



4th Conference of Latgalian of the World
„LATGALIAN CONGRESSES IN RĒZEKNE:
THE CENTENARY CONFERENCE“

Rēzekne, Latgale, Latvia
May 5th – 6th, 2017

Honourable colleagues!

1917 has been a decisive moment in the destiny of many European nations and countries. In Latgale, which was then part of the Vitebsk Province of the Russian Empire, active members of the society were constantly debating the existence of a Latvian nation and state and the possible directions of its development. The year 1917 saw many important political gatherings and consultations, where global processes were analysed and prospects of an independent nation and possibilities of establishing an independent state were evaluated. Two congresses were the most significant for Latgale: April 26th–27th (May 9th–10th), in which the leading role was undertaken by the church and in which it was decided that Latgale would secede from Vitebsk Province and create a united state together with Vidzeme and Kurzeme, maintaining rights of self-determination in the questions of economy, language and religion, and December 3rd–4th (December 16th–December 17th), in which the Latvian riflemen had the leading role. As a result of the second Congress, three former counties – Rēzekne, Ludza and Daugavpils – seceded from Vitebsk Province. April Congress of Latgale was one of the first which actualized the idea of a united Latvian state and prepared a political and socially educational platform for the establishment of the Latvian state on November 18th, 1918.

Recalling these historically ambiguous and controversially evaluated events, 4th Conference of Latgalian of the World „LATGALIAN CONGRESSES IN RĒZEKNE: THE CENTENARY CONFERENCE“ is being organized.

Participants of the Centenary Conference are invited to reflect and evaluate how their contribution to the conference can have a share in the further development of the Latgale region in the European space of culture, education, and economy. We encourage to take an active part in the design of proposals that target regional development in particular fields. Considering the increase and significance of interdisciplinary research for the solution of problems in Latgale region, we are expecting applications which take into account current tendencies in the development of science and deepen our awareness and understanding in humanities (languages, cultural history, folklore, literature sciences), social sciences (regional economics, demography, entrepreneurship, law, security studies etc.) and engineering sciences (environment, information technologies, construction etc.).

Politicians and practitioners of various spheres are also invited to participate in the conference with reports as well as with constructive topics for discussion. It is envisaged that in the Conference scientific presentations topical for the development of Latgale will interchange with public discussion on unsettled or controversial questions, in order to develop and discuss the basic points of the resolution during the conference and to conclude the 4th World Conference of Latgalians with concrete proposals for the development of economic, cultural, educational, language and mass media policies.

Working languages of the Conference — Latgalian, Latvian, English, Russian, providing translation upon necessity

It is possible to participate in the Conference with a report or poster

Duration of report — 30 min.: 20 min. — report, 10 min. — discussions

Poster presentation — 5 min., 30 min. — discussion on 3–5 posters

Venue of the Conference — May 5th Embassy of Latgale “Gors”, Pils iela 4, Rēzekne, Latvia; May 6th — Rēzekne Academy of Technologies, Atbrīvošanas aleja 115, Rēzekne, Latvia.

Deadlines:

- February 1st, 2017 — application for the Conference
- March 1st, 2017 — response of organization committee on acceptance or decline of application and theses; organizational details
- April 1st, 2017 — publication of theses (up to 3000 characters with spaces)
- May 1st – 7th, 2017 — World Gathering of Latgalians
- May 5th – 6th, 2017 — the Centenary Conference
- October, 2017 — Publication of symposium of the Conference
- October 27th – November 2nd, 2017 — Letonica VII Congress s and 10th International Conference of Latgalistics, presentation of the Symposium of 4th Conference of Latgalians of the World „LATGALIAN CONGRESSES IN RĒZEKNE: THE CENTENARY CONFERENCE“

Organizational Committee of the Conference:

Dr. sc. ing. Edmunds Teirumnieks — Rector of Rezekne Academy of Technologies (RTA), Society of Latgalian Culture (chairperson)

Dr. philol. Ilga Šuplinska — Professor of Rezekne Academy of Technologies (RTA), Society of Latgalian Culture (vice chairperson)

Dr. philol. Lidiija Leikuma — Professor of University of Latvia

Dr. biol. Arvīds Barševskis — Rector of University of Daugavpils

Dr. hist. Henrihs Soms — Associated professor of University of Daugavpils

Dr. habil. art., Dr. hist. Juris Urtāns — Professor of Latvian Academy of Culture

Dr.habil.art. Ojārs Spārītis —President of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Professor of the Latvian Academy of Arts

Dr.habil. sc. pol., Dr. iur. Tālav Jundzis — Professor of University of Latvia, Latvian Academy of Sciences

Dr. sc. comm. Mārtiņš Kaprāns — Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, advisor of the Minister of Culture

Karina Pētersone — Secretary General of the Administration of 12th Saeima

Dr. oec. Sandra Ežmale — Chief Executive Officer of Rēzekne SEZ

Agris Bitāns — Sworn Advocate

Māris Bozovičs — Director of Latgale Region Development Agency

Veronika Dundure — Chairperson of the Board of the establishment “Association of Teachers of Latgalian language, literature and cultural history”

Honorary Members of the Conference Organization Committee

Jānis Bulis — Bishop of the Rēzekne–Aglona Diocese

Jānis Streičs — film director, artist

Anna Rancāne — poet, journalist

Anna Egliena — organizer and creator of Museum of Francis Trasuns “Kolnasāta”, cultural activist

Pēteris Keišs — organizer of first World Gatherings of Latgalian, public activist

Jānis Elksnis — Head of the Latgale Culture Centre Publishing

Application form available: <http://goo.gl/yLvZAC>

Applications are accepted until February 1st, 2017

On behalf of the Organizational Committee of the Conference
Ilga Šuplinska

BACKGROUND

The First World Gathering of Latgalian took place in Rēzekne on August 11th – 13th, 1992. Specialists representing a wide variety of fields met in order to agree on the strategy of the developments of national awakening and transformations required for the revival of the Latgale region. Decisions were taken concerning the Latgalian language, support for regional media and book publishing, and the establishment of Rēzekne University College (RA) (since January 1st, 2016 – Rēzekne Academy of Technologies). The event was concluded with the opening of the renovated monument “Vienoti Latvijai” (United for Latvia).

The Second World Gathering of Latgalian was organized on August 11th – 13th, 2002. The participants adopted an appeal addressed to the President of the Republic of Latvia Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga and Prime Minister of the Republic of Latvia Andris Bērziņš. In it the participants expressed their appreciation of the the State Language Law, the establishment of RA and support for the work of Latgale Culture Centre Publishing. They accentuated urgent tasks to be solved in the future: the conservation of the cultural heritage of Latgale.

“The preservation and further development of Latgale’s cultural heritage is inseparable related with the economic life of the region and regional policies of the state. At a time when the greatest portion of investments go to Riga and its surrounding, causing the death of the Latvian country side and a catastrophic increase of unemployment, we hold that the state must support Latvia’s periphery, especially Latgale, by reducing tax rates and furthering investments.”

In addition, the appeal expressed concern about yet another administrative territorial reform which would result in a change of the historical borders of Latgale as a cultural region. This concern was well founded. After the reform of 2009, Varakļāni is no longer part of the administrative region of Latgale, which now contains several parishes belonging to the cultural region of Sēlija.

The Third World Gathering of Latgalians took place in Rēzekne on August 9th – 10th, 2012 during the Days of Latgale. . Parallel to a broad cultural program it featured a scientific conference, evaluating tendencies of the development of Latgale in the period of Latvian independence and analysing the causes of the downturn in the areas of economic, education, language, cultural policies, as well as actively participating in the realization of Latgale support programme. The resolution taken during the Gathering included practical measures such as the implementation of Article 3, Paragraph 4 of State Language Law in the Latvian language and education policies and respect for Latgalian language in state communication and mass media policies. In this conference for the first time in history, Latgalians of Siberia were represented, who introduced their fellow Latgalians from Latvia to their experience of surviving during the 20th century.