

## LATVIA

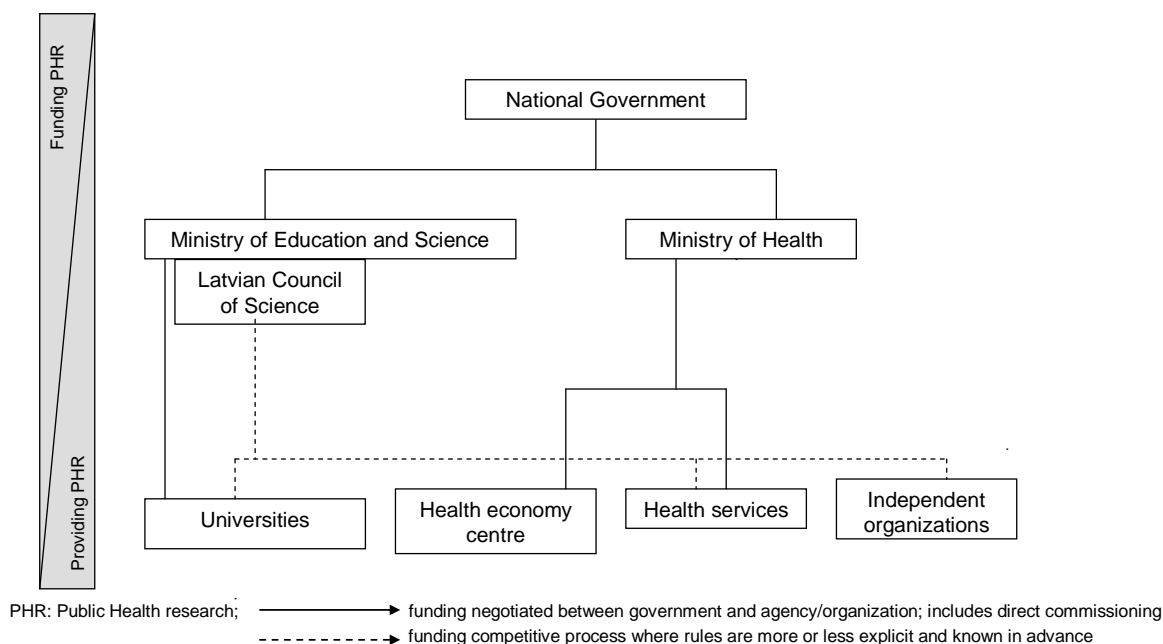
This information on national public-health research structures has been gained from country key informants and internet searches for STEPS (Strengthening Engagement in Public Health Research [www.steps-ph.eu](http://www.steps-ph.eu)), a project funded by the European Commission Seventh Framework Research Programme. It builds on the country profiles and reports from Ministries of Health and Ministries of Science that were created previously for SPHERE (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-health/sphere/sphereprofiles.htm>).



The organogram shows the structure for managing and providing public-health research from the perspective of financial flows. The main organisations are also briefly described, with their URLs, and other relevant national documents and information on public-health research.

Note: 'Public-health research' includes all health research at population, organisation and system level broadly relevant to health and health-care policy and practice. It excludes clinical and laboratory (biomedical) research.

### 1. Organogram



## 2. Research Commissioners

From 2010 the sole holder of the research budget is the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science. Due to austerity measures started in 2009 research has been consolidated in the responsibility of the MoES. Ministry of Health is still holding only the downsized Latvian genome programme because of specific infrastructure and ethical regulations.

Research for policy support and policy implementation can occur as ad-hoc measure as procurement by other ministries and governmental agencies. However, they are not of programmatic nature.

Regional funding of research in Latvia has no instruments besides small policy implementation supporting research managed as procurement.

2.1 Ministry of Health, <http://www.vm.gov.lv/index.php?id=510&>

### 2.2. Ministry of Science

Ministry of Education and Science, <http://izm.izm.gov.lv/58.html>

2.2.1. The Latvian Council of Science was founded according to a decision of the Council of Ministers, Republic of Latvia in July, 1990. The Council's tasks include advancement, evaluation, financing and coordination of scientific research in Latvia. The Latvian Council of Science prepares, jointly with the Ministry of Education and Research of Latvia, the draft of the state's science budget for the next year, elaborates draft decisions and drafts of laws aimed at the development and organization of science in Latvia. The Latvian Council of Science distributes funding earmarked for projects among the branch commissions of different fields of science.

(Source: [http://www.lzp.gov.lv/index.php?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=43](http://www.lzp.gov.lv/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=43), assessed in October 2010)

### 2.3. Other ministries

The Latvian Academy of Sciences is an advisory body. The status of the Latvian Academy of Science was changed in 1992 from the governmental research organisation. The former institutes of the Academy have become now the independent research institutions. Since then, the Latvian Academy of Sciences is functioning as an association of scientists. Starting from January 2008, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia has delegated to LAS the functions of the national funding agency for several European science programs and projects, and of providing the representation of Latvia by Latvian scientists in the capacity of national delegates in the relevant EU research program committees and working groups, as well as raising awareness and recognition of Latvian science both at the national level and internationally.

(Sources: [http://www.lza.lv/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=279&Itemid=123](http://www.lza.lv/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=279&Itemid=123),

Maija Bundule. Report on the National Research System in Latvia. Riga, December 2006. Available at:

[http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/files/55162/11979839605Latvia\\_National\\_Research\\_System\\_Report\\_EN.pdf/Latvia\\_National\\_Research\\_System\\_Report\\_EN.pdf](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/files/55162/11979839605Latvia_National_Research_System_Report_EN.pdf/Latvia_National_Research_System_Report_EN.pdf))

### 2.4. Regions

### 2.5. Foundations

## 3. Research Performers

Universities, research institutes – the prerequisite is the registration in the Latvian registry of research organisations. 4 main hospitals are also registered as research organisations.

Independent providers are playing their role in the segment of research procurement: mainly Small and Medium Enterprises, NGOs, also individuals

### 3.1. State Institutes

3.1.1. The Centre of Health Economics (<http://www.zcva.gov.lv/english/default.html>) is one of the state institutions directly responsible to the Ministry of Health of Latvia. The main functions of the Centre of Health Economics include providing a therapeutic and financial assessment of pharmaceutical products and medical technology; developing a list of products which will be financially reimbursed; to summarise and analyse public health (including health care) data; maintaining the Register of Patients with Particular Diseases.

### 3.2. Mixed organizations

### 3.3. Universities

### 3.4. Health Services

### 3.5. Independent organizations

## 4. Research Strategies

4.1. Although the proposed 'high level' research strategy has not been formally approved, the Ministry of Education and Science has multi-annual research programmes. In 2005-2008 there were nine priorities, of which one was medical sciences, with 13 (clinical) themes and an annual budget of around €2m. A review of this programme is made in the report 'Science in Latvia – National Research Programme' (2010). The Ministry's new programme for 2009-2013 has five priorities, of which the fourth is 'public health'.

## 5. Programmes and calls

5.1. Ministry of health's National research programme Public health: 2010 – 2013, with annual financing 1,1 Millions EUR. Call once in 4 years. Top-down topics. Although called Public health it also includes also biomedical research.

### 5.2. Latvian Council of Science

Individual and collaborative research grants: bottom-up theme selection, evaluated by Latvian Council of Science. Individual grants up to 20.000 EUR, collaborative up to 180.000 EUR. Call once in 4 years. Bottom-up topics.

## 6. European contacts

### 6.1. National FP7 Contact point (Health area)<sup>1</sup>:

6.1.1. Idis Berkis, Study and Research administration, Ministry of Education of Science, [uberkis@latnet.lv](mailto:uberkis@latnet.lv)

### 6.2. National DGSANCO Contact point<sup>2</sup>

6.2.1. Sergejs Dubčaks, Ministry of Health, [sergejs.dubcaks@vm.gov.lv](mailto:sergejs.dubcaks@vm.gov.lv)

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<sup>1</sup> Source: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html), last assessed in October 2010

<sup>2</sup> Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index_en.htm) assessed in February 2010