

## Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS Consolidated Activity Plan for 2006

### INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Strategic Plan 2004-2007, PROVIDUS activities are directed towards three main issue areas: good governance (including anti-corruption), criminal justice reform and education policy. PROVIDUS has also set as an objective to improve policy-making process in Latvia by building policy community capacity and promoting informed participation in the policy process through the website **politika.lv**. Early in 2006, PROVIDUS Board decided to develop a new thematic area for the organization: European policy.

### GOOD GOVERNANCE:

- **Administrative procedure**, focusing on research evaluating the quality of particular groups of administrative acts as well as the practice of the administrative courts. PROVIDUS will continue other activities aimed at promoting the quality of administrative procedure, such as training for municipal lawyers and other municipal staff (deputies, heads of departments, etc);
- **Prevention of corruption and access to public information**, focusing on analysis of on-going policy developments in Latvia by publishing the twice-yearly Corruption Monitor, as well as expanding existing research initiatives, particularly access to information held by law enforcement bodies;
- **Judicial system** – particularly regarding institutes of responsibility and criteria for evaluation the quality in judges' professional performance;
- **Monitoring of electoral campaign and accountability of political parties**, where PROVIDUS will carry out monitoring of campaign expenditure and hidden political advertising before Parliamentary elections;
- **Monitoring of the use of EU structural funds** and participation in development of the National Development Plan.

PROVIDUS will follow other activities within its spheres of expertise and contribute it's opinion to the public debate.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM:

- **Victim's rights** and implementation of efficient state compensation mechanism for victims of violent crime with respect to the regulations coming into effect in 2006;
- **Bail supervision**, mainly focusing on alternative security measures to pre-trial detention – problems and possible application perspective;
- **Police accountability**, PROVIDUS will continue to work on improvement of **police complaint system**, provide **training for police officers** on harm reduction issues. PROVIDUS will also launch the project on improvement of police work focusing on the evaluation criteria and community policing.
- **Enforcement and effectiveness of criminal penalty system**, which includes a project on reduction of recidivism and active PROVIDUS involvement in drafting the Criminal Penalty Enforcement code.

Providus will also follow the implementation of Criminal Procedure Code, provide trainings and carry out research.

#### **EDUCATION POLICY:**

- **Multicultural and multilingual education**, including ethnic minority education policy
- **Transparency and responsibility in the education system**
- **Political parties' promises, programmes and previous record** in education policy – analyses and public debate before the Parliamentary elections

In public debate, PROVIDUS will reflect on current issues and initiatives in education policy, upholding the primacy of education quality and open society values.

#### **EUROPEAN POLICY:**

PROVIDUS has begun to elaborate this policy area only in the beginning of 2006 focusing on the following main issues:

- **The future of the EU**, particularly the future enlargement, the Constitution, communication and citizen involvement in EU policy making;
- **Free movement of persons**, particularly the mobility of students, outflow of labor force from Latvia, as well as Latvia's immigration policy.

In addition, PROVIDUS will follow the developments of EU-related issues in Latvia as well as European debates elsewhere to be able to analyze the processes and contribute to discussions of European matters in Latvia.

#### **PUBLIC POLICY WEBSITE [politika.lv](http://politika.lv):**

**politika.lv** will continue to work within the existing defined thematic areas, namely: policy process, rule of law and anti-corruption, civil society, education and employment, foreign affairs, European policy, information society, human rights, social integration, media critique. Special contents projects this year will be:

- **Elections Special**, devoted to the Parliamentary elections, including development of the **interactive questionnaire *Try on a Party!***;
- Introduction of a new mechanism for holding **on-line consultations**.

Other contents priorities, which will be implemented subject to availability of funding include:

- Fwd:Europe thematic section;
- Civil society thematic section;
- Opening of a new thematic section on environment and sustainable development.