**Cabinet Order No. 629**

Riga, 26 September 2023 (Minutes No. 47 20 )

on the National Research Programme "Public Health"

1 In accordance with Section 13 (2) (3) of the Law on Scientific Activities, and on the basis of the Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 560 of 4 September 2018 "Procedures for the Implementation of National Research Programme Projects”

1. Paragraph, to approve the National Research programme "Public Health" (hereinafter referred to as - the Programme).
   1. To designate the Ministry of Health as the responsible authority for the implementation of the Programme.
   2. The total financial envelope of the programme for the period 2023-2025 is *EUR* 3,750,000, including *EUR* 750,000 for 2023, *EUR* 1,500,000 for 2024 and *EUR* 1,500,000 for 2025. The Programme is financed from the resources allocated from the state budget to the Ministry of Education and Science for the state budget sub-programme 05.12.00 "National Research programmes".
   3. The overarching objective of the programme is to improve the health of the residents of Latvia by extending healthy life expectancy, preventing premature mortality and reducing health inequalities, as well as improving the quality and accessibility of healthcare services.
   4. The programme aims to generate new knowledge and solutions to improve the quality and accessibility of disease prevention and healthcare, and to strengthen the efficiency and resilience of the healthcare system.
   5. To achieve the objective of the programme, the following tasks shall be set:
      1. To develop new knowledge, approaches and methods to improve health literacy;
      2. To develop new knowledge, approaches and methods for the development and effective use of human capital for healthcare;
      3. To develop new knowledge, approaches and methods to reduce preventable and medically avoidable mortality from non-infectious diseases;
      4. To gain knowledge for the development of a human biomonitoring programme, assessing the prevalence of pesticides, heavy metals and certain organic pollutants in samples taken from the Latvian population, as well as identifying whether residues of banned pesticides originate from environmental contamination, food or household products;
      5. To develop new knowledge, approaches and methods for the assessment and containment of the risks of antimicrobial resistance, as well as provide knowledge on new approaches and methods to improve HIV containment policies and new cost-effective approaches to expand public vaccination coverage;
      6. To develop new knowledge, approaches and methods to measure, monitor and improve health outcomes of children.
   6. To identify the following results to be achieved during the implementation of the Programme:
      1. Studied diseases and health conditions that impose the greatest burden on the healthcare system;
      2. Provided evidence-based public health and healthcare policy recommendations and an assessment of their potential impact on public health and healthcare, including cost-effectiveness calculations;

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* + 1. Developed proposals to update healthcare guidelines, algorithms and patient pathways;
    2. Provided recommendations for introduction of value-based approach to healthcare;
    3. Achieved other specific results in line with the objective of each programme task.
  1. To set the following shared (horizontal) tasks for the programme:
     1. To build and develop interdisciplinary and inclusive teams of internationally competitive researchers using world-renowned research methods and technologies in their scientific activities;
     2. To develop the collaboration of research groups with health professionals to achieve the objectives of the programme;
     3. To participate in international networks and consortia, where this is necessary to achieve the objectives of the research project;
     4. To publish original scientific articles in journals listed in the *Web of Science* or SCOPUS databases, including Q1 and Q2 quartile journals listed in these databases, as open access publications where possible;
     5. To use data from national information systems and databases to the extent possible, and ensure the consolidation of such data and the inclusion of data from research in open access datasets;
     6. To use, as far as possible and reasonable, the results of previous research in Latvia in the design of studies, and compare the findings with those of existing studies;
     7. To promote knowledge transfer through the development of action policy recommendations;
     8. To ensure cooperation through joint activities (e.g., public information events, conferences and seminars) within the programme implementation process;
     9. To inform the public, involving relevant target groups, to promote knowledge transfer, understanding of the role and contribution of research in addressing issues of societal importance, including through popular science articles on research, its results and societal benefits.
  2. Implementation of the programme may be extended by one year, without awarding additional funding, where this is necessary to consolidate and publish the outcome of the programme and its projects.

Prime Minister *E. Siliņa*

Minister for Health *H. Abu Meri*

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