

SUMMARY OF BAPP-LATVIA 2005-2007 STRATEGY

During the period 2005-2007, BAPP-Latvia's priorities are to increase the sustainability of the NGO sector as a whole and of key advocacy NGOs in particular. BAPP-Latvia expects that, by 2008, the main results of its grantmaking will be:

- An external environment favorable to the non-profit sector, including legislation that enables NGOs' work, contributes to good governance practices, and facilitates local philanthropy
- Various indigenous funding sources for NGOs, including community, corporate, and individual philanthropy, as well as public funding
- Institutionally strengthened NGOs (particularly those engaged in advocacy work) that are financially sustainable, have good governance, and the capacity to implement their missions at local, national, and EU level, both individually and in cooperation with other NGOs.

1. NGO External Environment

During the period 2005-2007, BAPP-Latvia will provide support for efforts to finalize work that has been ongoing to secure a favorable legislative environment. Now that the primary NGO legislation has been adopted and NGOs are consulted at various levels in public decision-making, BAPP-Latvia's grantmaking will seek to ensure that secondary laws to implement the NGO legislation (including the laws on tax benefits to NGOs) are completed.

BAPP-Latvia will also work to develop the NGO sector's capacity to advocate for its own identified interests and to monitor the work of public institutions, including the way that the NGO legislation is applied and the allocation and administration of relevant EU structural funds and public funds for NGOs. Towards this end, BAPP-Latvia will support efforts to strengthen and improve consultative mechanisms with decision-makers at national and EU levels, as well as to create a membership-based NGO association which will conduct advocacy on issues of common interest to the non-profit sector as a whole.

2. Local Funding Sources for NGOs

Given that most foreign donors have already exited the Baltics, or will do so in the foreseeable future, BAPP-Latvia intends to strengthen its focus on the task of increasing local funding sources, both public and private, for the non-profit sector.

Towards this end, BAPP-Latvia will support initiatives leading to:

- Increased public funding available to NGOs, via independent funding mechanisms
- Sustainable community philanthropy mechanisms
- Increased corporate and individual philanthropy, taking advantage of the growing interest of the Latvian business sector and general population in charitable giving, as well as the continued development of the Latvian economy
- The possible establishment of an independent grantmaking institution able to collect and distribute funding, primarily to advocacy NGOs, after BAPP has closed.

3. NGO Institutional Sustainability

BAPP-Latvia's goal in its remaining years of grantmaking is to consolidate a core group of advocacy NGOs that can play a key role in Latvia's civil society.

In the past, in order to increase the social capital, BAPP-Latvia supported a broad group of NGOs, ranging from national level advocacy NGOs to small civic groups. In the remaining period, BAPP-Latvia will concentrate its support on public benefit advocacy NGOs, a category facing more difficulties in fundraising and whose independence from government influence is more at risk.

BAPP-Latvia's support will be available to both NGOs and NGO coalitions, advocating at national and EU level, and will also include capacity-building programs to improve various NGO professional skills.