

European Social Fund Plus Project
“Cultural Events as an Instrument for Promoting Civic Participation”

Project Implementation Period	1 July 2025 – 31 December 2029
Project Funding	EUR 1,918,966 (total eligible funding, including EUR 1,631,121 European Social Fund Plus funding and EUR 287,845 state budget funding)
Project Number	No. 4.2.3.3/1/25/I/002
Project Objective	To develop cultural awareness and expression competence to promote civic participation and strengthen civil society, ensuring equal access to professional art and cultural events for the target group, regardless of their place of residence or socio-economic background.
Target Group	- Children and young people enrolled in basic education, general secondary education, basic vocational education, or secondary vocational education programmes. Special emphasis is placed on disadvantaged groups who, due to various reasons – such as geographical remoteness, socio-economic status, health conditions, insufficient language skills, or other barriers – face limited opportunities to participate in cultural life and fully realise their civic participation. - Educators who work with the students daily. The professional development activities and methodological materials produced within the project will enhance educators' competence and capacity to use professional art and cultural events as a tool for fostering civic participation and reinforcing democratic values. - The local community where the participating educational institutions are located. Project activities – including the testing (piloting) of cultural events, community involvement, and the dissemination of best practices –

	will enhance cultural accessibility and public engagement outside the formal education environment.
Project Activities	• Evaluation and selection of professional art and cultural events included in the cultural education programme "Latvian School Bag" intended for children and young people, in order to identify events with potential for promoting civic participation, as well as assessing the target group's competence to evaluate their capacity to use cultural events in strengthening civic participation and democracy; • Piloting (testing) the selected professional art and cultural events in educational institutions and communities to develop and foster civic participation among the target group; • Compiling and disseminating examples of good practice gathered during the testing of cultural events regarding the implementation of professional art and cultural activities for promoting civic participation; • Implementing professional development measures for educators, enhancing their skills to utilise professional art and cultural events for promoting civic participation; • Developing methodological materials for educators to enable the integration of professional art and cultural events for civic participation and to involve learners in the selection and planning process of these events; • Developing methodological materials for creators of professional art and cultural events on using these events to promote participation and embed democratic principles among child and youth audiences; • Organising a national conference to strengthen cooperation between the education and culture sectors in promoting civic participation; • Organising an international conference on cultural accessibility, drawing upon the experience of the "Latvian School Bag" cultural education programme and similar European initiatives;

	• Implementing communication and visual identity requirements; • Ensuring overall project management and implementation.
Project Results	• At least 200 educators with enhanced competence in promoting civic participation through professional art and cultural events; • At least 5,000 students who have developed civic participation skills by participating in the testing of civic participation-boosting professional art and cultural events; • At least 20 educational institutions from at least 20 municipalities that have improved their competence in using cultural events to address community needs.
Legal Basis for Implementation	• Cabinet Regulation No. 287 of 13 May 2025 “Implementing Regulations for Measure 4.2.3.3, ‘Promoting the Availability of Cultural Services that Foster Civic Participation,’ under Specific Objective 4.2.3, ‘Promoting Equal Access to and Completion of Quality and Inclusive Education and Training, Particularly for Disadvantaged Groups, from Early Childhood Education and Care through General and Vocational Education and Training to Higher Education and Adult Education and Training, Including Facilitating Learning Mobility for All and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities,’ of the European Union Cohesion Policy Programme 2021–2027” • Agreement between the Central Finance and Contracting Agency and the Latvian National Centre for Culture on the implementation of the European Union Fund Project No. 4.2.2.1/1/25/I/001, concluded on 3 June 2025
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