



International  
Conference

# The role of cultural centres in the European cultural ecosystem

14 SEPTEMBER

2022



International  
Conference

# The role of cultural centres in the European cultural ecosystem



In person,  
Institūta street 3, Ulbroka, Latvia



Online,  
LNKC website – [www.lnkc.gov.lv](http://www.lnkc.gov.lv)

Organized by:



Ministry of Culture  
Republic of Latvia



Latvijas Nacionālais  
kultūras centrs



LATVIJAS  
KULTŪRAS  
DARBINIEKU  
BIEDRĪBA



European Network of Cultural Centres

Cooperation partners and supporters of the conference:



*Ulbrokas Perle*

Reflect





**International  
Conference**

# **The role of cultural centres in the European cultural ecosystem**

In order to raise the profile of the international debate on the role of cultural centres in the European cultural ecosystem, the Latvian National Centre for Culture in cooperation with Latvian Association of Cultural Centres, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia and the European Network of Cultural Centres organise an international conference "The Role of Cultural Centres in the European Cultural Ecosystem".

The main aim of the conference is to stimulate discussion among professionals, policy makers, representatives of non-governmental organisations and researchers on the role of cultural centres in the European cultural ecosystem, current challenges and possible future directions. The conference aims not only to draw the attention of cultural policy makers at all levels to the issue of cultural centres, but also to raise awareness in society in general about the important contribution of cultural centres to the development of cultural environments and inclusive societies. One of the objectives of the conference is to show the wide range of cultural centre associations in Europe, highlighting the role of non-governmental organisations in the development of cultural centres.

In order to make the content of the conference accessible to a wide international audience, the webcast of the conference will be available for interested parties from different European countries. The conference will take place at the Cultural Centre "Pearl of Ulbroka"- one of the newest cultural centres in Latvia, which was opened in September 2020.

# Programme

Moderator of the conference:  
**Ansis Bogustovs**

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10.00–11.00                      **Registration and Welcome**

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11.00–12.00                      **Guided tour of the cultural centre "Pearl of Ulbroka"  
and networking**

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12.00–12.30                      **OPENING CEREMONY**

**Nauris Puntulis**  
Minister of Culture of the Republic of Latvia

**Signe Pujāte**  
Head of the Latvian National Centre for Culture

**Vita Paulāne**  
Chair of the Ropazu Municipal Council

**Dace Jurka**  
Chair of the Association of Latvian Cultural Centres

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12.30–14.20                      **CULTURAL CENTRES  
IN THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL ECOSYSTEM**

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12.30–12.55                      **Egge Kulbok-Lattik,**  
PhD, cultural sociologist and researcher  
in the research group of Tallinn University

**The roles of cultural centers - Estonian case study**

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12.55–13.20                      **Virginija Jurėnienė,**  
professor at Vilnius University Kaunas Faculty

**Products of Cultural Center**



# Programme

Moderator of the conference:  
**Ansis Bogustovs**

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**13.20–13.45**

**Anda Laķe,**  
professor and the Vice-Rector in Scientific Work at  
the Latvian Academy of Culture, the head of the LAC Research Centre

**The special role of cultural centers  
in Latvian cultural ecosystem.**

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**13.45–14.05**

**Piotr Michałowski,**  
Vice-Chairman of the European Network of Cultural Centers

**Cultural centres in Europe –  
challenges and opportunities for development**

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**14.05–14.20**

**Aija Tūna,**  
PhD, the director of the culture and  
arts education program “Latvian School Bag”

**Meeting point – the Local Cultural Center.  
Opportunities within Program “Latvian School Bag”**

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**14.20–15.15**

**Lunch and Networking**

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**15.15–17.30**

**CULTURAL CENTRES IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES –  
COMMON AND DISTINCTIVE**

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**15.15–15.35**

**Silvena Bayrakova,**  
the International Relations secretary of Chitalishta Union

**Cultural Centres in Bulgaria**

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**15.35–15.55**

**Piotr Michałowski,**  
Vice-Chairman of the European Network of Cultural Centres

**Cultural Centres in Poland**



# Programme

Moderator of the conference:  
**Ansis Bogustovs**

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**15.55–16.15**

**Leen Vanderschueren,**  
Member of the Board of ENCC, Coordinator of CULT! –  
Network for culture houses in Flanders & Brussels

**Cultural Centres in Belgium**

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**16.15–16.45**

**Jolanta Borīte,**  
Head of the LNCC Cultural Centres Consultative Council,  
Head of Sigulda Municipality Culture Centre

**The role of cultural centres in the municipal cultural ecosystem –  
Sigulda municipality case study**

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**16.45–17.00**

**Sandra Nikitin,**  
representative of the Association of Cultural Centres of Estonia

**Cultural Centres in Estonia**

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**17.00–17.15**

**Representative of the Lithuanian Association  
of Cultural Centres**

**Cultural Centres in Lithuania**

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**17.15–17.30**

**Dita Pfeifere,**  
Member of the Board of the Association of Cultural Centres of Latvia,  
Member of the LNCC Cultural Centres Consultative Council

**Cultural Centres in Latvia**

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**17.30–18.00**

**DISCUSSION AND CLOSING CEREMONY**

The conference programme indicates the time  
in the Athens time zone (ATZ)





# Invited speakers at the conference



## Egge Kulbok-Lattik, Estonia

Dr. Egge Kulbok-Lattik is a cultural sociologist and researcher in the research group of Tallinn University. She has published many articles on Estonian cultural politics and studied the historical formation and development of Estonian cultural policy (PhD from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland). In 2016–2018, Dr. Kulbok-Lattik worked as an adviser to the Estonian Prime Minister on

culture, education and population. In 2019–2020 she worked as an adviser to the Minister of Population, and was responsible for working out the program of Global Estonian.

Her current academic interests are cultural and talent policy, lifelong learning, population development and national system of innovation.



## Virginija Jureniene, Lithuania

Prof. dr. Virginija Jureniene has been involved in research dealing with gender history since 1999 and creative industries since 2004. The main sphere of her interest is gender policies and their impact on sustainable society development. She has been regularly invited to work as an expert on gender policy issues for European Commission and on creative industries issues for Lithuanian Culture Council.

V. Jureniene has big experience in international and local project management and has been involved in the following EC FM 6 and 7 projects: “Pro-ecological Restructuring for Job” and “Educational activities of cultural centres in the aspect of communities’ intercultural mobilisation”. 2009–2010 The study of the project “Creative Growth” financed by the INTERREG IVC programme – Map of Creative

Industries/Social, Economic Analysis in Kaunas Region (expert), 2008–2009 the project “Promotion of Youth Initiatives in Abandoned Zones of Kaunas Old Town”, financed by Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway under the EEA ir Norway financial mechanism (project performer), 2008–2009 the project “Siluetas LT” to commemorate the Millennium of the Name of Lithuania supported by the State Commission of the Millennium of the Name of Lithuania (project manager). The national project “Societal Change 1990–2021: Gender Perspective” is funded by the Lithuanian Science Council (project leader, senior researcher).

She has published about 70 articles and 6 monographs on the main issues of gender, cultural tourism and heritage, cultural centers as a part of cultural industries in international peer reviewed journals.



# Invited speakers at the conference



## Anda Laķe, Latvia

Prof. dr. Anda Laķe, professor at the Latvian Academy of Culture (LAC), Doctor of Sociology, LAC Vice-Rector for Scientific work and the Head of the Scientific Research Centre. She has 30 years of participation and leadership in academic and applied research projects in the social sciences and humanities, and more than 25 years of administrative experience in universities. Since 2012 she is an expert of the Latvian Council of Science in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sociology of Culture, Political Sociology, Policy Impact Assessment and Social Research Methodology. She is a member of the Latvian, Scandinavian, European and International Sociological Associations, the International Society of Ethnology

and Folklore, the European Association of Social Anthropology, and regularly participates in congresses and conferences of these associations.

Academic and research interests are related to cultural and creative sector impact studies, research methodologies in the cultural and arts fields, and policy impact assessment. In recent years, her research activities have been closely related to research on current issues in the cultural sector, which includes leading or participating in a number of studies commissioned by Latvian cultural organisations, including the Ministry of Culture.



## Piotr Michałowski, Poland

Piotr Michałowski is a researcher with 20 years of experience, expert on territorial development, cultural consultant and manager. He is a Vice-Chairman of the European Network of Cultural Centers ENCC Brussels and an Independent Expert of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme for the period 2022–26. He is also a Consultant, Project Manager & Expert on Creative Economy and Territorial Development at EUROCONSULTANTS S.A. Thessaloniki. He holds MA in Cultural studies (University of Wrocław), MSci in Management (Lower Silesian University for Public Services) and second MSci in Cultural Diplomacy (Jagiellonian University in Krakow). He is a graduate of the Polish–American Freedom Foundation’s School of Moderators, of the University of Wrocław in Musicology and of the Wrocław School of Jazz (as a jazz guitarist). He has trained at the

National Centre for Culture in Poland and at Stanford University on International Cultural Management, Local Strategic Development for Cultural Institutions, and Creativity and Innovation. He is a certified leader of the Design Thinking methodology.

He has successfully coordinated over 100 projects. He has got 20 years of experience working for NGO sector, 15 years – for public sector. Since 2013 he runs own creative company called “Micro Art Center”, involved in cultural consulting, management, artistic productions, and international cooperation. He is affiliated with “Teatr na Walizkach” Theatre and Culture Center from Wrocław, Poland – a member of ENCC network and is a former coordinator at the Cultural Division of the Municipality of ECoC Wrocław 2016.





# Invited speakers at the conference

## Aija Tūna, Latvia



Aija Tūna, the director of the culture and arts education program “Latvian School Bag”, holds PhD in education and acts as a lecturer and consultant both in Latvia and abroad; she is the author of many publications including methodological materials on pedagogy, civic participation etc. Tuna strongly believes that every person is a value with his or her own potential that can be developed through cooperation in personal, professional, and civic aspects. It is important to provide young people with the tools – knowledge and skills – and

boost their courage to skillfully solve issues important to their personal lives and future of the community. Culture and arts play unique role in in this process of growth and development. Experience accumulated while managing such long-term initiatives and projects as “Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking”, “Change Opportunity for Schools”, “Grassroots Europe for Local Wellbeing” and others helps develop and implement the program “Latvian School Bag” in a holistic and creative manner.





# Participating organisations and their representatives at the conference



## The European Network of Cultural Centres

The European Network of Cultural Centres (ENCC) was founded in 1994 to promote dialogue and cooperation between social-oriented cultural centres in Europe. Currently, the ENCC is a community of 73 members from 27 European countries with a huge diversity in terms of nationalities, types of organisation, topics and fields of activities, including national and regional networks of cultural centres, urban and rural/local networks of cultural centres, individual cultural centres, socio-cultural organisations and inclusive arts organisations, and individual cultural operators

All ENCC members are active in the cultural field and share the same values: participation – diversity – cultural equality – intercultural competencies – accessibility – cultural democracy – territorial development – sustainability – empowerment – networking and cooperation – democracy. By joining the ENCC, they are all willing to network as well as to exchange information, knowledge and best practices with the other members. ENCC priority is to empower the more than 5,000 cultural centres that it represents, as well as their communities through actions linked to capacity building, networking and advocacy.

The ENCC office is located in Brussels and the network is supported by the Creative Europe programme of the European Commission.

Website: <https://encc.eu/index.php/>



Representative of ENCC- **Piotr Michałowski**,  
Vice-Chairman of the European Network of  
Cultural Centers



# Participating organisations and their representatives at the conference



## CHITALISHTA UNION - representing and supporting community-based organisations throughout Bulgaria

The "Chitalishta" (=reading rooms) are a significant part of the Bulgarian cultural heritage. The first Chitalishta were organised in 1856. Emerging as community-based organisations during the Bulgarian Renaissance, Chitalishta have legitimately been established as part of the Bulgarian history and identity. In the mid-twentieth century, all the neighbourhoods and districts in Bulgaria had their own Chitalishta. Scattered throughout the country and rooted in the history of more than 3,000 communities, Chitalishta still plays an important role in community development. They provide small libraries and rooms for cultural events such as theatre, workshops, painting or musical instruments classes. The Chitalishta organisations are NGOs for culture and education, a form of voluntary association of society. Their union as a representative body, recognized by the law, is crucial for their lobby on a national basis. Its role is to represent the "Chitalishta" and to help their structures facing the new age challenges and develop in a more sustainable way.

Website: <http://unionchitalishta.eu>



Representative of CHITALISHTA UNION- **Silvena Bayraktova**, International relationships coordinator in Chitalishta Union, Chairperson of one Socio-cultural community center in Velingrad, Member of national expert board of intangible cultural heritage consulting the Ministry of culture.



# Participating organisations and their representatives at the conference

## Cultural Centers in Poland

Poland has a large number of cultural centers with a sociocultural profile, which can be found in practically every municipality and the majority of which are publicly funded. Ninety-three percent of cultural centers belonged to the public sector in 2020. The cultural centers have legal powers, independence, and a historically guaranteed financial stability that is probably not found in Europe in a comparable way. Most of the centers originated from the known in Interwar period „community centers“. Its foundation is dated in XVIII cent, while in XIX cent they were known as public reading rooms. They were transformed after 1945 into „cultural centers“. But some of the centers originated also from the "Klub Prasy i Książki", the press and book clubs, where the population could read newspapers and books, but also take some art courses or perform.

According to Statistics Poland, in 2020, there were 4,040 community centers, cultural centers and cultural establishments and cultural clubs operating in Poland (in 2019 - 4,255). Unfortunately, the country still lacks a national cultural network to connect and exchange, and to strategically advocate and evaluate the considerable achievements of the sector in an appropriately documented way. The presentation will tackle most important facts related to the cultural centers in Poland with some bottom-up local networks, having a long term mission to establish some coherent and collaborative cultural ecosystems in Poland.



Representative of ENCC- **Piotr Michałowski**,  
Vice-Chairman of the European Network of  
Cultural Centers



# Participating organisations and their representatives at the conference



## **cult! – Network for culture houses in Flanders & Brussels**

cult! is the network organization and advocate for culture houses in Flanders and Brussels. cult! promotes, supports, defends and connects these open houses in their diversity and dynamism. In an ever-changing social context, cult! is looking for targeted solutions to collective challenges together with its members and partners. cult! informs, advises, stimulates and inspires culture houses today and in the future.

cult! would not exist without its 169 members. cult! connects a broad, diverse and dynamic network of locally embedded culture houses that spread around Flanders and Brussels. Our board consists of directors of culture houses, combined with experts that rely on their experience. They determine the direction of cult! and assist the team with advice and expertise.

The past challenging years were definitely a confirmation of the necessity of a lobbying and supporting organisation, especially for the smaller, regional cultural centres to be heard. Among other lobbying actions, cult!, participated in the last years in a Crisis Cell for Culture, together with lobbying organisations for subsidized arts, artists and amateur arts, events and the socio-cultural sector.

Website: [www.cult.be](http://www.cult.be)



Representative of cult!- **Leen Vanderschueren**,  
Coordinator of cult! – Network for culture houses in  
Flanders & Brussels, Member of the Board of ENCC



# Participating organisations and their representatives at the conference



## The Cultural Centre of Sigulda Municipality (Latvia)

The Cultural Centre of Sigulda Municipality is a cultural institution of Sigulda Municipality, which unites the following structural units - Cultural Centre "Siguldas devons", Sigulda Municipality Culture House, Judaži Community Centre, Allaži People's House, Mores People's House, Inčukalns People's House, Krimulda People's House, Lēdurga Culture House, Mālpils Culture Centre, the exhibition of Anšlavs Eglītis and the exhibition of the Museum of the Skulmes Family House. The Culture Centre manages the Sigulda District Library with its substructures.

Culture centre "Siguldas devons" was opened on September 14, 2018 after a major reconstruction and it is one of the most modern cultural centres in Latvia. The building is named in honor of the period, which temporarily inscribed in the sandstone layers of the River Gauja a magic code from the time when the Sigulda's area was covered by water.

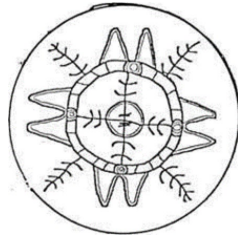
Website: [https://www.sigulda.lv/public/lat/kultura/kulturas\\_centri/](https://www.sigulda.lv/public/lat/kultura/kulturas_centri/)



Representative of Sigulda Municipality - **Jolanta Borīte**,  
Director of Sigulda Municipality Culture Centre,  
Chairperson of the LNKC Culture Centres Advisory Board.



# Participating organisations and their representatives at the conference



## The Association of Cultural Centres of Estonia

The Association of Cultural Centres of Estonia (ACCE) is a non-profit organisation uniting Estonian cultural centres that are funded by local governments. ACCE also represents the cultural workers in these cultural centres.

### The aims of ACCE are to:

- develop national awareness on the importance of the role of cultural centres in local communities;
- initiate the creation and adoption of a legal act as basis for the activities of cultural centres;
- participate in creating cultural policy at local, regional and state level;
- elaborate the professional standards for the employees of cultural centres;
- generate new and strengthen the existing relations between cultural centres in Estonia and abroad.

ACCE cooperates closely with other cultural organisations engaged in similar activities in Estonia and abroad. The ACCE cooperates with international institutions – the Association of Cultural Centres of Latvia, the Lithuanian Association of Cultural Centres and the European Network of Cultural Centres.

Website: <http://www.rahvamaja.ee>



Representative of ACCE - **Sandra Nikitin**,  
International relationships coordinator of the  
Association of Cultural Centres of Estonia,  
Member of the Estonian Folklore Council



# Participating organisations and their representatives at the conference



## The Lithuanian Association of Cultural Centres

The Association of Lithuanian Cultural Centres (ALCC) unites 96% of all Lithuanian cultural centres. Since its foundation this organisation has been carrying out its purpose to unite cultural centres, to represent their needs and to ensure that their activities are accessible in Lithuania and abroad. Members of ALCC also take part in working groups, expert groups, funding programmes and prepares projects of various normative acts. They also take part in committees of the Lithuanian Association of Municipalities as well as participate in the election of the Lithuanian Council for Culture and the Ministry of Culture.

ALCC cooperates closely with other cultural unions, institutions of higher education and organisations engaged in similar activities in Lithuania and abroad. The ALCC cooperates with international institutions – the Association of Cultural Centres of Latvia, the Association of Cultural Centres of Estonia and the European Network of Cultural Centres.

Website: <https://lkca.lt/>





# Participating organisations and their representatives at the conference



## The Association of Cultural Centres of Latvia

The Association of Cultural Centres of Latvia (ACCL) is a public organisation founded in 2002 with the aim of promoting the development of cultural centres in Latvia. The association is formed by managers and employees of cultural centres, heads of municipal cultural departments and specialists from all regions of Latvia.

### Activities of ACCL:

- 1) Methodological guidance, exchange of information, consultancy;
- 2) Further education and professional development;
- 3) International cooperation and exchange of experience;
- 4) Participation in the development and implementation of cultural policies in the cultural field.

In order to address the development of cultural centres together with other European countries, the ACCL has joined and actively participates in the European Network of Cultural Centres. The ACCL cooperates with national level institutions (Latvian National Centre of Culture, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia), international institutions (ENCC, Lithuanian Association of Cultural Centres, Estonian Association of Cultural Centres), local and non-governmental institutions in the implementation of its activities. The ACCL also cooperates with Latvian cultural higher education institutions - the Latvian Academy of Culture and its structural unit LKA -the Latvian College of Culture, as well as EKA -the University of Applied Sciences.

Website: <https://www.lnkc.gov.lv/lv/kulturas-centri>



Representative of ACCL - **Dita Pfeifere**,  
Member of the Board of the Association of  
Cultural Centres of Latvia, Member of the LNCC  
Cultural Centres Consultative Council



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