

LATVIAN - POLISH CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION FOR THE YEARS 2023-2026

The Latvian-Polish Mixed Commission for Cultural and Educational Cooperation established pursuant to Article 23 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Poland on cultural and educational cooperation, done at Riga on March 29, 2006, held its session in a form of videoconference on January 20, 2023 and has agreed upon the following Latvian and Polish Cultural and Educational Programme of Cooperation for the Years

2023-2026, hereinafter referred to as the "Programme of Cooperation".

1. CULTURE

1.1. The Parties shall establish new and develop the existing forms of cooperation in the field of artistic creativity and protection of cultural heritage, fostering direct cooperation between the cultural institutions of the two countries.

1.2. The Parties shall continue their cooperation in the field of cultural heritage research and preservation work, as well as exchange knowledge and good practices in the field of restoration and publications concerning national heritage. In particular, they shall deepen their cooperation on the restoration and protection of the shared cultural heritage objects.

1.3. The Parties shall cooperate within the framework of the Baltic Region Heritage Committee in matters related to the protection, preservation and sustainable exploitation of cultural heritage.

1.4. The Parties shall encourage Latvian researchers to take part in the "Thesaurus Poloniae" scholarship programme, conducted by the International Cultural Centre in Cracow and addressed to foreign researchers in the field of history and cultural heritage of the Republic of Poland and Central Europe.

1.5. The Parties shall encourage participation in the "Gaude Polonia" scholarship programme, which is conducted by the National Centre for Culture Poland and addressed to artists, writers, conservators of works of art, and museum experts from Central and Eastern Europe.

1.6. The Parties shall encourage conclusion of direct agreements between museums of the two countries aimed at the mutual presentation of their collections and organisation of exhibitions, as well as the promotion of scientific research.

1.7. The Parties shall encourage cooperation between Latvian and Polish museums – Tukums Museum (*Tukuma muzejs*), Bauska Castle Museum (*Bauskas pils muzejs*), Cēsis History and Art Museum (*Cēsu Vēstures un mākslas muzejs*), Rundāle Palace Museum (*Rundāles pils muzejs*), Turaida Museum Reserve (*Turaidas muzejrezervāts*), Āraiši lake dwelling Archaeological Park (*Āraišu ezerpils Arheoloģiskais parks*), Limbaži Museum (*Limbažu muzejs*) and Ventspils Museum (*Ventspils muzejs*) in the Republic of Latvia and Malbork Castle Museum (*Muzeum Zamkowe w Malborku*), Museum of Archeology and History in Elbląg (*Muzeum Archeologiczno-Historyczne w Elblągu*), Museum of Gdańsk (*Muzeum Gdańska*), Pomeranian Dukes' Castle in Szczecin (*Zamek*

Książąt Pomorskich w Szczecinie) in the Republic of Poland and in the framework of the activities of the Association of Castles and Museums around the Baltic Sea. National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk (*Narodowe Muzeum Morskie w Gdańsku*) shall undertake exhibition cooperation with Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation (*Rīgas vēstures un kuģniecības muzejs*). Royal Łazienki Museum in Warsaw (*Muzeum Łazienki Królewskie w Warszawie*) shall continue the cooperation with Rundāle Palace Museum (*Rundāles pils muzejs*), e.g. in the field of researches on the history of gardens, as well as cooperation with Latvian National Museum of Art (*Latvijas Nacionālais mākslas muzejs*), National History Museum of Latvia (*Latvijas Nacionālais vēstures muzejs*) and Latvian War Museum (*Latvijas Kara muzejs*) in organising exhibitions “The Latvian Orders as a Confirmation of State Sovereignty” and “Latvian Modernists” in 2023.

1.8. The Parties shall encourage the establishment of relations between Latvian and Polish cultural institutions and realization of joint projects on dissemination of knowledge about the history of ghettos as an important element of the history of Holocaust that was planned and realized by the Third Reich, as well as about Jewish culture and Holocaust.

1.9. The Parties shall promote joint projects on historical memory, including endeavours to commemorate victims of totalitarian regimes implemented as part of the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS), as well as cooperation projects between the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia (*Latvijas Okupācijas muzejs*) and the Siberian Memorial Museum in Białystok (*Muzeum Pamięci Sybiru w Białymstoku*).

1.10. The Parties shall encourage translations of literature in the framework of the grant programme, implemented by the “Latvian Literature” platform, which may support translations and publishing of Latvian literature into the Polish language, and in the framework of the ©POLAND Translation Programme implemented by the Book Institute, which may co-finance translation and editing costs of Polish literature into the Latvian language.

1.11. The Parties shall encourage visits of literary translators of the other Party aimed at taking part in national and international meetings and seminars on literary translation.

1.12. The Latvian Party, during the validity of this Programme, invites the Polish Party to use the creative residency offered to writers, poets and translators by the International Writers’ and Translators’ House in Ventspils (*Ventspils Starptautiskā rakstnieku un tulkotāju māja*) (hereinafter – the Ventspils House). The stay in the creative residency in the Ventspils House is available for up to twenty eight (28) days. The Ventspils House shall cover the accommodation expenses and by tender procedure award a residency scholarship. In addition, the Ventspils House shall offer a possibility for one (1) translator, who translates from Latvian language, to take part in an eight (8) week residency programme including an intensive Latvian language course study (all costs covered). The main purpose of the residency shall be the translation of Latvian literature.

The Polish Party, during the validity of this Programme, invites the Latvian Party to use the residency offered to translators of Polish literature by the Book Institute in the framework of the Translators’ Collegium. The stay in the guestrooms in Cracow and Warsaw is available for up to one (1) month. The Book Institute shall cover the reimbursement of travel costs (return trip) and shall provide subsistence allowance and an additional spending allowance to translators. The main purpose of the residency shall be the translation of certain Polish literary work.

1.13. The Parties shall foster direct cooperation between the National Library of Latvia (*Latvijas Nacionālā bibliotēka*) in Riga, as well as the Academic Library of the University of Latvia (*Latvijas Universitātes Akadēmiskā bibliotēka*), and the National Library of Poland (*Biblioteka Narodowa*) in Warsaw on the basis of agreements concluded between them, in particular with regard to the acquisition of library materials and exchange of experience and good practices in the use of new technologies.

1.14. The Parties shall encourage cooperation between the institutions of the two countries dealing with presenting traditional culture and intangible cultural heritage, and dissemination of knowledge and education in this field by organising joint concerts, exhibitions, seminars on exchange of experience, material research, and other forms of events.

1.15. The Parties shall promote cooperation related to participation in both classical and contemporary music festivals organised in both countries, in accordance with the rules of these festivals.

1.16. The Parties shall promote direct cooperation between theatres, opera and ballet companies and theatre organisations of both countries, including guest performances and participation in theatre festivals, international projects, as well as training programmes and workshops.

1.17. The Parties shall promote joint research projects in the field of performing arts.

1.18. The Parties shall encourage cooperation between the New Theatre Institute of Latvia (*Latvijas Jaunā teātra institūts*) and the Polish performing arts organisations, as well as between the Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art (University of Latvia) (*Latvijas Universitātes Literatūras, folkloras un mākslas institūts*) and the Zbigniew Raszewski Theatre Institute (*Instytut Teatralny im. Zbigniewa Raszewskiego*), and also within the framework of the Baltic Route of the European Route of Historic Theatres.

1.19. The Parties shall support presentation of cinematographic works and participation of their representatives in the international film festivals organised by the other Party, in accordance with the rules of these festivals.

1.20. The Parties shall encourage cooperation between national film archives, institutions active in the field of cinematography, as well as professional film organisations and representatives of the film industries of the two countries.

1.21. The Parties shall promote mutual exchange of exhibitions in the fields of visual arts and design, as well as participation of visual artists, curators and art historians in international festivals, symposiums, seminars, workshops and study visits organised by the other Party.

1.22. The Parties shall encourage mutual cooperation between organisations and practices in the field of architecture, particularly addressing the issues of the transformation of the cultural heritage and delivering strategic initiatives within the projects of the New European Bauhaus (NEB). The Parties shall promote cooperation in scientific research and educational projects related to the latest developments in architecture and urban planning, as well as participation in architectural exhibitions and conferences, and other mutual exchange of experience. The Davos Declaration "Towards a high-quality Baukultur for Europe", signed on January 22, 2018, will form the basis of joint activities.

1.23. The Parties shall promote joint projects in the field of cultural and creative industries.

1.24. The Parties shall encourage cooperation in the field of archive management in order to ensure access to the archives of the other country and copies of archive documents for scientific research, social and legal purposes, as well as exchange of experience, publications and information of exhibitions – in search for Polish-related materials in Latvian archives and for Latvian-related materials in Polish archives. The cooperation shall be conducted on the basis of the Cooperation Agreement between the General **Directorate** of State Archives of the Republic of Latvia and the General Directorate of Archives of the Republic of Poland, signed on December 15, 1993, supplemented by the Protocol on the terms of realization of Agreement from May 20, 2006. The Parties shall promote direct cooperation between the National Archives of Latvia (*Latvijas Nacionālais arhīvs*) and the Polish Institute of National Remembrance (*Instytut Pamięci Narodowej*) to enhance mutual projects in research and education.

1.25. The Parties shall exchange knowledge and best practices in the field of media literacy and media professionalism, as well as in the implementation of the digital services tax and the digital transformation. The Parties shall encourage realization of joint projects of the competent authorities of both countries in the field of media literacy with a view to strengthening the information environment and reducing the spread of disinformation.

1.26. The Parties shall encourage establishment of direct cooperation and exchange of experience and information between the National Electronic Mass Media Council of the Republic of Latvia (*Latvijas Republikas Nacionālā elektronisko plašsaziņas līdzekļu padome*) and the National Broadcasting Council of the Republic of Poland (*Krajowa Rada Radiofonii i Telewizji Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*).

1.27. Apart from constant cooperation in the framework of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), the Parties shall encourage direct cooperation in the field of public radio and television broadcasting for the purpose of disseminating knowledge about both countries. In order to deepen it, the Parties shall promote the dissemination by public broadcasters of broadcasts, films and programs devoted to social, cultural, historical and educational topics, on the basis of separate agreements.

2. EDUCATION

2.1. In order to exchange experiences in the field of education, and to develop cooperation between the relevant ministries, the Parties may organise visits of policy makers, experts and practitioners.

2.2. In order to promote the Latvian language and culture in the Republic of Poland and the Polish language and culture in the Republic of Latvia, the Parties shall support the teaching of language and culture in schools and other educational institutions at all levels.

2.3. In the context of ongoing education reform in Latvia, the Polish Party welcomes the assurance of the Latvian Party that the general education institutions of the Republic of Latvia that implement education programmes for the Polish national minority will be kept in their current form. Aspiring to meet the educational needs of members of the Polish national minority in the Republic of Latvia, the Parties shall cooperate to ensure the functioning of general education institutions (Daugavpils

Polish preschool No29 named after Jan Plater-Gajewski, Rēzekne Polish State Gymnasium, J. Pilsudski Daugavpils Polish State Gymnasium, Ita Kozakiewicz Polish Comprehensive Secondary School in Riga, Count Plater Polish Primary School in Krāslava) which shall continue implementing education programmes dedicated to Polish education institutions in Latvia regardless of the assumptions of the education reform in the country.

2.4. In order to enhance mutual knowledge about the systems of education, curricula and teaching aids of both countries, the Parties shall support close cooperation between schools, teachers' training institutions and other institutions operating within the system of education, the exchange of teachers, pupils and information, and implementation of joint projects.

2.5. The Parties shall support the teaching of the Polish language and literature, history, geography and other subjects taught in the Polish language, as well as the implementation of programmes aimed at generating interest in the Polish language in general education institutions of the Republic of Latvia.

2.6. The Latvian Party shall provide additional financing for teachers' remuneration at the education institutions on pre-school, general primary and secondary level implementing programmes for the Polish national minority, ensuring the teaching and learning of the Polish language and literature as well as other subjects in the Polish language considering that the implementation of these programmes is additionally guaranteed by bilateral international agreements.

2.7. Local governments of the Republic of Latvia shall have the right to establish, reorganise and dissolve pre-school and general education institutions for the Polish national minority, in accordance with the law and regulations of the Republic of Latvia, with the approval of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia and after bilateral political consultations between the Parties.

In the case of facilities built or renovated with the use of funds contributed by the Republic of Poland, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the Republic of Latvia shall be notified about the intention of building or renovating the facilities mentioned above six (6) months before a final decision is taken.

2.8. The Parties express their interest in cooperation concerning the erection of a boarding house attached to the J. Pilsudski Daugavpils Polish State Gymnasium.

2.9. The Parties shall support the teaching of the Polish language and other education activities carried out by Polish national minority organisations in the Republic of Latvia in cooperation with local minorities.

2.10. In order to improve the teaching quality of the Polish language and literature and other subjects taught in the Polish language, the Parties shall pay special attention to the professional development of teachers.

In order to accomplish this:

2.10.1. The Polish Party may admit each year teachers of the Polish language and literature and other subjects taught in the Polish language from the Republic of Latvia, for participation in seminars and in-service training courses.

2.10.2. The Polish Party shall annually second teachers of the Polish language and literature, history, geography and other subjects taught in the Polish language for work in the general education institutions of the Republic of Latvia that implement education programmes for the Polish national minority, considering requests of the Latvian Party and the possibilities of the Polish Party.

2.10.3 The Latvian Party shall allow the possibility that the teacher seconded for work in the general education institutions of the Republic of Latvia that implement education programmes for the Polish national minority can perform the functions of a class tutor.

2.10.4. The Latvian Party shall annually confirm one coordinator in an advisory capacity for each school from among the teachers seconded in accordance with Article 2.10.2., while taking into account a recommendation by the Polish Party. The main task of the coordinator is to promote successful cooperation and exchange of information with and between the seconded teachers, the Latvian party, the administration of the receiving school, the Polish minority in Latvia and other relevant stakeholders.

2.10.5. Each year the Latvian Party shall encourage the mutual exchange of experience of teachers of the Polish language and literature and other subjects taught in the Polish language in the Republic of Latvia on the modern study process organisation and the Polish language acquisition, and shall promote organising master classes, creativity workshops and presentations of common experiences.

2.10.6. Taking into account that the Polish Party shall second teachers of the Polish language and literature, history, geography and other subjects taught in the Polish language for work in the general education institutions of the Republic of Latvia that implement education programmes for the Polish national minority, the Latvian Party shall not require the necessity of possession of the Latvian language certificate from the above mentioned teachers.

At the same time, the Latvian Party shall support Latvian language acquisition for the above mentioned teachers and shall enable them to participate in different forms of pedagogical professional development activities.

2.11. The Parties shall cooperate in developing education programmes and/or syllabuses for the general education institutions of the Republic of Latvia that implement education programmes for the Polish national minority. The Latvian Party shall disseminate information to the coordinators of seconded teachers and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the Republic of Latvia on opportunities to participate in the development of textbooks and teaching aids for these schools.

2.12. For the purpose of enhancing the quality of education programmes of the general education institutions of the Republic of Latvia that implement education programmes for the Polish national minority, the Polish Party shall regularly provide these educational institutions with information on the education system in the Republic of Poland, as well as other latest information on current developments, including in such fields as culture, art, literature, cinema, sports, the economy and entrepreneurship.

2.13. The Parties shall ensure teaching aids in line with their capabilities and requests from the general education institutions of the Republic of Latvia that implement education programmes for the Polish national minority.

2.14. The Parties shall support the development of direct contacts between schools and education institutions at all levels, as well as their cooperation in the framework of programmes and projects of the European Union and other international programmes and projects available to the Parties. The Parties shall support the exchange of vocational education teaching staff and students, exchange of data and information, and the implementation of joint projects, as well as exchange in the field of adult education.

2.15. The Parties highly appreciate direct contacts established so far between the higher education institutions of both countries and shall encourage the development of new direct contacts based on bilateral and multilateral agreements and in the framework of the European Union educational programmes, as well as other international programmes available to the Parties. The Parties shall support the exchange of academic staff, students and researchers, exchange of data and information, bilateral scientific cooperation and the implementation of joint projects, organisation of joint seminars, conferences and symposia.

2.16. The Parties shall promote the exchange of academic staff – specialists in the Polish or Latvian language, culture and literature who have been seconded to work in higher education institutions according to the receiving Party's needs. The receiving higher education institution shall have the right to approve or reject the proposed candidate.

2.17. At the request of Polish academic staff (specialists in the Polish language, culture and literature, employed in higher education institutions in the Republic of Latvia referred to in Article 2.16., or at the request of heads of Polish philology departments and Polish language, culture and literature courses at higher education institutions of the Republic of Latvia), each year the Polish Party shall grant up to six places at summer courses of the Polish language and culture to Latvian students of Polish philology or participants of Polish language classes.

2.18. The Parties welcome the work of the Polish Language and Culture Centre of the Latvian Academy of Culture.

2.19. Each year the Parties shall offer each other scholarships for studies and research at state recognised higher education institutions in accordance with national laws and regulations and available financial resources of both countries.

2.19.1. The Latvian Party shall offer scholarships to students and researchers from the Republic of Poland for studies and research work, as well as for participation in summer schools organised by Latvian higher education institutions. Information about the offered scholarships, application procedures and deadlines is available on the web page of the Ministry of Education and Science: www.izm.gov.lv and the State Education Development Agency: <https://www.viaa.gov.lv/lv/arvalstu-stipendijas>.

2.19.2. The Polish Party shall offer scholarships to students and researchers from the Republic of Latvia to conduct studies and research, as well as participate in summer schools organised by Polish higher education institutions.

Information about the offered scholarships is available on the web page of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange: www.nawa.gov.pl. Apart from scholarships granted through the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the Republic of Latvia (Exchange Programme for Students and Scientists as part of Bilateral Cooperation): <https://nawa.gov.pl/en/students/foreign->

students/exchange-programme-for-students-and-scientists-as-part-of-bilateral-cooperation-offer-for-incoming-students-and-scientists, the Polish Party proposes an open recruitment procedure for summer courses of the Polish language and culture: <https://nawa.gov.pl/en/the-polish-language>, and other programmes for foreign students and scientists.

3. YOUTH

3.1. The Parties shall support the development of cooperation on youth policy, exchange of information, examples of good practices and statistics.

3.2. The Parties shall encourage the development of direct cooperation between Latvian and Polish youth organisations, youth centres and non-government organisations working with young people. The terms of cooperation, including financial ones, shall be agreed upon directly by interested entities.

3.3. The Parties support cooperation in the field of youth, in particular youth exchange, in the framework of programmes and projects of the European Union and other international programmes and projects available to the Parties.

4. SPORTS

4.1. The Parties shall support direct contacts between government sports institutions, sports organisations, federations, and clubs.

4.2. The cooperation between the entities referred to above shall in particular include the exchange of experience and experts in sports medicine, sports management, organisation of major sporting events, the fight against threats to the integrity of sport, ensuring security at sporting events and promoting physical activity in the society.

4.3. The government institutions responsible for sports cooperation are the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia and the Ministry of Sport and Tourism of the Republic of Poland.

4.4. The terms of cooperation, including financial ones, shall be agreed upon directly by interested entities.

5. OTHER FIELDS OF COOPERATION

5.1. The Parties shall facilitate joint participation in bilateral and multilateral projects, in particular in the framework of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union.

5.2. The Parties shall support cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture, communication and information within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and direct cooperation on the bilateral level in these fields between UNESCO National Commissions of both countries.

5.3. The Parties shall support the cooperation in implementation of interest-related educational programmes.

6. FINAL PROVISIONS

6.1. The provisions of this Programme of Cooperation shall not preclude the Parties from agreeing through diplomatic channels on other undertakings in the fields of culture, education, and with regard to youth and sports.

6.2. The Parties agree that all initiatives mentioned in this Programme of Cooperation shall be carried out within the funds at the disposal of entities and institutions interested in their implementation.

6.3. Activities and exchanges carried out under this Programme of Cooperation shall be implemented in accordance with the laws and regulations of both countries.

6.4. The conditions of the Programme of Cooperation may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties. Annexes amending the Programme of Cooperation shall be made in writing.

6.5. The Programme of Cooperation shall enter into force on the day of signing and shall remain in force until December 31, 2026.

6.6. In accordance with Article 23 of the Agreement between and the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Poland on cultural and educational cooperation of March 29, 2006, the next Programme of Cooperation shall be discussed and signed during the next meeting of the Latvian- Polish Mixed Commission for Cultural and Educational Cooperation to be held in Poland. The date of the Commission's meeting shall be determined through diplomatic channels.

Done in 01/02/2023, in duplicate, each copy in the Latvian, Polish and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In the event of differences of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**Chairperson
of the Latvian Delegation**



**Chairperson
of the Polish Delegation**

