**Methodology for the application of the evaluation criteria of the project application**

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| Name of the programme | European Union Cohesion Policy Programme 2021-2027 |
| Priority number and title | 1.1. Research and skills |
| Number and title of the specific objective of the aid | 1.1.1. Strengthening research and innovation capacity and implementation of advanced technologies in the overall R&D system |
| Number and title of the specific objective measure (hereinafter - measure) | 1.1.1.3. Industry-driven research |
| Name of the selection round | Round 1 |
| Type of project application selection | Open selection of project applications |
| Responsible authority | Ministry of Education and Science |

**General conditions for the application of the evaluation criteria of the project application**:

1. In order to assess the conformity of the project application with the relevant evaluation criterion of the project application, the evaluator must take into account both the information provided in the relevant sections of the project application form and all other information available in the project application form (other sections and annexes of the application form).
2. When assessing the conformity of the project application with the evaluation criteria of the project application, only the information available in the project application form (project application form and annexes) shall be taken into account. The assessment may not be based on assumptions or other information that cannot be verified or proved, or that is not relevant to the specific project application. However, if the evaluator has at his disposal any information that may influence the evaluation of the project, specific facts and sources of information must be indicated that justify and prove the information provided by the evaluator.
3. When evaluating a project application, attention should be paid to the coherence of the information provided in the project application form between all sections of the project application form in which it is referred to. If the information between the sections does not match, it is necessary to make provision for an additional explanation of the criterion to which the discrepancy applies.
4. The following shall be used in the evaluation of project applications:
5. Cabinet Regulation No 407 of 25 June 2024 "Implementing Regulations for Measure 1.1.1.3 "Industry-driven research" of the Specific Support Objective 1.1.1 "Strengthening research and innovation capacity and implementation of advanced technologies in the overall R&D system" of the European Union Cohesion Policy Programme for 2021-2027 (hereinafter - the Regulations of the CM of the measure);
6. the European Union's cohesion policy programme for 2021-2027 and its annexes;
7. Methodology of the Ministry of Finance No 3.1 of January 26, 2023. "Methodology for the selection of project applications from the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund for the period 2021-2027";
8. 1.1.1. the specific objective of the aid "Strengthening research and innovation capacity and implementation of advanced technologies in the overall R&D system" 1.1.1.3. the project application selection regulations of the measure "Industry-driven research", the methodology for the application of the project application evaluation criteria and the methodology for filling in the project application;
9. Methodology for determining compliance with research and knowledge dissemination organization approved by the Ministry of Education and Science on August 1, 2024[[1]](#footnote-2).

**Abbreviations and designations:**

Agency – Central Finance and Contracting Agency

CID - company in difficulty

SMEs - Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises

VAT – Value added tax

CoM Regulations of measure – Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No 407 of 25 June 2024 "Implementing Rules for Measure 1.1.1.3 "Industry-driven research" of The Specific Support Objective 1.1.1 "Strengthening research and innovation capacity and implementation of advanced technologies in the overall R&D system" of the European Union Cohesion Policy Programme 2021-2027"

SRS – State Revenue Service

SRS debtors database – section of the SRS public database "Tax debtors" <https://www.vid.gov.lv/lv/vid-publiskojamo-datu-baze>

ICT - Information and communication technologies

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| **1. COMMON CRITERIA** | | **Influence of the criterion on decision-making**  (N[[2]](#footnote-3), P[[3]](#footnote-4), N/A[[4]](#footnote-5)) | **Explanation for determining eligibility** |
| 1.1. | The project application complies with the specific requirements specified in the CoM Regulations of measure:   1. the project applicant complies with the range of applicants specified in the CoM Regulations of measure; 2. the deadline for the implementation of the project corresponds to the deadline specified in the CoM Regulations of of measure; 3. Additional annexes to be attached specified in the selection regulations are attached to the project application. | P | The conformity of the project applicant and the project application shall be verified on the basis of the information indicated in the project application and annexes attached to the project application, which are listed in the selection regulations.  The conformity of the project applicant with the circle of applicants specified in the regulations of the CoM Regulations of measure shall be verified at the moment of submitting the project application and at the moment of submitting the updated project application (if applicable).  Assurance on the conformity of the project submitter is obtained by checking the information available in publicly reliable databases and websites regarding the project submitter, for example, in the "Lursoft" database or in the databases of an equivalent/equivalent re-user of the enterprise register data, in the public databases of the State Revenue Service (hereinafter - the SRS).  If necessary, in order to gain confidence, communication is carried out with other institutions, institutions regarding the information indicated in the project application and annexes attached to the project application, which are listed in the selection regulations, for example, with a credit institution, the Financial and Capital Market Commission, a law enforcement institution, etc. depending on the specifics of the measure.  The rating is **"Yes"** if:   1. the project submitter complies with the range of applicants specified in the CoM Regulations of measure and the relevant requirements set; 2. the term of implementation of the project does not exceed the deadline specified in the CoM Regulations of measure; 3. the annexes attached to the project application comply with the requirements specified in the CoM Regulations of measure, including all additional appendices specified for the project applicant listed in the by-laws have been attached.   If the project application does not conform to the abovementioned requirements, the assessment shall be **"Yes", conditionally"** and appropriate conditions shall be set.  The assessment shall be **"No" if** the project applicant does not fulfil the conditions included in the decision to approve the project application with conditions or after fulfilment of the conditions still does not conform to the requirements stipulated, or the conditions are not fulfilled within the time period specified in the decision to approve the project application with conditions. |
| 1.2. | The project submitter and the project cooperation partner, if such is provided in the project, do not have tax debts administered by the State Revenue Service in the Republic of Latvia, including debts of mandatory State social insurance contributions, which in the total amount individually exceed EUR 150*.* | P | The verification of compliance with the criterion of the project submitter and cooperation partner, if such is provided in the project, shall be carried out separately on the basis of the current information available in the section "Tax debtors" of the SRS database to be published (hereinafter - the SRS debtors database) regarding the situation on the day of submission of the project application and, if applicable, the updated project application to the cooperation institution, taking into account that the information on the payment of taxes made in the SRS debtors database is updated and published with a delay of two working days.  The date of the inspection and the established situation shall be indicated in the opinion of the Evaluation Commission of the project application.  The assessment is **"Yes"** if, based on the information available in the SRS debtors' database on the project application and, if applicable, the date of submission of the updated project application (i.e., the information published two working days after the date of submission of the project application and, if applicable, the updated project application), the project applicant and the cooperation partner, if such is provided for in the project, do not have tax debts administered by the SRS, of which the debt of mandatory State social insurance contributions (hereinafter - tax debts), which in total exceeds EUR 150 for each separately.  The rating is **"Yes conditional"** if:   * + - 1. according to the information available in the SRS debtors' database regarding the situation on the day of submission of the project application to the Cooperation Institution (i.e., information published two working days after the submission of the project application to the Cooperation Institution), the project applicant and/or cooperation partner, if such is provided for in the project, has tax debts, which in total exceed EUR 150 for each separately;       2. according to the information available in the SRS debtors' database regarding the situation on the day of submission of the project application to the Cooperation Institution (i.e., information published two working days after the submission of the project application to the Cooperation Institution), the project applicant and/or cooperation partner, if such is provided for in the project, does not have tax debts, which in total exceed EUR 150 for each individual, but at the same time there is a note that accurate information about the state of payment of taxes cannot be provided to the SRS, since the taxpayer has not submitted all the declarations that may affect this state on the date of the inspection.   The establishment of the abovementioned facts shall be subject to the following conditions:   1. to pay all tax debts, ensuring that neither the project submitter nor the cooperation partner, if such is provided for in the project, has no tax debts in the Republic of Latvia on the day of submitting the project application clarifications, which in total exceed EUR 150 for each separately; 2. submit to the SRS all tax returns that had to be submitted by the date of the inspection, in addition to submitting to the Agency an updated statement on the actual state of payment of taxes on the date of the inspection.   The assessment is **"No",** if according to the information available in the SRS debtors' database on the day of submitting the updated project application (i.e., information published two working days after submission of the updated project application to the Cooperation Institution), it is established that the project submitter and/or cooperation partner, if such is provided for in the project, has not paid tax debts and the applicant and/or cooperation partner, if the project provides for one, there are tax debts totalling more than EUR 150 each.  In order to ensure a comprehensive examination of the abovementioned criterion, the conformity of the project applicant and the cooperation partner, if such is provided for in the project, with the provisions of this criterion shall be re-examined if the project application has been conditionally approved, regardless of whether the condition is related to the fulfilment of this criterion.  If, as a result of a re-examination, the Agency finds a tax debt, the Agency shall take a decision to reject the project application on the grounds of non-compliance with this criterion, even if the initial evaluation assessed the project application with a "Yes" in this criterion. |
| 1.3. | The project application identifies, describes and evaluates the project risks, assesses their impact and probability of occurrence, as well as determines the measures reducing risks. | P | **The assessment is "Yes"** if in the project application:   1. risks of project implementation have been identified and analysed at least in the following terms: financial, implementation, achievement of results and monitoring indicators, administration risks. Other risks may also be indicated; 2. a description of each risk, i.e. specifying the nature of the risk and describing what circumstances and information justify its occurrence; 3. for each risk, its impact (high, medium, low) and the probability of occurrence (high, medium, low) are indicated; 4. For each risk, the planned and ongoing risk prevention/mitigation measures shall be indicated, including by describing the frequency of their implementation and indicating the persons responsible for the implementation of risk prevention/mitigation measures.   If the project application does not conform to the abovementioned requirements, the assessment shall be **"Yes, conditional"** and appropriate conditions shall be set.  The assessment shall be **"No"** if the project applicant does not fulfil the conditions included in the decision to approve the project application with conditions or after fulfilment of the conditions still does not conform to the requirements stipulated, or the conditions are not fulfilled within the time period specified in the decision to approve the project application with conditions. |
| 1.4. | The project application shall include information confirming the absence of double funding and the planned demarcation and/or synergy with the support measures of the projects implemented (already completed) or in the implementation of the project applicant or with the projects or support measures implemented by other entities. | P | The rating is **"Yes"** if:  1) the project application includes information regarding the projects implemented (already completed) or implemented by the project applicant with which demarcation of the activities and costs planned in the project application, synergy of investments is to be determined;  2) it is confirmed in the project application that the investments planned in the project for the same costs will not be financed concurrently with the co-financing attracted within the scope of another project or aid measure, as well as the activities to be implemented in the project within the scope of the financing allocated for the implementation of the project will not be financed twice, eliminating the risk of double financing.  If the project application does not conform to the abovementioned requirements, the assessment shall be **"Yes, conditional"** and appropriate conditions shall be set.  The assessment shall be **"No"** if the project applicant does not fulfil the conditions included in the decision to approve the project application with conditions or after fulfilment of the conditions still does not conform to the requirements stipulated, or the conditions are not fulfilled within the time period specified in the decision to approve the project application with conditions. |
| 1.5. | The conditions for ensuring the requirements for communication and visual identity planned in the project application conform to those[[5]](#footnote-6) laid down in Articles 47 and 50 of the Common Provisions Regulation, in the laws and regulations laying down the procedures by which the institutions involved in the management of European Union funds ensure the introduction of these funds in the 2021-2027 programming period, and in the communication and design guidelines of the European Union funds for the 2021-2027 programming period and the Recovery Fund. | P | The assessment is **"Yes**" if the project application provides for:  1) it is planned to publish on the official website of the project submitter, if such a website exists, and on social media sites  **a short description of the project**, including the objectives and results thereof, proportionate to the amount of support, and an indication that the project has been co-financed with financial support received by the European Union;  2)  **it is planned to provide a prominent statement in the documents and communication materials related** to the implementation of the project, which are intended to be distributed to the public or participants, in which the support received from the European Union will be emphasized;  3) **for projects receiving support from the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund, the total cost of which exceeds EUR 500 000** or **for projects receiving support from the European Social Fund Plus and the Just Transition Fund, the total cost of which exceeds EUR 100 000** and including material investments or the purchase of equipment, sustainable plaques or billboards clearly visible to the public will be installed, which depicts the emblem of the European Union[[6]](#footnote-7), for the activities and activities planned in the project. Sustainable plaques or billboards will be installed as soon as the actual implementation of project activities, which include material investments, begins, or as soon as the purchased equipment is installed;  4) **for projects not covered by paragraph 3 of the explanation of this criterion**, it is planned to install **at least one poster** with a minimum size A3 **or an equivalent electronic notice in a place clearly visible to the public**, setting out information about the project and highlighting the support received from European Union funds.  In addition to the mandatory minimum publicity requirements laid down in the Common Regulations Regulation and the laws and regulations laying down the procedures by which the institutions involved in the management of European Union funds ensure the introduction of these funds during the programming period 2021-2027, the project applicant may plan other types of communication activities in the project application with the help of which the objective of the project is achieved, or the general public may be informed of the contribution of EU funds to the project, if such are provided for in the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers on the implementation of the relevant measure.  If the project application does not conform to the abovementioned requirements, the assessment shall be **"Yes, conditional"** and appropriate conditions shall be set.  The assessment shall be **"No"** if the project applicant does not fulfil the conditions included in the decision to approve the project application with conditions or after fulfilment of the conditions still does not conform to the requirements stipulated, or the conditions are not fulfilled within the time period specified in the decision to approve the project application with conditions. |
| 1.6. | The amount and intensity of the EU fund financing provided for in the project application conforms to the amount and intensity of the EU fund funding specified in CoM Regulations of measure, the total eligible costs and cost items included comply with the provisions of the CoM Regulations of measure, including do not exceed the amounts of the specified cost items and:   1. are connected with the implementation of the project, 2. are necessary for the implementation of the project (implementation of the activities indicated in the project, ensuring the needs of the target group, solving the defined problem) and their usefulness has been evaluated, 3. ensures the achievement of the objective and indicators set by the project. | P | **The assessment is "Yes",** if the EU fund funding indicated in the project application and annexes attached to the project application, which are listed in the by-laws,[[7]](#footnote-8) and the aid intensity thereof conforms to the amount of EU fund financing and aid intensity specified in the CoM Regulations of measure, and the planned costs in the project application correspond to the cost items specified in the CoM Regulations of measure and do not exceed the amounts specified therein, including:   1. costs are necessary for the implementation of the planned activities of the project (including to ensure the needs of the target group; 2. the justification for the usefulness of the planned costs and the justification of the amount of costs are provided in the project application – i.e., the planned costs in the project application correspond to average market prices in specific cost items (information may be substantiated, for example, by indicating publicly available sources on prices of goods or services, preliminary market research[[8]](#footnote-9), concluded protocols of intent or contracts (if applicable), etc.); 3. costs ensure the achievement of the objective and indicators set by the project.   If the project application does not conform to the abovementioned requirements, **the assessment shall be "Yes, conditional"** and appropriate conditions shall be set.  **The assessment shall be "No"** if the project applicant does not fulfil the conditions included in the decision to approve the project application with conditions or after fulfilment of the conditions still does not conform to the requirements stipulated, or the conditions are not fulfilled within the time period specified in the decision to approve the project application with conditions. |
| 1.7. | The project applicant and the project cooperation partner (if applicable) have sufficient implementation and financial capacity for the implementation of the project. | P | **The assessment shall be "Yes**" if the project applicant has sufficiently characterised and justified the project applicant and the project cooperation partner in the project application and its annexes:  1) the project management capacity, indicating the positions and division of responsibilities of the specialists involved in the project management, as well as if it is planned to implement a project related to economic activity - information regarding the basis of employment legal relations - an employment contract or an undertaking contract - is indicated;  2) the project implementation capacity, providing the following information:  a) the scientific qualifications and experience of the scientific manager involved in the implementation of the project; the curriculum vitae shall indicate the parameters characterising the capacity (productivity and quality) of the scientific activity carried out by the person in the field of science corresponding to the project (curriculum vitae (CV) shall be appended to the Annex);  (b) the scientific staff directly involved in the implementation of the research, divided by group of posts (scientific staff and scientific technical staff), indicating qualifications (t.sk. scientific qualifications) and experience attesting to the professionalism and suitability of each person for the performance of the duties envisaged;  (c) the research infrastructures available for the conduct of research;   1. the financial capacity, indicating the planned available financial resources for the implementation of the project, t.sk. the sources of the planned financial resources, as well as, if applicable, contributions in kind and/or an opinion of the Treasury on obtaining a state loan to implement the project according to the intended settings is planned.   In accordance with Sub-paragraph 40.1 of the CoM Regulations of measure of the measure, the necessary national financing shall be ensured in the case of a project not related to economic activity.  Further information on the possibilities of applying in-kind contributions as co-financing of projects is available at:  <https://www.esfondi.lv/guidelines_and_regulations_assets/metodika.pdf>   1. the project management and implementation system, describing the t.sk of the project management and implementation staff. the organisational structure of cooperation between the staff of the cooperation partners, the mechanism for control and decision-making.   If the project application does not conform to the abovementioned requirements, the assessment shall be **"Yes, conditional",** appropriate conditions shall be set.  **In the event that it** is planned to attract a state loan for the implementation of the project, the compliance is assessed taking into account the opinion of the Treasury on the receipt of a state loan. In the case of a negative opinion of the Treasury, the rating is **"Yes, conditional".** The decision shall stipulate a condition to clarify the project application accordingly.  **The assessment shall be "No"** if the project applicant does not fulfil the conditions included in the decision to approve the project application with conditions or after fulfilment of the conditions still does not conform to the requirements specified, or the conditions are not fulfilled within the time period specified in the decision to approve the project application with conditions. |
| 1.8. | The objective of the project corresponds to the objective specified in the CoM Regulations of measure , the defined monitoring indicators ensure and confirm the achievement of the goal, the monitoring indicators are clearly defined, justified and measurable. | P | **The rating is "Yes"** if:   1. the information referred to in the project application regarding the project objective and project activities shows that it complies with the objective of the measure– to support research that drives the development of specialization areas of the Smart Specialization Strategy of Latvia and the transformation of the national economy in favor of products with high added value and promotes integration into global value chains, as well as solves societal challenges in the context of global challenges; 2. the project indicators indicated in the project application are measurable, correspond to the indicators specified for the implementation of the CoM Regulations of measure and contribute to the achievement of the goal; 3. the project submitter intends to accumulate information about the project indicators.   If the project application does not conform to the abovementioned requirements, the assessment shall be **"Yes, conditional",** appropriate conditions shall be set.  **The assessment shall be "No"** if the project applicant does not fulfil the conditions included in the decision to approve the project application with conditions or after fulfilment of the conditions still does not conform to the requirements stipulated, or the conditions are not fulfilled within the time period specified in the decision to approve the project application with conditions. |
| 1.9. | The expected results planned in the project application are clearly defined and follow from the descriptions of the planned activities. Planned project activities:   1. complies with the provisions of the CoM Regulations of measure and provides for a link with the relevant activities to be supported; 2. are well-defined and justified and address the problems defined in the project. | P | **The rating is "Yes"** if:   1. the expected results indicated in the project application are clearly defined, justified and measurable, arise from the activities planned in the project application, their content and description, which will be implemented within the scope of this activity, and ensure the achievement of the result specified in Sub-paragraph 7.4 of the CoM Regulations of measure of the measure; 2. the activities included in the project application correspond to the supported activities and cost items specified in the CoM Regulations of measure; 3. The activities planned in the project application are well defined, justified and necessary for the achievement of the project objective, planned indicators and project results.   If the project application does not conform to the abovementioned requirements, the assessment shall be **"Yes, conditional",** appropriate conditions shall be set.  **The assessment shall be "No"** if the project applicant does not fulfil the conditions included in the decision to approve the project application with conditions or after fulfilment of the conditions still does not conform to the requirements stipulated, or the conditions are not fulfilled within the time period specified in the decision to approve the project application with conditions. |
| **2. COMMON SELECTION CRITERIA** | | | |
| 2.1. | The co-operation partner of the project and its planned activities within the scope of the project comply with the requirements specified in the CoM Regulations of measure. | P/N/A | **The rating is "Yes"** if   1. the cooperation partner conforms to that specified in Paragraph 38 and Sub-paragraph 21.1 of the CoM Regulations of measure of the measure and is a scientific institution or performer of economic activity the economic activity of which is registered in Latvia or abroad; 2. the project cooperation partner complies with the requirements laid down in paragraph 21 of the CoM Regulations of measure of the event. The conformity of the cooperation partner with the conditions of the CoM Regulations of measure of the measure shall be evaluated, taking into account the procedures for the implementation of the project and use of the results indicated in the cooperation agreement, which include the information specified in Sub-paragraph 30.5 of the CoM Regulations of measure; 3. the planned activities of the project cooperation partner within the scope of the project are defined in the project application and they correspond to the supported activities specified in Paragraphs 21, 22, 23, 32, 43, 44, and 45 of the CoM Regulations of measure; 4. the project application provides a justification for the choice of a cooperation partner; 5. the amount of financing that will be directed to the cooperation partner within the framework of the project is indicated in the project application; 6. together with the project application, the necessary documentation has been submitted, which confirms the right of possession or holding of the cooperation partner to the immovable property, intellectual property or other type of property in which the project activities will be implemented (if applicable and if information regarding the abovementioned rights is not available in public registers); 7. The eligible costs of each cooperation partner's part of the project represent at least 20% of the total costs of the project.   If the project application does not conform to the abovementioned requirements, the assessment shall be "**Yes, conditional**", appropriate conditions shall be set.  **The assessment shall be "No"** if the project applicant does not fulfil the conditions included in the decision to approve the project application with conditions or after fulfilment of the conditions still does not conform to the requirements stipulated, or the conditions are not fulfilled within the time period specified in the decision to approve the project application with conditions.  The assessment is **"Not applicable"** if the project does not plan a cooperation partner. |
| 2.2. | The potential impact of the project on the activities of the project submitter and cooperation partner (if applicable) is described in the project application, as well as the conditions for ensuring sustainability are included in the project application. | P | **The assessment is "Yes"** if the sustainability of the expected results is justified in the project application for at least five years after the final payment has been made in accordance with one or several investments in increasing the capacity of the innovation system specified in Paragraph 25 of the of the CoM Regulations of measure.  If the project application does not provide a certification regarding ensuring the sustainability of the project results in accordance with the CoM Regulations of measure of the measure, **the assessment shall be "Yes, conditional",** concurrently determining the condition to clarify the project application, observing the conditions of Paragraph 25 of the CoM Regulations of the measure.  **The assessment shall be "No"** if the project applicant does not fulfil the conditions included in the decision to approve the project application with conditions or after fulfilment of the conditions still does not conform to the requirements stipulated, or the conditions are not fulfilled within the time period specified in the decision to approve the project application with conditions. |
| 2.3. | The activities planned in the project application, except for the business support activities specified in the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers[[9]](#footnote-10), have not been commenced and conform to the conditions for the incentive effect of the aid for commercial activity. | N/ N/A | **The assessment is "Yes"** if the project meets the conditions for the incentive effect in accordance with Article 6 of Commission Regulation No 651/2014 and paragraphs 41 and 37 of the CoM Regulations of measure.  In accordance with Article 6(2) of Commission Regulation No 651/2014113, aid is to be regarded as having an incentive effect if the project applicant has submitted a written application for aid to the Member State before work on the project begins or before the activity starts.  According to Article 2(23) of Commission Regulation No 651/2014, 'start of works' means the first legally binding commitment to order equipment related to an investment, or any other commitment that makes the investment irreversible, whichever comes first. In the case of takeovers, 'start of works' means the moment when assets directly linked to the acquired establishment are acquired.  For example, before the aid applicant has submitted an aid application to the aid provider, the aid applicant may launch a tender for certain activities that will be necessary for the implementation of the project, but may not enter into a contract to carry out these activities with the service provider selected in the procurement, as this will result in it entering into legal obligations that have legal consequences for the execution of the planned investment.  On the other hand, certain preparatory actions, such as drawing up a topographical plan, obtaining a permit, negotiating within the framework of that definition, do not constitute the start of works and do not infringe compliance with the provisions on an incentive effect within the meaning of Article 2(23) and Article 6 of Commission Regulation No 651/2014.  The applicant of the project of the aided activity referred to in Paragraph 23 of the CoM Regulations of measure may commence and apply the costs referred to in Paragraph 33 of the CoM Regulations of measure from the day when an application for project implementation is received at the Cooperation Institution in conformity with the conditions regarding the incentive effect referred to in Article 6(2) of Commission Regulation No 651/2014. The supported activities referred to in Paragraph 33 of the CoM Regulation of measure shall be recognised as having been commenced from the date of commencement of the works planned in the project, the conclusion of the first legally binding commitment or the project submitter has undertaken other commitments that make the investment irreversible (whichever occurs first), as well as other activities that comply with the definition of the start of works laid down in Article 2(23) of Commission Regulation No 651/2014.  Compliance with the criterion of whether the conditions for an incentive effect are met, shall be verified by:  1) evaluating the information indicated in the project application and documents appended thereto, for example, supply/service contracts, if applicable;  2) the available information in public, reliable sources regarding the project submitter in relation to the planned project, for example, the database of the procurement procedure process of the Procurement Monitoring Bureau;  3) if it is necessary and there are relevant indications, for example, information from third parties, a complaint, evaluating the opinion/evaluation of an expert invited to the project application evaluation commission regarding the place of project implementation and the progress of the project in accordance with the procedures for the performance of inspections of projects of European Union funds in the programming period 2021-2027.  **The assessment is "No"** if it is established that the project does not meet the conditions for the incentive effect in accordance with Article 6 of Commission Regulation No 651/2014 and paragraphs 41 and 37 of the CoM Regulations of measure.  **The rating is "N/A"** if it is planned to implement a project for which no business support is granted. |
| 2.4. | The project submitter and cooperation partner (if any) are not a performer of economic activity in difficulty[[10]](#footnote-11) | N[[11]](#footnote-12) | **The assessment shall be "Yes"** if the project submitter and the cooperation partner (if any) are not an undertaking in difficulty (hereinafter - CID) on the date of submission of the project application and/or the date of granting the aid for commercial activity (on any of the abovementioned dates[[12]](#footnote-13) ) and none of the situations referred to in Article 2(18) of Commission Regulation No 651/2014 applies to it:  (a) the aid applicant (with the exception of SMEs [[13]](#footnote-14)which have been in existence for less than three years or, in the case of risk finance aid, SMEs, for seven years from their first commercial sale) has lost more than half of its subscribed capital as a result of accumulated losses, provided that the accumulated losses have been deducted from the reserves (and any other items accepted to be considered as part of the company's own funds); a negative result in excess of half of the subscribed capital occurs. The capital shall, where appropriate, include a share premium;  (b) an aid applicant in which at least one of the participants has unlimited liability for the indebtedness of the company (except for SMEs that have been in existence for less than three years or, in the case of risk finance aid, for SMEs for seven years from their first commercial sale), more than half of the capital shown in the company's accounts has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses. For the purposes of this Sub-paragraph, a company is a company in which at least one of the members has unlimited liability for the debt obligations of the company (in particular, general partnerships and limited partnerships);  c) the aid applicant for whom a legal protection proceedings have been initiated, legal protection proceedings are being implemented or insolvency proceedings have been declared, or he or she meets the criteria laid down in laws and regulations[[14]](#footnote-15) for being subject to insolvency proceedings at the request of the creditor;  (d) the aid applicant has received rescue aid and has not yet reimbursed the loan or withdrawn the guarantee, or has received restructuring aid and is still subject to a restructuring plan;  (e) for the aid applicant (other than SMEs), the undertaking's book debt-to-equity ratio has exceeded 7,5 for the last two years and the company's interest coverage ratio calculated on the basis of the company's earnings, before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA), has been less than 1,0.  However, Regulation No 651/2014 may exceptionally apply to companies that were not in difficulty on 31 December 2019 but became CID between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2021, provided that this is also *expressly* provided for in the relevant CoM Regulations of measure and if it is permitted by the regulatory framework of EU funds.  In the case of the ERDF and CF, compliance with that laid down in Article 7(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021, on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund.  Compliance with the criterion shall be verified by:  1) on the day of submission of the project application and;  2) on the day of taking the decision on the day of approval of the project application or the day of taking the opinion on the fulfilment of the conditions, if a decision to approve the project application conditionally has been taken.  The decision to approve the project application, as well as the opinion on the fulfilment of the conditions may be decisions by which the aid for commercial activity is granted to the applicant.  The CID characteristics shall be assessed by the project applicant individually and its group of related persons (if applicable) in accordance with the definition in Article 3(3) of Annex I to Commission Regulation No 651/2014 and on the basis of that indicated in the Commission's user manual on the application of the SME definition.  The term "declared insolvency proceedings" used within the framework of this methodology also covers such solutions of the insolvency situation, such as bankruptcy, reorganisation and composition, and therefore also covers those insolvency proceedings that have been declared in accordance with the Law on the Insolvency of Companies and Companies and the Insolvency Law, which were in force until 1 November 2010, or it meets the criteria [[15]](#footnote-16)specified in regulatory enactmentsto be placed under insolvency proceedings at the request of the creditor.  In taking a decision on the conformity of the project submitter with the criterion, it shall be based on the information appended to the project application on the date of submission and publicly[[16]](#footnote-17) available, reliable data on the project applicant and its related enterprises (if applicable), including:  1) holders of capital shares;  2) the financial situation:  (a) the last annual report [[17]](#footnote-18)submitted in accordance with the requirements of laws and regulations and, accordingly, the timeliness of submission of the report is assessed in the context of the deadlines for the submission of documents defined in this paragraph;  b) an operational interim report not "older" than one month to the date of submission of the project application, which has been approved by a sworn auditor and which is submitted together with the project application. The operational report shall also be appended in the situation if there are significant changes in the situation of the project submitter and its related enterprises (if applicable), for example, on the day of submission of the project application on 21.05.2019. the project submitter, according to the information available in the annual report for 2018, complies with the CID - at least one of the situations referred to in Article 2(18) of Commission Regulation No 651/2014, however, in the period from the end of 2018 until the moment of submitting the project application, the financial the situation of eliminating the signs of CID, in order to prove these facts, the project applicant must submit, together with the project application, an operational interim report on the project applicant and on the related enterprise (if applicable) for the interim period approved by a sworn auditor and not "older" than one month on the date of submission of the project application;  3) information on the increase of the equity capital (signed), which is evaluated in complexes together with an operational interim report approved by a sworn auditor.  The increase in the subscribed but unpaid share capital must be ensured within the time period provided for in the rules for increasing the share capital, but not later than within six months from the date of the decision to increase the share capital[[18]](#footnote-19). If, as a result of the increase of the subscribed share capital, the company does not have signs of CID on the date of submission of the project application, the obligation to pay the increase in the share capital will also be specified in the contract on the implementation of the project, providing for an obligation for the Cooperation Institution to terminate the concluded agreement if the payment of the subscribed share capital is not made.  When assessing the conformity of a local government or local government institution with the criterion, it shall be verified whether the aid applicant is not in the process of financial stabilisation by making sure in the www.fm.gov.lv section "Financial Supervision of Local Governments" - "[Financial Stabilisation Process](https://www.fm.gov.lv/lv/sadalas/pasvaldibu_finansu_uzraudziba/finansu_stabilizacijas_process/)" of the website of the Ministry of Finance.  **The rating is "No"** if:  1) at least one of the situations referred to in Article 2(18) of Commission Regulation No 651/2014 corresponds to the following on the day of submission of the project application and/or the day of granting the aid for commercial activity:  a) the project applicant, cooperation partner (if any) who is an autonomous enterprise;  b) the project submitter, cooperation partner (if any) who is a related enterprise;  2) financial information is not available:  a) for the last full reporting year prior to the submission of the project application, if the laws and regulations regarding the submission of the annual report have not been complied with, for example, the project was submitted on 21.05.2019, but the last available annual report is for 2017;  b) for the interim period from the last reporting year to the date of submission of the project application, for example, the project was submitted on 21.05.2019, the last available annual report is for 2018, on 31.12.2018 the project submitter is CID, but in the period until 21.05.2019 the financial situation has improved, for example, the share capital has been increased, then in such a situation operational financial information should be attached to the project application - an interim report approved by a sworn auditor, in order to ensure the availability of an independent opinion of an industry expert on whether the included financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position, profit or loss and cash flow of the relevant client in accordance with the relevant principles (standards) for the preparation of financial statements and comply with regulatory enactments (if applicable).  In cases where the project submitter is a local government or a local government institution, the assessment shall be "No" if the local government or local government institution is in the process of financial stabilisation. |
| **3. SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** | | | |
| 3.1. | The project application complies with the requirements laid down in the CoM Regulations of measure for a project not related to economic activity (**applicable to projects not related to economic activity**) | P/N/A | **The rating is "Yes"** if:   1. the project application in the case of a project not related to economic activity conforms to the specific requirements laid down in Sub-paragraph 20.1.1, Paragraphs 22 and 43 of the CoM Regulation of measure; 2. in the case of a cooperation project, the non-economic nature of the project and the planned studies is justified in the cooperation agreement, observing the conditions of the CoM Regulations of measure of the event:    1. the non-economic nature of the know-how and technology transfer activities (including the commercialisation of technology rights) during the implementation of the project and for at least five years after the final payment of the project has been made, taking into account the provisions of Sub-paragraphs 2.4.3, 2.4.4, 22.2 of the CoM Regulations of measure of the measure;    2. compliance of cooperation with the criteria for effective cooperation is justified in accordance with Sub-paragraphs 2.5 and 22.2 of the CoM Regulations of the measure; 3. the project submitter and/or cooperation partner conforms to the status of a research organisation in accordance with the methodology approved by the Ministry of Education and Science on 1 August 2024 for determining compliance with the research and knowledge dissemination organisation[[19]](#footnote-20); 4. if the creation of a prototype or other experimental objects is planned in the project, the project indicates information on the accounting approach, how the accounting of the prototype or other experimental objects will be organized, to ensure that there is control over the use of the prototype or other experimental objects in accordance with paragraph 43 of the CoM Regulations of measure, namely, that the prototype or other experimental object is used only in subsequent studies. It must also be indicated that the accounting has a certain approach and traces the generation of income related to the use of the prototype or other experimental facilities, if any, i.e. by clearly distinguishing in accounting the income of the project applicant from the use of the prototype in the course of economic activity, t.sk, selling, using in production or in the provision of services.   **The assessment is "Yes, conditional",** if the specified conditions were not fulfilled, while determining the condition that the project applicant makes clarifications or submits additional information in order to justify the compliance of the project applicant with the definition of a research organisation in the case of a non-economic project or in the cooperation agreement justifies the non-economic nature of the project and the planned studies, or indicates the appropriate accounting approach for the prototype or other experimental object for accounting.  **The assessment shall be "No"** if the project applicant does not fulfil the conditions included in the decision to approve the project application with conditions or after fulfilment of the conditions still does not conform to the requirements stipulated, or the conditions are not fulfilled within the time period specified in the decision to approve the project application with conditions.  **The assessment is "N/A"** if it is planned to implement a project related to economic activity. |
| 3.2.[[20]](#footnote-21) | The project application complies with the requirements for granting aid for commercial activity laid down in the Cabinet of Ministers regulations regarding implementation of the measure **(applicable to project applications related to economic activity**). | P/N/A | **The rating is "Yes"** if:   1. the project application complies with the specific requirements laid down in Paragraph 23 of the CoM Regulations of measure, which are put forward for a project related to economic activity; 2. in the case of a project related to economic activity, the project submitter and cooperation partner (if applicable) comply with the provisions of Sub-paragraph 20.2 of the CoM Regulations of measure; 3. a declaration of the project submitter and cooperation partner (if applicable) on the conformity of the commercial company with the small (small) or medium-sized commercial company is attached, the information included in the declaration conforms to that indicated in public resources (Lursoft, foreign websites) or annual reports attached to the project application, and the category of the merchant has been determined in accordance with that laid down in Annex 1 to Regulation No 651/2014; 4. in case the data on the number of employees do not correspond to that indicated in the Annual Report of a particular merchant available in the enterprise database *Lursoft* and the merchant wishes to use full-time equivalent in determining the category of enterprise, the project applicant has added to the project application the calculation of the average number of employees (in terms of full-time equivalent (FTE)) in the format of the MS Excel file in the last closed reporting year, which have been correctly prepared. The correctness of the submitted calculations shall be verified in the State Revenue Database; 5. complies with CoM Regulation of measure 31.5. sub-clause, i.e. the project applicant and the cooperation partner (if applicable) are not subject to the recovery order referred to in Commission Regulation No 651/2014 Art. 1.4. point (a) (source: <https://www.fm.gov.lv/lv/informacija-par-saimnieciskas-darbibas-veicejiem-uz-kuriem-attiecas-lidzeklu-atgusanas-lemums>); 6. paragraph 57 of the CoM Regulations of measure is complied with, i.e. the activities specified in the Commission Regulation No  [651/2014](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/651/oj/?locale=LV) Article 1(2)(c) and (d) and Article 1(3)(c) and (d); 7. the project application complies with the conditions of Article 25 of Commission Regulation No 651/2014 (applicable if the aid for the activities planned in the project is to be granted in accordance with Article 25 of Commission Regulation No 651/2014), namely:    1. the activities planned in the project comply with the research categories laid down in Article 25(2) of Commission Regulation No 651/2014 (in determining eligibility, the expert assessment in quality criterion No 4.1 shall be taken into account);    2. the planned costs of the project correspond to the costs specified in paragraph 36 of the CoM Regulations of measure and are necessary for the implementation of research and development activities of the appropriate category;    3. the planned aid intensity in the annex to the project application "Calculation of the weighted average public funding intensity" corresponds to the aid intensity indicated in Paragraphs 47 and 48 of the Cabinet of Ministers Regulations; 8. the project application complies with the conditions of Article 28 of Commission Regulation No 651/2014 (applicable if the aid for the activities planned in the project is to be granted in accordance with Article 28 of Commission Regulation No 651/2014), namely:    1. the activities planned in the project comply with Sub-paragraph 32.3 of the CoM Regulations of measure;    2. the planned costs of the project correspond to the costs specified in paragraph 51 of the CoM Regulations of measure;    3. the planned aid intensity in the annex to the project application "Calculation of the weighted average public funding intensity" corresponds to the aid intensity indicated in Sub-paragraph 52.2 of the Cabinet of Ministers Regulations.   **The assessment is "Yes, conditional"** if correct information on the category of enterprise or the calculation of the aid rate is not provided, while at the same time determining the condition that the project applicant makes clarifications or submits additional information in order to justify the compliance of the project applicant and the cooperation partner (if applicable) with a particular category of enterprise and to ensure a correct calculation of the aid rate.  **The assessment shall be "No"** if the project applicant does not fulfil the conditions included in the decision to approve the project application with conditions or after fulfilment of the conditions still does not conform to the requirements stipulated, or the conditions are not fulfilled within the time period specified in the decision to approve the project application with conditions.  **The rating is "N/A"** if it is planned to implement a project not related to economic activity. |
| 3.3. | The project provides for public involvement in the project activities and informing about the project results (which are not related to intellectual property rights). | P | **The assessment is "Yes"** if the project application provides for public involvement in the project processes and public information measures in relation to the course of the research provided for in the project and the project results that are not related to intellectual property rights.  Public involvement and information in the project implementation includes such measures as cooperation with organisations and associations representing the target group, work with schools and other organisations, which provides an opportunity for wider public involvement in the project processes and forms its understanding of the importance of the research. For example, public lectures and seminars, events where the results of the project are demonstrated, public participation in the collection of data (*citizen science*), conducting surveys or public involvement in discussions on the progress of the research, reporting on the progress of the project, interim results and final conclusions in an accessible and understandable way using the media, news pages or social networks, organizing various educational events for schools and groups of young people to promote science.  If the project application does not provide for public involvement in the project processes and informing the public regarding the activities and results provided for in the project, **the assessment shall be "Yes, conditional",** expressing a condition to provide for public involvement and informing measures in relation to the course of the research provided for in the project and the project results which are not related to intellectual property rights.  **The assessment shall be "No",** if no adjustments have been made in the updated project application in accordance with the conditions set. |

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| **4. QUALITY CRITERIA** | **Scoring system** | | | | |
| **Maximum points to be scored and scoring procedure** | | **Minimum points required** | | **Explanation for determining eligibility** |
| **4.1. Excellence\*** | | | | | |
| 4.1.1. Clarity of the project objectives and compliance with the objectives and priorities of the Smart Specialisation Strategy of Latvia[[21]](#footnote-22) (hereinafter - RIS3). | 0-5  (weight – 1)  Rating unit – 0.5 points) | | 3 | | **The criterion shall assess the following aspects:**  **I. Clarity of objectives and consistency with the objectives and priorities of RIS3**  It shall be assessed whether in the project application:   1. explains what is the main idea and implementation assumptions of the submitted project. 2. the objectives[[22]](#footnote-23) are unambiguously defined, measurable and correspond to one of the three economic transformation directions defined in RIS3:    1. Change in the structure of production and exports in traditional sectors of the economy;    2. Sectors of the economy of future growth in which products and services with high added value exist or may arise;    3. Sectors with significant horizontal impact and contribution to the transformation of the economy.   And shall meet at least one or more growth priorities and smart specialisation areas:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Directions of transformation of the national economy** | **Growth priorities** | **Smart specialisation areas** | | 1. Change in the structure of production and exports in traditional sectors of the economy | ***Priority 1:***  More efficient use of primary products for the production of higher added value products, creation of new materials and technologies and diversification of application. Wider use of non-technological innovations, the potential of the creative industry of Latvia for the production of higher value-added products and services of economic sectors. | **1. Knowledge-intensive bio-economy**  **2. Biomedicine, medical technologies, pharmaceuticals**  **3. Photonics and smart materials, technologies and engineering systems**  **4. Smart energy and mobility**  **5. Information and communication technologies** | | 1. Future growth sectors where high value-added products and services exist or may emerge | ***Priority 2:***  Constant search for new products/services, within the framework of which it is necessary to create an effective identification system that is able to find and provide support for the creation of new products within the framework of existing industries and cross-sectors, as well as to create new industries with high growth potential. | | 1. Sectors with significant horizontal impact and contribution to the transformation of the economy. | ***Priority 3:***  Increasing energy efficiency, which includes the creation of new materials, optimization of production processes, introduction of technological innovations, use of alternative energy resources, etc. solutions. | | ***Priority 4:***  A modern and up-to-date ICT system in the private and public sectors. | | ***Priority 5:***  A modern education system that meets the requirements of the future labour market, contributing to the transformation of the economy and the development of competences, entrepreneurship and creativity at all levels of education necessary to implement the Smart specialisation strategy priorities. | | ***Priority 6:***  Developed knowledge base and human capital in areas of knowledge where Latvia has comparative advantages and which are important in the process of transformation of the national economy: knowledge areas related to knowledge-intensive bioeconomy, biomedicine, medical technology, biopharmaceutical and biotechnology, smart materials, technology and engineering system, for the development of the smart energy and ICT sectors and in the areas of key technologies identified by the European Commission (nanotechnology, micro and nano-electronics, photonics, advanced materials and production systems, biotechnology). | | ***Priority 7:***  Identification and specialization of existing resources of territories, putting forward prospective opportunities and directions of economic development, t.sk. leading and prospective lines of business in municipal areas. |  1. The expected results and their numerical values are unambiguously identified, the results are realistic and achievable during the project implementation period or during the project life cycle, they correspond to the objectives of the event and the project.   **II. Research Methodology**  In evaluating the research methodology, the following aspects shall be taken into account:  1. The project application describes in detail the research methodology - the rules for the formation of scientific theory, which are planned to be applied in the following phases of the project implementation: 1) definition of the problem and solutions; 2) examination of the topicality of the research; 3) the selection and arrangement of research methods (techniques) in a specific system, by applying which it is possible to obtain the expected result and provide scientifically substantiated information;  2. The research methodology shall be related to the work plan, which shall show in detail the stages of the research process and the expenditure to be made therein, defining the results to be achieved and interim results (including mid-term results), the timeline for their achievement.  3. The chosen methodology will allow to achieve the expected results of the project. The methods to be used must be identified for each specific stage of activity separately, based on the established plan of work.  The evaluation of the research methodology shall also be linked to the research category to be implemented within the scope of the project. It is necessary to assess whether the methods and approach chosen, as well as the nature of the activities and costs planned in the project, are consistent with the framework of fundamental, industrial research or experimental development.  The choice of the methodology (approach) for the implementation of the study (the chosen alternative) must be justified in the research application, taking into account the optimal and most effective approach to the implementation of the planned research in order to obtain the desired result and provide scientifically substantiated information. The project justifies that the methodology to be used in the implementation of the project is optimal and that the objective(s) and result(s) using this approach are achievable.  ***Definition****: The alternative is one of the possible research methodologies that mutually excludes each other.*  **III. Expected results**  The project application defines the achievable outcome indicators in accordance with Paragraph 7 of the CoM Regulations of measure .  The planned indicators must be appropriate to the selected research category (fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development, including taking into account whether the project envisages the implementation of several research categories in accordance with the conditions laid down in paragraph 32 of the CoM Regulations of measure) [[23]](#footnote-24) and related to the research stages planned in the project.  It shall be verified whether the scientific value of the research results, the level of novelty and conformity with the provision of the needs of the particular economic sector or society are justified in the project application.  The conformity of the expected project result - prototype of a new product or technology with the definition of a new product or new technology - shall be assessed, taking into account the level of analogues and best practices of products, processes and services on the market on the day of submission of the research application, including:   1. what progress compared to the identified situation is expected as a result of the implementation of the project – how much positive changes are expected compared to the initial situation, t.sk. comparison of analogues on the market and parameters of the research results and target market and other aspects justifying the topicality of the research development; 2. comparison of the parameters of analogues and developments on the market: functional characteristics, type of use, technical specification, components, materials, software, average market price or cost price; 3. what positive changes in the results of a particular study will introduce into the activities of a cooperative economic operator or in the industry as a whole in comparison with a zero alternative.   A new product is goods or services that are completely new or that have improved functional characteristics or a change in the intended use (including changed or improved technical characteristics, components, materials, added software, user-friendly properties). The following shall not be regarded as a new product:   * + - 1. the cessation of the use of any part of the proceedings;       2. capital replacement or extensive increase (purchase of modules identical to the modules used, minor extensions, equipment and software updates). New equipment or extensions must have a significant improvement in the specification;       3. changes due to changes in the price of components (a change in the price of a product or the productivity of the production process is not a product innovation, for example, in the manufacture of computers with a decrease in the price of a chip, a decrease in the sales price of the same computer model);       4. tailoring of products to specific needs (e.g. adapting the product to the customer's needs, which does not lead to changes in the functional or technical characteristics of the new product that ensure a higher competitiveness of the new product compared to existing products);       5. everyday, seasonal and cyclical changes and improvements (for example, in the manufacture of clothing, a collection of a new season does not constitute an innovation);       6. design changes (including taste and smell) that do not change functions, uses or technical characteristics;       7. resale of goods or processes from other manufacturers;       8. improvements to promote marketing (including aesthetic changes);       9. improvement of organizational processes in the activities of the merchant.   A new and innovative technology is a new and unproven technology compared to the state of the art in the industry, which carries the risk of technological or industrial failure and is not an optimisation or improvement of an existing technology.  **IV. Interdisciplinarity of Research**  Social sciences and humanities play an important role in cross-cutting issues, contributing to solving complex societal problems. The integration of social sciences and humanities into research provides a higher return on investment in science and technology for society. Research in such an area should take into account the social, economic, behavioural, institutional, historical and/or cultural aspects of the social issue raised.  Integrating the socio-economic dimension into the design, development and implementation of the research plan and the new technologies to be developed can help to find solutions to societal challenges. Depending on the planned research topic, the success of the contribution of the social sciences and humanities sectors may require collaboration between different sub-sectors of the social sciences and humanities or other branches of science, especially natural sciences or engineering.  As an advantage, interdisciplinarity in the implementation of the study should be assessed. Research qualifies as interdisciplinary if the theories, concepts, knowledge, data and techniques applied to the research come from two or more scientific disciplines, including by integrating the study of social and cultural aspects into technological development projects. Interdisciplinarity contributes to the development of fundamental knowledge or the solution of complex problems, as well as facilitates the involvement of several/different actors in the research and innovation process.  Interdisciplinarity shall be justified by providing information on the sectors and institution(s) in cooperation with which it will be provided. The project application must describe theoretical and methodological qualities in all related disciplines. Justification must be provided for the relevance/added value of the described interdisciplinarity and the contribution to the achievement of the planned results of appropriate quality.  Five points shall be awarded to the project application if the project application successfully complies with all aspects of the particular criterion (if there are deficiencies, they are of minor importance):  1. clearly defined objectives and consistent with RIS3 objectives, growth priorities and smart specialisation areas;  2. The expected results and their numerical values are unambiguously defined. The results directly contribute to the fulfilment of measure output indicators and RIS3 indicators[[24]](#footnote-25) ;  3. the chosen research methodology is an optimal alternative and will allow to achieve the expected results of the project and provide scientifically based information;  4. The research carried out within the framework of the project is interdisciplinary.  A project application shall be awarded "0" points if none of the aspects evaluated in the criterion or conformity can be assessed due to missing or incomplete information. |
| 4.1.2. Validity of the research methodology (alternative chosen), t.sk. theoretical and practical. |
| 4.1.3. The scientific value of the research results, the level of novelty and their relevance to meet the needs of a particular sector of the economy, taking into account the level of analogues and best practices of existing products, processes and services in the relevant field. |
| 4.1.4. Efficiency and quality of the research methodology and related work plan, including the quality of the interdisciplinarity approach (if any is planned) of the research and the complementarity of the planned activities with other studies. |
| 4.1.5. Clarity of the project results and compliance with the stages of project implementation specified in the work plan. |
| If the minimum required number of points - 3 points - has not been reached in the evaluation of criterion 4.1,  **the project application shall be rejected**. | | | | | |
| **4.2. IMPACT\*** | | | | | |
| Socio-economic impact of the planned project results in the implementation of the economic transformation directions and priorities defined in RIS3, including the contribution of the expected project results to the fulfilment of RIS3 indicators: | 0-5  (weight – 1.5) Rating unit – 0.5 points | | 3 | | **The criterion shall assess the following aspects:**  **I. Contribution of the project to the achievement of RIS3 objectives and indicators**  The conformity of the project application with the quality criterion 4.2 shall be evaluated, taking into account the expected impact of the project results on the fulfilment of RIS3 indicators, including:   * + - co-financing of R&D projects by the economic operator (in EUR). The progress towards the fulfilment of the indicator is confirmed by the private investments accompanying public support attracted within the framework of Measure 1.1.1.3 (in EUR);     - companies cooperating with research organisations;     - research organisations participating in joint research projects;     - the results of the project.   1. The contribution of the project to the fulfilment of the objectives and indicators of RIS3 shall be determined by taking into account the planned contribution of the project application to the fulfilment of the above-mentioned indicators and other parameters.  2. The impact of the project results on strengthening the innovation capacity of Latvia, creation of new market opportunities, promotion of competitiveness and growth of economic operators shall be evaluated, taking into account the following aspects:   * the commercialization potential of new product/technology prototypes developed within the framework of the project, which is characterized by the technology readiness level (TRL) and the degree of innovation; * management of knowledge and intellectual property rights created within the framework of projects (technology rights to be acquired during the project life cycle, intellectual property license agreements to be concluded). The project life cycle is the project implementation time and post-monitoring period (2-year period after the end of the project); * progress towards the introduction of developments into production or the provision of services, as evidenced by the following expected results during the implementation of the project: number of new products and technologies to be commercialised and supported for their development'; technology rights; intellectual property license agreements.   *Technology readiness levels:*  *1. Fundamental research:*   * *TRL 1 – Learned laws of nature: the results of scientific research allow to start work on applied research and technological development.*   *2. Industrial research:*   * *TRL 2 – The concept of practical application of the technology has been formulated.* * *TRL 3 – Experimental testing of the concept: research and development (analytical / laboratory studies) has been started to confirm predictions about the components of the technology.* * *TRL 4 - Technology validation in a laboratory environment: integration of key technological components has been performed to test their cooperation in a laboratory environment.*   *3. Experimental development:*   * *TRL 5 - Technology validation in an artificially created environment: technological components are integrated with relatively realistic supporting elements so that the technology can be tested in an artificially created environment.* * *TRL 6 – Demonstration of technology in an artificially created environment: the model or prototype of the system has been tested in an artificially created environment.* * *TRL 7 – Demonstration of the system prototype in the operating environment: a system prototype that complies with, or differs only minimally from, the planned system has been tested in a real-world operating environment.* * *TRL 8 – The system is complete and tested: it has been proven that the technology works in its final form and under the planned conditions (the last level of technological development).*   The project application must describe and justify how the specific results planned within the framework of the project will contribute to solving the problem(s) defined in the RIS3 growth priority (one or more), justifying the expected application of the results in the relevant sectors/activities of economic operators and the impact on the possible improvement of their performance indicators.  Experts evaluate whether and what demand for the planned result is in the Latvian, European or world market; how the results of the project will promote the competitiveness of the identified sector of the economy in Latvia, Europe or the world.  When assessing the socio-economic return of the project, the following shall be taken into account:  1. an opinion of an association registered in Latvia regarding the significance of the research for the development of the economic sector or performer of economic activity, if the opinion is appended to the project application and the association:  1.1. represent the performers of economic activity from the sector in which the results of the research planned within the scope of the project may be applied;  1.2. unite the performers of economic activity of the sector the total turnover of which in the last closed reporting year is at least EUR 150 000 000 per year;  1.3. has been registered in the Register of Associations and Foundations of the Enterprise Register for at least five years;  or  2. an opinion of the relevant professional organisation (except for the trade union of the relevant sector) on the significance of the planned research for the development of the relevant merchant or sector, if the results planned within the scope of the project are to be applied in the health sector.  When evaluating the socio-economic impact of project applications, a higher evaluation shall be assigned to the project, the planned research results of which will make a greater contribution to the fulfilment of RIS3 indicators and measure indicators, promoting increasing the innovation capacity of Latvia, creating new market opportunities, promoting the competitiveness of economic operators.  **II. Management of Intellectual Property**  Evaluates the planned management measures of intellectual property arising from the activity carried out within the framework of the project.  Possible mechanisms for intellectual property management (technology transfer) are:   * free access to research data for anyone interested; * publications (scientific articles, monographs, articles in collections of articles, newspapers, etc.); * strengthening of industrial property rights (technology rights); * commercialization of technology rights through the conclusion of intellectual property licenses or transfer agreements; * start-ups *(spin-off* (*up*)) - capital companies with high growth potential, in order to translate the knowledge and skills acquired within the framework of the project of the research organization into commercial products offered on the market by developing, developing or producing innovative products or technologies.   **III. Sustainability of Project Results**  The impact of the project results on increasing the innovation capacity of Latvia is assessed taking into account the sustainability of the project results, taking into account the conditions of paragraph 25 of the CoM Regulations of measure :  The sustainability of the expected results for at least five years after the final payment is made shall be justified by one or more investments to increase the capacity of the innovation system:   1. know-how and technology transfer created within the framework of a project not related to economic activity, including the scientific articles referred to in Sub-paragraph 7.4 of the Cabinet of Ministers Regulations on implementation of themeasure, registered technology rights, commercialisation of technology rights (intellectual property licences or transfer agreements); 2. improvement of the prototype developed within the framework of the project in order to implement it in production or in the provision of services;   The study application must stipulate whether and how the cooperation with the project cooperation partner - a foreign scientific institution or a performer of economic activity - will continue after the end of the study.  **IV. Development of Research Skills of Students**  The involvement of students, applicants for a scientific degree or young scientists who have acquired a doctoral degree within the last -10 years in the project implementation shall be evaluated.  The aim of the involvement of students, applicants for a scientific degree and young scientists in the implementation of the project is to promote the renewal, replenishment of the scientific staff and the involvement of young scientists in research.  **!** The involvement of students, applicants for a scientific degree and young scientists shall be assessed taking into account the workload of those persons in the implementation of the project in terms of full-time equivalent.  Students and applicants for a scientific degree in accredited or licensed higher education programmes, as well as young scientists who have acquired a doctoral degree within the last 10 years from entering into a work or enterprise contract who perform the duties of a scientific employee within the scope of the project shall qualify for participation in the project implementation. Are employed in the Republic of Latvia and receive remuneration within the framework of the project in accordance with an employment or company agreement. The status of the young scientist must be as of the date of submission of the project or the date on which the young scientist is involved in the project (in cases where the project application states that the young scientist will be involved but no document supporting the status is attached). If the status changes during the lifetime of the project, the researcher may continue to work on the project and no other young researcher needs to be involved.  **V. Contribution of the Project to Solving Problems Related to Climate Change, the Environment or Other Issues Related to The Provision of Public Needs**  The conformity of the project application shall be evaluated, taking into account what socio-economic impact will be provided by the project results, which address the issues related to climate and environmental changes or other needs of society, including the socio-economic impact provided by the introduction of eco-innovative technology developed within the scope of the project into production or provision of services.  ***Definition****: Eco-innovation is any kind of innovation or innovation (new product, service, process, management method) that contributes to a more efficient use of resources or environmental protection.[[25]](#footnote-26)*  It shall be assessed whether it is planned to involve the public in the identification and solution of public problems within the framework of the project and to inform it of the project results, which are not related to intellectual property rights.  Five points shall be awarded to the project application if the project application successfully complies with all aspects of the particular criterion (if there are deficiencies, they are of minor importance):  1. the project results contribute directly to the achievement of the RIS3 objectives and indicators;  2. the project application describes the management measures of intellectual property arising from the activity performed within the scope of the project;  3. sustainability of the project results substantiated in the project application and impact on increasing the capacity of the Latvian innovation system, which is facilitated by the creation of new markets, development of competitiveness of economic operators, productivity growth;  4. students involved in the implementation of the project, thus promoting the research skills, academic growth and renewal of scientific staff of persons;  5. The results of the project contribute to solving problems related to climate change, the environment or other problems related to the provision of societal needs. Within the framework of the project, it is planned to involve the public and inform about the project results, which are not related to intellectual property rights.  A project application shall be awarded "0" points if it does not comply with any of the aspects assessed in the criterion or the conformity cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information. |
| 4.2.1. Intellectual property management - the know-how and technology transfer measures planned during the project life cycle, their potential impact on increasing the innovation capacity of Latvia, creating new market opportunities, promoting the competitiveness of economic operators and ensuring the needs of society.  4.2.2. Sustainability of the planned project results.  4.2.3. Involvement of students or applicants for a scientific degree in the project implementation. |
| 4.2.4. Contribution of the project to the promotion of long-term cooperation with a scientific institution or performer of economic activity of Latvia or a foreign country. |
| 4.2.5. Contribution of the project to solving problems related to climate change, the environment or other problems related to the provision of public needs.  4.2.6. Public involvement and informing about the project results that are not related to intellectual property rights. |
| If the minimum required number of points - 3 points - has not been reached in the evaluation of criterion 4.2,  **the project application shall be rejected**. | | | | | |
| **4.3. Quality and efficiency of implementation\*** | | | | | |
| 4.3.1. Scientific capacity of the personnel involved in the implementation of research and compliance with the achievement of the specific objectives and results of the project. | 0-5  (weight – 1)  Rating unit – 0.5 points | | 3 | | The criterion shall assess the following aspects:  **I. Scientific Capacity and Scientific Management of the Project**  The capacity of the personnel directly involved in the implementation of the research shall be assessed, including:   * + - 1. the capacity of the scientific manager, which is characterized by the information provided in the curriculum vitae (CV) of the person regarding scientific and professional qualifications and experience, which confirms the professionalism and compliance of each person with the performance of the intended duties and achievement of the project objectives, and       2. the capacity of the team of scientists, taking into account information on the planned staff for the implementation of the project, broken down by job group.   **II. Administrative Management of the Project and Efficiency of Cooperation**  It shall be assessed whether the activities carried out by the partners are complementary, excluding overlaps or duplications. Given:   1. the distribution of activities and responsibilities to be implemented within the framework of the project; 2. the contribution of each partner to the implementation of research; 3. the distribution of intellectual property arising from the activity carried out within the framework of the project, taking into account the contribution of each partner (human, financial and material resources) to the implementation of the project.   Evaluates whether the project management structure and decision-making mechanism will ensure the achievement of the project objectives within the deadlines specified in the project and the CoM Regulations of measure .  Evaluates whether effective innovation management will be implemented.  ***Definition****: Innovation management is a process that requires an understanding of market needs and technical problems with the aim of successfully implementing relevant creative ideas. A new or improved product, service, or process is a typical outcome of that process.*  **III. Resource Management System**  Evaluates the information provided in the research application regarding the resources at the disposal and necessary of the implementers at each stage of the project implementation to ensure the implementation of the project and achievement of the results  The description of the project work plan should provide information of such a level of detail as to justify the resources necessary for the implementation of the research stages, and include quantitative information to ensure the monitoring of the progress of the implementation of the study.  It is necessary to list the resources that will be used at each stage of the implementation of the study, and indicate their source and type of attraction.  Evaluates whether it is planned to involve third parties in the implementation of the project, including the use of their resources:   * whether the project submitter or cooperation partner (if applicable) intends to subcontract with service providers for the performance of individual tasks; * whether the project submitter and cooperation partner (if applicable) plan that part of the activities to be implemented will be ensured by its related companies (in accordance with Commission Regulation No [651/2014](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/651?locale=LV) for the definition laid down in Article 3(3)); * whether the project submitter and the cooperation partner (if applicable) plan to use contributions in kind from third parties (if planned, a description of the third parties and their contributions shall be provided).   **! Evaluates** the project's budget summary (t.sk. MS Excel file format, ensuring the traceability of calculations), t.sk. including calculations of staff remuneration, which shall indicate the number of persons, the number of hours and the rate in accordance with the analogous rates of work laid down in the institution's pay procedure.  Five points shall be awarded to the project application if the project application successfully complies with all aspects of the particular criterion (if there are deficiencies, they are of minor importance):   * + - 1. the scientific capacity of the project team is sufficient to achieve the objectives and results of the project;       2. the project management structure and decision-making mechanism are sufficient to ensure the achievement of the project objectives within the deadlines specified in the project and the regulations of the CoM Regulations of measure.       3. The project management and resource management system is appropriate for achieving the goals and results of the project.   The project application shall receive "0" points if the project application does not comply with any of the aspects evaluated in the criterion or the conformity cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information. |
| 4.3.2. Effectiveness of cooperation – distribution of functions and responsibilities of partners, contribution to knowledge and technology transfer and ensuring sustainability of project results.  4.3.3. Quality of the resource, tools and results management system. |
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| If the minimum required number of points - 3 points - has not been reached in the evaluation of criterion 4.3,  **the project application shall be rejected**. | | | | | |
| **4.4.[[26]](#footnote-27) CONTRIBUTION TO SECTORAL POLICY OBJECTIVES** | | | | | |
| Contribution of the project to the following output indicators:  4.4.1. Private investments complementing public support;  4.4.2. Research organisations participating in joint research projects (Number of research organisations) and enterprises cooperating with research organisations (number of economic operators). | 0-5  (weight – 1) | 0 | | 4.4.1. Contribution of the project to the fulfilment of the output indicator – *private investment complementing public support* – by promoting the involvement of economic operators in the implementation of R&D and diversification of financial sources in scientific institutions established by the State. Documents certifying the sources and amount of the planned private financing shall be appended to the project application.  The procedure for awarding additional points:  1. Non-economic project.  Score P4.4.1.1. Calculated using the following formula P4.4.1.= KD - 1, provided that P4.4.1.1. = 0.7, if the part of the project of the cooperation partner - economic operator KD = 20 %, and P 4.4.1.1. = 2.4 if the project share of the cooperation partner - performer of economic activity KD = 40 %. When calculating the number of points, one decimal place shall be indicated.  Example:   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | Total eligible funding | National private financing | Points **P 4.4.1.1.** | | Project | 100% | 8.6% | | Part of the project of the co-operation partner - performer of economic activity | 20% | 1.7 | 0.7 | | 30% | 2.6 | 1.6 | | 40% | 3.4 | 2.4 |   \* calculation (national private funding): SP total eligible funding \* SP national private funding  In case several cooperation partners - merchants are involved in the implementation of the project, the points in sub-criterion No 4.4.1.1 shall be allocated for the total share of private financing of cooperation partners - merchants.  2. Project related to economic activity.  Score P4.4.1.2. Calculated using the following formula P4.4.2.= 0.4\*A , provided that P4.4.1.2 = 0 if the maximum possible public funding intensity is requested, and P4.4.1.2 = 2.0 if the requested public funding intensity A is reduced by at least five percentage points A ≥ 5.0 % of the maximum possible public funding intensity. When calculating the number of points, one decimal place shall be indicated.  Example:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Aid intensity of public funding requested: | **Points P 4.4.1.2.** | | is the maximum permissible | 0 | | is reduced by 2 percentage points of the maximum allowable aid intensity | 0.8 | | has been reduced by 3,5 percentage points of the maximum allowable aid intensity | 1.4 | | is reduced by 4.5 percentage points of the maximum allowable aid intensity | 1.8 | | is reduced by 5 percentage points of the maximum allowable aid intensity | 2 |   4.4.2. Contribution of the project to the performance of indicator research organisations participating in joint research projects and companies cooperating with research organisations.  Additional points shall be awarded where the following conditions are met:  Cooperation between research organisations and economic operators in the implementation of research projects is planned. A joint research project involves at least one research organisation and another partner (e.g. economic operator, other research organisation, etc.). Points shall not be awarded for cooperation with an affiliated undertaking or a structural unit of an institution. Cooperation in research and development activities may be new or existent. Refers to active participation in joint research projects, i.e. direct participation in joint research and development projects, where the participants not only provide theoretical or financial support, but also actually participate in the execution of projects by performing specific tasks, cooperating with other project partners, excluding contractual activities without active cooperation in the supported project (i.e. excluding cases where all partners in the framework contract do not participate in joint research projects). Active cooperation is justified by a concluded contract or initially during the project evaluation phase – a memorandum of intent, clearly describing in the project application which project activities and how the cooperation partner will be involved, what will be the main tasks.  The status of the research organisation will be assessed in accordance with the methodology developed by the MoES at national level for the compliance of the beneficiary with the assessment of the status of the research organisation. The cooperation of research organisations and performers of economic activity shall be certified by a contract entered into regarding the implementation of research projects or a memorandum of intent regarding participation in the implementation of research projects has been entered into.  Points shall be awarded for the following cooperation:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Participants of the cooperation project** | **Score** | | The research organisation involves 1 or more other research organisations in the project | 1 | | The research organisation involves 1 economic operator in the project | 2 | | The research organisation involves 2 or more economic operators in the project | 3 | | a performer of economic activity shall involve 1 other performer of economic activity in the project | 1 | | economic operator involves 1 research organisation in the project | 2 | | the economic operator involves 2 or more research organisations in the project | 3 |   Non-economic projects other than cooperation projects are not awarded points. | |
| The criterion is not exclusive. | | | | | |
| **4.5. The project envisages actions that promote the implementation of the horizontal principle of "equality, inclusion, non-discrimination and respect for fundamental rights"** | | | | | |
| The project envisages actions that contribute to the implementation of the horizontal principle of "Equality, inclusion, non-discrimination and respect for fundamental rights". | 0-5  (weight – 0.1) | 2[[27]](#footnote-28) | | The guidelines developed by the Ministry of Welfare (LM) and the Ministry of Justice (TM) "Horizontal principle "Equality, inclusion, non-discrimination and respect for fundamental rights" for the implementation and monitoring of the Guideline (2021-2027)"[[28]](#footnote-29) (hereinafter - the HP VINPI guidelines) shall be used in the evaluation of the criterion.  Before including the HP VINPI criterion in the set of criteria for evaluating project applications, it is necessary to make sure that the current version of the criterion is applied (see annex Section 6 of the HP VINPI Guidelines).  The project is awarded points if the conditions are met.  **2 points** (minimum number of points required) shall be awarded if provided for:  1) **3 general HP VINPI operations** and  2) **1 specific HP VINPI operation** and  3) 1 **project HP VINPI indicator is foreseen[[29]](#footnote-30)**;  4) if applicable, the project budget cost lines are indicated, which are also promoted by HP VINPI;  5) the main problems affecting the target group have been identified in the project application in the field in which the project applicant operates and a description of how the HP VINPI activities envisaged in the project will address the identified problems;  6) information has been provided regarding the project management and implementation staff by gender, etc. characteristics (or it is planned to provide) and information has been provided (or it is planned to provide) in breakdown by gender and other characteristics regarding the target groups of the project;  7) the project application explains how non-discrimination based on age, gender, ethnicity, etc. characteristics will be ensured in the project management and implementation and measures promoting non-discrimination and respect for fundamental rights will be promoted.  If the project application complies with the minimum requirements and the number of HP VINPI activities and/or indicators provided for therein exceeds the minimum requirements, the project application shall be awarded **a higher score:**  **3 points** shall be awarded if it can be concluded from the information included in the project application that the minimum requirements have been exceeded **under one of the following headings**:  1) general actions of the horizontal principle;  2) the operation of the specific horizontal principle;  3) indicator of the horizontal principle.  **4 points** shall be awarded if it can be concluded from the information included in the project application that the minimum requirements have been exceeded in **two of the following positions**:  1) general actions of the horizontal principle;  2) the operation of the specific horizontal principle;  3) indicator of the horizontal principle.  **5 points** shall be awarded if it can be concluded from the information included in the project application that the minimum requirements have been exceeded **in each of the following positions**:  1) general actions of the horizontal principle;  2) the operation of the specific horizontal principle;  3) indicator of the horizontal principle.  The planned general activities of HP VINPI should cover all areas of general activities – information and publicity, project management and implementation, and public procurement (if applicable).  **0 points**  are awarded if the project application does not meet the minimum requirements to be awarded points in this criterion.  For example, the project proposal **does not foresee general and specific HP VINPI activities** that will promote equality, inclusion, non-discrimination and respect for fundamental rights, nor does it link HP VINPI indicators, or the intended activities do not have links to HP VINPI, do not provide information on project management and implementation personnel by gender, etc. (or are not planned to be provided) and provide (or do not plan to provide) information broken down by gender, etc. c. characteristics of the target groups of the project.  If the project application initially does not reach the minimum required number of points in this criterion, but reaches the minimum number of points specified in the quality criteria as a whole, 0 points shall be awarded to the project application in this criterion, however, it shall not be rejected due to non-compliance with this criterion and shall be included in the overall ranking list, concurrently including in the decision a condition with the updated project application to ensure conformity with the minimum requirements of the criterion. If after making the clarifications the project application still does not reach at least the minimum number of points in this criterion, the project application shall be rejected.  It is recommended to involve experts from non-governmental organisations representing the interests of non-discrimination, gender equality or people with disabilities in the evaluation of the criterion.  **Examples of general and specific actions**  The project envisages general activities that contribute to the implementation of the horizontal principle of "Equality, inclusion, non-discrimination and respect for fundamental rights":  **General actions**  **With regard to project management and implementation staff:**  - measures will be directed to promote work-life balance by providing flexible and part-time work opportunities for parents with children and persons caring for loved ones;  - the selection of project management and implementation personnel will be ensured without any direct or indirect discrimination, promotes attraction of the under-represented sex, attraction of persons with disabilities and does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnic origin, gender, age, disability, religious, belief, sexual orientation or other circumstances;  - equal pay and equal opportunities for career development will be ensured for women and men, including participation in training, seminars, business trips, (t.sk. equal bonus system, health insurance, etc.);  - the management and implementation of the project will take place in premises adapted for persons with disabilities, including adapted information and communication technologies, if necessary;  **For communication and publicity activities:**  - when implementing the project's communication activities, language and visual images will be selected that reduce discrimination and stereotypes about any of the sexes, persons with disabilities, religious beliefs, age, racial and ethnic origin or sexual orientation (see Annex III). LM methodological material "Recommendations for communication with society that reduces discrimination and stereotypes" (available here: https://www.lm.gov.lv/lv/metodiskie-materiali);  - providing information in the public domain, t.sk. web, ensure that their content is accessible to people with disabilities through multiple sensory (visual, auditory, tactile) channels (see photo, hearing, tactile). VARAM guidelines "Website assessment in accordance with the accessibility requirements of the digital environment (WCAG 2.1 AA)" https://pieklustamiba.varam.gov.lv/);  - a "Easy to read" section will be created on the project's website, which will include brief descriptive information about the project and other information needed by readers in easy language to enable the general public to learn about the contributions of EU funds.  **Specific actions**  **Examples of specific actions:**  - gender equality expert advice (or activities of an advisory nature) will be provided for the evaluation of the content of the activities and materials developed within the framework of the project from a gender perspective (attaching, as appropriate, documents, e.g. consultation protocols, service contracts, etc.);  - events and discussions (discussion panels) will involve experts of both genders, voices of opinion, in order to ensure the reflection of opinions, situations, needs and interests of both sexes;  - in order to ensure the accessibility of the environment of the project event site, the rental of technical solutions (e.g. mobile ramp, lift, rental of individual induction loops, etc.) will be provided.  In addition, activities not defined in the Cohesion Political Management Information System may also be included, such as:  **for studies:**   * consultations of experts in the field of non-discrimination will be provided in order to include gender equality and non-discrimination issues in the content of the terms of reference for studies and evaluations in accordance with the specificities of the field, as well as for assessing the compliance of the content with the horizontal principle (accompanied by documents, e.g. consultation protocols, service contracts, etc., as appropriate), the corresponding indicator VINPI\_01; * gender equality issues will be integrated into the content of the evaluations, studies, analysing in more depth the involvement of women and men in the sectors and fields studied, the proportion of women and men in different age groups, as well as the positions held by women and men in sectoral or sectoral institutions, corresponding indicator VINPI\_02.1.; * when conducting studies and evaluations, wherever possible, all data will be collected and analyzed by gender, age, ethnicity, etc., corresponding indicator VINPI\_02.1; * as part of the studies and surveys, participants will also have the opportunity to express their views in the statistically largest minority and, if necessary, in English, questionnaires/questions will be available in different languages, the corresponding HP indicator VINPI 02.1;   **with regard to the accessibility of digital solutions:**   * the accessibility of the content of digital solutions for people with disabilities through multiple sensory channels (vision, hearing, touch) will be ensured, t.sk, the product software will be compatible with EU-recognised individual IT assistive devices for people with disabilities, which include features, features and functionalities that allow persons with disabilities to access, perceive, use, understand and control the product, ensuring the accessibility of elements essential to the educational process, using more than one sensory channel (this includes providing alternative options for visual, audio, speech and tangible elements), etc., the corresponding HP score VINPI\_09;   **as regards research staff:**   * support measures will be provided for students and staff of research institutions caring for a minor child, for example by setting up a children's play corner in the workplace; * data on research staff by gender will be accumulated;   **with regard to the accessibility of information activities:**   * accessibility of event (face-to-face and online) content for people with disabilities will be ensured by providing sign language interpretation, light language, subtitling, Braille printing, real-time transcription, recording of programmes and events, rental of induction loops, etc., corresponding HP indicator VINPI\_02.2.   If the project application initially does not reach the minimum required number of points in this criterion, but reaches the minimum number of points specified in the quality criteria as a whole, 0 points shall be awarded to the project application in this criterion, however, it shall not be rejected due to non-compliance with this criterion and shall be included in the overall ranking list, concurrently including in the decision a condition with the updated project application to ensure conformity with the minimum requirements of the criterion. If after making the clarifications the project application still does not reach at least the minimum number of points in this criterion, the project application shall be rejected. | |
| If the minimum required number of points - 2 points - has not been achieved in the evaluation of criterion 4.5,  **the assessment shall be "Yes, conditional",**  including a condition with the specified project application to ensure compliance with the minimum requirements of the criterion. If after making the clarifications the project application still does not reach at least the minimum number of points in this criterion, **the project application shall be rejected**. | | | | | |
| \* in the selection of project applications conformity with the abovementioned quality criteria shall be ensured by international scientific expert-examination in accordance with Paragraph 54 of the CoM Regulations of measure . | | | | | |
| The procedure for the selection of project applications in the project application selection rounds:  1. The project application shall be evaluated and compared within the framework of a specific sample set: 1) a set of project applications not related to economic activity and 2) a set of the abovementioned project applications related to economic activity;  2. The following conditions shall apply to each sample set:  2.1. a project application which has received a higher number of points in the total amount of the evaluation of the quality criteria shall be supported as a priority;  2.2. if the total amount of the quality evaluation of several project applications is equal, the project application which has received a higher evaluation in the quality criterion "Excellence" shall be supported as a priority;  2.3. if the evaluation of several project applications in the quality criterion "Excellence" is the same, the project application shall be supported as a priority, the results of which directly contribute to the increase of the innovation capacity of Latvia in accordance with the conditions of Sub-paragraph 25.1 of the CoM Regulations of measure in the following order:  2.3.1. commercialisation of technology rights;  2.3.2. registered technology rights;  2.3.3. original scientific papers published in journals or conference proceedings included in *Web of Science* or *SCOPUS* databases.  Calculation of the total number of points of the project:  Kk = K1 + 1.5\*K2 + K3 + K4 + 0.1\*K5,  where:  Kk – total number of points;  K1 - the number of points of the criterion of excellence;  K2 - number of points for the impact criterion;  K3 - the number of points of the quality and efficiency criterion of the project implementation;  K4 - contribution to the achievement of sectoral policy objectives, the number of points of the criterion;  K5 - Scores of the project's horizontal principle "Equality, inclusion, non-discrimination and respect for fundamental rights".  The international scientific expert-examination shall evaluate the conformity of the project applications with the quality criteria 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3. According to the expert evaluation form, the expert shall justify the number of points awarded.  The evaluation committee of project applications shall evaluate the quality criteria 4.4 and 4.5 and prepare the calculation of the total number of points of the project. | | | | | |

1. Available in: https://www.izm.gov.lv/lv/metodika-petniecibas-un-zinasanu-izplatisanas-organizaciju-statusa-izvertejumam [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. In case of non-compliance with the criterion, the Cooperation Institution shall take a decision to reject the project application [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. In case of non-compliance with the criterion, the Agency shall take a decision to approve the project application conditionally or to reject it in conformity with the provisions of the by-laws [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The criterion uses N/A if, in general, the measure includes this criterion, but this criterion does not need to be assessed in the specific project [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Regulation (EU) No 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/LV/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R1060&qid=1625116684765&from=EN> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Visual identity requirements and models are included in the communication and design guidelines of the European Union funds for the 2021-2027 programming period and the Recovery Fund. Available in: Esfondi.lv: <https://www.esfondi.lv/vadlinijas> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. European Social Fund Plus, European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund, Just Transition Fund [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Market research can take various forms, for example, by sending out e-mails to potential suppliers, conducting a telephone survey, based on expert opinions, etc., it is necessary to ensure that the market research is documented in order to have evidence of how the choice of the tenderer concerned took place. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. The business aid activities specified in the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers to which the requirements of Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty in relation to the incentive effect of the aid are not applicable, including in cases where the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers provide for several frameworks for aid for commercial activity and the framework for aid for commercial activity does not provide for an incentive effect requirement, for example, if the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers provide that the costs of preparation of the documentation justifying the project application (feasibility study, planning and architectural task, development of a building design at the stage of a technical project or sketch project and other documents in accordance with the laws and regulations regarding construction), the costs of construction supervision and author's supervision related to long-term investments made within the scope of the project shall be covered in accordance with Commission Regulation No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid or covered in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. Pursuant to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty. However, Regulation No 651/2014 may exceptionally apply to companies that were not in difficulty on 31 December 2019 but became companies in difficulty between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2021, provided that this is also expressly provided for in the relevant Cabinet regulations on the implementation of the measure and if this is allowed by the regulatory framework of EU funds. In the case of the European Regional Development Fund (hereinafter - the ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (hereinafter - the CF), compliance with the provisions laid down in Article 7(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021, on the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. The application and interpretation of this criterion has been amended on 28.10.2024 and the current version is available in the Latvian version: https://www.cfla.gov.lv/lv/media/17376/download?attachment [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. Pursuant to point 9 of the Commission Notice on the notion of State aid as referred to in Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (2016/C 262/01), an enterprise is to be considered to be any entity carrying out an economic activity, regardless of the legal form of the entity and whether the entity is established for profit or is a not-for-profit entity. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. The aid applicant/project applicant has submitted a statement that it does not comply with the abovementioned characteristics, taking into account that it is not possible to obtain assurance on this requirement from the information contained in the public registers. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. The aid applicant/project applicant has submitted a certification that it does not comply with the abovementioned characteristics, taking into account that it is not possible to obtain assurance on this requirement from the information contained in the public registers [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. Business register information and information available from information re-users. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. In accordance with the annual statement referred to in Section 97, Paragraph one of the Law on the Annual Financial Statements and Consolidated Financial Statements, the company shall submit the annual statement not later than one month after approval of the annual statement and not later than four months after the end of the reporting year. A medium-sized company, a large company, and the parent company of a group of companies which prepares the consolidated annual statement shall, not later than seven months after the end of the reporting year, submit to the State Revenue Service in paper form or in electronic form a derivative of the annual statement (financial statement and management report) and the consolidated annual statement (if any) - an electronic copy or electronic copy (if it is specified in the laws and regulations regarding the company prepared financial statement or the form of electronic transcript of consolidated financial statements for submission to the Electronic Declaration System of the State Revenue Service) in the Electronic Declaration System together with an explanation (in electronic form) on when the annual statement and the consolidated annual statement (if any) were approved [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. Section 198, Clause 1, Sub-paragraph 8 of the Commercial Law [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. Available at: https://www.izm.gov.lv/lv/metodika-petniecibas-un-zinasanu-izplatisanas-organizaciju-statusa-izvertejumam. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. The interpretation of this criterion has been amended on 28.10.2024 and the current version is available in the Latvian version: https://www.cfla.gov.lv/lv/media/17376/download?attachment [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. The objectives and priorities of the Smart Specialisation of Latvia are defined in the National Industrial Policy Guidelines for 2021-2027 (available on the website <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/321037-par-nacionalas-industrialas-politikas-pamatnostadnem-2021-2027-gadam>

    ), while long-term strategies in the RIS3 area are available here: <https://www.liaa.gov.lv/lv/ris3-vadibas-grupas-ris3-parvaldibas-operacionalais-limenis> [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. Objective: appropriate to the objective of Measure 1.1.1.3, provides an insight into the project results and the solutions applied to solve an identified problem in a concise manner [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. In the case of industrial research and experimental development, restrictions on the dissemination of research results related to intellectual property rights may be imposed (including to ensure the protection of industrial property rights). [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
24. RIS3 indicators (policy results and performance indicators) – which allow to judge the development of the R&D system and the achievement of the set objective and policy results in a complex and maximum efficiency. (available at https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/322468) [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
25. Definition source: Enterprise Europe Network Latvia (b.g.) *Eco-innovations*. Viewed online: <http://www.een.lv/pakalpojumi/es-atbalsta-programmas/eiropas-kopienas-programmas/eco-inovacijas> [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
26. The interpretation of this criterion has been amended on 28.10.2024 and the current version is available in the Latvian version: https://www.cfla.gov.lv/lv/media/17376/download?attachment [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
27. If the project application initially does not reach the minimum required number of points in this criterion, but achieves the minimum number of points specified in the quality criteria 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3 as a whole, 0 points shall be assigned to the project application in this criterion, however, it shall not be rejected due to non-compliance with this criterion and shall be included in the overall ranking list, concurrently including in the decision a condition with the updated project application to ensure conformity with the minimum requirements of the criterion. If after making the clarifications the project application still does not reach at least the minimum number of points in this criterion, the project application shall be rejected. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
28. Available in: <https://www.lm.gov.lv/lv/vadlinijas-horizontala-principa-vienlidziba-ieklausana-nediskriminacija-un-pamattiesibu-ieverosana-istenosanai-un-uzraudzibai-2021-2027> [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
29. HP VINPI indicators are defined in Annex 4 to the LM/TM Guidelines "Horizontal principle "Equality, inclusion, non-discrimination and respect for fundamental rights" (2021-2027)" for implementation and monitoring of the guide; Available in: https://www.lm.gov.lv/lv/vadlinijas-horizontala-principa-vienlidziba-ieklausana-nediskriminacija-un-pamattiesibu-ieverosana-istenosanai-un-uzraudzibai-2021-2027 [↑](#footnote-ref-30)