

PROGRAMME
OF CULTURAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA,
THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
AND THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
FOR THE YEARS 2027 – 2030

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, in accordance with the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Culture between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, signed in Vilnius on 8 July 1994, have adopted the following Programme of cultural cooperation for the years 2027 – 2030.

Article 1

1. The Parties shall encourage the participation of each other's artists and experts in music, performing arts (opera, ballet, drama, dance a.o), literature, visual art, design, architecture, traditional culture, film and new interactive media festivals, markets, contests, seminars, workshops, art exhibitions and other cultural and creative industries' events, which will be held in their respective countries.
2. With this aim, the Parties will exchange information about their cultural life and prepare a list of trilateral cultural events in the Baltic States and abroad for the years 2027 – 2030 as an Annex to the Programme, which will be available together with the Programme also on the official websites of the Parties.

Article 2

The Parties shall exchange information and best practice about the work of their ministries of culture, the legislative initiatives, acts and policy documents in the fields of their responsibility, including the status of and social guarantees for freelance artists, emergency readiness, social cohesion, media policy and media and information literacy, development of high-quality independent journalism, digital culture, resilience to disinformation and information manipulation, and the impact of artificial intelligence on culture and media sectors, where applicable. For this purpose, study visits of the specialists of the ministries of culture shall be encouraged.

Article 3

1. The Parties shall promote literary contacts between writers, translators, illustrators, publishers and book trade professionals of the Baltic States, encourage the participation of authors and publishers in book fairs, festivals and exhibitions and the translation of their literature into languages of the other Parties.
2. The Parties shall promote the exchange of information and close cooperation between writers' unions and publishers' associations, residency programmes, literary festivals and literature information and promotion centres.
3. The Parties shall promote the translation and publication of literary works awarded with the Baltic Assembly Prize for Literature and encourage the continuation of the annual and rotating *Best of the Baltic Book Design* competition.

Article 4

1. The Parties shall exchange information and documentation on the administration of museums, libraries and archives, about the activities in the field of museology, library and archival science.
2. The Parties shall exchange best practices with regard to developing new methods of heritage safeguarding and preservation and encouraging adaptive use of heritage in innovative applications in service of education, tourism and other subsectors of economy.
3. The Parties shall exchange best practices regarding digitising tangible and intangible cultural heritage (including monuments, sites, landscapes, skills, practices, knowledge and expressions of human creativity, as well as collections protected and managed by public and private bodies such as museums, libraries and archives).
4. The Parties shall foster cooperation in training programmes for museum, library and archive specialists and developing implementation of new information technologies and services in museums, libraries and archives by organising trilateral seminars, conferences and training courses for them in their respective countries.
5. The Parties shall support according to their possibilities the long-term joint project "Baltic Museology School".
6. The Parties shall encourage establishing and development of the Baltic School for Librarians.
7. The Parties shall commit to cooperate in implementing the initiative "Libraries – Leaders in Lifelong Literacy: Baltic States Manifesto," strengthening the role of libraries in promoting literacy, digital skills, and lifelong learning.

Article 5

1. The Parties shall encourage cooperation and the exchange of information in the fields of research, conservation, management, awareness raising of cultural heritage, particularly focussing on participatory governance of cultural heritage.
2. The Parties agree to continue cooperation in the framework of the Baltic Region Heritage Committee of the Council of the Baltic Sea States to exchange information and tackle areas of common interest as well as foster the exchange of heritage experts and the implementation of common projects.
3. The Parties shall consider the possibility to establish the Baltic School for Heritage Experts.
4. The Parties shall collaborate in strengthening risk preparedness in cultural heritage sector, as well as issues associated to offences related to cultural property, including in the framework of international conventions.

Article 6

1. The Parties shall continue implementing the Agreement on the international chamber orchestra of three Baltic States “Kremerata Baltica” between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, signed in Riga on 13 February, 2012. The Parties shall actively encourage existing and alternative collaborative approaches to ensure inclusive engagement of every state involved and in alignment with the designated funding provided in favour of the development of Baltic performing arts and promotion of Baltic music abroad.
2. The Parties shall promote cooperation between the concert agencies of their countries in order to acquaint the public of the respective countries with the original music of other Baltic States.
3. The Parties shall encourage collaboration between creative unions, development centres, representative organizations and information centres.

Article 7

1. The Parties shall foster cooperation in the field of film and audiovisual production and facilitate joint promotion of the Baltic film and audiovisual production within the Baltic States and abroad. For this purpose, the Parties shall explore options to establish a co-production fund for films and TV-productions among Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
2. The Parties shall exchange best practices with regard to digitising audiovisual heritage, developing new methods of heritage preservation and encouraging heritage repurposing in innovative applications in service of education, tourism and other subsectors of the economy.

3. The Parties shall cooperate on important film industry events within the Baltic States and abroad.
4. The Parties shall facilitate cooperation in the development of the new interactive and audiovisual media, and other innovative forms of audiovisual content.
5. The Parties shall cooperate in exploring ways of enhancing the role of public service media in social integration.

Article 8

1. The Parties, recognising the need for collaboration in film and audiovisual education and professional training in the Baltic States, shall contribute to the exchange of film and audiovisual media lecturers, shall encourage participation in and foster collaboration between the Baltic Film and Media School, Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre and other film and audiovisual schools located in the Baltic States.
2. The Parties shall exchange best practices regarding film education programmes in secondary education as well as in institutions of informal training for youth and encourage the participation of their film professionals in such training programmes organized in either of the countries.

Article 9

1. In order to foster the cooperation between the theatres and to acquaint the public of the respective countries with the performing arts of the Baltic States, the Parties shall promote the Baltic Drama Forum.
2. The Parties shall also encourage co-production initiatives of theatres and participation in the national and international festivals in the region.

Article 10

1. In order to develop co-operation in the field of dance and to increase the visibility of the Baltic dance artists within and outside the Baltic States, the Parties shall promote the joint initiative of the Baltic dance communities – Baltic Dance Platform.
2. The Parties support initiatives such as the Baltic Visual Theatre Showcase and Baltic Focus in order to strengthen collaboration between puppet, visual, contemporary theatres. The Parties encourage co-production initiatives, creative partnerships between artists and cultural institutions, professional networking, and participation in national and international festivals, showcases, and cultural events across the Baltic region and beyond.

Article 11

The Parties shall foster cooperation in the field of cultural and creative industries – the exchange of information and experience, as well as the work visits of the representatives of the ministries and experts to institutions and organizations linked with cultural and creative industries, participation in seminars and conferences organized in this field in order to facilitate the elaboration of joint initiatives and cross-border projects also at industry and enterprise level.

Article 12

1. The Parties shall develop cooperation in the field of architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning, and within the framework of the Davos Declaration on a High Quality *Baukultur* for Europe and the New European Bauhaus initiative, encourage international contacts through the Baltic Architects' Unions Association (BAUA) and joint participation in the activities of the International Union of Architects (UIA), the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), the National Contact Points of the New European Bauhaus and other organizations related with the mentioned fields (NGOs, cultural, cross-cultural organizations, educational institutions etc.).

2. The Parties shall develop cooperation in the field of design – encourage international contacts through The Bureau of European Design Associations (BEDA) and foster collaboration between design organizations in the Baltic States (NGOs, cultural and educational institutions, associations etc.).

3. The Parties shall encourage and support research as well as informal youth education in design and architecture fields.

4. The Parties shall exchange best practice and promote the New European Bauhaus agenda on all administrative levels and tackle areas of common interest in enhancing the quality of living environment for all.

Article 13

1. The Parties shall encourage cooperation between visual art institutions (exhibition halls, residencies, artistic associations, information centres etc.) of the Baltic States regionally and internationally and support networks and information sharing between professional visual art organizations.

2. The Parties shall enable and promote collaborative visual art events (exhibitions, festivals, conferences and other) of international scale that take place in the region.

Article 14

In order to promote cultural cooperation between the Parties within and beyond the Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – and to strengthen the internationalization

of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian culture through joint cultural events, the Parties shall support the Baltic Culture Fund according to the Agreement between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania on the Establishment of the Baltic Culture Fund, signed in Riga on 8 July, 2018.

Article 15

The Parties shall foster regional cooperation and contacts with the Council of the Baltic Sea States, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and other regional organizations and instruments in order to promote the contribution of culture to sustainable development and competitiveness of the region.

Article 16

1. The Parties shall foster cooperation and exchange of information between their National Commissions for UNESCO in implementing UNESCO culture conventions and programmes.
2. The Parties shall cooperate to carry out preservation, protection and promotion activities that concern properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and the inherent programmes thereof.
3. The Parties shall collaborate to preserve, protect and promote common documentary heritage, especially the joint nomination inscribed to the International Register of the Memory of the World Programme “The Baltic Way – Human Chain Linking Three States in Their Drive for Freedom”, as well as to raise international awareness on the topic of the birch bark letters sent from Siberia.
4. The Parties shall cooperate on matters concerning safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, in particular the exchange of good practices in the safeguarding and fostering of local traditions, as well as the development of National Inventories of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
5. The Parties shall jointly foster research on intangible cultural heritage as well as the use of such studies for the benefit of communities, drawing on the expertise of UNESCO Chairs and UNESCO-accredited non-governmental organisations. The Parties shall also foster studies on the status of the cultural, social and economic functions of appropriate intangible cultural heritage elements.
6. The Parties, being aware of the special status of the traditions and symbolism of the Song and Dance Celebration process in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which is inscribed in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, shall support the viability of the tradition, including the activity of the Baltic States Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Song and Dance Celebration Tradition, as specified in the Agreement between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania on the Baltic States Committee for the

Safeguarding and Development of the Song and Dance Celebration Tradition, signed in Riga on 8 July, 2018.

Article 17

1. The Parties shall exchange best practices and join efforts to develop policies and mechanisms for providing access to culture for different age groups – pupils in pre-primary, primary and secondary education as well as youth, adults and elderly people – as a life-long learning tool to activate creativity, strengthen cohesion within communities and improve other social and cultural competencies crucial for the development of contemporary personalities.

2. The Parties shall engage in professional discussion on how to improve the content and services of cultural education and encourage audiences – children, youth, adults and elderly people, to consume high-quality digitised cultural products and services.

Article 18

1. The Parties shall as appropriate exchange information about and have consultations on national positions on policy documents of UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the European Union and other international organizations.

2. The Parties shall exchange information and experience and encourage cooperation within the framework of the European Union programmes for providing support for the culture and audiovisual sectors.

Article 19

This Programme may be amended or supplemented upon mutual consent of the Parties. Amendments and supplements to this Programme shall be drawn up as separate protocols on the basis of written agreements between the Parties and shall constitute an integral part of the Programme.

Article 20

Any disputes arising from the interpretation or application of this Programme shall be settled by mutual consultations between the Parties.

Article 21

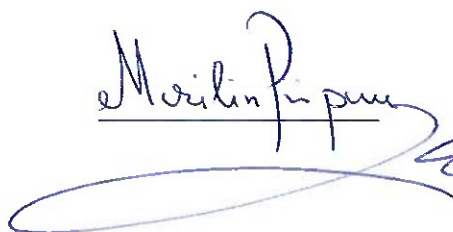
This Programme enters into force on the date of its signature. Each Party may terminate this Programme by written notification to the other Parties. In this case, the Programme

shall lose its validity in three months from the date of the receipt of such notification from the other Parties. The termination of this Programme shall not affect the initiated and ongoing projects, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

Done and signed in Tallinn, on 4 September, 2026 in three originals in English.

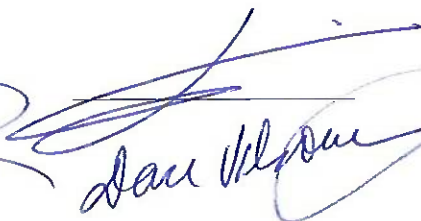
For the

Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of
Estonia

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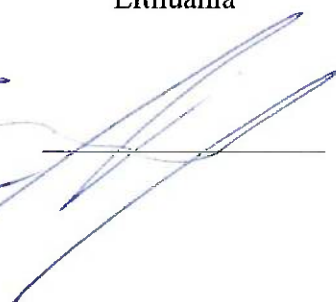
For the

Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of
Latvia

A stylized, cursive signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Dan Valters, the Minister of Culture of Latvia.

For the

Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of
Lithuania

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