

AGREEMENT

between

**the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia,
the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia and
the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania
on the Baltic States Committee for the Safeguarding and Development
of the Song and Dance Celebration Tradition**

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Parties’);

Referring to the Agreement between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania on Cooperation in the Field of Culture signed on 8 July 1994 in Vilnius, and to the Article 15 of the 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 2015 – 2018 signed on 24 October in Tallinn in 2014;

Being aware of the special status of the Tradition and Symbolism of the Song and Dance Celebration Process in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Song and Dance Celebration Tradition’) which is inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and the consequent safeguarding requirements;

Recognizing the need to strengthen the international cooperation and the exchange of experts’ experience on the safeguarding and development process of the Song and Dance Celebration Tradition;

Considering that the work of the Baltic States Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Song and Dance Celebration Tradition (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Committee’) should be regular, purposeful and effective so that the decisions and documents of the Committee shall enjoy full power;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Parties shall establish and maintain at their own expense the Committee.

Article 2

The main institutions in charge of the work of the Committee and the process of the safeguarding and development of the Song and Dance Celebration Tradition are: in Latvia – the Latvian National Centre for Culture, in Estonia – the Estonian Song and Dance Celebration Foundation, in Lithuania – the Lithuanian National Centre for Culture (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Main institutions’).

Article 3

The Committee shall consist of 21 members. For the composition of the Committee each country shall nominate one delegate from the Main institutions, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education and Science, and the National Commission for UNESCO, as well as three experts who represent different fields of the Song and Dance Celebration Tradition. The three experts shall be appointed by the Main institutions. The composition of the Committee shall be renewed upon necessity, but at least every three years.

Article 4

The work of the Committee and its Secretariat (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Secretariat’) is led by the Chairman who is appointed by the country holding the Presidency of the Committee from among its members (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Presidency’).

Article 5

The Presidency is held for a term of three years and passed on in a consecutive order. Lithuania holds the Presidency for years 2018 – 2020. The Presidency is passed on to Estonia for years 2021 – 2023, and to Latvia for years 2024 – 2026. As long as the Agreement is in force, the Presidencies shall follow each other in the order specified.

Article 6

The administrative work and documentation of the Committee are maintained by the Secretariat which is located in the country holding the Presidency.

Article 7

The Committee develops, adopts and renews, if necessary, the Action Plan for the Safeguarding and Development of the Song and Dance Celebration Tradition in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Plan’). The Plan for years 2018 – 2028 as the Annex to this Agreement is an integral part of it. The Committee may also adopt resolutions and recommendations in connection with the Safeguarding and Development process of the Song and Dance Celebration Tradition.

Article 8

The Committee meets at least once a year. All travelling expenses of the Committee members are covered by the Party they represent, whereas the administrative expenses related to the organisation of the Committee meetings are covered by the Secretariat.

Article 9

Each Party during its Presidency shall organise a conference on the Safeguarding and Development process, tendencies and topicalities related to the Song and Dance Celebration Tradition. The expenses of organisation of such an event are covered by the respective Party.

Article 10

This Agreement may be amended by a mutual written agreement between the Parties. The amendments enter into force on the day they are signed and form an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 11

Any divergence of interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved by negotiations between the Parties to this Agreement.

Article 12

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall remain in force for a period of three years from the date of its entry into force and be automatically renewed for further periods of three years, unless written notice to terminate is given at least six months prior to the expiration of the first or any succeeding period of three years.

Done at Riga on 8 July 2018, in a triplicate in the Latvian, Estonian, Lithuanian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation of this Agreement, the English text shall prevail.

For the Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of Latvia

For the Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of Estonia

For the Ministry of Culture
of the Republic of Lithuania

