

# UNESCO in Latvia

Latvia

Upesleju school

2020, Novembris

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Latvia has been a member state of UNESCO since October 14, 1991, when the official addition ceremony took place at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

According to the UNESCO constitution the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO has been established after a decision of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia in 1992.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQYXhHCToQI>

# Historic Centre of Riga

Riga, founded in 1201, was a major Hanseatic city from the 13th to the 15th centuries. Not many houses remain from that period, as they were destroyed by fire or war. Later, Riga saw a rapid expansion in the 19th and early 20th century, when many Art Nouveau buildings were constructed. Riga has the highest concentration of buildings in this style in Europe.

The Historic Centre of Riga is a living illustration of European history. Through centuries, Riga has been the centre of many historic events and a meeting point for European nations, and it has managed to preserve evidence of European influence within its historical development, and borders between the West and the East, as well as the intersection of trading and cultural routes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtBicqUQaNE>

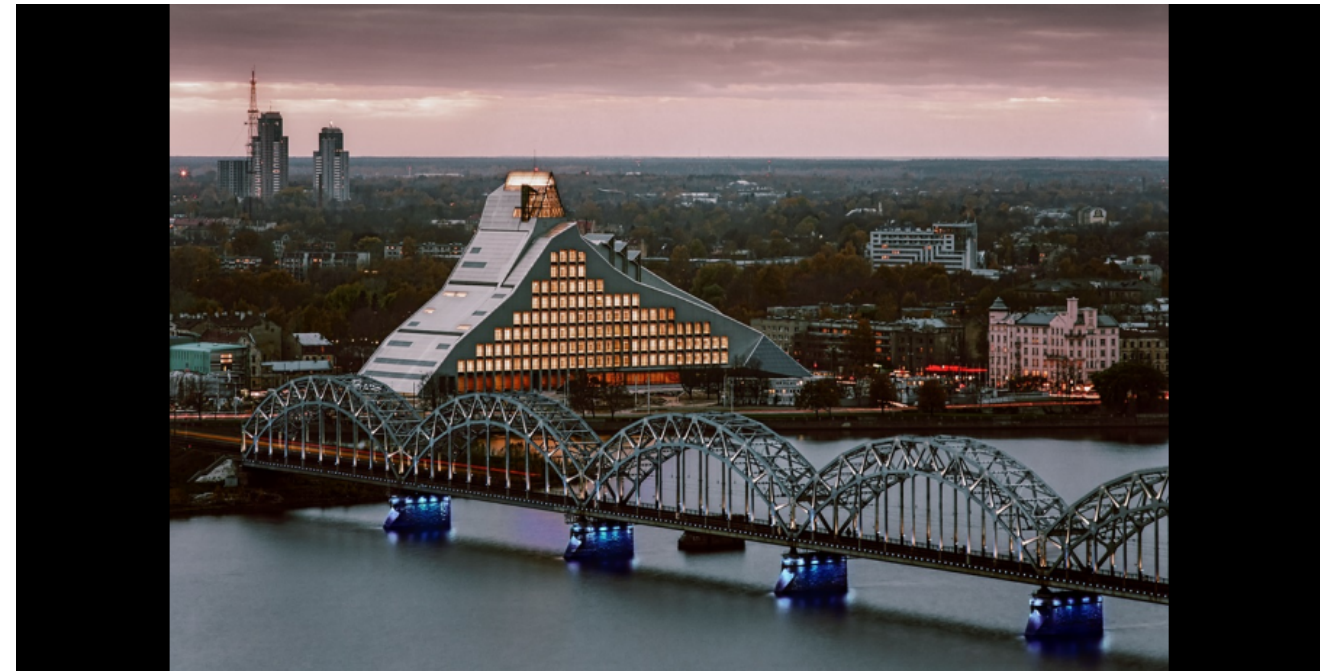
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVKKSyyXBb0>



# UNESCO AND NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LATVIA

In 1999 UNESCO member states in the General Conference drew a resolution regarding the construction project of the new National Library of Latvia. UNESCO member states and the international society were invited to provide support for the project, stating that the world should have internationally identified multifunctional centres like these, which help to take care of the cultural heritage, enable access to educational, cultural and scientific information, promote diversity, awareness of ethnicity and mutual understanding.

The total area is 42,733 m<sup>2</sup>  
Height - 68.3 m  
Number of floors - 14



# Struve Geodetic Arc

The Struve Arc is a chain of survey triangulations stretching from Hammerfest in Norway to the Black Sea, through 10 countries and over 2,820 km. These are points of a survey, carried out between 1816 and 1855 by the astronomer Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve, which represented the first accurate measuring of a long segment of a meridian. This helped to establish the exact size and shape of the planet and marked an important step in the development of earth sciences and topographic mapping. It is an extraordinary example of scientific collaboration among scientists from different countries, and of collaboration between monarchs for a scientific cause. The original arc consisted of 258 main triangles with 265 main station points.



# Meanders of the Upper Daugava

The Upper Daugava river valley features interesting postglacial landforms that formed 15-13 thousand years ago. The area has been inhabited for millennia and features several cultural landscape types - ritual landscape (sacred buildings, ancient burial grounds, cemeteries, and crucifixes), social landscape, economic landscape (urbanization, farmer settlements)



# Grobiņa archaeological ensemble



The Grobiņa archaeological ensemble comprises remains of the settlements and burial sites which date to the period between the 7th and the 9th centuries, when the Scandinavians started migrating overseas. Grobiņa was the settlement when they lived along the local Curonian population, which helped the cultural exchange.

Viking festival in Grobiņi :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Twpgjji32ls>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwUmbXmKqpY>



# KULDĪGA OLD TOWN IN THE PRIMEVAL VALLEY OF THE RIVER VENTA

Kuldīga, also known historically as Goldingen, was first documented in 1242. As an important trade junction, it was a member of the Hanseatic League. The historic centre is well preserved and dates to from the late 16th to the 18th centuries, when the city was the seat of the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia.

One of the most powerful expressions of charm of the old town of Kuldīga is the medieval historical centre near the river Alekšupīte that runs through the old town from the South, flowing between buildings, and reaching the river Venta with great accent - mill (an example of technological development in the 19th-20th century) pond and a waterfall.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ia58\\_Dr7WYs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ia58_Dr7WYs)



# BALTIC SONG AND DANCE CELEBRATIONS

Both a repository and a showcase for the region's tradition of performing folk art, this cultural expression culminates in large-scale festivals every fifth year in Estonia and Latvia and every fourth year in Lithuania. These grand events, held over several days, assemble as many as 40,000 singers and dancers. For the most part, the participants belong to amateur choirs and dance groups.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYIgwYML7WQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeovGfNEEsk>

The Catalan version of Mārtiņš Brauns' "Sun, Thunder, Daugava" has been officially recognized as the anthem of Catalan independence)



# IN SIBERIA WRITTEN LETTERS ON BIRCH BARK

Letters on birch barks were written by people who were in prisons, concentration camps or settlements in Siberia. They were sent to relatives between 1941 and 1956 by people who had been deported from Latvia and Lithuania - they were members of the middle class and were arrested for having anti-Soviet views.

This was one of the most tragic periods in the 20th-century history of Latvia – arrests and deportations which were undoubtedly human rights violations.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aohUI\\_hoR0g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aohUI_hoR0g)



# THE BALTIC WAY – HUMAN CHAIN LINKING THREE STATES IN THEIR DRIVE FOR FREEDOM

The Baltic Way was a unique, peaceful mass demonstration, which was held on 23 August 1989, when more than a million people joined hands to create a 600 km long human chain through the three Baltic States, uniting Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in gaining their freedom.

[https://lv100.lv/Uploads/2019/08/15/li\\_bc30.pdf](https://lv100.lv/Uploads/2019/08/15/li_bc30.pdf)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyM7e\\_Yo96c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyM7e_Yo96c)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wOLaNIImuJ8>

<https://lv100.lv/Uploads/2019/08/20/baltijas-cels-30-bu-vaki-230x340-print-en-web.1.pdf>



# E. KRAUC COLLECTION OF PHOTONEGATIVES

The collection is a chronological representation of a unique and irreplaceable historical event - the construction of the Ķegums power plant - and an outstanding example of the professional work of the 20th century photographer E. Kraucs.

The Ķegums Hydro Power Plant is the oldest hydropower plant on the river Daugava and the third largest in Latvia located in Ķegums.

The collection includes 1736 negatives on a glass base, and it has won a place in the Latvian National Register of the UNESCO Memory of the World Program.



<https://latvenergo.lv/en/energetikas-muzejs/ekspozicija-keguma>



# Correspondence between Rainis and Aspazija

The correspondence between Rainis and Aspazija covers 35 years in the creative life of both poets. The mutual correspondence between Rainis and Aspazija covers a chronologically wide period of Latvian history. The content of the correspondence reveals the personal relationship and creative process of both poets.

It is included in the Latvian National Register of the UNESCO Memory of the World Program.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IBUV9ujTLM>

<https://www.latvia.eu/mindpower-meet-rainis-and-aspazija>

<https://www.world-today-news.com/correspondence-between-rainis-and-aspazija-from-the-beginning-of-exile-published-article-lsm-lv/>



# CABINET OF FOLKSONGS

The Cabinet of Folksongs is a collection of orderly amount of manuscripts containing folksongs and other folklore materials collected by Latvian researcher and editor Krišjānis Barons (1835 – 1923) and held in a specially designed editor's cabinet.

The Cabinet of Folksongs was made in 1880 in Moscow to systemize texts of folksongs sent to the editor. The height of the Cabinet of Folksongs is 160 cm, width – 66 cm and depth – 42 cm. The original of the Cabinet of Folksongs is located in the Archives of Latvian Folklore since 1940.

[www.dainuskapis.lv](http://www.dainuskapis.lv)

Wroten in UNESCO Memory of the World.



# SUITI CULTURAL SPACE

The Suiti are a small Catholic community in the Protestant (Lutheran) western part of Latvia. The Suiti cultural space is characterized by a number of distinct features, including vocal drone singing performed by Suiti women, wedding traditions, colourful traditional costumes, the Suiti language, local cuisine, religious traditions, celebrations of the annual cycle, and a remarkable number of folk songs, dances and melodies recorded in this community.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1T6BxnOgls>



# UNESCO *Treasures of* LATVIA



The Latvian National Commission for UNESCO (LNK) has created an interactive map in which everyone will be able to get acquainted with the areas related to the implementation of UNESCO programs in Latvian cities and counties. In the interactive map you can find out and get acquainted with the values of Latvia included in one of the international or national lists of UNESCO values, as well as the networks of UNESCO LNC cooperation partners and their participants who participate in the implementation of UNESCO programs in Latvia.

<https://latvijasdargumi.unesco.lv/en/>



# UNESCO ASP in Latvia

The UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network established in 1953 to encourage schools worldwide on issues related to UNESCO programmes in all its areas of competence.

Latvia has been a member of the project since early 1990's, and the network currently includes 32 educational institutions – representing different levels of education – all around Latvia. We expect that each school organizes different activities in one of four main thematic directions of the project in Latvia

<https://skolas.unesco.lv/lv/in-english/unesco-asp-in-latvia/>

<https://latvijasdargumi.unesco.lv/en/networks/>



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Latvian National Commission for UNESCO  
Network

"Storytelling Libraries"

# UNESCO "Story telling libraries"

The network “Storytelling libraries” is a special cooperation and experience sharing platform of Latvian libraries, wherein a wide range of activities dedicated to the cultural heritage and the tradition of storytelling are implemented, in order to promote informal education in the field of heritage through storytelling as a significant part of intangible cultural heritage.

<http://m.stastubibliotekas.com/grand-treasures/local-activities/storytelling-events/>

<https://www.stastubibliotekas.com/storytelling-libraries/>

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000263107>



# HUMAN RIGHT GUIDE , supportet by



Human rights are those basic standards, which are important for enabling people to live in safety and dignity.

Learn about human rights through themes, find help and explore resources

<https://www.cilvektiesibugids.lv/en/themes/>

