PROGRAMME

OF CULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA, THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA AND THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA FOR THE YEARS 2023 – 2026

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, 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 Lithuania, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, signed in Vilnius on 8 July 1994, have adopted the following Programme of cultural cooperation for the years 2023 – 2026.

Article 1

1. The Parties shall encourage the participation of each other's artists and experts in music, opera, ballet, drama, dance, traditional culture, film and new interactive media festivals, markets, contests, seminars, workshops, art exhibitions and other cultural 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 2023 – 2026 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 preparedness, social cohesion of national minorities, media policy and media and information literacy, development of high-quality independent journalism, digital culture, 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, publishers and book trade professionals of the Baltic States, encourage the participation of authors and publishers

in book fairs 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 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.

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 Heritage Committee 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 agreed to continue supporting financially "Kremerata Baltica", the international chamber orchestra of three Baltic States, in favour of the development of Baltic performing arts and promotion of Baltic music abroad, as it is stated in the Agreement between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia on the Orchestra "Kremerata Baltica", signed in Riga on 13 February, 2012.

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 Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia.

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.

6. The Parties shall cooperate on their participation in the focus programme at the European Film Market in 2023.

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

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.

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 – Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia – and to strengthen the internationalization of Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian 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 Lithuania, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia 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 for the International Register of the Memory of the World Programme "The Baltic Way – Human Chain Linking Three States in Their Drive for Freedom".

4. The Parties shall cooperate on matters concerning safeguarding and preservation 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 consider elaborating multinational nominations of elements for the Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage and foster related research as well as the use of such studies. The Parties shall also foster studies on the status of the cultural and social function 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 Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, which is inscribed in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, shall support 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 Lithuania, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia 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 when required 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.

Done and signed in Liepāja, on 16. September, 2022 in three originals in English.

For the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania	For the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia	For the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia
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LIST
Trilateral Cultural events
in the Baltic States and Abroad
for the Years 2023-2026

I. Trilateral Events in the Baltic States

Competition *Best of the Baltic Book Design*	Riga 2023 Vilnius 2024 Tallin 2025 Riga 2026
Publication of a pan-Baltic literary magazine Baltic Amber	
International Folklore Festival *Baltica*	
Baltica 2023	Estonia 2023
Baltica 2024	Lithuania 2024
Baltica 2025	Latvia 2025
Baltica 2026	Estonia 2026
Baltic Museology School	Latvia 2023 Estonia 2024 Lithuania 2025 Latvia 2026
LiLaEst – International Seminar of Librarians of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania	Latvia 2024 Lithuania 2026
Congress of Baltic Librarians *CoBal*	Lithuania 2025
International conference on safeguarding and development of the Song and Dance Celebration Tradition	Estonia 2024
Baltic Drama Forum	Latvia 2023 Estonia 2024 Lithuania 2025 Latvia 2026
Film Co-production Market *Baltic Event*	Tallinn November 2023,2024, 2025,2026

Baltic Film Days	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
Baltic Sea Documentary Forum	Latvia 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
Baltic Students Song and Dance Festival *Gaudeamus*	
Baltic Amateur Theatre Festival *Baltic Ramp*	Latvia 2023 Lithuania 2025
Baltic Dance Platform	Latvia 2024 Lithuania 2026
Baltic Orchestra Festival	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
Baltic Music Days Festival	Latvia 2023 Estonia 2024 Lithuania 2025 Latvia 2026

II. Trilateral Baltic events abroad

Baltic Prize and programme, *Nordic Film Days* in Lübeck	Germany 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
Baltic Award, Trieste Film Market *When East Meets West*	Italy 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
Annecy International Animation Film Festival Market	France 2023, 2024 2025, 2026
New York Baltic Film Festival	United States 2023, 2024 2025, 2026
London Baltic Film Festival	United Kingdom 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
Internationale Tanzmesse NRW	Germany 2024, 2026
Baltic states as countries in focus in the European Film Market, Berlin International Film Festival	Germany 2023
BAUA Awards (The Baltic Architects Union Association) The exhibition and competition of the best graduation projects by architecture students	Lithuania 2023 Estonia 2024 Latvia 2025