



RIGA CONFERENCE

THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD?

5-6 October 2023

MEETING TODAY'S CHALLENGES
TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
AND THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS



LAUNCH OF THE COUNCIL OF
EUROPE CAMPAIGN FOR THE
SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

Practical Information Note

[Introduction about Riga](#)

Welcome to the capital of Latvia – Riga! Located on the banks of the river Daugava and on the coast of the Baltic Sea, Riga has a rich and turbulent history and culture.

The conference “[THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD? Meeting today’s challenges of expression and safety of journalists](#)” will take place in the [National Library of Latvia \(Ziedonis hall, 3 Mūkusalas Street, Riga\)](#), located on the left bank of the river Daugava.

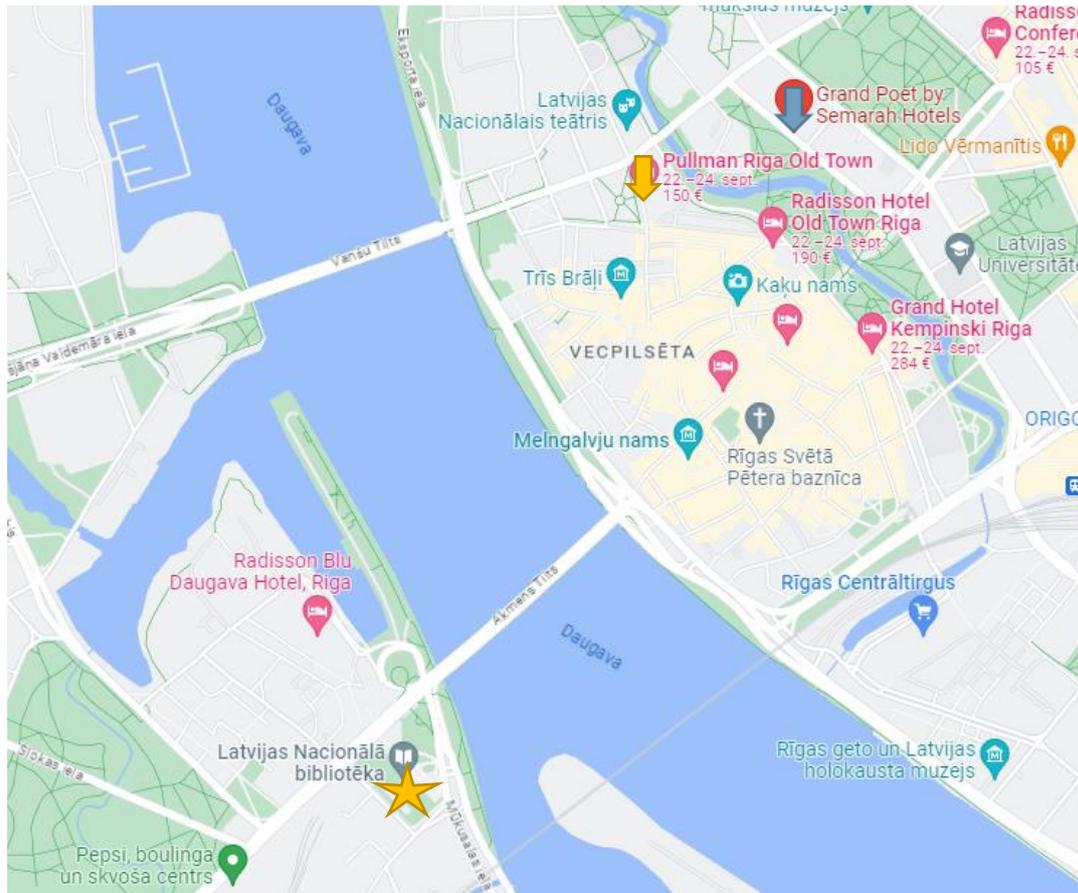
[Directions to the conference venue](#)

The conference will take place in *Ziedonis hall*, located on the ground floor of the library on your right side when entering from the main entrance. Please proceed to the Registration desk for registration. There is a possibility to use cloakroom next to *Ziedonis hall* on your right.



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-  - National Library of Latvia
-  - “Pullman Riga Old Town hotel”
-  - “Grand Poet by Samarah Hotel”

Public transportation from/to the National Library of Latvia

- To get to the National Library of Latvia from the **Riga International Airport** (RIX) you have to take bus No. 22 (*Lidosta - Abrenes iela*) and get off in the bus stop “Nacionālā bibliotēka”. You can buy a ticket from the driver for 2€ (*only on this route of transport!*).
- To get from the **Riga International Airport** to the city centre and vice-versa you can take bus No. 22 (*Lidosta - Abrenes iela*) as well.
- From/to the **Pullman hotel** you can take tram No. 5 from the stop “Nacionālais teātris”, located next to the National Theatre of Latvia and get off in the bus stop “Nacionālā bibliotēka”. The final destination of the tram is “Imanta” that should be written on the front of tram. Tram No. 5 is the one that goes from “Nacionālā bibliotēka” to “Nacionālais teātris” back as well, but this time on the front of tram should be written “Mīlgrāvis”.



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- From/to **Grand Poet by Semarah hotel** you can take bus No. 3 or No. 21 from the bus stop “Brīvības piemineklis”, close to the Freedom Monument and get out in the bus stop “Nacionālā bibliotēka”. Going to National Library on the front of bus No. 3 should be written “Daugavgrīva” and on bus No. 21 “Imanta”. When going back to the hotel you should get off at bus stop “Brīvības bulvāris” for bus No. 3 and “Tērbatas iela” for bus No. 21. Going back to the city centre on bus No. 3 should be written “Pļavniekie” and on bus No. 21 “Jugla”.
- From the **centre of Riga near the Riga Central Station** you can take bus No. 3 or 4 or 21, leaving from the bus stop “13. janvāra iela”, located near the Riga Central Station. You can take bus No. 22 or trolleybus No. 9 from the bus stop “Grēcinieku iela” which is next to the “Akmens” bridge to quickly get across the river Daugava and get off in the stop “Nacionālā bibliotēka”.
- Alternative way to get to the city centre/ National Library of Latvia/ airport is by hiring a **taxi**. Some suggestions: **Bolt** (through “Bolt” mobile app) or **Baltic Taxi** (20 008 500).

Accommodations

For your convenience, we provide promotional code “PRES2023” in two centrally located hotels:

- **“Grand Poet by Semarah”**, Raiņa bulvāris 5/6, Riga (www.semarahhotels.com)
- 20 % discount for reservation with code PRES2023 (price depending on occupancy, booking with the promotional code via the hotel webpage);
- **“Pullman Riga Old Town”**, Jēkaba iela 24, Riga (<https://pullmanriga.lv>) - with code PRES2023 price for single room 95 EUR per night (breakfast included).
Booking by e-mail to inga.gravite@accorhotel.lv referencing the discount code.

Please proceed with the booking at the earliest convenience as the codes are limited.



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Public transportation in Riga

The base price for any type of public transportation is **1.50€**, valid for 90 min. It should be noted that there are schedules for working days and weekends, so departure and arrival time will vary.

As for buying transportation ticket:

- You can download mobile app “**Mobilily**” or “**Rīga Satiksme**”. After purchasing ticket, just scan the QR code, which is found in any public transport, or manually write the digits, which are written under the code to register a ride.
- Or go to any booth “**Narvesen**”, grocery stores “**Rimi**” or “**Maxima**” etc. (ticket trade outlets can be found [here](#)) and ask for “e-talons” (“e-ticket”). In transport just press ticket against ticket reader points.

Useful webpages for information on public transport

[Rīgas satiksme \(rigassatiksme.lv\)](http://rigassatiksme.lv) - Official webpage of public transportation in Riga. Can be used to view schedules, routes and map of all stops.

1188.lv - Information about all types of transportation

Other Information

- **Language:** Latvian is the official language of Latvia.
- **Currency:** EUR
- **General emergency number:** 112
- **Assistance for foreigners:** tourist police unit in Riga (6718 1818)
- **International dial code for Latvia:** +371
- **Latvian time:** GMT +2
- **In case of any inquiries, please contact:** lvcoe2023@mfa.gov.lv



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Cultural Sites

The National Library of Latvia (“the Castle of Light”) is located opposite the Old Town, on the left bank of the Daugava. This is one of the most significant cultural buildings in the history of restored Latvia. The library's new building was opened in 2014, designed by the world-renowned Latvian architect Gunārs Birkerts. The main task of the library is to create and preserve the collection of national and world literature and ensure its free access to everyone. The stock consists of more than 4 million items. The library also has the “Cabinet of Folksongs” (“Dainu Skapis”) for public viewing, a world-class cultural asset and included in the UNESCO Memory of the World Program.

The Freedom Monument – Riga's central landmark is a symbol of the Latvian nation's striving for freedom and independence. The woman on top of the monument is holding up three golden stars, which represent Latvia's historical regions Kurzeme, Vidzeme, and Latgale. The motto "For the Fatherland and Freedom" is inscribed upon the base.

The Old Town with its narrow cobblestone streets is the historical centre of Riga. The Old Town features such impressive buildings as the Dome Cathedral and St. Peter's Church, Riga Castle, the House of the Blackheads and others.

The Latvian National Opera and Ballet – the grandiose white building was unveiled in 1863, and was originally constructed and utilized as the Riga City Theatre building. The building itself was handed over to the Latvian National Opera in 1919, and in 1922 the first professional ballet ensemble in Latvia joined the opera troupe.

The Art Nouveau architecture – in Riga makes up roughly 1/3 of all the buildings in the centre of Riga, making Latvia's capital the city with the highest concentration of Art Nouveau architecture anywhere in the world. Art Nouveau is an art style of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Art Nouveau architecture is mainly concentrated in the city's quarter called the "Quiet Centre", which is about a 10-minute walk from the Old Town. Alberta Street is the pearl of Riga's Art Nouveau style - "art nouveau" style buildings are located along entire street.

The Latvian National Museum of Art – the collection of the largest art museum in Latvia comprises more than 52 thousand works by painters and sculptors reflecting the development of professional art in the Baltic area from the middle of the 18th century until the present time. The building of the Latvian National Museum of Art is a national architectural monument. Between 2010 and 2015 museum underwent a reconstruction, during which the total size of the building was doubled.