

## LATVIA

### *Key trends in 2023*

- 🔍 Overall positive environment for civil society
- 🔍 More measurements needed for public participation at all levels
- 🔍 Adequacy of funding resources a significant constraint to CSO and societal resilience

### *Targeted recommendation:*

- 🔍 Recognise and implement civil dialogue as equal dialogue to social dialogue



# LATVIA

### *Summary*

Civic space in Latvia is rated as "open" by the CIVICUS Monitor<sup>1</sup> and fundamental freedoms are generally well respected. In its 2023 Rule of Law report on Latvia, the European Commission recommended that the government ensure the effective implementation of legislation on lobbying, including the establishment of a special lobby register. Additionally, it concluded that Latvia had "fully implemented the recommendation on taking measures to increase the participation of civil society in decision-making at the local level" since Latvia passed the new Local Government Law in 2022. However, civil society organisations (CSOs) do not believe that this recommendation was fully implemented, given that the legal framework must be implemented in practice. In several policy planning documents, the government and parliament have stated their political commitment to implement civic dialogue and to strengthen the existing Memorandum Council as the central platform for civic dialogue. The availability and adequacy of financial resources remain one of the most significant constraints to the activities of CSOs in Latvia.