Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 25

Riga, 9 January 2018 (prot. No 2 § 22)

**Implementing Regulations for the First, Second and Third Project Applications Selection Round of Specific Objective 8.2.2 “To Strengthen Academic Staff of Higher Education Institutions in the Areas of Strategic Specialisation” of the Operational Programme “Growth and Employment”**

Issued pursuant to

Section 20, Clauses 6 and 13 of

the Law On Management of the

European Union Structural Funds

and the Cohesion Fund in the Programming

Period 2014-2020

**I. General Provisions**

1. The Regulations lay down:

1.1. the procedure of implementing the first, second and third project applications selection round of Specific Objective 8.2.2 “To Strengthen Academic Staff of Higher Education Institutions in the Areas of Strategic Specialisation” of the Operational Programme “Growth and Employment” (hereinafter referred to as specific objective);

1.2. the objective of the specific objective;

1.3. funding available to the first, second and third project applications selection round (hereinafter referred to as the selection round) of the specific objective;

1.4. the requirements to the applicant of the European Social Fund project (hereinafter referred to as the project);

1.5. the conditions of eligibility of the activities and costs to be supported;

1.6. the conditions for a unilateral notice of termination of a project implementation agreement or contract;

1.7. the conditions and procedure for application of simplified costs.

2. The following terms are used in the Regulations:

2.1. foreign academic staff – persons, who were employed in an academic position in any accredited foreign higher education institutions in the previous five years;

2.2. higher education institution – a higher education institution or a college established by the state or a private person and registered and accredited in the Republic of Latvia according to the set procedure;

2.3. academic staff of the higher education institution – employees elected to academic positions in the respective higher education institution;

2.4. development strategy of the higher education institution – a medium-term strategy of the institution, which includes at least objectives, directions and forecasts of study content, institution management, staff, infrastructure, international cooperation and research development. The strategy of a higher education institution established by the state at the time of submission of the project application shall be coordinated with the Ministry of Education and Science;

2.5. human resources development plan of a higher education institution – part of the development strategy of a higher education institution, which includes objectives, tasks to be performed and results to be achieved in human resources management processes;

2.6. plan of academic staff development activities of a higher education institution – a plan of academic staff development and attraction activities approved by the higher education institution, which includes:

2.6.1. a description, the objective and the results to be achieved by general activities;

2.6.2. characteristics and indicative volume of the target group to be involved in the activities;

2.6.3. a curriculum for the improvement of competencies of academic staff;

2.6.4. directions of placement activities of academic staff and characteristics and selection principles of potential placement locations;

2.6.5. areas of work, competencies of foreign staff to be attracted, and study programmes, for the implementation of which there are plans to attract them, as well as conditions of attraction and long-term cooperation;

2.6.6. application and selection procedure and criteria for participation in development activities;

2.6.7. descriptions of quality management and monitoring activities intended for the achievement of results;

2.7. doctoral students – doctoral students and doctoral degree candidates;

2.8. the Advisory Council for the New Formation of Teacher Education is a council created by the Ministry of Education and Science, which includes representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, the National Cultural Centre of Latvia, the Student Union of Latvia, the Mission Possible Foundation, as well as experts of the projects of the National Centre for Education “Competency – based approach to the content of learning” implemented within the scope of Activity 8.3.1.1 “Approbation and implementation of competency-based general education curriculum” of Specific Objective 8.3.1 ““To Develop Competency-Based General curriculum” of the Operational Programme “Growth and Employment” and experts of the sector. The work of the Council shall be regulated by the regulations developed and approved by the Ministry of Education and Science;

2.9. teacher education development plan – a set of measures according to the proposal of the workgroup created by the Ministry of Education and Science for the creation of a conceptually new teacher education system, in order to ensure teacher education meeting the requirements of competency-based education. The teacher education development plan shall be drawn up by the project applicant, who implements study programmes of any level of higher education in the study direction “Education, Pedagogics and Sport”, and shall coordinate it with the Advisory Council for the New Formation of Teacher Education. The plan shall include measures for the development, approbation and accreditation of study programmes for teachers and management of teacher education, as well as shall set the procedure of implementation of the measures and responsible persons.

3. The objective of the specific objective is to strengthen academic staff of higher education institutions in the areas of strategic specialisation.

4. The target group of the specific objective is academic staff, doctoral students and foreign academic staff.

5. The following monitoring indicators must be achieved within the scope of the specific objective by 31 December 2023:

5.1. output indicators:

5.1.1. the number of doctoral students, who have received support of the European Social Fund for work in a higher education institution, – 420, including 249 within the scope of the first round, 49 – within the scope of the second round and 122 – within the scope of the third round;

5.1.2. number of foreign academic staff, who have received support of the European Social Fund for work in a higher education institution in Latvia – 300, including 178 within the scope of the first round, 35 – within the scope of the second round and 87 – within the scope of the third round, including 50 by 31 December 2018, of which 42 – within the scope of the first round and 8 – within the scope of the second round;

5.1.3. the number of academic staff, who have received support of the European Social Fund for the improvement of professional competency, – 1140, including 675 within the scope of the first round, 133 – within the scope of the second round and 332 – within the scope of the third round;

5.2. result indicators:

5.2.1. the number of doctoral students, who received the support, who obtained a doctoral degree and within six months of obtaining the degree work in a higher education institution as academic staff, – 378, including 224 within the scope of the first round, 44 – within the scope of the second round and 110 – within the scope of the third round;

5.2.2. the number of foreign academic staff, who received the support, who within six months of the end of the support continue academic work in a Latvian higher education institution, – 90, including 53 within the scope of the first round, 11 – within the scope of the second round and 26 – within the scope of the third round;

5.2.3. the number of academic staff, who have improved their professional competency, – 1,116, including 661 within the scope of the first round, 130 – within the scope of the second round and 325 – within the scope of the third round;

5.3. financial indicator – by 31 December 2018 certified expenses of 700,000 euro.

6. The functions of the responsible institution within the scope of specific objective shall be carried out by the Ministry of Education and Science.

7. The total planned funding of the specific objective is 34,340,686 euro, which is formed by funding of the European Social Fund – 29,189,583 euro and state budget co-funding – 5,151,103 euro.

8. The total eligible funding available to conclude an agreement or contract on the implementation of the projects, by 31 December 2018 is 32,205,201 euro, including funding of the European Social Fund of 27,374,420 euro and state budget co-funding – 4,830,781 euro. From 1 January 2019 the responsible institution according to the decision of the European Commission on the fulfilment of the performance framework may propose to increase eligible funding available to the planned maximum amount of funding referred to in Paragraph 7 of these Regulations.

9. Within the scope of the specific objective a project is implemented, which is not related to the performance of economic activity or is not qualified as aid for commercial activity, and its maximum public funding intensity is 100 percent, which consist of:

9.1. state budget funding intensity – 15 percent;

9.2. European Social Fund funding intensity – 85 percent.

10. The project applicant of the selection round referred to in Paragraphs 12, 22 and 31 of these Regulations, which after an agreement or a contract on the implementation of the project has been concluded, is also the beneficiary of funding of the European Social Fund (hereinafter referred to as the beneficiary), shall prepare a project application and according to the requirements set in the regulations of the project applications selection round and shall submit it electronically to the cooperation authority, using the Cohesion policy fund management information system for 2014-2020.

**II. Conditions of Implementation of Projects of the First Selection Round**

11. The first selection round shall be implemented in the form of open selection of project applications.

12. Project applicants in the first selection round shall be higher education institutions (with the exception of agencies – colleges of a higher education established by the state), which, after an agreement or a contract on the implementation of the project has been concluded with the cooperation authority and the application has been approved, are also the beneficiaries of funding of the European Social Fund.

13. In the first selection round, each project applicant shall submit one or more project applications, taking into account that one project application shall include all the supported activities referred to in Paragraph 17.1, 17.2 and 17.3 of these Regulations with regard to one study direction or, if the project application covers several study directions, all the supported activities referred to in Paragraph 17.1, 17.2 and 17.3 of these Regulations shall be envisaged in each of the study directions included in the project application. The first selection round shall not include the activities with regard to the study programmes in the study direction “Education, Pedagogics and Sport” for the project applicants referred to in Paragraph 22 of these Regulations.

14. A higher education institution established by the state shall implement the project, envisaging that its agency – college (when applicable) – is also the beneficiary of the supported activities implemented within the project.

15. The total eligible funding available for the first selection round is 20,340,686 euro, which is formed by funding of the European Social Fund – 17,289,583 euro and state budget co-funding – 3,051,103 euro.

16. The project applicant shall prepare and submit a project application to the cooperation authority according to the requirements set in the regulations of the first selection round and shall append a development strategy of the higher education institution, which includes human resources development plan of a higher education institution.

17. The following activities shall be supported in the first selection round:

17.1. involvement of doctoral students in academic work in a higher education institution for at least 12 month envisaging employment according to the rules of employment of elected academic staff and without exceeding 50 percent of full teacher’s workload;

17.2. employment of foreign academic staff as teaching staff in a higher education institution in Latvia for at least six months and learning of Latvian, when needed;

17.3. improvement of competencies of academic staff, which includes:

17.3.1. placement at a merchant for at least 200 hours according to the approved plan of academic staff development activities;

17.3.2. learning of professional English, when needed;

17.3.3. specialised trainings, which develop leadership, cooperation competency with the industry of academic staff;

17.4. project management and ensuring project implementation;

17.5. information and publicity measures on the implementation of the project.

18. The first round shall have the following cost items:

18.1. direct eligible costs of the project for the implementation of the activities referred to in Paragraph 17 of these Regulations:

18.1.1. costs for the remuneration of project management staff (with the exception of extra hours) for the implementation of the activities specified in Sub- paragraphs 17.4 and 17.5 of these Regulations;

18.1.2. costs for the remuneration of project implementation staff (with the exception of extra hours) for the implementation of the supported activities specified in Sub - paragraphs 17.1, 17.2 and 17.3 of these Regulations;

18.1.3. costs of purchasing or renting equipment, office furniture and devices, computer programmes and licences for the newly created workplaces, including equipment maintenance and repair costs, no more than 3,000 euro per workplace for the entire project implementation period, if project management or implementation staff is employed at least 30 percent of normal working hours on the basis of an employment contract. If the project management or implementation staff is employed part time or timeshare, the costs of purchasing or rent of equipment for the newly created workplaces are eligible in proportion to the percentage of their workload;

18.1.4. costs of domestic business trips and work travels for the project management and implementation staff according to the laws and regulations on the procedures of compensation of business trips-related costs, if those are justified and related to the implementation of the project;

18.1.5. transport costs (cost of fuel, rental of vehicle, purchasing of transport services, fee for the use of public transport) for project management and implementation staff for the implementation of the supported activities referred to in Paragraph 17 of these Regulations;

18.1.6. costs of services, including costs of project management staff, for the implementation of the supported activities referred to in Sub - paragraphs 17.4 and 17.5 of these Regulations;

18.1.7. costs of information and publicity measures of the project according to the regulatory enactments on the procedure of ensuring observation of communication and visual identity requirements in 2014-2020 programming period in the implementation of European Union structural funds and the Cohesion Fund for the implementation of the supported activity referred to in Sub - paragraph 17.5 of these Regulations;

18.1.8. remuneration to a doctoral student for the performance of academic work in a higher education institution, observing the restriction on the scope of employment referred to in Sub - paragraph 17.1 of these Regulations. The size of eligible remuneration shall be determined taking into account that remuneration for full workload does not exceed 2,000 euro;

18.1.9. remuneration to foreign academic staff for work in a higher education institution in Latvia, within the scope of the project not exceeding 4,000 euro per month;

18.1.10. costs of learning Latvian for foreign academic staff, without exceeding 1,350 euro per person;

18.1.11. costs of improvement of competencies of academic staff:

18.1.11.1. costs of remuneration, including wages, mandatory state social insurance contributions from taxable eligible costs, allowances and social guarantee payouts set out in the laws and regulations in the area of employment relations and remuneration for the merchant’s staff for ensuring placement of academic staff at a merchant according to the individual academic staff placement plan approved by the higher education institution and the receiving merchant, without exceeding the total amount of remuneration costs to the merchant for the fulfilment of the placement plan – 2,400 euro;

18.1.11.2. funding to cover transport costs for the implementation of supported activities referred to in Sub - paragraph 17.3 of these Regulations for academic staff according to the duration and location of placement – covering of transport costs for travel from actual residence or workplace to the placement location and back and compensation of civil liability insurance costs, without exceeding the amount of funding per person of 100 euro per month;

18.1.12. costs of learning professional English for academic staff, without exceeding 1,350 euro per person during the entire project implementation time;

18.1.13. the costs of the specialised training referred to in Sub – paragraph 17.3.3 of these Regulations without exceeding 15 percent of total eligible costs of the project;

18.2. indirect eligible costs of the project for the performance of the activities referred to in Paragraph 17 of these Regulations. They shall be planned as one cost item, applying a flat rate of indirect costs of 15 percent of the direct eligible staff costs referred to in Sub - paragraphs 18.1.1 and 18.1.2 of these Regulations. The flat rate of indirect costs shall be applied to the staff costs, which occurred on the basis of an employment contract;

18.3. ineligible costs.

19. If the total amount of eligible project costs exceeds 100,000 euro, then per each 100,000 euro within the scope of the project the beneficiary shall envisage to involve at least one doctoral student, at least one representative of foreign academic staff for work in a higher education institution and at least four representatives of academic staff, who get involved in placement activities in companies.

20. The total amount of maximum eligible costs of the project within the scope of the first selection round shall be determined based on the number of study directions envisaged in the project, taking into account that the total eligible funding of the project per study direction for the supported activities referred to in Paragraph 17 of these Regulations shall not exceed 415,000 euro.

**III. Conditions of Implementation of Projects of the Second Selection Round**

21. The second selection round shall be implemented in the form of limited selection of project applications.

22. Project applicants in the second selection round are:

22.1. Daugavpils University;

22.2. Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music;

22.3. Latvian Academy of Sport Education;

22.4. University of Latvia;

22.5. Liepaja University;

22.6. Rezekne Academy of Technologies.

23. In the second selection round, each project applicant referred to in Paragraph 22 of these Regulations shall submit one project application, which includes all the supported activities referred to in Paragraph 27 of these Regulations in the study direction “Education, Pedagogics and Sport”.

24. The total eligible funding available for the second selection round is 4,000,000 euro, which is formed by funding of the European Social Fund – 3,400,000 euro and state budget co-funding – 600,000 euro.

25. Within the scope of the second selection round, the maximum amount of eligible funding available to each project applicant to conclude an agreement on the implementation of the project, shall not exceed:

25.1. for Daugavpils University – 487,580 euro (funding of the European Social Fund – 414,443 euro and state budget co-funding – 73,137 euro);

25.2. for Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music – 326,190 euro (funding of the European Social Fund – 277,261 euro and state budget co-funding – 48,929 euro);

25.3. for Latvian Academy of Sport Education – 642,601 euro (funding of the European Social Fund – 546,211 euro and the state budget co-funding – 96,390 euro);

25.4. for University of Latvia – 1,655,888 euro (funding of the European Social Fund – 1,407,505 euro and state budget co-funding – 248,383 euro);

25.5. for Liepaja University – 474,131 euro (funding of the European Social Fund – 403,011 euro and state budget co-funding – 71,120 euro);

25.6. for Rezekne Academy of Technologies – 413,610 euro (funding of the European Social Fund – 351,569 euro and the state budget co-funding – 62,041 euro).

26. The project applicant shall prepare and submit a project application to the cooperation authority according to the requirements set in the regulations of the second selection round and shall append a development strategy of the higher education institution, which includes human resources development plan of a higher education institution and a teacher education development plan.

27. The following activities shall be supported in the second selection round:

27.1. involvement of doctoral students in academic work in a higher education institution in the study direction “Education, Pedagogics and Sport” for at least 12 month envisaging employment according to the rules of employment of elected academic staff and without exceeding 50 percent of full teacher’s workload;

27.2. employment of foreign academic staff as teaching staff in a higher education institution in Latvia in the study direction “Education, Pedagogics and Sport” for at least six months and learning of Latvian, when needed;

27.3. academic staff competency improvement activities the study direction “Education, Pedagogics and Sport”, which include:

27.3.1. placement in educational institutions for at least 200 hours according to the approved plan of academic staff development activities;

27.3.2. learning of professional English, when needed;

27.3.3. specialised trainings, which develop leadership, cooperation competency with the industry of academic staff;

27.4. project management and ensuring project implementation;

27.5. information and publicity measures on the implementation of the project.

28. The following cost items shall be in the second round:

28.1. direct eligible costs of the project for the implementation of the activities referred to in Paragraph 27 of these Regulations:

28.1.1. costs for the remuneration of project management staff (with the exception of extra hours) for the implementation of the activities specified in Sub - paragraphs 27.4 and 27.5 of these Regulations;

28.1.2. costs for the remuneration of project implementation staff (with the exception of extra hours) for the implementation of the supported activities specified in Sub - paragraphs 27.1, 27.2 and 27.3 of these Regulations;

28.1.3. costs of purchasing or renting equipment, office furniture and devices, computer programmes and licences for the newly created workplaces, including equipment maintenance and repair costs, no more than 3,000 euro per workplace for the entire project implementation period, if project management or implementation staff is employed at least 30 percent of normal working hours on the basis of an employment contract. If the project management or implementation staff is employed part time or timeshare, the costs of purchasing or rent of equipment for the newly created workplaces are eligible in proportion to the percentage of their workload;

28.1.4. costs of domestic business trips and work travels for the project management and implementation staff according to the laws and regulations on the procedures of compensation of business trips -related costs, if those are justified and related to the implementation of the project;

28.1.5. transport costs (cost of fuel, rental of vehicle, purchasing of transport services, fee for the use of public transport) for project management and implementation staff for the implementation of the supported activities referred to in Paragraph 27 of these Regulations;

28.1.6. costs of services, including costs of project management staff, for the implementation of the supported activities referred to in Sub - paragraphs 27.4 and 27.5 of these Regulations;

28.1.7. costs of information and publicity measures of the project according to the regulatory enactments on the procedure of ensuring observation of communication and visual identity requirements in 2014-2020 programming period in the implementation of European Union structural funds and the Cohesion Fund for the implementation of the supported activity referred to in Sub - paragraph 27.5 of these Regulations;

28.1.8. remuneration to a doctoral student for the performance of academic work in a higher education institution, observing the restriction on the scope of employment referred to in Sub - paragraph 27.1 of these Regulations. The size of eligible remuneration costs shall be determined taking into account that remuneration for full workload does not exceed 2,000 euro;

28.1.9. remuneration to foreign academic staff for work in a higher education institution in Latvia, within the scope of the project not exceeding the size of remuneration of 4,000 euro per month;

28.1.10. costs of learning Latvian for foreign academic staff, without exceeding 1,350 euro per person;

28.1.11. costs of improvement of competencies of academic staff:

28.1.11.1. costs of remuneration, including wages, mandatory state social insurance contributions from taxable eligible costs, allowances and social guarantee payouts set out in the laws and regulations in the area of employment relations and remuneration for the receiving education institution’s staff for ensuring one place for placement of academic staff according to the individual academic staff placement plan approved by the higher education institution and the receiving education institution, without exceeding the total amount of remuneration costs for the fulfilment of the placement plan – 2,400 euro;

28.1.11.2. funding to cover transport costs for the implementation of supported activities referred to in Sub - paragraph 27.3 of these Regulations for academic staff according to the duration and location of placement – covering of transport costs for travel from actual residence or workplace to the placement location and back and compensation of civil liability insurance costs, without exceeding the amount of funding per person of 100 euro per month;

28.1.12. costs of learning professional English for academic staff, without exceeding 1,350 euro per person during the entire project implementation time;

28.1.13. the costs of the specialised training referred to in Sub - paragraph 27.3.3 of these Regulations without exceeding 15 percent of total eligible costs of the project;

28.2. indirect eligible costs of the project for the performance of the activities referred to in Paragraph 27 of these Regulations. They shall be planned as one cost item, applying a flat rate of indirect costs of 15 percent of the direct eligible staff costs referred to in Sub – paragraphs 28.1.1 and 28.1.2 of these Regulations. The flat rate of indirect costs shall be applied to the staff costs, which occurred on the basis of an employment contract;

28.3. ineligible costs.

29. If the total amount of eligible project costs exceeds 100,000 euro, then per each 100,000 euro within the scope of the project the beneficiary shall envisage to involve at least one doctoral student, at least one representative of foreign academic staff for work in a higher education institution and at least four representatives of academic staff, who get involved in placement activities in education institutions.

**IV. Conditions of Implementation of Projects of the Third Selection Round**

30. By 31 December 2019 the cooperation authority shall announce the third selection round, which shall be implemented in the form of open selection of project applications.

31. Project applicants in the third selection round shall be higher education institutions (with the exception of agencies – colleges of a higher education established by the state), which, after an agreement or a contract on the implementation of the project has been concluded with the cooperation authority and the project application has been approved, are also the beneficiaries of funding of the European Social Fund.

32. In the third selection round, each project applicant shall submit one or more project applications, taking into account that one project application shall include all the supported activities referred to in Sub - paragraph 17.1, 17.2 and 17.3 of these Regulations with regard to one study direction or, if the project application covers several study directions, all the supported activities referred to in Sub - paragraph 17.1, 17.2 and 17.3 of these Regulations shall be envisaged in each of the study directions included in the project application. The third round shall not include the activities with regard to the study programmes in the study direction “Education, Pedagogics and Sport” for the project applicants referred to in Paragraph 22 of these Regulations.

33. A higher education institution established by the state shall implement the project, envisaging that its agency – college (when applicable) – is also the beneficiary of the supported activities implemented within the project.

34. The total planned eligible funding available for the third selection round is 10,000,000 euro, which is formed by funding of the European Social Fund – 8,500,000 euro and state budget co-funding – 1,500,000 euro.

35. The total eligible funding available for the third selection round to conclude an agreement or contract on the implementation of the projects, by 31 December 2018 is 7,864,515 euro, including funding of the European Social Fund of 6,684,837 euro and state budget co-funding – 1,179,678 euro. From 1 January 2019 the responsible authority according to the decision of the European Commission on the fulfilment of the performance framework may propose to increase available eligible funding to the planned maximum amount of funding referred to in Paragraph 34 of these Regulations.

36. The project applicant shall prepare and submit a project application to the cooperation authority according to the requirements set in the regulations of the third selection round and shall append a development strategy of the higher education institution, which includes human resources development plan of a higher education institution.

37. In the third selection round, supported activities and cost items shall comply with the supported activities set in Paragraph 17 of these Regulations and the cost items of the first selection round set in Paragraph 18 of these Regulations.

38. The total amount of maximum eligible costs of the project within the scope of the third selection round shall be determined based on the number of study directions envisaged in the project, taking into account that the total eligible funding of the project per study direction for the supported activities referred to in Paragraph 17 of these Regulations shall not exceed 415,000 euro.

**V. Conditions of Implementation of the Project and Reception of the Funding**

39. The project applicant shall announce an open selection of doctoral students and foreign academic staff for the implementation of the activities referred to in Sub - paragraphs 17.1, 17.2, 27.1 and 27.2 of these Regulations by publishing a notice in the official gazette “Latvijas Vēstnesis”, on the portal of the European Commission Euraxess and the website of the Ministry of Education and Science (www.izm.gov.lv).

40. The project applicant shall plan in its project application linkage of the content of envisaged activities with the project of Specific Objective 8.2.1 “To Reduce Fragmentation of Study Programmes and to Strengthen Sharing of Resources”, Specific Objective 8.2.3 “To Ensure Better Management in Higher Education Institutions” and Activity 8.3.1.1 “Approbation and implementation of competency-based general education curriculum”.

41. During the selection of project applications the cooperation authority shall ensure the involvement of proper experts included in the database of experts of the European Commission, using the following selection criteria:

41.1. the expert has a doctoral degree;

41.2. the expert had practical or research experience in the professional improvement of academic staff of higher education, the strategic implementation of mobility and career development in the last four years;

41.3. it is preferable that the expert has experience in research in higher education of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development or other equivalent international-level research.

42. The project shall be implemented according to the concluded agreement or contract on the implementation of the project. The maximum period of the implementation of the project is four years, but not longer than until 30 November 2023.

43. The beneficiary shall prevent the risk of double funding and ensure demarcation with other similar or related projects.

44. The beneficiary shall purchase goods and services necessary for the implementation of the project according to the laws and regulations regulating procurement. The integration of environmental requirements in procurements of goods and services (green public procurement) is supported.

45. When planning the direct eligible staff costs referred to in Sub - paragraphs 18.1.1, 18.1.2 and 28.1.1 and 28.1.2 of these Regulations, the beneficiary shall ensure that project management and implementation staff is employed full time, part time or timeshare not less than 30 percent of normal working hours, respectively recording working time of the project management and implementation staff about the functions performed and time worked.

46. Value added tax shall be considered eligible costs, if it is not recoverable according to laws and regulations of the Republic of Latvia in the field of tax policy.

47. Within the framework of the specific objective, those costs of the beneficiary shall be eligible, which correspond to the cost items specified in these Regulations and where incurred:

47.1. for state colleges – from the day, when an agreement on the implementation of the project was concluded;

47.2. for other beneficiaries – from the day of entry of these Regulations into force.

48. The beneficiary may include the costs, which exceed the total amount of maximum eligible costs referred to in Paragraph 20, 25 or 38 of these Regulations, when implementing the project, in total project costs as ineligible costs and cover them from its own funds.

49. The beneficiary shall ensure clear separation of the financial flow and activities of the implementation of the project from other financial flows and types of activity of the beneficiary.

50. If an advance payment is intended for the beneficiary during the implementation of the project, it can be paid in instalments. One advance payment shall not exceed 30 percent of the total amount of funding from the European Social Fund and state budget co-financing that was granted to the project. For the beneficiaries, having a status of a derived public person partially funded from the state budget, who implement the project within the scope of the state management tasks delegated to them, the total amount of advance and interim payments can amount to 100 percent of the total amount of funding from the European Social Fund and state budget co-financing that was granted to the project. For the beneficiaries, which are higher education institutions established by private persons, the total amount of advance and interim payments can amount to 90 percent of the total amount of funding from the European Social Fund and state budget co-financing intended for the project.

51. When implementing the project, the beneficiary shall ensure information and publicity measures that are set out in Annex XII, Sub - paragraph 2.2 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, and in the regulatory enactments on the procedure of ensuring observation of communication and visual identity requirements in 2014-2020 programming period in the implementation of European Union structural funds and the Cohesion Fund.

52. When implementing the project, the beneficiary shall ensure collection of data about the persons, who received support within the scope of the project at national level according to the data specified in the payment request form indicated in the laws and regulations, which set out the procedure of performance of verifications of projects of European Union structural funds and the Cohesion Fund in 2014-2020 programming period and the Annex 1 of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 on summarisation of common output and result indicators.

53. The beneficiary shall post the current information regarding project implementation on its website at least once in three months.

54. Any increase in costs that occurs during the project implementation shall be covered by the beneficiary from its own funds.

55. The cooperation authority has have the right unilaterally withdraw from the project implememtation agreement or contract in any of the following cases:

55.1. the beneficiary does not fulfil the project implementation agreement or the contract, including if the project implementation does not happen according to the deadlines set for the project or other conditions set in, which negatively affect or may affect the achievement of the objective of the specific objective referred to in Paragraph 3 of these Regulations and the achievement of the monitoring indicators referred to in Paragraph 5 of these Regulations;

55.2. in other cases determined in the project implementation agreement or contract.

56. The territory of the Republic of Latvia is the place of project implementation.

Prime Minister,

Acting Minister

of Health Māris Kučinskis

Minister of Education and Science Kārlis Šadurskis