#innovative governance solutions; #smart procurement; green procurement; #more educated and skilful experts
c) Implementation of efficient regional governance system	VPR, local governments	MoEPRD	#more efficient Development Council and regional administration; #the system of monitoring, evaluation and studying of the regional effect
d) Involvement of the society in the development planning process	VPR, local governments, NGO, residents	MoEPRD	#more efficient advisory council; #more active involvement of the society in planning processes

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Residents' perception regarding the possibility to affect the action policy	ESS
Mutual trust	CSP, Eurostat
Political trust index	SKDS

Sources of financing
State budget
EU funds
Cross-border cooperation programs

## P2. Climate neutrality and adaptation

### RV1) Climate neutrality

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To promote climate neutrality in decisions and actions	VPR, local governments, communities, NGO	MoEPRD	#Climate neutrality as a mandatory criterion for taking decisions; #involved parties are able to assess how their decisions and actions will affect the climate
b) To promote reduction of emissions	VPR, local governments, entrepreneurs, NGO	MoEPRD	#decrease of carbon emissions and actions promoting CO2 capture; #CO2 capture solutions

### RV2) Adaptation to the climate change

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To promote adaptation to the climate change, prevention of risks and resilience to catastrophes	VPR, local governments, line ministries, NGO, communities	MoEPRD, residents	#More educated, skilful and informed society; # efficient implementation of the climate change strategies and plans of municipalities

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Reduced GHG emissions	LEGMC
Ecologic footprint (ha per resident)	MoEPRD
Municipal strategies of adaptation to the climate change	Local governments

Sources of financing
State budget
EU funds
Cross-border cooperation programs

### P3. Digitalisation

#### RV1) Cooperation in promotion of digitalisation

Tasks	Responsible entities	Involved entities	Desired outcomes
a) To promote the digital transition in local governments	VPR, local governments	MoEPRD	#Digital innovation centres; #cooperation based solutions
b) To promote advantages of digitalisation for development of entrepreneurship	Higher education establishments, research institutions, VPR, entrepreneurs, organisations of entrepreneurs	MoEPRD	#Digitalisation and precision agriculture solutions; #digitalisation solutions in Vidzeme RIS3 areas
c) To strengthen the digital skills of public administration	VPR, local governments	MoEPRD	#more educated and skilful specialists
d) Cooperation in improvement of digital connections	VPR, local governments, entrepreneurs	MoEPRD, MoT	#availability of the Internet in the whole territory of Vidzeme; #provided appropriate data transmission speed for use of broad-band Internet

Attainment of targets will be attested by	Source
Availability of the Internet at households	CSB
Proportion of residents who use the Internet minimum once a week	CSB
Increased number of residents using online banking	CSB
Proportion of residents who fill in the forms of state or public service providers online has increased	CSB

Sources of financing
State budget
EU funds
Cross-border cooperation programs



# TERRITORIAL SOLUTIONS

In order to attain the goals and settings of the Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia 2030, National Development Plan 2021-2027, Regional Policy Guidelines 2021-2027 and Vidzeme Planning Region Sustainable Development Strategy 2030, Vidzeme planning Region in its Development Programme has defined territorial solutions. Vidzeme Planning Region Development Programme 2022-2027 goals, priorities, directions of action and the objectives defined for attaining them are aimed at integrated and sustainable development in Vidzeme as a whole. Specific territorial solutions are defined for **national interest spaces**:

- 1) Riga metropolis area;
  - 2) Eastern borderland;
  - 3) rural development space,
  - 4) functional territories of cities.
- and **regional interest spaces**

- 1) Nature and culture historical territories and places, territories with landscape value, including Vidzeme Highland;
- 2) Borderland territories

3) Vidzeme triangle;

4) VIA Hanseatica, as well as the tourism route and road A2 (Vidzeme highway) development territories.

## Riga metropolis area

In order to solve the matters of development of Riga metropolis area, for strengthening internal and external cooperation, Riga Planning Region has developed "Action plan for development of Riga metropolis area", which includes also a part of Vidzeme and is incorporated in the area of direct functional effect of Riga metropolis.

In these territories in Vidzeme particular support should be provided to the actions related to the following:

- 1) **Improvement of functionality of settlements** interlinked with nearby territories, the link between population, mobility and accessibility of public services;
- 2) Provision of accessibility of **public services** – by strengthening the centres of provision of services of local importance based on complex planning in compliance

with the actual population and accessibility of services.

3) **fast and efficient approachability**, diversification of types of transportation, development of complex traffic nodes/ mobility points, development of the concept of transportation upon request, linking of the infrastructure intended for transport of densely populated settlements with the state and regional roads by improving the transport flow and traffic safety.

4) for the purpose of **strengthening of international competitiveness** and ensuring recognition - development of complex tourism offer, development of the infrastructure, promotion of sports and culture events of international importance, mutual linking and efficient approachability from the main cities of Riga metropolis area.

5) Construction of Rail Baltica and development of railway as the catalyst of mobility change

New rolling stock of passenger trains, modernisation of railway stations and stops, coordinated reorganisation of bus routes, construction of "Rail Baltica" and opportunities of regional transportation - all these measures

will considerably improve the mobility opportunities in Vidzeme and in Riga metropolis area.

### Eastern borderland

- 1) Efficient use of the [borderland economic potential](#) by strengthening formation of cooperation links with both border cities, settlements, rural territories, including development of common borderland strategies.
- 2) Strengthening of the economic life and mobility of borderland territories by improving access to roads leading to the development centres.
- 3) Improvement of approachability of borderland territories by developing transport corridors, improving efficiency of passenger transportation, improving mobility of the labour force.
- 4) Improvement of informal links, implementation of the society based initiatives and common measures. [Development of communities](#) and improvement of the local identity.
- 5) Development of the infrastructure of the EU external border on the border Latvia-Russia (Pededze- Bruņiševa, Vientuļi border crossing);

6) planning and creation of the transportation and logistics services space at [Pededze-Bruņiševa at the border Latvia/Russia](#);

7) Secure and accessible [media space](#) at the borderland.

### Rural development space

- 1) [Diversification of the economy](#) in rural areas to maintain employment in the countryside, population there and to reduce emigration by implementing interaction and cooperation with development centres.
- 2) [Use of bio-resources](#) in inter-sectoral partnerships for production of high quality, exportable products with high value added.
- 3) Strengthening of the [communities of residents and civic participation in rural development processes](#) to maintain population in both small cities and rural areas and to promote improvement of the quality of life to increase involvement in progress of processes important for the society, to encourage civic interest and participation, to promote mutual support initiatives.
- 4) Development of [small cities and rural settlements](#) by making them into local economic, social and culture support centres which mutually cooperate by

utilising the potential of every place and [promoting accessibility of services for rural population](#).

5) [Mutual cooperation of cities and rural territories](#) and interaction in provision of jobs and provision of services by promoting both the activity of business and creation of high quality living conditions in rural areas by strengthening use of the particular advantages of every territory, providing accessibility and approachability of jobs for rural population, as well as by developing mutually linking transport infrastructure.

6) [Improvement of mobility possibilities](#) by developing high quality and mutually linking transport infrastructure

7) [Development of remote working and ICT](#), in particular in remote areas of the region and in borderland, which would allow combining living in the countryside with highly qualified employment, thus improving the opportunities for people to freely select the place of residence and improve their quality of life, as well as reducing the regional development disparities. Development of [smart villages](#).

8) Development of the rural [traditional lifestyle](#), rural homesteads, measures of preservation of rural [culture environment](#), lifestyle based on human values.

- 9) Preservation of Vidzeme rural landscape and biological diversity;
- 10) Development of rural tourism as an alternative type of business
- 10) Use of nature friendly technologies in business;
- 11) Strengthening of cooperation in all areas, support measures for local producers, short supply chains.
- 12) Local action groups as important support to resource exchange initiatives of communities, for promotion of rural development.

#### Functional territories of cities

- 1) Use of the potential of development centres (cities), by creating strong business centres and integrated industrial territories. Creation of the functional networks of development centres by agreeing on efficient use of resources based on the principles of complementarity and cooperation, cooperation (networking) between undertakings, including municipal capital companies.
- 2) Strengthening of communities of residents to maintain the population of both cities and rural areas and to promote improvement of the level of life, to increase involvement in direction of processes important for the society, support the civic interest and participation, promote mutual support initiatives in cooperation for provision

of social services, networks between communities;

- 3) governance, creation of regional and inter-municipal partnerships, uniform policy and development strategies;
- 4) implementation of joint projects (accessibility of services and mobility by cooperating in providing public transportation networks and introduction of alternative mobility models; provision of the services necessary for business; provision of social and health services, provision of utility services (heat supply, cold supply, water supply, waste handling, etc.);
- 5) specialisation of development centres of regional importance in the smart specialisation fields of Vidzeme region by developing mutually complementary cooperation, thus ensuring development of human resources and economic activity.
- 6) Mutual cooperation of cities and rural territories and interaction in provision of jobs and provision of services by promoting both the activity of business and creation of high-quality living conditions in rural areas by strengthening use of the particular advantages of every territory, providing accessibility and approachability of jobs for

- rural population, as well as by developing mutually linking transport infrastructure;
- 7) strengthening of the development centres of regional importance by developing poly-centric population with a strong network of small and medium cities; to integrate the centres of municipal importance and rural settlements near the functional zone in the functional network by providing good approachability and communication possibilities;
- 8) provision of places of acquiring high quality and diverse higher, vocational and life-long learning education in the region;
- 9) balanced development of city territories, including by renovating and reviving degraded territories;
- 10) development of diverse financial, trade, social, culture and recreation services for both city residents and functional territories of cities for rural residents;
- 11) use of sustainable and rational energy, land, water and other resources;
- 12) preservation and creative use of the nature territory and culture heritage.
- 13) Integrated development of the place branding by emphasising the common strengths of these territories and creating more attractiveness for entrepreneurs and investors;
- 14) To create common spatial development policies by incorporating the use of housing,

cycling roads, tourism, engineering networks and economic development matters.

### **Nature and culture historical territories and places, territories with landscape value, including**

- 1) Support to the measures to preserve the **biologic diversity** and the unique nature and **culture historical landscapes** characteristic for Vidzeme in order to create multifunctional rural residential structure.
- 2) Planning of **territories with valuable landscapes**, arrangement and regeneration of degraded landscapes. Definition of the conditions of use applicable to important nature and culture landscape and recreation territories which ensure their public accessibility and provide for protection of places important from the point of view of landscape;
- 3) **Involvement and education of the society** about management and preservation of protected nature territories and culture historical landscapes;
- 4) **Sustainable and careful use of** nature and culture historical resources for economic development of territories and creation of the environment favourable for business;
- 5) The offer of Vidzeme Highland: culture, nature, culture historical heritage and a range of services presents an indispensable name card of Vidzeme region

5) Development of **eco-tourism sites** and tourism infrastructure;

6) development of the business and tourism services infrastructure in relation to the improvement of the quality of the culture landscape quality;

7) Preservation of the character of traditional construction of **Vidzeme** - individual homesteads and their groups, characteristic forms, shapes and scales, **aesthetic values, construction traditions**;

8) participation in development and coordination of IADT plans.

### **Vidzeme triangle**

- 1) **Unified strategy** for development of functional networks considering the specifics of each city and centre, cooperation of cities by complementing each other;
- 2) **Integrated place branding** development by emphasising the common strengths of these territories and creating more attractiveness for entrepreneurs and investors;
- 3) **Development of integrated industrial territories**;
- 4) inclusion of centres of the municipal importance next to the functional area and rural settlements in the **functional network**

by ensuring good approachability and communication possibilities;

5) creation of common **spatial development policies** by incorporating the use of housing, cycling roads, tourism, engineering networks and economic development matters;

### **Borderland territories**

In addition to the Eastern borderland space which is the national interest space, Vidzeme region defines also the borderland with Estonia as an important functional territory where there are matters requiring specific solutions:

- 1) Improvement of the conditions of life in the borderland territory by creating a better integrated labour market in the twin **city Valka / Valga**;
- 2) development of common business infrastructure in the twin **city Valka/Valga**;
- 3) efficient use of borderland territories (Valka, Alūksne) for provision of transit and transport services by improving and relieving the **border crossing procedure**, developing the related infrastructure and services;
- 4) improvement of approachability of **Vidzeme seaside** for the inland of Northern Vidzeme (East-West transport and eco-tourism corridor „Ziemeļu stīga“ by developing tourism services and thus increasing the economic activity in the

borderland and developing Ribena and Mazsalaca at the centre of development of cross-border tourism of Northern Latvia and Estonia;

5) Joint planning of Latvia - [Estonia](#) borderland development and restoration of the roads crossing the border;

6) [transport and logistics](#) service space planning and development in Valka/ Valga;

7) expansion of [business development](#) on both sides of the border (Latvia-Estonia, Latvia-Russia);

8) access of the Northern Latvia region to [Vidzeme seaside in cooperation](#) with Riga region;

9) development of the cross-border cooperation potential with Estonia, [transport node](#) - road A2, E77 (Rīga-Sigulda- the border of Estonia) and road P19 crossing the territory of Ape municipality, should be developed as the transit cargo transportation and logistics development.

# IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

## IMPLEMENTATION

The Development Programme is the development management tool of Vidzeme Planning Region. All the local governments of Vidzeme are co-responsible for implementation of the programme. The administration of Vidzeme Planning Region has a coordinating role.

The administration of Vidzeme Planning Region has the overall responsibility for implementation of the program and preparation of the monitoring report. It has the main and decisive role in defining the common viewpoint of the local governments of Vidzeme by defending their uniform and coordinated interests.

The model of implementation of the program is based on the good governance principles - cooperation, coordination, involvement and mobilisation of resources. The model provides for the multi-disciplinary approach by involving various organisations and individuals with various expertise, experience and abilities, including the levels of both the state and local

governments, and private and community. The Ministry of Environmental protection and Regional Development has a major role in implementation of the strategy.

The structure of implementation of the program is formed by the regional Development Council as the main decision making institution and the regional administration as its executive structure. A specially established committee coordinates implementation and monitoring of every strategic direction of the program.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Advisory Board of Vidzeme Planning Region established for the purpose of monitoring of both development and implementation of the DP will be involved in the process of monitoring and implementation of the program.

The objective of the monitoring and evaluation system of Vidzeme Planning Region is to ensure successful implementation of the regional development planning documents, in particular, Sustainable Development Strategy 2015-2030 and Development Programme 2022-2027. This is a management tool which integrates monitoring and evaluation in the program management process. The monitoring and evaluation system is a continuous process of collection and analysis of information aimed at determination of the progress towards the defined development targets.

The monitoring and evaluation system of Vidzeme Planning Region consists of:

- general development monitoring Indicators (result Indicators)
- development Indicators of the actions of the Development Programme (outcome Indicators)
- Monitoring report once a year

- Medium term evaluation of the program (latest in 2025)
- Final evaluation of the program (latest in 2028).

Interest of all stakeholders, management, regular maintenance and reliability is required for a successful monitoring system.

Main types of application of monitoring and evaluation:

- Report to the politicians and society,
- Substantiation for attraction of financing,
- Substantiation for required change, amendments in documents,

- Support for planning and implementation of other strategies and programs
- Improved communication with the society.

# LINKS TO OTHER PLANNING DOCUMENTS

## PLANNING DOCUMENTS OF THE NATIONAL SCALE

### Sustainable development strategy of Latvia

Sustainable development strategy of Latvia until 2030, approved by the Saeima (Parliament) of Latvia in 2010 has become the main national planning document with the force equal to the law.

The main statements in the strategy include a happy individual in a well-being country, sustainable and healthy lifestyle, creative, tolerant society, competitiveness created by cooperation and the state as the partner of fast action.

Latvia 2030 defined seven development priorities:

- Development of the culture space;
- Long-term investment in human capital;
- Paradigms in life-long learning;
- Innovative and eco-efficient economy;
- Nature as future capital;
- Spatial development perspectives;
- Innovative governance and society participation

The strategy provides that the main pillars of the functional network of Vidzeme development centres are Valmiera as the education, production and innovation centre and Cēsis as the culture and tourism centre. They, in cooperation with Valka,

Limbaži, Madona, Smiltene, Alūksne, Gulbene and Balvi, form the critical mass needed for the region growth, at the same time strengthening the attractiveness and competitiveness of Vidzeme region. Mutual cooperation and complementarity of development centres, exchange of know-how and experience contribute to development of innovative business of the region, as well as strengthens cross-border cooperation with Estonia and the North-West regions of Russia.

Development centres of national and regional importance are encouraged to direct the growth for comprehensive use of the economic potential and improvement of competitiveness on the global scale, including development of science and research, intellectualisation of economy, securing of technological excellence. For successful development of development centres of regional importance, their growth advantages should be used, development of individual profiles (specialisation) and development of unique competences should be promoted, at the same time improving the capacity of human resources, institutions and infrastructure. In addition to the above, in the development centres of national and regional importance growth should be directed towards creation of attractive and high quality living environment by promoting provision of jobs and

a broad and diverse range of services to the residents of cities and nearby territories.

Development centres of district importance are encouraged to ensure development of all types of infrastructure and improvement of its quality, accessibility of core (education, health, social, etc.) services and quality housing, possibilities of culture and recreation, as well as business activity, by creating employment opportunities for residents, including in the rural territories near the development centre.

For the purpose of development of rural territories, cities and rural areas are encouraged to strengthen the links of cooperation by providing accessibility and approachability of services (education, health, social, culture, entertainment, etc.) and jobs for rural residents, as well as the possibilities of recreation and living for city residents by developing high quality and mutually linked transport infrastructure, in particular, by improving the quality of roads, electronic communications and public infrastructure, thus creating the environment appealing for living there in rural territories.



LIAS 2030 Priority LIAS 2030 development direction

<i>Development of the culture space</i>	Maintenance of the culture space, interaction and enrichment
<i>Long-term investment in human capital</i>	Human capital base value and productivity
	Equality of opportunities and formation of the middle class
<i>Paradigms in life-long learning</i>	High quality and accessible life-long learning
<i>Innovative and eco-efficient economy</i>	Massive creative work and innovation
	Renewable and secure energy
<i>Nature as future capital</i>	Sustainable management of nature values and services
<i>Spatial development perspectives</i>	Improvement of approachability
	Population
	National interest spaces

National Development Plan 2021-2027

National Development Plan 2021 – 2027" (NDP2027) is the top national level medium term planning document from the hierarchy point of view. NDP2027 is closely related to "Sustainable development strategy of Latvia until 2030" (Latvia2030)

National Development Plan 2021-2027 (NDP 2027) which was approved in 2020 is the top national level medium term planning document in Latvia from the hierarchy point of view. In NDP 2027 the **fundamental change directions** are as follows:

- Equal opportunities;
- Quality of life;
- Knowledge-based society;

- Responsible Latvia.

NDP 2027 defines 4 **strategic goals**:

- Productivity and income;
- Equal opportunities;
- Regional development;
- Social trust;

In order to attain the set goals, 6 mutually compliant development priorities with major directions of actions and objectives for attaining the goals have been defined:

- Strong families, healthy and active people;
- Knowledge and skills for the growth of the individual and the state;
- Competitiveness of undertakings and material welfare;
- High quality living environment and development of territories;

- Culture and sports for active and wholesome life;
- United, safe and open society;

NDP 2027 priority “High quality living environment and development of territories” provides for transition of the national economy to the climate neutral economy, provides for improvement of the quality of major services (transportation, housing, power, digital services) and their accessibility and quality and cleanliness of the environment.

All the goals defined by NDP 2027 have been taken into account in developing Vidzeme Planning Region Development Programme 2022-2027 and they are integrated with the medium-term priorities and directions of action.

<i>NDP priority</i>	<i>NDP directions of action</i>
<i>Strong families, healthy and active people</i>	Individual-focused health care
	Psychological and emotional well-being
	Strong families for generations
	Healthy individual capable of working
	Social inclusion
<i>Knowledge and skills for the growth of the individual and the state</i>	Science for the society development, growth of the national economy and security
	High quality, accessible and inclusive education
<i>Competitiveness of undertakings and material welfare</i>	Productivity, innovation and export
	Work and income
	Capital and business environment

<i>High quality living environment and development of territories</i>	Nature and environment – “Green Course”
	Technological environment and services
	Balanced regional development
	Housing
<i>Culture and sports for active and wholesome life</i>	Involvement of people into culture and sports activities
	Contribution of culture and sports to sustainable society
<i>United, safe and open society</i>	Consolidation
	Justice and management
	Safety

## Compliance of Vidzeme priorities to NDP 2027

NDP 2027 priorities	Strong families, healthy and active people	Knowledge and skills for the growth of the individual and the state	Competitiveness of undertakings and material welfare	High quality living environment and development of territories	Culture and sports for active and wholesome life	United, safe and open society
<b>Medium-term priorities</b>						
C1. Accessible education						
C2. Safe and healthy society						
C3. High quality and accessible services						
T1. Nature capital						
T2. Nature and culture heritage						
T3. Mobility and accessibility						
T4. Strong communities						
T5. Living environment and housing						
E1. Innovation, science and development						
E2. Industry transformation						
E3. circular and bioeconomy						
E4. Efficient and clean energy						
P1. Cooperation						
P2. Adaptation to the climate change						
P3. Digital transformation						

Regional policy guidelines (hereinafter referred to as RPG 2027) is a medium term policy planning document which defines the regional policy of Latvia and is a document of implementation of the Spatial development perspective providing for particular directions of action and objectives for medium term, as well as details the objectives, directions of actions and tasks of NDP 2027.

RPG 2027 define the policy principles and thematic directions which should be resolved on the local or regional level (via development programs of municipalities and planning regions and regional development support measures, as well as individual

industry policy support measures) in order to implement the regional policy. RPG 2027 define the following policy principles:

- The territorial approach in providing support;
- Thematic concentration;
- Application of smart solutions principle in development planning and project implementation;

The goal of regional policy is to create preconditions for development of the potential of all regions and for reduction of socio-

economic disparities by increasing internal and external competitiveness, as well as by providing solutions according to specificities of each territory for development of settlement and high quality living environment.

Two **sub-targets** have been defined for attaining this:

1. Improvement of business environment in regions;
2. Improvement of efficiency of services in regions;

Medium term targets and directions of action of the regional policy:

*Medium term targets of the regional policy*      *Directions of action of the regional policy*

<i>Improvement of business environment in regions</i>	Preparation of the place for business and their productivity  Attraction of human capital in regions
<i>Improvement of efficiency of services in regions</i>	Provision of services in regions in compliance with the demography challenges  Accessibility and living environment in regions  Efficiency of the work of the administration of planning regions and local governments

# DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

Indicator	Unit	Base year	Base year value	Target value 2027	Data source
Number of projects aimed at reducing the anthropogenic burden	number	2021	0	↑	MoEPRD, local governments
Favourable proportion of protected habitats of EU importance	%	2019	10	↑	NPA
Number of implemented projects/ initiatives/ trainings aimed at development of sustainable habits in management of nature resources	number	2021	0	↑	MoEPRD, local governments
Preservation of biological diversity in grasslands (declared areas), ha	ha	2020	18026	↑	MoA
SPNT	proportion (%) of VPR territory	2020	30.4	↑	NPA
Number of protected nature territories of local importance	Number	2020	25	↑	NPA, local governments
Implemented public awareness raising measures regarding the environment and sustainable management of natural resources	number	2021	0	↑	VPR
Implemented green environment infrastructure solutions	Number	2021	0	13	MoEPRD, local governments
Potable water - the proportion of residents to whom water conforming with safety and quality requirements is supplied	%	2020	89	↑	Health Inspectorate
Number of connections to the district water supply system	number	2021	0	↑	Local governments
Residents who agree that the environment quality has improved	%	2020	Nd		VPR

Nights spent at hotels and other tourist accommodations <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_NOZ_TU_TUV/TUV050m">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_NOZ_TU_TUV/TUV050m</a>	number	2021	14514	↑	CSB
Number of created and supported culture and tourism sites	number	2021	0	13	MoE, CFLA, local governments
Proportion of residents who admit that sustainable/ integrated offer of tourism services is offered in the vicinity	%	2021	Nd		VPR
Number of visitors per year at culture centres	number	2020	600000	↑	MoC
Number of vocational culture education establishments and students	number	2020	4268	↑	MoC
Proportion of residents who admit that they actively consume or take part in culture and art activities	%	2021	Nd		VPR
Value added of undertakings of creative sectors <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_ENT_UF_UFR/UFR050">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_ENT_UF_UFR/UFR050</a>	Thous. EUR/ year	2019	7796	↑	CSB
Proportion of surveyed residents who fully agree or agree to the statement "I am aware of the tourism development projects of Vidzeme Planning Region Industrial Heritage, Forest Path, Sea Path, Riverways, Via Hanseatica. etc."	%	2021	Nd		VPR
Proportion of surveyed residents who fully agree or agree to the statement "Sustainable/ integrated offer of tourism services is offered and is available in the vicinity (culture heritage, nature, sports, local food, etc.) "	%	2021	Nd		VPR
Number of renewed, arranged culture historical sites	number	2021	0	26	Local governments
Expenses of households for recreation and culture as percentage of the total consumption expenses of households <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_POP_MB_MBI/MBI070">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_POP_MB_MBI/MBI070</a>	%	2019	26.5	↑	CSB
Number of culture centres, culture sites <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_OD/OSP_OD_sociala_kultura_kultura/KUG101.px/">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_OD/OSP_OD_sociala_kultura_kultura/KUG101.px/</a>	number	2020	119	→	CSB
Implemented cooperation initiatives aimed at improvement of accessibility or quality of education	number	2021	0	13	VPR, local governments
Mean assessment (performance \$) at the centralised exams of Grade 12 of students of the general education establishments of Vidzeme region	%	2020	50.46	↑	MoE, CSB
Proportion of residents aged 15 and above who have acquired a higher education level <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IZG_IZ_IZI/IZTo40/table/tableViewLayout1/">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IZG_IZ_IZI/IZTo40/table/tableViewLayout1/</a>	%	2021	18.17	↑	CSB
Proportion of persons aged from 25 to 64 involved in adult education	%	2021	8.6	↑	CSB
Employment proportion in the age group from 15 to 64 years <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_EMP_NBB_NBA/NBA030/table/tableViewLayout1/">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_EMP_NBB_NBA/NBA030/table/tableViewLayout1/</a>	%	2021	67.1	↑	CSB

Youth unemployment	%	2021	6.8	↓	SEA, CSB
Unemployment	%	2021	5.3	↓	SEA CSB
Proportion of residents aged 18 and above holding higher education or Ph.D degree <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IZG_IZ_IZI/RIGo7o/table/tableViewLayout1/">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IZG_IZ_IZI/RIGo7o/table/tableViewLayout1/</a>	%	2020	22.1	↑	CSB
Proportion of residents aged from 15 to 64 having acquired vocational education or vocational secondary education (ISCED level 3 and 4) <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IZG_IZ_IZI/IZIo2o/table/tableViewLayout1/">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IZG_IZ_IZI/IZIo2o/table/tableViewLayout1/</a>	%	2021	43.05	↑	CSB
Proportion of persons (aged from 15 to 74) with elementary or lower education <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IZG_IZ_IZI/IZIo2o/table/tableViewLayout1/">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IZG_IZ_IZI/IZIo2o/table/tableViewLayout1/</a>	%	2021	22.9	↓	CSB
Proportion of economically active residents (15-64) <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_EMP_NBB_NBA/NBAo4o/table/tableViewLayout1/">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_EMP_NBB_NBA/NBAo4o/table/tableViewLayout1/</a>	%	2021	73.8	↑	CSB
Proportion of residents who admit that the education environment and quality has improved	%	2021	Nd		VPR
Implemented initiatives aimed at improvement of the quality of education environment	number	2021	0	13	Local governments
Number of modernised education establishments	number	2021	0	13	Local governments
Rate of increase of the cases of mortality due to vascular system diseases per 100,000 residents <a href="https://statistika.spkc.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/Health/Health_Mirstiba/MOR3o_ledz_mirstiba_terit_sadal.px/table/tableViewLayout2/">https://statistika.spkc.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/Health/Health_Mirstiba/MOR3o_ledz_mirstiba_terit_sadal.px/table/tableViewLayout2/</a>	Number/1000 residents	2020	901	↓	DPCC
Increase of the number of doctors per 10,000 residents <a href="https://statistika.spkc.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/Health/Health_Veselibas_aprupes_resursi/RESo2o_AP_SR_pilsetas.px/table/tableViewLayout2/">https://statistika.spkc.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/Health/Health_Veselibas_aprupes_resursi/RESo2o_AP_SR_pilsetas.px/table/tableViewLayout2/</a>	Number/1000 residents	2020	23.1	↑	DPCC
Decrease of the number of residents per a practising doctor <a href="https://statistika.spkc.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/Health/">https://statistika.spkc.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/Health/</a>	Number	2020	435	↓	DPCC
Increase of the proportion of residents engaging in physical and sports activities minimum 1-2 times per week	%	2017	45%	↑	
Economic stress of residents <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_POP_NN_NNN/NNNo4o">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_POP_NN_NNN/NNNo4o</a>	%	2021	29.9	↓	CSB
Public trust index (trust in local governments, services)	%	2020	32	↑	SKDS
Number of people who have died due to external death circumstances <a href="https://statistika.spkc.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/Health/">https://statistika.spkc.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/Health/</a>	number	2020	151	↓	DPCC
Increased level of digital skills in the society (basic skills, above the basic level)	%	2021	49.9	↑	DESI index

Poverty risk index in regions <a href="https://stat.gov.lv/lv/statistikas-temas/iedzivotaji/monetara-nabadziba-nevienlidziba-un-sociala-atstumtiba/tabulas/nnr120?themeCode=NN">https://stat.gov.lv/lv/statistikas-temas/iedzivotaji/monetara-nabadziba-nevienlidziba-un-sociala-atstumtiba/tabulas/nnr120?themeCode=NN</a>	(%)	2020	32.0	↓	CSB
Proportion of residents who use the Internet minimum once a week <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IKT_DL_DLM/DLMo10/table/tableViewLayout1/">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IKT_DL_DLM/DLMo10/table/tableViewLayout1/</a>	%	2021	88.3	↑	CSB
Proportion of unemployed persons with disability of the total number of unemployed	%	2021	14.2	↓	SEA
Number of users of society-based social services	number	2021	453	↑	VPR
Proportion of residents who admit that social services and possibilities of social assistance are available in the close vicinity	%	2021	Nd		VPR
Number of residents per one social work expert	number	2020	328	↓	MoW
Number of providers of social care and social rehabilitation	number	2021	166	↑	MoW
Capacity of new or upgraded social housing for children with PhI, FES, persons with MNI	number	2021	906	↑	VPR
Number of social work experts per 1000 residents	number	2021	3.04	↑	MoW
Number of children staying at long-term social care institutions	number	2021	41	↓	VPR
Number of persons with MNI at SSCC	number	2021	626	↓	VPR
Number of people using environmentally friendly vehicles for mobility minimum 1-2 times a week	number	2021	Nd		VPR
Increased total length of bicycle infrastructure	km/ 1000 residents	2021	Nd		MoT, local governments
Improved or created infrastructure of environmentally friendly mobility	number	2021	Nd	13	VPR, local governments
Improved or created bicycle infrastructure	number	2021	Nd	13	MoT, local governments
Time consumption in public transportation between regional development centres	Km/h	2021	57.3	↑	VPR, ATD
Increase of the total length of state black paved roads <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_OD/OSP_OD_transp_auto_celi/TRGozo.px/table/tableViewLayout1/VP">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_OD/OSP_OD_transp_auto_celi/TRGozo.px/table/tableViewLayout1/VP</a>	km	2020	2737	↑	CSB



Decrease of the total length of state gravel roads <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_OD/OSP_OD_transp_auto_celi/TRGo20.px/table/tableViewLayout1/">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_OD/OSP_OD_transp_auto_celi/TRGo20.px/table/tableViewLayout1/</a>	km	2020	3644	↓	CSB
Cities with new or modernised digitalised city transportation systems	number	2021	Nd	2	VPR, local governments
Developed plans of sustainable mobility of cities/ municipalities	number	2021	1	13	VPR, local governments
Number of electrical charging stations	number	2021	32	↑	CSDD
Number of electrical vehicles	number	2021	2174	↑	CSDD
Number of passengers carried by public passenger road transportation	Mill./number	2020	1.86	↑	CSB, ATD
Number of passengers carried by public railway transportation*	Mill./number	2020	12.9	↑	CSB, ATD
Proportion of state black paved roads in bad or very bad condition	%	2020	30.7	↓	LVC
Proportion of state gravel roads in bad or very bad condition	%	2020	55.9	↓	LVC
Proportion of residents who admit that accessibility and approachability in rural territories has improved	%	2021	Nd		VPR
Number of NGOs per 1000 residents	number/1000 residents	2020	11.7	↑	CSB
Number of re-emigrated people <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_POP_IB_IBR/IBR030/table/tableViewLayout1/">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_POP_IB_IBR/IBR030/table/tableViewLayout1/</a>	number	2020	487	↑	CSB
Implemented public initiatives	number	2021	Nd		VRG, LLF
Long-term migration of residents to Vidzeme region	number	2020	-126	↑	CSB
Changes in the local, municipal and regional identity of people (pride for affiliation)	%	2021	Nd		VPR
Participation of residents in municipal elections	%	2020	36.61	↑	CEC
Proportion of residents who reply that they have good opportunities to participate in decision-making at the local government	%	2021	Nd		VPR, local governments

Proportion of residents who reply that there are active communities and local activities initiated by residents in the territory	%	2021	Nd		VPR, local governments
Number of commissioned new apartments, <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_NOZ_BU_BUE/BUE021c">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_NOZ_BU_BUE/BUE021c</a>	number	2020	185	↑	CSB
Proportion of residents who reply that the availability of housing is sufficient in the vicinity	%	2021	Nd		VPR
Proportion of residents who admit that the quality of life has improved	%	2021	Nd		VPR
Proportion of residents who admit that the accessibility of services has improved	%	2021	Nd		VPR
Implemented innovative solutions for improvement of municipal services	Number	2021	Nd	3	VPR, local governments
Proportion undertakings active in the area of innovations* <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_ENT_IU_IUS/IUS010/?loadedQueryId=275&amp;timeType=from&amp;timeValue=2008">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_ENT_IU_IUS/IUS010/?loadedQueryId=275&amp;timeType=from&amp;timeValue=2008</a>	%	2018	32.9		CSB
Increase of activity of undertakings in using available innovation aid instruments	number	2021	Nd		MoE, VPR, local governments
Value added per resident <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_VEK_IK_IKR/IKR010/?loadedQueryId=185&amp;timeType=top&amp;timeValue=1">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_VEK_IK_IKR/IKR010/?loadedQueryId=185&amp;timeType=top&amp;timeValue=1</a>	EUR	2019	10915	↑	CSB
Foreign direct investment per 1000 residents	EUR/1000 res.	2019	4.74	↑	RAIM
Increase of expense for performing research work in the region*	%/net	2019	1.57	↑	CSB
Implemented cooperation projects of entrepreneurs and researchers	number	2021	Nd		VPR
Proportion of value added products and services in the total GDP of the region <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_VEK_IK_IKR/IKR020/?loadedQueryId=571&amp;timeType=top&amp;timeValue=1">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_VEK_IK_IKR/IKR020/?loadedQueryId=571&amp;timeType=top&amp;timeValue=1</a>	EUR	2019	1765653	↑	CSB
Total value added of Vidzeme RIS3 fields	Thous./eur		370333	↑	CSB
GDP per resident <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_VEK_IK_IKR/IKR010/table/tableViewLayout1/">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_VEK_IK_IKR/IKR010/table/tableViewLayout1/</a>	EUR	2019	10915	↑	CSB
Increase of the economically active units of the market sector per 1000 residents <a href="https://stat.gov.lv/lv/statistikas-temas/uznemejdarbiba/skaits-demografija/tabulas/uzso40-tirgus-sektora-ekonomiski-aktivi">https://stat.gov.lv/lv/statistikas-temas/uznemejdarbiba/skaits-demografija/tabulas/uzso40-tirgus-sektora-ekonomiski-aktivi</a>	Number/1000 residents	2020	88	↑	CSB

Mean wage (gross) <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_EMP_DS_DSV/DSV050c">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_EMP_DS_DSV/DSV050c</a>	EUR	2021	1041	↑	CSB
Number of newly created undertakings*	number	2021	182769	↑	ER
Proportion of surveyed residents who agree that good opportunities are offered in the region to young entrepreneurs for business development	%	2021	Nd		VPR
Increase of the proportion of recycled waste of collected waste per year	(%)	2020	65.59	↑	CSB
Implemented investment projects in the fields of circular economy	number	2021	Nd		MoE, local governments
Proportion of surveyed residents who agree that eco undertakings and sustainable business is supported in the region	%	2021	Nd		VPR
Volume of waste produced per resident per year	t/1 res.	2019	0.26	↓	MoEPRD
Proportion of buried waste of the accepted waste	%	2019	44.2	↓	MoEPRD
Amount of public and private investment in the fields of bio economy, including expenses for research and development	EUR	2021	Nd		MoA, MoE, LLU
Proportion of utilisation of recycled materials	%	2017	6.6	↑	Eurostat
Implemented community based waste sorting, resource sharing solutions	number	2021	Nd		VRG, local governments
Proportion of renewable energy resources by type and by NACE2 groups/	%	2021	Nd		MoEPRD, RAIM
Number of implemented projects in the field of RES, energy efficiency	number	2021	Nd	13	MoEPRD, local governments
Public buildings with improved energy efficiency	number	2021	Nd	13	MoEPRD, local governments
Increase of the proportion of energy produced from renewable energy resources in the total gross energy consumption* <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_NOZ_EN_ENA/ENA020/table/tableViewLayout1/">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_NOZ_EN_ENA/ENA020/table/tableViewLayout1/</a>	%	2020	42.13	↑	CSB
Heat delivered to households	kWg	2020	236	↓	CSB
Integrated local government planning initiatives and cooperation projects in fields important for the region	number	2021	Nd		VPR

Residents' perception regarding the possibility to affect the action policy	Scale 1-10	2015	1.51	3.5	ESS
Political trust index	%	2018	26.68	32.6	SKDS
GHG emissions	kt CO <sub>2</sub> eq.	2020	13145.02	↓	LGMC
Ecologic footprint	ha	2017	6.1	↓	MoEPRD
Municipal strategies of adaptation to the climate change	number	2021	Nd	13	MoEPRD, local governments
Availability of the Internet at households <a href="https://stat.gov.lv/lv/statistikas-temas/informacijas-tehn/interneta-lietosana/tabulas/dlmo6o-datoru-interneta-pieejamiba">https://stat.gov.lv/lv/statistikas-temas/informacijas-tehn/interneta-lietosana/tabulas/dlmo6o-datoru-interneta-pieejamiba</a>	%	2021	92.6	↑	CSB
Proportion of residents who use the Internet minimum once a week <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IKT_DL_DLM/DLMo10">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IKT_DL_DLM/DLMo10</a>	%	2021	88.3	↑	CSB
Number of residents who use online banking <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IKT_DL_DLM/DLMo20">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IKT_DL_DLM/DLMo20</a>	%	2021	78.1	↑	CSB
Proportion of residents who fill in the forms of state or public service providers online <a href="https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IKT_DL_DLM/DLMo40">https://data.stat.gov.lv/pxweb/lv/OSP_PUB/START_IKT_DL_DLM/DLMo40</a>	%	2021	62.6	↑	CSB