



Iveta Kažoka
Director of PROVIDUS



Prāta vētra "Kādaļ jābūt mūsdienīgai partijai?"

Simulāciju spēle "Kā jūtas tie, kuri bēg?"

Diskusija "Latvijai vajadzīgi talanti: kā veicināt ārvalstu studentu palikšanu Latvijā pēc studiju beigšanas?"

Diskusija "Ko darīt, lai tiesu varai uzticētos 80% Latvijas iedzīvotāju?"

Upon arriving to PROVIDUS office it is clear that there is no shortage of work. Iveta says that the organisation was founded in 2002, it has been changing continuously and operating in various fields, starting from strengthening of courts and supervision of construction, up to involvement of the society and the matters of migrant rights; from maintenance of the portal politika.lv and monitoring of the election up to anti-corruption matters. Iveta started working in the organisation in 2005 and, thanks to her experience and education background, she is working with the matters of political parties. At present PROVIDUS works mainly with decision makers, in particular, local governments and ministries, Members of Parliament by trying to improve the quality of democracy in Latvia and to achieve that political decisions are based on facts, are of high quality and are discussed with the society.

A challenge in the work of the organisation is to consider in which matters involvement of PROVIDUS is necessary for the society and on which matters the activity has to be discontinued. Activity on various matters may be discontinued if a state institution with relevant functions is established, for example, the case with the pre-election monitoring of political parties, when at the moment when Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau of Latvia and National Electronic Mass Media Council started the monitoring, PROVIDUS transferred its methodology to the institutions and discontinued its

<http://providus.lv/>

active involvement. Iveta points out that it cannot be always simply evaluated how big added value PROVIDUS provides in so many different directions of action, because, like most non-governmental institutions, PROVIDUS has a challenge to deliver high quality work under conditions of unstable financing.

The organisation often cooperates with other associations. Cooperation during the pre-election campaign can be referred to as a relevant example – this cooperation is manifested on various levels with journalists and media associations, the non-governmental sector, the portal manabalss.lv, DELNA, etc. Important cooperation has been established with cross-border organisations where good experience can be learned and views can be exchanged.

Iveta considers that sustainable development is the ability to think many steps ahead and to avoid activities which provide immediate benefit, but do not create long-term added value. PROVIDUS tries to serve as an example of this approach – all the submitted project application comply with long-term goals, activities are focused on cooperation instead of competition among organisations.

Restrictions to spending of political parties, development of the social entrepreneurship law and the relevant support system and the state financing

"We truly believe in the approach that a much better result can be achieved in cooperation instead of everybody fighting alone."

– IVETA

to political parties which Iveta personally insisted on present the most important achievements of PROVIDUS. An important change is also involvement of the non-governmental sector as the advisor on the level of ministries. Each project of the organisation is of particular importance for good governance and education of decision makers for adopting better decisions. The "Sorter of political parties" which helped everybody to compare one's own views with those of potential members of the parliament under various scenarios should definitely be mentioned as a great example.

As regards the plans for near future, PROVIDUS will continue working on various directions, including also the matters of the future of Europe: how Latvia can be made stronger on the European scale, analysis of the issues of migration and refugees (focused on the work with decision makers), promotion of social entrepreneurship.

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