

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, represented by the Minister, Ms Agnese Lāce

and

The Association of Memorial Museums (MMA), represented by Deputy Director, Ms Sanita Kossoviča on the basis of the Letter of Authorization issued by its Director, Ms Rita Meinerte, who acts in accordance with the Statute,

and

The City of Lugano, represented by its municipal council and, on its behalf, by the Deputy Mayor, Hon Roberto Badaracco and the Secretary, Mr Robert Bregy

hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties".

Affirming their commitment to develop bilateral relations through cultural cooperation, the Parties will enhance already well established cooperative framework that promotes cultural dialogue, artistic expression, and the sharing of knowledge and experiences through direct contacts between cultural institutions, cultural professionals and experts. Promoting the rich cultural legacy of Latvian poets Rainis and Aspazija, who lived in exile in Castagnola from 1906 to 1920, the Parties have agreed to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

1. Aim of the MOU

The MOU aims to enhance mutual understanding and promote the poets' contributions to global culture, to foster cultural exchanges, in particular by encouraging participation of artists and writers in creative residencies.

2. Cultural legacy of Rainis and Aspazija

2.1. The Parties commit to working closely together to promote, preserve, and enhance the cultural legacy of the poets. This collaboration will involve the development and execution of targeted cultural initiatives in Lugano, aimed at raising awareness and appreciation of their literary and artistic contributions. Furthermore, the Parties will



work towards expanding the digital presence of Rainis and Aspazija, through digital platforms, including online exhibitions, digital archives, and interactive content.

2.2. In particular, the City of Lugano dedicates a street to Rainis and Aspazija in Castagnola, and it is responsible for the monument dedicated to them in the “Giardinetto Rainis and Aspazija” in Castagnola, managed by its Culture Division. The City of Lugano also hosts the exhibition “Rainis and Aspazija between Latvia and Switzerland” at the Palazzo Tosetti Riva, Piazza Carlo Cattaneo 1, Castagnola. Furthermore, it provides digital access to materials preserved in its Historical Archives related to its connection with Latvia.

2.3. The MMA coordinates the creation of a virtual trail (application/website) on the poets, aimed at making their story known starting from the places they loved. In particular, the goal is to enhance the path of the “Via Rainis and Aspazija” in Castagnola.

3. Exhibition “Rainis and Aspazija between Latvia and Switzerland”

3.1. The MMA agrees to lend the Exhibition “Rainis and Aspazija between Latvia and Switzerland” for display at the City of Lugano Historical Archives, Piazza C. Cattaneo 1, Castagnola, Lugano, Switzerland. The City of Lugano retains ownership of any items it provides for the Exhibition.

3.2. The loan lasts from May 20, 2025, to May 20, 2027, with the possibility of renewal upon mutual agreement, at least six months before the expiration. The City of Lugano provides a free access to the Exhibition for visitors at least nine months a year, five days a week. During the remaining months, the City of Lugano may use the hall for other temporary exhibitions, without compromising the Exhibition.

3.3. The City of Lugano is responsible for the care and maintenance of the Exhibition, including resolving any technical issues with the equipment. The Exhibition shall not be altered without prior written consent from the MMA. The City of Lugano shall immediately report any loss or damage to Ms Sanita Kossoviča by e-mail: sanita.kossovica@mma.gov.lv, Deputy Director for Development, who is in charge of the Exhibition, and pasts@mma.gov.lv. For the City of Lugano, the contact person is Mr Damiano Robbiani by e-mail: damiano.robbiani@lugano.ch.

4. Cultural exchanges between Latvia and Lugano

4.1. The Parties will promote cultural exchange by encourage artists and writers to apply for creative work at the residencies. This collaboration is inspired by and rooted in the



historical and cultural exchange experienced through the personalities of Rainis and Aspazija. Their presence in both Latvia and Lugano symbolizes a shared cultural heritage that this initiative seeks to honor and expand.

4.2. The details and implementation of these initiatives will be formalized in a separate agreement between the relevant institutions.

5. Referents

The following are designated as contact persons for this MOU:

City of Lugano:

Luigi Maria Di Corato
Direttore Divisione Cultura
Piazza Carlo Cattaneo 1
6976 Castagnola, Svizzera
Phone: +41 58 866 42 91
E-mail: luigi.dicorato@lugano.ch

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia:

Reg. No. 90000042963
K.Valdemāra iela 11-a,
Rīga, LV-1364, Latvia
Phone: +371 26532100
E-mail: pasts@km.gov.lv

The Association of Memorial Museums:

Reg. No. 90009175706
O. Vācieša iela 19,
Rīga, LV-1004, Latvia
Phone: +371 67229980
E-mail: pasts@mma.gov.lv

6. Application

This MOU is subject to Swiss law. The Parties undertake to first negotiate a consensual solution to disputes in good faith.

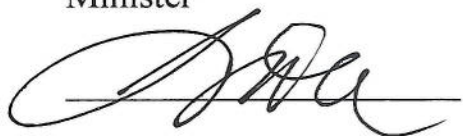
The obligations of the Parties under this MOU will be subject to separate agreement with respect to the availability of appropriated funds.



Signed in Lugano on 7 May 2025, in three (3) original copies, each in the English and Latvian languages.

**For the Ministry of
Culture of the Republic
of Latvia**

Ms Agnese Lāce
Minister

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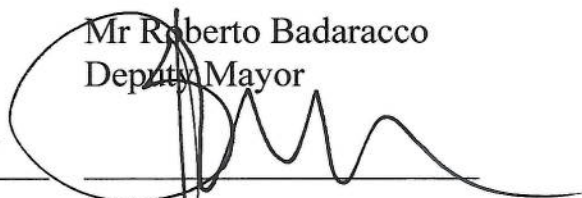
**For
the Association of
Memorial Museums**

Ms Sanita Kossoviča
Deputy Director

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For the City of Lugano

Mr Roberto Badaracco
Deputy Mayor

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Mr Robert Bregy
Secretary

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(Mun. Res. 30 April 2025)