

**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 2012 – 2014**

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 trilateral Agreement of cultural co-operation signed in Vilnius on 8 July 1994, have adopted the following Programme of cultural co-operation for the years 2012- 2014.

Article 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 and art exhibitions and other cultural events, which will be held in their respective countries.

With this aim the Parties will exchange information about their cultural life and prepare a List of cultural events in the Baltic States for the years 2012 - 2014 as an Annex to the Programme, which will be available together with the Programme also in the Internet home pages of the Parties.

Article 2

The Parties shall exchange information about the work of their ministries of culture, the legislative initiatives and acts and policy documents. With this aim and in order to facilitate preparation of exchanges and cultural events the parties shall exchange experts (up to 5 persons a year for 5 days).

Article 3

The Parties shall promote literary contacts between three Baltic States, participation in book fairs and exhibitions, and translation of their literature into languages of the other Parties.

Article 4

The Parties shall exchange information and documentation on the administration of museums and libraries, about the activities in the field of museology and library science.

The Parties shall foster co-operation in training programmes for museum and library specialists and developing implementation of new information technologies in museums and libraries by organising trilateral seminars, conferences and training courses for them in their respective countries.

The Parties shall support according to their possibilities the long-term joint project “Baltic Museology Summer School”, started in 2004.

Article 5

The Parties shall promote co-operation and the exchange of information in the fields of study, protection, preservation and restoration of cultural heritage, particularly enhancing cultural heritage education and participation of society in heritage preservation. The Parties shall foster the exchange of heritage experts, restorers, conservators, architects and the organization of common conferences, seminars and exhibitions, and participation in the work of the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States.

The Parties agreed to celebrate the Year of Cultural Heritage in 2013 in all three Baltic countries.

The Parties shall promote the development of cultural tourism.

Article 6

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 Parties on the Orchestra *Kremerata Baltica* signed on February 13, 2012.

In order to acquaint the public of the respective countries with the original music and achievements in the performing arts of other Baltic States, the Parties shall promote the co-operation between the concert agencies of their countries.

Article 7

The Parties shall foster co-operation in the field of cinema and audiovisual production, including co-production of films between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and facilitate joint promotion of the Baltic film and video production within the Baltic countries and abroad.

The Parties shall facilitate co-operation in the development of the new interactive media, interactive games and other innovative audiovisual contents.

The Parties, recognising the need for collaboration in film and audiovisual education and professional training in the Baltic countries, shall contribute to the exchange of expertise between film and audiovisual lecturers, shall encourage participation in and foster collaboration between the Baltic Film and Media School and other film and audiovisual schools located in the Baltic countries.

Article 8

In order to foster the co-operation between the theatres and to acquaint the public of the respective countries with the original drama of the Baltic States, the Parties shall promote the Festival of the Contemporary Baltic Drama.

The Parties shall also encourage co-production initiatives of theatres and participation in the national and international festivals in the region.

Article 9

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 countries the Parties shall encourage and support according to their possibilities the joint initiative of the Baltic dance communities the Baltic Dance Platform.

Article 10

The parties shall develop co-operation in the field of planning and implementing of regional and local cultural policy, and foster the exchange of respective information and experts.

Article 11

The Parties shall foster regional co-operation and contacts with the Council of the Baltic Sea States, Nordic Council of Ministers, Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture and other regional organizations and instruments in order to promote the contribution of culture to sustainable development and competitiveness of the region, pay more attention to promotion of joint trilateral cultural events abroad.

Article 12

The Parties shall foster co-operation in the field of creative industries – the exchange of information and experience, as well as the work visits of the representatives of the ministries and experts to organizations linked with creative industries, participation in seminars and conferences, organized in this field.

Article 13

The Parties shall foster co-operation and exchange of information between their National Commissions for UNESCO in implementing UNESCO culture conventions and programmes.

The Parties shall co-operate in the activities of mutual interest, such as Struve Geodetic Arc (in the World Heritage List), The Baltic Way (in the Memory of the World Register) and implementation of the Action Plan for the Preservation and Revitalisation of the Song and Dance Tradition in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania (in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity).

Article 14

The Parties shall on necessity exchange information about and have consultations on the national positions on policy documents of UNESCO, the Council of Europe and European Union.

The Parties shall exchange information and experience, and encourage co-operation within the framework of the EU programmes of support for culture and the audiovisual sector.

Done and signed in Vilnius, on the 8 June 2012 in three originals in English.

For the
Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of
Estonia

For the
Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of
Latvia

For the
Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of
Lithuania