

# Climate, culture and quality of life

Seminar for policy planners  
and experts in cultural heritage

15.02.

2023.



## Agenda

15 February 2023

Saeima Baltic Hall, Jēkaba iela 6/8  
[www.saeima.lv](http://www.saeima.lv)

9:30–10:00

Registration

10:00–10:30

### OPENING

**Edwards Smiltēns**, Speaker of the Saeima

**Nauris Puntulis**, Minister for Culture

**Raimonds Čudars**, Minister for Climate and Energy

**Agita Zariņa-Stūre**, Chair of the Saeima Education, Culture and Science Committee

**Inga Bērziņa**, Chair of the Saeima Social and Employment Matters Committee

Moderator: Viesturs Celmiņš

10:30–11:10

### CLIMATE AND CULTURAL POLICY

Culture and climate change

**Ernesto Ottone**, Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO

Climate related challenges in the Baltic Sea Region and culture as an answer

**Uģis Zanders**, Advisor to the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States

11:10–12:20

### CLIMATE AND THE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT

Putting our shared cultural heritage at the heart of the European Green Deal

**Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović**, Secretary General of Europa Nostra

Construction, heritage and circular economy

**Maija Katrīna Dambe**, architect at *NOMAD architects*, guest lecturer at Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

Engagement of local communities in spatial development planning in the light of climate change,

**Jana Jākobsone**, Head of Construction Authority, Kuldīga Municipality

Discussion

**Juris Dambis**, Head of the Latvian National Heritage Board

**Maija Katrīna Dambe**, architect at *NOMAD architects*, guest lecturer at Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

**Jana Jākobsone**, Head of Construction Authority, Kuldīga Municipality

12:20–13:10

Lunch break

13:10–14:20

## CLIMATE, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

COAL Art and Ecology – For a Cultural Ecology

**Joan Pronnier**, Project Manager of COAL, Association of the Contemporary Art, Ecology and Research Professionals

Climate change and impact on the processes in nature, various systems and urban environment

**Agrita Briede**, Director of the Master Study Programme in Geography, University of Latvia

Underwater heritage, environment and climate

**Jānis Meinerts**, expert at the Archaeology and History Department, National Cultural Heritage Board, researcher at the Institute of Arts and Cultural Studies, Latvian Academy of Culture

Discussion

**Katrīna Kukaine**, Chair of the Board of ICOMOS Latvija

**Agrita Briede**, Director of the Master Study Programme in Geography, University of Latvia

**Jānis Meinerts**, expert at the Archaeology and History Department, National Cultural Heritage Board, researcher at the Institute of Arts and Cultural Studies, Latvian Academy of Culture

14:20–15:30

## CLIMATE AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Living heritage – a sustainable and community based resource in facing changing climate. A look to the LIVIND project.

**Elisa Kraatari**, Coordinator of the LIVIND project, Finnish Heritage Agency

**Leena Marsio**, Senior Advisor, Finnish Heritage Agency

Environment and intangible cultural heritage in Latvia

**Signe Pujāte**, Director of the Latvian National Centre for Culture

How 'green' the raftsmen of the Gauja River are? Tradition in the context of climate change

**Ieva Vītola**, researcher at the Institute of Arts and Cultural Studies, Latvian Academy of Culture

Discussion

**Baiba Moļņika**, Secretary General of the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO

**Signe Pujāte**, Director of the Latvian National Centre for Culture

**Ieva Vītola**, researcher at the Institute of Arts and Cultural Studies, Latvian Academy of Culture

15:30–15:40

Summary

## National Cultural Heritage Board (Mazā Pils iela 19, Rīga)

16:00–18:30

Workshop for students organized by the Spatial Development Planning Programme of the Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Latvia

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**The Latvian National Commission for UNESCO, the Latvian National Heritage Board and ICOMOS Latvia together with the Saeima Committee for Education, Culture, and Science, the Saeima Committee for Social and Employment Matters, the National Library of Latvia, the French Institute in Latvia, and the Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences of the University of Latvia are organising a seminar *Climate, culture and quality of life*, during which Latvian and foreign experts specialising in culture and nature sciences and policy planners will share their knowledge in strengthening the role of the culture and discuss the future scenarios as we face climate change.**

Environmental sustainability is one of those global issues faced by all sectors equally, including culture and cultural heritage which is not only threatened by the climate change but can also be used as a resource in implementing the Green Deal and an excellent source of knowledge and skills in addressing the widest range of consequences of the changing climate. Over the last few years, we have seen active redefining of goals of culture and creative industries and the cultural heritage sector as they claim themselves to be active participants in fighting global crises, including climate change. The Final Declaration of the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, MONDIACULT 2022, stresses “the importance of integrating cultural heritage and creativity into international discussions on climate change, given its multidimensional impact on the safeguarding of all forms of cultural heritage and expressions and acknowledging the role of culture for climate action, notably through traditional and indigenous knowledge systems”.

The European Green Deal was created to address the climate and environment problems which is the most important task of our generation. At the same time, the common European values and the shared cultural heritage clearly demonstrate the potential for assisting in achieving this task. As presented in the [European Cultural Heritage Green Paper](#), preservation of cultural heritage can be a way for seeking answers to all the major issues addressed by the European Green Deal, including clean energy, circular economy, renovation wave, smart mobility, farm to fork, environmentally friendly environment, green financing and a just transition, research and innovation, education and training, as well as the Green Deal diplomacy.

[The Latvian Cultural Policy Guidelines for 2021–2027](#) recognises the important input of culture and creative industries and especially of the cultural heritage in “addressing climate issues both directly by implementing activities aimed at achieving the climate neutrality goals and indirectly by taking steps to raise the public awareness of climate change”, including the understanding of the direct impact climate change has on the quality of life and of the possibilities of the culture sector to improve it.

During the seminar, experts from various fields will share their opinions on the solutions offered by culture, and especially the cultural heritage, for addressing climate-related issues and will emphasise the untapped potential of the culture. The key topics of the seminar will include cultural and historical environment, landscape, intangible cultural heritage, and climate. Each session will be opened with a presentation of the international context, followed by an analysis of the Latvian situation and case study to cast light on the local situation. On the second day of the seminar, we will watch a film and listen to an expert speaking about the interaction of cultural heritage and culture. In addition, there will also be a workshop or ideation organised in cooperation with the Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences of the University of Latvia.

