



THE ETHNOGRAPHIC OPEN-AIR MUSEUM OF LATVIA



The Ethnographic Open-Air Museum of Latvia is one of Latvia's most respected traditional cultural sites in the country. It was established in 1924 on the beautiful shores of lake Jugla and now exhibits 118 historical buildings. Museum in its 87-hectare territory shows a life of peasant's in Latvian countryside from the end of 17th century till the middle of 20th century. In Museum's natural environment visitors can get acquainted with the cultural heritage of Latvians and other nations historically living in Latvia and visit all the cultural and historical areas of Latvia – Kurzeme, Zemgale, Vidzeme and Latgale – in one place, thus enjoying rural environment without leaving the city. The Open-Air museum is an opportunity to spend quality time with children, relatives, friends, watch and try out old crafts, enjoy traditional cuisine, participate in celebrations of traditional festivities, visit crafts fairs, or just relax and be one with the nature. The Museum also has two rural expositions – Museum "Vēveri" in Vecpiebalga district and Fisherman-farmer's homestead "Vītolnieki" in Rucava district.



Annually the Ethnographic Open Air Museum of Latvia hosts Latvian Folk Applied Arts fair, which is traditionally held at the first weekend of June. In 2020 craftsmen's fair in the Museum will celebrate 50 anniversary. In the many years of its existence, the fair has become an event of national significance – now it is a symbol of crafts of Riga and Latvia and a feast for its participants and visitors.

The fair is a place of meeting and professional experience exchange for folk applied arts craftsmen of different generations and crafts who come from all historical regions of Latvia and abroad. At the same time, the Fair is a show of the year's achievements made in crafts and a great opportunity for craftsmen to show and sell their best products.



The fair is an extensive exhibition, as well as the most ambitious and attended event of year. Not only craftsmen, but also folk groups, dance groups, ensembles of singers, choirs, masters of old games and toys, chefs presenting traditional dishes and other participants enrich the Fair. They are the ones who maintain and creatively change the modern society by introducing it to the Latvian traditional culture.

In 2019 the fair gathered more than 550 craftsmen, 185 food vendors and 18 catering companies and various dance and music performances from all historical regions of Latvia and abroad and attracted more than 35 000 visitors.



During the conference, we offer to visit the Ethnographic Open-Air Museum of Latvia and Latvian Folk Applied Arts fair. We look forward to seeing you in Riga (Latvia) in 2020!