LATVIAN BOOK MARKET

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latvianliterature.lv



DISTRIBUTION

LIBRARIES

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PRINTING INDUSTRY

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LATVIAN LITERATURE

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NATIONAL STATISTICS



0

Population: 1.931 million



Capital: Riga



Area: 64,573 km²



Language: Latvian (official); Russian and English are also widely spoken



Average gross monthly salary: 859 EUR



GDP per capita (2016): 12,722 EUR



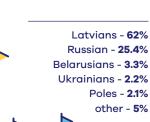
Currency: Euro (since 1/1/2014)



Parliamentary republic, one of the **Baltic** Countries









Ethnic groups





Border: 1866 km

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Bordered by Estonia, Lithuania, Russia and Belarus, maritime border with Sweden

GDP (2016): 24.93 billion EUR

International memberships: EU

1998

and NATO since 2004, WTO since

GDP growth (2016): 2.4%





LATVIAN PUBLISHING: A VERY BRIEF HISTORY

The 16th century saw the first developments in publishing in Latvia, but the industry was dominated by German publishers until the mid-19th century. The publishing of books in the Latvian language in Latvia became widespread only in the last decades of the 19th century, and many publishing houses were established in the beginning of the 20th century. A wide variety of books was published during the first period of Latvian independence, between the two world wars. The peak of Latvian publishing came in 1936, when 1,601 titles were published in four million copies (an average print run of 2,500 copies per title).

In 1940, just before the occupation of Latvia, there were nearly five hundred publishing houses in the country. During the years of Soviet occupation, publishing was controlled, financed, politically censored, and carefully planned by the Soviet government. The industry was concentrated in five state-run publishing houses, where everything had to be approved by a myriad of Soviet institutions.

In spite of this, publishing is considered the largest creative industry in Latvia based on turnover and number of employees. After Latvia regained independence in the early 1990s, the publishing sector was the first to be privatized. New publishing houses were founded, and the number of new titles is greater than it ever was during the first period of independence.

Regardless of the limited size of the market—with a national population of only 1.93 million—the standards of the publishing industry in Latvia are very high. Annual competitions for best fiction, poetry, books for children, and best book design displays a great variety and a high quality of artistic work, design, and creative thinking. Tradition and innovation go hand in hand: readers eagerly anticipate new books by well-established authors as well as literary debuts. Two well-established literary festivals add flair to the literary offerings: September's annual Poetry Days tradition dates back to 1960, while the Prose readings grew from a small literary event in mid-1990s to a full week of various activities and visiting foreign authors. The Children's Jury, a programme that promotes reading, and the Jānis Baltvilks' International Baltic Sea Literary Prize help boost interest among children and increase YA readership.

PUBLISHING INDUSTRY IN NUMBERS



1	2	3	4	5
Number of trade publishers: ~70	Number of new titles published per year (estimated): 2146	Number of books published annually per capita: 1,5	Average print run per book: 1263 copies	Number of titles in print (in the Latvian language): ~11,500
6	7	8	9	10
Publishers of individual titles (published at least one title in 2017): 475	Number of bookstores: 150	The average price of all books available in stores (VAT included): 12.07 EUR	VAT on books: 12% (still 21% on electronic publications)	NB! There is no system of price regulation or any other efficient system for regulating the book

market in Latvia.



11

On average, a single person spends **7.28 EUR annually** on books

16

Number of books borrowed from libraries: **13,621,471**

Amount spent on culture from the family budget: **7.6% or 25.26 EUR**

12

17

Books translated from Latvian per year: **~40**

13

People who read at least one book a year: **57%**

18

10% of Latvian population read more than **10** books a year

14

Number of libraries: 1,671

19

Number of e-books available for sale: **1964**

15

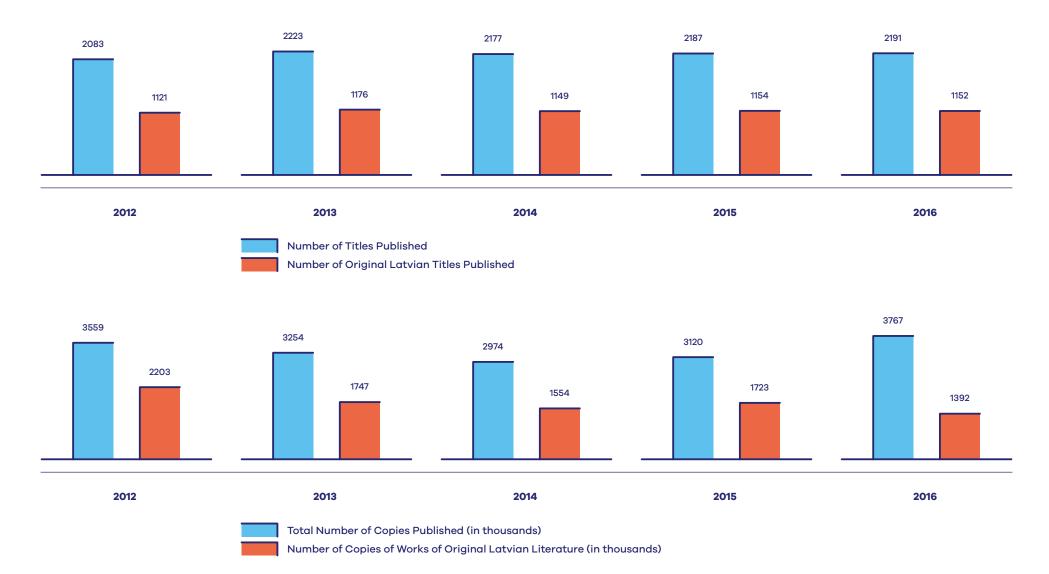
Number of readers registered in libraries: **900,924**

20

Reading is one of the favorite hobbies for **39**%

* The data used for this text comes from the Latvian publishing statistics collected by the National Library of Latvia, the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, and the Bank of Latvia.

PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

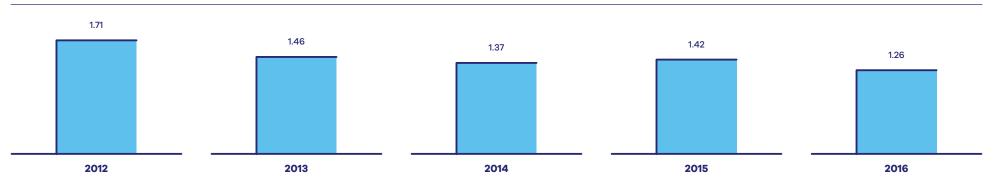


PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

8

PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

Average print run (in thousands)



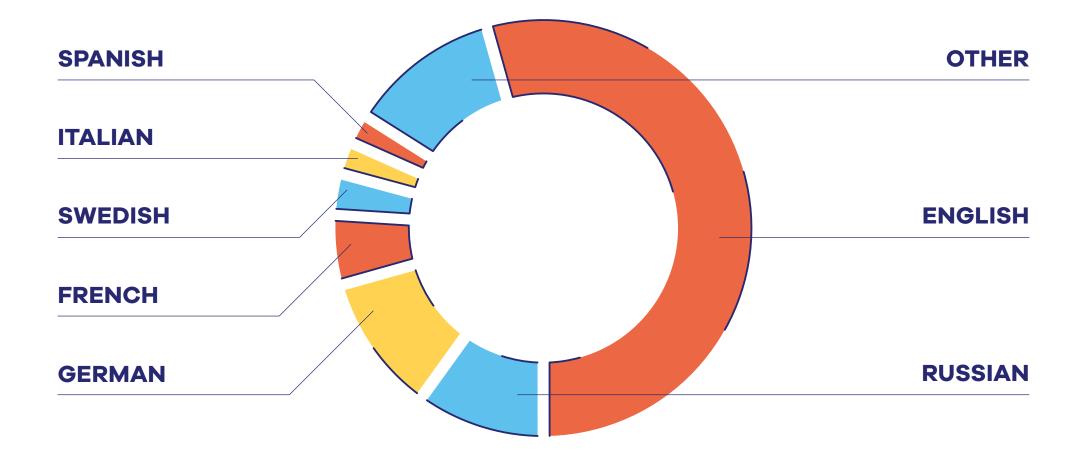
Percentage of original works of fiction in Latvian and in translation (data from 2016)



Percentage of original and translated works published (data from 2016)







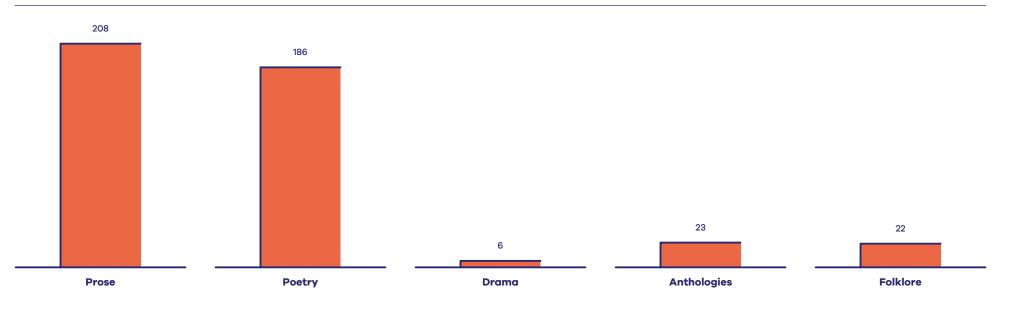
Books translated into Latvian

10

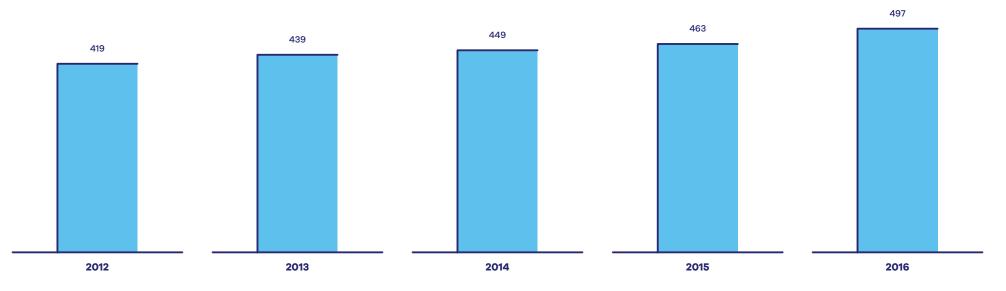
PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

Latvian fiction published by genre (2016)



Number of publishers in Latvia (including self-publishing individuals)



11

BESTSELLERS IN LATVIA, 2016

	Title	Author	Publisher
1	Viņa un Viņš. Mīlestība. Attiecības. Sekss (Her and Him.Love.Relationship.Sex)	Juris Rubenis	Apgāds Zvaigzne ABC
2	Mātes piens (Soviet Milk)	Nora Ikstena	Dienas Grāmata
3	Nindzja Timijs (Ninja Timmy)	Henrik Tamm	Apgāds Zvaigzne ABC
4	Brālis (Brother)	Jānis Porziņģis	Mediju Nams
5	Grega dienasgrāmata 11. Uz naža asmens (Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Double Down)	Jeff Kinney	Apgāds Zvaigzne ABC
6	Meitene zirnekļa tīklā (The Girl in the Spider's Web)	David Lagercrantz	Apgāds Zvaigzne ABC
7	Dabas dārzā (In Nature's Garden)	colouring book for adults	Apgāds Zvaigzne ABC
8	Latvietes karma. Sievišķā enerģija tuvplānā (The Karma of Latvian Woman – Feminine Energy in a Blow-up)	Inta Blūma	Self-published
9	Svina garša (The Taste of Lead)	Māris Bērziņš	Dienas Grāmata
10	Ardievu, karma! (Good-Bye, Karma!)	Inta Blūma	Apgāds Sirds ceļš

BESTSELLERS IN LATVIA, 2017

	Title	Author	Publisher
1	365 / 1. Daļa (365 / Part 1)	Guntars Račs	MicRec
2	Saplēstās mežģīnes (Torn Lace)	Karīna Račko	Apgāds Zvaigzne ABC
3	Bailes (Fear)	Indriķis Latvietis	Apgāds Mantojums
4	Sākums (Origin)	Dan Brown	Apgāds Kontinents
5	Spiegošanas pamati (Principles of Espionage)	Viktors Suvorovs	Dienas Grāmata
6	Dimanti tavā pagalmā (Diamonds in your Backyard)	Gundega Bičevska	Avantis Publishing
7	Viņa un Viņš. Mīlestība. Attiecības. Sekss (Her and Him.Love.Relationship.Sex)	Juris Rubenis	Apgāds Zvaigzne ABC
8	Virsnieku sievas: Mēs. Latvija, XX gadsimts (The Officers' Wives: We. Latvia. The 20th Century)	Andra Manfelde	Dienas Grāmata
9	Duna: Mēs. Latvija, XX gadsimts (Thunder: We. Latvia. The 20th Century)	Inga Ābele	Dienas Grāmata
10	Istaba: Mēs. Latvija, XX gadsimts (The Room: We. Latvia. The 20th Century)	Laima Kota	Dienas Grāmata

LARGEST PUBLISHERS BASED ON NET TURNOVER IN 2016

2016 Rank	2015 Rank	Publisher	Turnover (in millions of Euro)	% Change from 2015	Revenue (in thousands of Euro)	Number of employees	Estimated turnover (in millions of Euro, 2017)
1	1	Apgāds Zvaigzne ABC SIA	13.47	4.74	659.25	311	12.66
2	2	Lielvārds SIA*	1.84	8.08	55.90	28	data not available
3	4	Egmont Latvija SIA*	1.30	-10.14	-124.29	15	1.15
4	3	Karšu izdevniecība Jāņa sēta SIA**	1.18	-19.37	9.95	27	1.43
5	5	Jumava SIA	0.55	-6.47	17.25	17	data not available
6	6	Apgāds Kontinents SIA	0.46	-20.72	-63.58	11	0.47
7	7	Izdevniecība RaKa SIA*	0.44	-1.96	24.92	11	data not available
8	10	Dienas grāmata SIA	0.36	13.51	5.73	3	0.37
9	8	Jāņa Rozes apgāds SIA	0.35	-12.62	23.52	9	0.38
10	9	Pētergailis SIA	0.30	-4.00	12.77	4	0.28

* book publishing accounts for a part of total turnover

** digital products and publications accounts for a part of total turnover

Source: Dienas Bizness, according to the Lursoft Company Register

LARGEST PUBLISHERS

DIENAS GRĀMATA

Titles (2017): 17 Number of copies published (2017): 63'541

Dienas Grāmata, founded in 2005 and based in Riga, Latvia, publishes the latest in award-winning fiction and nonfiction written by Latvia's best authors. Dienas Grāmata also publishes translated literature and children's books.

Categories: fiction, nonfiction, children's literature

fiction, nonnetion, children's itteratur

Publisher's highlights:

Nora Ikstena – Mātes piens (Soviet Milk) Andra Manfelde – Virsnieku sievas (The Officers' Wives) Sergejs Loiko – Lidosta (Airport), translated from Russian by Dace Sparāne-Freimane Viktors Suvorovs – Spiegošanas pamati (Principles of Espionage), translated from Russian by Jānis Kalve

EGMONT LATVIJA

Titles (2017): 119 Number of copies published (2017): 255'500

Egmont Latvija publishing house, an associated enterprise of the leading Scandinavian media group Egmont, was registered in the Latvian business register on 16 December, 1991. It publishes a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction works for children and young adults.

Categories:

storybooks, picture books, novelties, coloring and activity books, reference books for children/young adults, young adult fiction

Publisher's highlights:

Michael Bond – Pasaka par peļu pili (The Tale of the Castle Mice), Penguin Random House, translated by Edvīns Raups Hanna Chown, James Newman Gray – Manas mīļās sniega pasaciņas (My First Treasury of Snowy Tales), Igloo Books, translated by Diāna Alksne

Vāģi (Cars), Vāģi 2 (Cars 2), Disney/Pixar, coloring book with stickers Troļļi (Trolls), DreamWorks, coloring book with stickers Kepu patrula (Paw Patrol), Nickelodeon, coloring book with stickers

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JĀŅA ROZES APGĀDS

Titles (2017): 39 Number of copies published (2017): 61'000

Jāṇa Rozes apgāds was founded in 1919 as the publishing branch of the book-and-printing-related brand Jānis Roze (est. 1914). The company's publishing activities were suspended in 1940 and resumed in 1997, when the publishing house became a subsidiary of the company Jānis Roze—one of the largest book retailers in Latvia. Since 2001, the publishing branch has become a separate legal entity. Both before 1940 and after 1997, Jāṇa Rozes apgāds was and has been known for its well-established publishing traditions; excellent reputation; strong selection criteria for its authors, translators and artists; and the top quality of its books.

Categories:

fiction, educational literature (universities), children's literature, non-fiction, documentary prose (biographies, travel memoirs), reference literature

Publisher's highlights:

Vilis Vītols - Par Krieviju (On Russia)

Sandra Kalniete – *Cinītis*, the memoirs of the EU parliament MP, former diplomat and minister of foreign affairs on the rebirth of Latvian diplomacy in 1990-2015

Anita Kreituse – *Puika, kas zīmēja kaķus (A Boy Who Drew the Cats)*, a Latvian artist's illustrated version of a traditional Japanese fairy tale

Latviešu brīnumu pasakas (Latvian Fairy Tales), with commentary by folklore scientist Guntis Pakalns and illustrations by Latvian artist Gita Treice

Jānis Baltvilks - Brālis ozols, māsa liepa (Brother Oak, Sister Linden), illustrated by Edgars Folks

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KARŠU IZDEVNIECĪBA JĀŅA SĒTA

Titles (2016): 45 + customized offers Number of copies published (2016): 69'620 + customized offers

Jāṇa Sēta Map Publishers was founded in 1992 by small team of enthusiastic cartographers. Today, with its team of high-qualified professionals and experience gained through decades of product and service development and research, Jāṇa Sēta Map Publishers is the leading company in the field of cartography and GIS-based IT solutions development throughout the Baltic States.

Categories:

traditional maps, detailed road maps, city plans, educational editions such as atlases and guidebooks, puzzles and scratch-off maps

Publisher's highlights:

The scratch-off map is a brilliant way to mark the places you have visited on a map, countries on your wish-list or any other place—the only limit is your imagination! Every scratch-off map is based on an accurate political or administrative map, supplemented with flags or a local coat of arms. Find the country or local municipality on the map and scratch off the gold layer.

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PĒTERGAILIS

Titles (2017): 24 Number of copies published (2017): 28'400

Pētergailis, founded in 1990, is one of the oldest publishing houses in Latvia, priding itself with well-selected titles of fiction; popular science; reference books on natural sciences, cultural history and other humanity sciences; travel books; books for children; textbooks; educational books; etc. We work with the most prominent Latvian writers and illustrators, recipients of international and Latvian prizes in literature and book art.

Categories:

fiction, scientific literature, children's literature, educational books, textbooks

Publisher's highlights:

Juris Zvirgzdiņš - Lauvas rūciens (Lion's Roar)

Juris Zvirgzdiņš, Inguna Cepīte – No Rīgas līdz Rīgai Tobiass un Tama lielajā Eiropas bibliotēku ceļojumā (From Riga to Riga: The Tobias and Tama's Great European Libraries Trip)

leva Samauska – Meitene, kas mācēja visas pasaules valodas (The Girl Who Knew All Languages of the World)

leva Samauska – Govs uz bagāžnieka (The Cow on the Luggage Carrier)

Juris Zvirgzdiņš – Have a nice day! Gandrīz mīlas stāsts (Have a Nice Day! Almost a Love Story)

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ZVAIGZNE ABC

Titles (2017): 438

Number of copies published (2017): 789'000

Zvaigzne ABC, founded in 1993, is the largest publishing house in Latvia. It has a wide publishing profile—from original fiction and poetry to translated fiction, from children's picture books and textbooks to popular science, craft and travel guides, as well as interactive learning materials. In 2010, Zvaigzne ABC became the first Latvian publisher to release e-books in Latvian. Nearly all of its published works are also available as e-books. The company actively collaborates with more than 70 foreign publishers and agencies.

Categories:

textbooks, children's literature, fiction and literary nonfiction, encyclopedias, educational literature, methodical literature for teachers, dictionaries, reference books, gift books, travel guides, etc.

Publisher's highlights:

Juris Rubenis – Viņa un Viņš. Mīlestība. Attiecības. Sekss (Her and Him. Love.Relationship.Sex) Karīna Račko – Saplēstās mežģīnes (Torn Lace) Vija Beinerte – Vārdi un klusums (Words and Silence) Baiba Zīle – Melu meistars (The Master of Lies) Evija Gulbe – Koko un Riko uzvedas kā eņģelīši (Koko and Riko Behave Like Little Angels), series

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INDEPENDENT SPECIALIZED PUBLISHERS

ASCENDUM

Titles (2017): 3 Number of copies published (2017): 7'500

Ascendum, founded in 2011, is a non-governmental public-benefit organization that publishes Satori.lv, a web magazine concerned with cultural and sociopolitical matters. As part of the project, the association also issues printed media, including newspapers, collections of research papers, and books. Among the published materials are both literary and sociopolitical works.

Categories:

fiction, children's literature, poetry, visual art, sociopolitics

Publisher's highlights:

Satori book/magazine Satori Summer newspaper Ilmārs Šlāpins – Jauno latviešu valoda (The Language of New Latvians) Garā pupa (Jack and the Beanstalk), series

AVOTS

Titles (2017): 18 Number of copies published (2017): 15'367

Avots publishing house was founded in 1980. In 1996, the company was privatized and now publishes mainly dictionaries, popular science, and non-fiction books.

Categories: nonfiction, dictionaries

Publisher's highlights:

Ints Zeidlers – Ārstnieciskā masāža (Medical Massage) Gudrības stundas un muļķības pilnība (Lessons of Wisdom and Perfection of Stupidity), ed. Harijs Kalniņš Latviešu-itāļu vārdnīca (Latvian-Italian Dictionary), ed. Dina Nātiņa (20,000 entries) Dzintra Kalniņa – Lai sokas un izdodas. Afirmācijas (Let Life Flow: Affirmations) Latviešu tautas teikas (Latvian Myths and Legends), ed. Inta Kalniņa

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DROŠI UN KOŠI

Titles (2016–2017): 6 Number of copies published (2016–2017): 9'000

The publishing house Droši un Koši was founded in 2013 with a mission to publish children's books that encourage learning, and bring to life stories about the world we live in. Their focus is on educational, nonfiction books about cultural history, art, social skills and technology.

Categories:

children's books, educational books, visual arts, culture and arts, manners, technology, programming for children

Publisher's highlights:

Irma Kalniņa – Pie galda (At the Table), illustrations by Reinis Pētersons Inga Beitiņa, Kristīne Morozova, Baiba Grīnberga, Marta Pallo – Mazā Mula pēta (Little Mula Explores), illustrations by Reinis Pētersons Linda Liukas – Hello Ruby (Sveika, Rūbij!), series

LATVIJAS MEDIJI

Titles (2017): 84 (119 - with calendars) Number of copies published (2017): 162'716

The publishing house specializes in popular literature (original works, translations) with a wide target audience in particular regions and a large readership among women.

Categories:

fiction, calendars, children's literature, how-to and self-help books

Publisher's highlights:

Jana Egle – Gaismā (Into the Light) Dace Judina – Ceturtais kauliņš (The Fourth Dice) Franciska Ermlere – Rīgas detektīvs (The Detective of Riga), series Guntars Račs – Kad neviena nav mājās... (When Nobody's Home...) Uldis Auseklis – Kaķēns margrietiņās (A Cat in the Daisies)

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LIELS UN MAZS

Titles (2017): 26 Number of copies published (2017): 31'800

Liels un Mazs publishing house, founded in Latvia in 2004, is an independent publisher of high-quality children's books. The company translates and publishes children's books written by the world's top authors, as well as the best Latvian authors and illustrators. Its team selects books based on their "heart factor," ensuring excellent storytelling, illustrations, and design. In order to bring the variety of children's books written in Latvian more up to date and introduce greater diversity, Liels un Mazs publishes around 12 new titles each year. Liels un Mazs welcomes new ideas from children's authors, illustrators, and professional translators, bringing to life projects innovative both in content and artistic style. Books by Liels un Mazs showcase the best alternatives and innovations in children's book illustration.

Categories:

children's literature, picture books

Publisher's highlights:

Inese Zandere – Zirgā (Riding High), illustrated by Anna Vaivare Kārlis Vērdiņš – Tētis (Daddy), illustrated by Reinis Pētersons Rūta Briede – Kaiju karalienes noslēpums (The Queen of Seagulls), illustrated by author Uldis Daugaviņš, Mārtiņš Sirmais – Baltais lācis. Pasaku pavārgrāmata bērniem (White Bear's Cooking Adventures), illustrated by Māra Viška Mārtiņš Zutis – Nenotikušais atklājums (The Discovery That Never Was), illustrated by the author

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LIETUSDĀRZS

Titles (017): 13 Number of copies published (2017): 10'200

Lietusdārzs publishing house was founded in 2006, and since the very beginning it has focused on popular educational, philosophical, and psychological literature, as well as on books for children and young adults.

Categories:

children's literature, nonfiction

Publisher's highlights:

Māra Cielēna – Pētera vaigi (The Cheeks of Peter) Ingvars Leitis, Uldis Briedis – Latviešus Sibīrijā meklējot (Latvians in Siberia) Kristiāna Nortrapa/Christiane Northrup M.D. – Dievietes nenoveco (Goddesses Never Age) Džo Dispenza/Joe Dispenza – Superspēju potenciāls (Becoming Supernatural) Nabīls Kureši/Nabeel Qureshi – Pretrunīgais islāms (Answering Jihad)

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MADRIS

Titles (2017): 29 Number of copies published (2017): 41'120

Madris publishing house was established in 1996. The publishing house puts into print different genres of literature, but its priority is nonfiction, children's books, as well as cultural heritage, tourism, and travel guides.

Categories:

children's literature, travel guides, cultural heritage, nonfiction, general

Publisher's highlights:

Sapnis par Mēnesmeitiņu vēstulēs, atmiņās, dzejā (Dream of the Moongirl, Letters, Memoirs, Poetry), ed. Gaida Jablovska (poetry collection)

Dagmāra Beitnere – Saprast un piederēt. Dažas refleksijas par par pašizpratni un stāstu vēstījumiem (To Understand and to Belong: Some Reflections on Self-understanding and Storytelling)

Rolands Beitners – Jūras romantiķa memuāri (Memoirs of a Maritime Romantic)

Rudīte Raudupe – *Mincy Brincy (Mincy Brincy)*, children's literature Evija Volfa Vestergaard – *Mans bagātības pūķis (My Dragon of Riches)*, folklore

MANSARDS

Titles (2017): 24

Number of copies published (2017): 18'700

Mansards, founded in 2004, publishes the very best of Latvian modern classics, as well as outstanding modern and contemporary literature from around the world in Latvian translation for the first time. Our list of titles extends beyond international masterpieces of fiction and poetry, including promising literary debuts, illuminating original writing on history and cultural studies, as well as a thrilling selection of critically acclaimed crime fiction. Our mission is to give each new generation of readers access to extraordinary writing that stirs, nurtures and excites, and to help the most promising young Latvian authors find their voice.

Categories:

modern and contemporary fiction, translated fiction, poetry, children's books, crime, history, cultural history

Publisher's highlights:

Vizma Belševica – Bille Zigmunds Skujiņš – Dziļurbums laikā. Noveļu izlase (Borehole in Time. Short fiction) Jānis Joņevs – Jelgava '94 (Doom 94) Georges Perec – Dzīve lietošanas pamācība (Life: A User's Manual) Uldis Neiburgs and Vita Zelče – (Divas) puses: Latviešu kara stāsti. Otrais pasaules karš karavīru dienasarāmatās ((Two) Sides. Latvian

War Stories. World War II in Soldiers' Diaries)

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NEPUTNS

Titles (2017): 28 Number of copies published (2017): 21'558

Neputns publishing house was established in 1997, and now provides the broadest insight into the art of Latvia. Today, Neputns is among the most experienced publishing houses in Latvia, specializing in high quality books on art. Its publishing experts select serious and simultaneously attractive publications, intended as a contribution to Latvia's cultural heritage. These range from catalogues to monographs and volumes of research papers. A large number of the publications have been translated into English. Great attention is paid to the design and print quality of the books.

Categories:

art, children's literature, cultural heritage, essays, memoirs, photography, poetry, scientific research

Publisher's highlights:

Dace Lamberga – Klasiskais modernisms: Latvijas glezniecība 20. gs. sākumā (Classical Modernism. Early 20th Century Latvian Painting), two separate editions in Latvian and English Painter Janis Rozentāls, monograph Andrejs Grants (photograpy book) Zuzānu kolekcija (The Zuzāns Collection) Anna Auziņa – Annas pūra govs (Anna's Dowry Cow), a poetry collection

9 49/51-8 Tērbatas iela, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia

- 🔉 +371 67222647
- neputns@neputns.lv, dace@neputns.lv
- 🖵 neputns.lv

ORBĪTA

Titles (2017): 6 Number of copies published (2017): 3'400

Orbīta is a creative collective/group of Russian poets whose works and publishing activities are dedicated to creating a dialogue between various creative genres (literature, music, video, photography, VJ, web, etc.) and cultures. The collective was formed in 1999 in Riga.

Categories:

fiction, poetry, photography

Publisher's highlights:

Alexander Gronsky and Ksenia Babushkina – *Schema* (photobook) Andrey Levkin – *Dūmi miglā* (*Smoke in the Fog*) 12 dzejnieki no Krievijas (12 Poets from Russia), a contemporary Russian poetry anthology *Public Spaces*, a photobook series: Andrejs Strokins – *Palladium*, Māra Brašmane – *Centrāltirgus (The Central Market*), Vladimir Svetlov –

Rīgas līcis (The Gulf of Riga)

💡 104-19 Stabu iela, Rīga, LV-1009, Latvia

- ***** +371 25936493
- 🋕 orbita@orbita.lv
- 🖵 orbita.lv

ZINĀTNE

Titles (2017): 19 Number of copies published (2017): 7'500

Zinātne publishing house is the successor to the publishing house of the same name founded in 1951 by the Latvian Academy of Sciences. Continuing in its former thematic direction, Zinātne issues dictionaries; monographs; treatises on Latvia's history, folklore, ethnography, Latvian literature, language, and art; as well as works by outstanding thinkers of antiquity.

Categories:

scientific, reference, popular science

Publisher's highlights:

Ojārs Zanders – Etīdes Latviešu grāmatniecības trijos gadsimtos (Etudes of the Three Centuries of Latvian Book-making in the 18th–20th Centuries) Ilga Zagorska – Senā Burtnieka noslēpumi: Akmens laikmeta pieminekļi Burtnieku ezera krastos (Secrets of the Ancient Lake Burtnieks: Stone Age Sites by the Shore of Lake Burtnieks) Edvīns Evarts, Juris Pavlovičs – Ikdienas dzīve Latvijā nacistiskās Vācijas okupācijas laikā 1941–1945 (Everyday Life in Latvia during the German Occupation, 1941–1945) Gatis Ozoliņš – Ērgļu vērtums. Novada folklora rokrakstos un publikācijās (Folklore of the Ērgļi District in Manuscripts and Publications) Aija Jansone – Rucavnieku apģērbs cauri laikiem (19. gs.–20. gs. sākums) (The Clothing of Rucava. 19th– Early 20th Century)

- 💡 1 Akadēmijas laukums, Rīga, LV-1050, Latvia
- **3** +371 67212797
- zinatne@zinatne.com.lv
- 🖵 zinatnesgramatas.lv

DISTRIBUTION

The distribution chain in Latvia has the following characteristics:

- No fixed prices.
- The recommended retail price is not set by the publishers, but calculated by mark-up on the publisher's price.
- Initial information on new titles is gathered and distributed by the weekly subscription-based publication *Book News*, published by the Latvian Booksellers Association.

Books can be ordered from the wholesalers Latvijas Grāmata and Jānis Roze or directly from the publishers. There are two big chains of brick-and-mortar bookstores (~35 bookshops each), several smaller chains and a few independent booksellers that sell books in Latvian. Approximately 15–20% of titles sold are foreign books imported from abroad—the European Union, the United States, Russia, etc. Online sales are provided by several bookshops and via the websites of some publishers. There are some platforms selling e-books in Latvian.

Latvians are used to buying books in bookstores, therefore the percentage of books sold through supermarkets, shopping malls, and other non-traditional outlets are smaller than in other countries.

LIBRARIES

Latvia has 1671 libraries in total:



800 public libraries



42% of people in Latvia use library services



On average, people visit the library **15 times a year**.



791 libraries of general and professional education



Latvian libraries employ **3854** people



Libraries spend **52.24 EUR** per reader on average



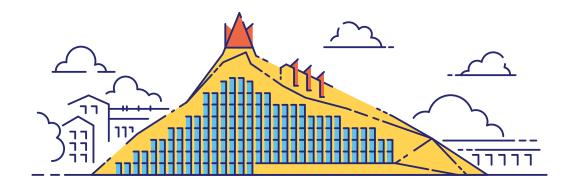
48 university libraries



31 specialized libraries



1 significant non-specialized library (the Academic Library of the University of Latvia)



Fun fact! In 2014, a new library was opened, and it is now considered one of the most significant cultural buildings of 21st-century Latvia. The National Library of Latvia has made it into the BBC's list of ten of the most beautiful modern libraries in the world. Architect Gunãrs Birkerts designed the building, deriving inspiration from one of the most prominent Latvian writers, Rainis, and his famous play *Zelta zirgs (The Golden Horse)*. The play tells the story of the young peasant Antiņš, who climbs a mountain of blue glass and green ice, wakes a sleeping princess, and saves the kingdom. The building represents the Castle of Light—a symbol of the man's difficult yet brave and relentless struggle for knowledge and wisdom.

Number of readers: 900,924

GRANT PROGRAMMES FOR TRANSLATORS AND PUBLISHERS

In 2016, with the support of the state grant program, 104,000 EUR was allocated to 36 foreign publishing projects. In 2017, the number of projects supported grew to 43, and a sum of 160,000 EUR in total was allocated to publishing Latvian literature abroad.

GRANTS FOR PUBLISHERS

The Latvian Writers Union administers two grant programs for foreign publishers. Two separate competitions are held each year: one for English and one for non-English publications. The competition has 3–4 rounds annually, where all applications are judged by a commission of five experts evaluating the professional experience and reputation of the applicants, as well as the works and its market potential. Publishers may apply for grants to cover all stages of publishing with regards to creating a book except for marketing activities and administrative costs. The highest estimated amount to be funded is 4,000 EUR for non-English publishing projects and 8,000 EUR for English ones.

SUPPORT FOR TRANSLATORS

The Latvian Writers Union offers financial support for translators who wish to translate Latvian literary works into any foreign language. In order to qualify for the opportunity to receive funding, the translator must submit a completed application form, a CV, a sample translation, and a letter of intent or an agreement signed by a publisher for publishing the particular work.

More information:

- Iatvianliterature.lv/en/grants
- grants@latvianliterature.lv

PRINTING INDUSTRY

Total turnover (2017):	400 million EUR		
Export:	308 million EUR (77%)		
Number of companies:	380 (The top 20 companies make up 90% of the total turnover of Latvian printers)		
The fastest growing segments:	books, packaging materials and label printing		
The largest companies based on net turnover:	Livonia Print, PNB Print, Poligrāfijas grupa Mūkusala, VG Kvadra Pak, Tehnoinform, Jelgavas tipogrāfija, Dizaina un poligrāfijas nams (DPN), Liepājas papīrs, Dardedze hologrāfija, Veiters korporācija		

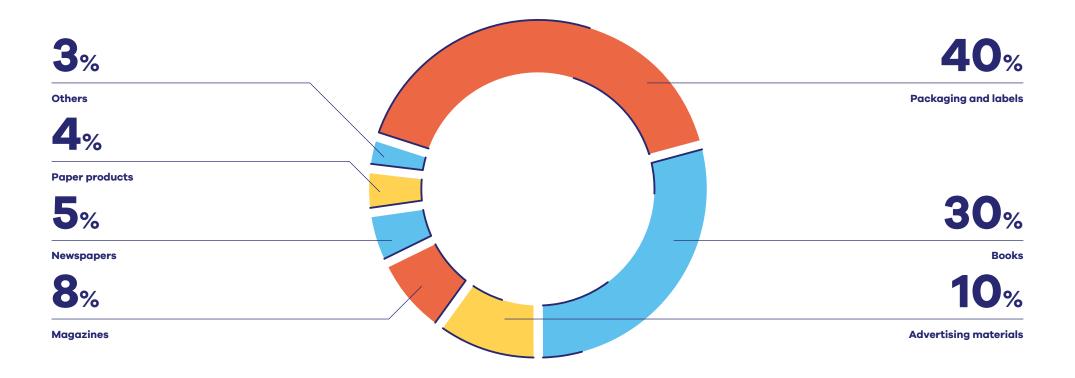
In 2018, Latvia is celebrating its centennial, and the Latvian printing industry is celebrating its 430th anniversary. Following tradition, the printing industry is constantly developing and today is characterized by high quality and innovation. During the last few years, printing companies have been preparing for the increasing level of Baltic-region competition in the media market.

In 2017, the export volumes reached 77% of the sector's total output. The key factors influencing the sector's competitiveness in foreign markets are high quality, short delivery times and cost effectiveness.

* The data used for this text comes from the Latvian Graphic Industry Association (LPUA)

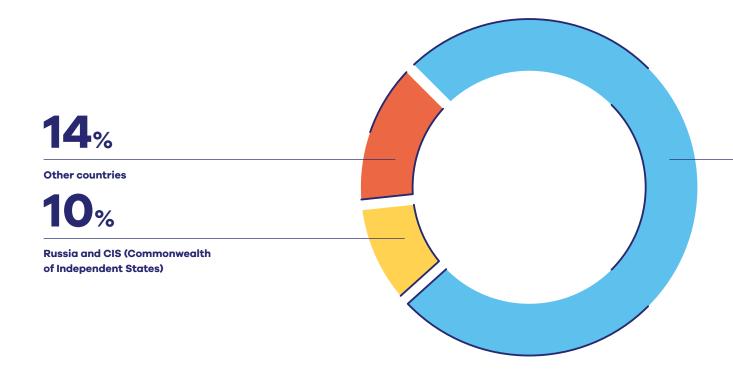
TURNOVER BASED ON PRODUCT CATEGORIES, 2017

28



Today, the largest export markets are Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Russia, Finland and Poland. The main print export products, such as books and magazines, go to Western Europe and Scandinavia, while labels and packaging tend to be for Eastern markets. Latvian printing and packaging companies are strong competitors in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, due to their high-quality packaging and labels. Prestige and printed materials with added value include art books, illustrated magazines, guidebooks, and packaging for foods, perfumes and medicines. Latvia ranks second in Europe in the export share of books, with an export value of 80%.

PRODUCT EXPORT BY COUNTRY, 2017



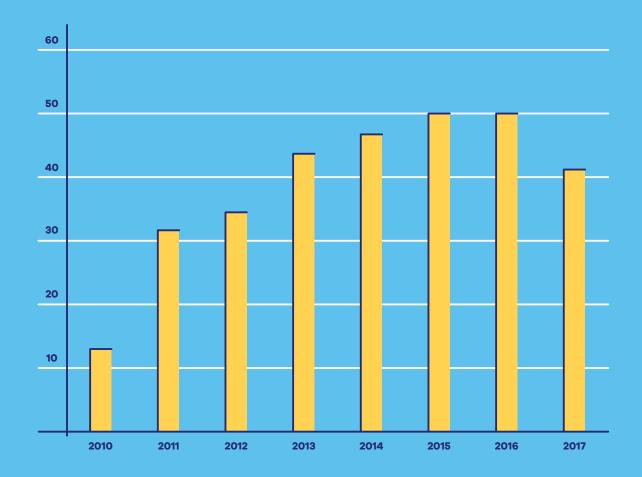
76%

European Union (EU)

Latvian printing companies can boast considerable experience with export markets: efficient logistics management has been set up; data transfer and proofing are done electronically; and fully PDF-compatible workflow systems, ISO standards, and environmental certification have been put in place. Growing investments in the field, along with continuous technological development and modernization, has helped employees involved in the industry accumulate a great deal of knowledge and skills, which explains the high productivity rate per employee in this sector.

* The data used for this text comes from the Latvian Graphic Industry Association (LPUA)

INVESTMENT IN PRINTING INDUSTRY (MILLION EUR)



30

PRINTING INDUSTRY

LEADING LATVIAN BOOK MANUFACTURERS

ADVERTS PRINTING COMPANY

Adverts Printing Company prints books, brochures, catalogues, and POS materials.

PACKAGING

In Latvia, great attention is paid to producing packaging from ecological materials, and there is a growing demand for exclusive, personalized packaging for advertising purposes. Latvian companies can provide a wide range of technological facilities, manual work, and unique design. The principal packaging materials exported are products from wood, with manufacturing volumes of EUR 72 million, or 39% of total packaging exports. More than 70 companies manufacture wood packaging.

Number of employees:

56

Founded in:

2007

Main markets: Sweden, Germany Turnover in 2016:



💡 155 Brīvibas iela, korp. 11, Rīga, LV-1012, Latvia

- adverts@adverts.lv
- adverts.lv

DARDEDZE HOLOGRĀFIJA

Dardedze Holography works on and develops two major product lines: holographic security solutions and offset printing. We can make stationery, corporate materials (business cards, with-compliments slips, envelopes, forms, letterhead), booklets, brochures, folders (offering full- and spot-colour printing processes onto an assortment of different stocks and in various sizes), product catalogues, annual reports, magazines (bright colourful magazines, complex designs, high quality), books (soft covers and hardbacks), and holograms—from design and creation to finished product.

DRUKĀTAVA

Drukātava is the largest digital book printing company in the Baltics specializing in short-run and on-demand book printing. We can make soft-cover, hard-cover and exclusive books in runs starting from single printings up to 500. We are also able to provide warehouse services for our clients.

Number of employees:



Founded in:



Main markets:

Latvia, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, France, England

Turnover in 2016:

6.5 million EUR

Number of employees:

21

Founded in:

2005

Main markets: Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark Turnover in 2016:



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- 🔉 +371 67368188
- a info@drukatava.lv
- 🖵 drukatava.lv

JELGAVAS TIPOGRĀFIJA

LATGALES DRUKA

Jelgavas Tipogrāfija is one of the most technologically-advanced printing companies in Latvia. Since 1996, the company has gained solid experience in producing various hard- and soft-cover books. In addition to standard hardcover and softcover books, we offer paperbacks with flaps, books with rounded corners, and covers made from a combination of two materials, as well as laminated, UV-lacquered, and foil-stamped covers, etc. FSC certified. Latgales Druka is a family-owned printing house that specializes in production of softcover books in quantities ranging from 500 to 5000 copies.

Number of employees:

123

Founded in:

1996

Turnover in 2016:



Main markets:

Scandinavia, Germany, France, Baltics States, France, Iceland, UK

Number of employees:



Founded in:

1994

Turnover in 2016:



Main markets: the Baltic States, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands

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- girts@jt.lv
- 🖵 jt.lv

- 💡 28 Baznīcas iela, Rēzekne, LV-4601, Latvia
- 🛣 +371 27838513
- 🛕 kristine@druka.lv
- 🖵 druka.lv

33

LIVONIA PRINT

Livonia Print provides book production services—full colour and B&W offset, digital printing and binding (hardcover, softcover, saddlestitched, flexi), as well as different finishing solutions: lamination, UV spot varnishing, foil stamping etc.

Turnover in 2016:

53.3 million EUR

PNB PRINT

PNB specializes in manufacturing (printing and binding) of hard- and soft-cover books, magazines, catalogues and other printed products.

Number of employees:

549

Founded in:

2007

Main markets: Sweden, Norway, Germany, Denmark, the UK Number of employees:

208

Founded in:

2010

Turnover in 2016:

18.16 million EUR

Main markets:

the Baltic States, Scandinavia, Germany, Netherlands, Russia, Belarus

💡 50 Ventspils iela, Rīga, LV-1002, Latvia

- janina@livoniaprint.lv
- 🖵 livoniaprint.lv

- 💡 Jāņsili, Silakrogs, Ropažu novads, LV-2133, Latvia
- 🔉 +371 67043375
- nk@pnbprint.eu
- 🖵 pnbprint.eu

POLIGRĀFIJAS GRUPA MŪKUSALA

VEITERS PRINTING HOUSE

Poligrāfijas grupa Mūkusala is an export-oriented printing house in Latvia, providing printed media production-magazines (perfectbound and stitched), newspapers, catalogues, advertising and other print materials. The company's success lies in the use of modern and effective equipment and highly skilled staff. Half of production is exported to 11 countries.

Veiters is a full-service printing house providing pre-press, press, and post-press services. Veiters handles a wide variety of printing requirements and is especially known for its expertise in manufacturing products for children and youth audiences-books, coloring books, activity books, sticker sets, memory games, etc.

Number of employees:

123

Founded in:

1993

Main markets:

Turnover in 2016:

17.3 million EUR

Main markets:

Founded in:

2004

67

Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Estonia, Lithuania, the UK, Iceland

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- pgm@pgm.lv
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- 9 437 Brīvības iela, Rīga, LV-1024, Latvia
- ***** +371 67994419
- veiters@veiters.lv
- 🖵 veiters.com

Turnover in 2016:



Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany

Number of employees:

35

ZEMGUS PRINTING HOUSE

Zemgus offers offset printing for large runs, and digital printing for smaller tasks. In our repro centre, we employ a creative team of artists with shared interests. We are one of the few printing companies in Latvia that has the facilities to provide all printing and publishing services in one place, starting from the idea to the finished product on your table.

Number of employees:

43

Founded in:

2000

Main markets: the Baltic states, Scandinavia, Germany

9 401-1 Brīvības gatve, Rīga, LV-1024, Latvia

- **3** +371 67808608
- a zemgus@zemgus.lv
- 🖵 zemgus.lv

Turnover in 2016:



LITERARY AWARDS

THE ANNUAL LATVIAN LITERATURE AWARD

The Annual Latvian Literature Award (LALIGABA) is the most important literary award in Latvia. Each year the award is given to Latvian authors for the best prose and poetry books, the best children's books, the best translations of foreign literature into Latvian, and the best debut in literature. Each year there is also an award for lifetime achievement. A special award ceremony is held every year in April to honour the laureates.

Winners 2017

Poetry: Uz balkona / bet ja visu laiku... (On the balcony / what if all the time...) by Juris Kronbergs

Prose: Gaismā (Into the Light) by Jana Egle

Translation: Zigurds Skābardis for Porno by Irvine Welsh

Children's book: Kaķēns margrietiņās (The Kitten in the Daisies) by Uldis Auseklis

Debut: Melnie darba cimdi (The Black Work Gloves) by Jānis Tomašs **The special award:** Anita Rožkalne for her important contribution to literary research and her work Kārļa Zariņa burvju aplis (The Magic Circle of Kārlis Zariņš)

Lifetime achievement award: Uldis Bērziņš

🖵 laligaba.lv

THE INTERNATIONAL JĀNIS BALTVILKS BALTIC SEA REGION AWARD

THE GOLDEN APPLE TREE AWARD

The International Jānis Baltvilks Baltic Sea Region Award is the most important literary award for achievements in children's literature in Latvia. Each year, awards are given to Latvian authors and artists for the best new children's books and the best art therein. Each year the award is also given to a foreign author whose works for children have been published in Latvian, as well as to the translator of such books. The award is named for the distinguished Latvian poet and author Jānis Baltvilks (1944–2003) who made major investments in his lifetime in the development of Latvian children's literature.

The Golden Apple Tree (Zelta ābele) is an annual competition for book design, with awards given to the designers of the most beautiful books in Latvia. Zelta ābele has been held since 1993, making it the oldest industry-oriented competition in the history of the restored Republic of Latvia. The awards are given to the most beautiful and high-quality books of poetry, prose and children's literature, documentary books, scholarly books, textbooks, reference books and art books. Each year an award is given for lifetime achievement in the book industry.

Winners 2017

Jānis Baltvilks award: Māris Rungulis for his book Pastaiga mirušo pilsētā. Pārupes spoku stāsti (A Walk in the City of the Dead. Ghost Stories from Over the River) Prize in book art: Elīna Brasliņa for her illustrations in Tobiass, Čārlijs un neredzamais spoks (Tobias, Charlie and the Invisible Ghost) by Juris Zvirgzdiņš, and books Operācija maska (Operation: Mask) and Pēdējais ķēniņš (The Last King) by Luīze Pastore. International laureate: Annette Mierswa from Hamburg Translation: Inga Karlsberga for Samsona ceļojums (Samson's Voyage) by Annette Mierswa Young growth prize: Rūta Briede for Kaiju karalienes noslēpums (The Queen of Seagulls)

LITERARY FESTIVALS

INTERNATIONAL POETRY AND ARTS FESTIVAL POETRY DAYS

The international poetry and arts festival Poetry Days is one of the most important Latvian literature-related festivals and one of the most memorable phenomena of the Latvian cultural scene. This festival has been celebrating poetry ever since the centennial of Latvian poet Rainis in 1965. The aim of the festival was and still is to increase people's interest in literature—poetry in particular—and to introduce society to various forms, current trends and new iterations of poetry. Poetry Days take place in September, when poets and poetry are celebrated all across Latvia at various events. The core of the festival, however, is a 10-day series of more than 30 events reflecting current trends in Latvian poetry. All of the events in the 10-day span take place in various parts of Riga. Every year, Poetry Days welcomes more than 10 international guests, who perform in cooperation with local artists.

Festival dates 2018: 6–16 of September

PROSE READINGS FESTIVAL

The Prose Readings festival has been held every December since 1995. The event was begun as a literary evening dedicated to writer Andrejs Upītis' birthday, and from its modest beginnings it has grown into a multi-day annual festival with many generations of Latvian writers and guests from other European countries performing their latest works. Prose Readings has become an inspiring meeting place for authors and their readers. It is an important literary landmark that shows the continuous growth and latest developments in Latvian culture.

Festival dates 2018: 4-9 of December

🖵 dzejasdienas.lv

🖵 prozaslasijumi.lv

POETRY WITHOUT BORDERS FESTIVAL

THE PUNCTUM FESTIVAL

On 2–4 June, 2017, the trilingual festival Poetry Without Borders was held for the first time. The festival features poets writing in Latvian, Russian, and in a guest language—for the first season, Swedish was selected as the third language. Every language is represented by four authors; all the poems are recited in three languages to enable real-time dialogue between the poets and their texts. The festival is organized by the Literature Without Borders project, a non-profit organization publishing poetry in Russian, Latvian and English, as well as providing a residency program for poets and translators of poetry. The project focuses on furthering literary processes in Latvia, promoting Latvian literature abroad, fostering accessibility of culture and literature for wider audiences, and informing Latvian readers on the latest innovations in contemporary poetry. Every May the literature and philosophy online magazine Punctum is organizing its own festival offering an opportunity to enjoy a versatile cultural programme showcasing the most compelling output in Latvian and world literature. The festival seeks to reflect on the contemporary processes in poetry and prose and enrich literature with interdisciplinary solutions. Every year, the Punctum festival is dedicated to one unifying theme; in 2017, the events focused on the subject of "geography," while in 2018, the interdisciplinary exhibitions, installations, essays, poems and works of prose will address the subject of "memory."

PUBLISHING INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS

LATVIAN PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

The Latvian Publishers Association (LPA) was founded in 1993 with the aim of supporting the stability and visibility of the publishing sector. It is actively involved in resolving legislative issues related to the printing and publishing sector and lobbying for wise and balanced policy in the cultural and educational sectors. Together with the Latvian Writers Union and the International Writers and Translators House, LPA is a consortium curating export strategies and promotion of Latvian literature abroad. LPA is active member of Federation of European Publishers and a part of European Book Fairs' Network ALDUS.

Contact persons: Renāte Punka, Dace Pugača Number of members: 37 full or associate members

- 💡 37-3 Baznīcas iela, Rīga, LV-1010, Latvia
- 🔉 +371 67217730, +371 29407288
- lga@gramatizdeveji.lv
- 🖵 gramatizdeveji.lv

LATVIAN BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION

The Latvian Booksellers Association is a member of the European and International Booksellers Federation. It is a public organization that unites the largest and oldest of Latvia's booksellers. The main association's aim is to represent members' interests in relation to society and government, and compile and spread information about books published in Latvia. It follows the book-selling processes and supports reading promotion in Latvia.

Contact persons: Ināra Beļinkaja, Ineta Škapare Number of members: 3 legal companies (including 75 bookstores)

💡 10 Atlasa iela, Riga, LV-1026, Latvia

- **3** +371 67501562
- lgta@latnet.lv
- 🖵 lgta.lv

INTERNATIONAL WRITERS AND TRANSLATORS HOUSE

The International Writers and Translators House is a non-profit organization whose goal is to create a multifunctional, international centre for writers and translators in Latvia to promote the development of literature, foster intercultural dialogue, further the inclusion of Latvian literature in the international literary scene, support the decentralization of literary development in Latvia, and develop the cultural climate throughout the country's regions.

Contact person: Andra Konste

- 💡 13 Annas iela, Ventspils, LV-3601, Latvia
- **3** +371 63623596
- ventspilshouse@ventspilshouse.lv
- ventspilshouse.lv

LATVIAN WRITERS UNION

Latvian Writers Union is a professional association of writers and translators in Latvia. The organization safeguards the professional interests of its members and implements various projects, such as the annual Poetry Days festival and highly valued workshops for young authors.

Contact person: Arno Jundze Number of members: 271

💡 37-1 Čaka iela, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia

- **3** +371 6755518
- 📙 Irs@rakstnieciba.lv
- 🛕 rakstnieciba.lv

LATVIAN LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

The Latvian Librarians Association was founded in 1923 as an independent, voluntary professional organization uniting library and information technology specialists who have shared interests and goals. The objective of the Association is to unite library professionals in Latvia, to motivate professional growth, stimulate the development of the industry nationwide, increase the professional prestige of librarians, and defend the rights and interests of libraries and librarians.

Number of members: 385 private members and 51 institutions

- 💡 3 Mūkusalas iela, Rīga, LV-1423, Latvia
- ***** +371 67716050
- bibliotekarubiedriba@gmail.com
- 🖵 bibliotekari.lv

LATVIAN LITERATURE

The Latvian Literature platform was established in order to promote recognition of Latvian literature and its distribution abroad, thus ensuring international cooperation among publishers, literary agents, writers, translators, and organisations working in the fields of literature and publishing. Latvian Literature platform provides diverse information about Latvian authors, books, translators and translations, publishing industry and innovations within the industry. The Latvian Literature platform was created in a partnership of three institutions sharing the main functions—the International Writers and Translators House, the Latvian Writers Union, and the Latvian Publishers Association.

info@latvianliterature.lv
latvianliterature.lv

LATVIAN BOARD ON BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (IBBY LATVIA)

The Latvian Board on Books for Young People was founded in 1993. It is the Latvian branch of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), which consists of seventy national organizations from all over the world (www.ibby.org). IBBY Latvia members are authors, illustrators, publishers, researchers of children's and youth literature, art historians, librarians, teachers, and others who specialize in children's and young adult literature. The organization currently serves 78 members. In April 2015, Ilze Stikāne, an expert in children's literature and professor at the University of Latvia, was re-elected as president of IBBY Latvia.

Contact persons: Ilze Stikāne, Silvija Tretjakova Number of members: 78

3 Mūkusalas iela, Rīga, LV-1423, Latvia
+371 67716038
berni@lnb.lv

LATVIAN GRAPHIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (LPUA)

LPUA is an independent non-profit association of printing companies set up to support and coordinate its members' activities. LPUA's members represent a broad range of industry services, from pre-press and printing to bookbinding.

Year of foundation: 1997 Number of members: 32

♀ 14-8 Pērses iela, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvia
↔ +371 67282447
ieva@lpua.lv
♀ printing.lv

THE PACKAGING ASSOCIATION OF LATVIA

The Packaging Association of Latvia is a non-governmental organization bringing together Latvia's producers, traders, and users of packaging materials and machinery, as well as packaging consultants. The association has been a full member of the World Packaging Organization since 1996 and provides extensive options for obtaining and exchanging information in the field of packaging. The activities of the association are aimed at developing an advanced packaging industry in Latvia.

Year of foundation: 1995

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- **3** +371 67326597
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