

17-18 October 2024



# International Forum Vilnius and Other World Heritage Cities: Living Links



The international forum “Vilnius and Other World Heritage Cities: Living Links” is dedicated to celebrating thirty years since the historical center of Vilnius has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

At the forum, we will delve into the challenges facing UNESCO World Heritage cities in Europe, good practices in their care, and discuss the ties that bind us through common heritage, cultural exchange and mutual influence.

In the first session, colleagues from neighbouring UNESCO World Heritage Cities will share experiences and concerns in managing outstanding universal values. In the second one, invited experts will unveil the historical roads from Western Europe to Lithuania, and show the commonality of our history.

The third session will highlight the axis of European North - South cultural exchange (via Ukraine towards Byzantium).

The next day we will visit the cultural heritage objects located in the historical center of Vilnius. The authors of the restorations themselves will present their works. It will be a good opportunity to discuss the practical issues of the maintenance of UNESCO sites.

The discussion of the forum and cooperation opportunities will conclude the day's work at the Vilnius Old Town Renewal Agency.

# PROGRAMME

## October 17 (Vilnius Town Hall, Didžioji Str. 31)

09.00–09.30 Registration, welcome coffee

09.30–10.20 Opening of the forum, welcome remarks

**Valdas Benkuskas**, Mayor of Vilnius. Messages from the representatives of international organizations: UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC), Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC), ICCROM, ICOMOS.  
**Dr. Juozapas Blažiūnas**, director of the Vilnius Old Town Renewal Agency

### I Session. Connections of Cities: Retrospection and Today (Experience of Neighbours) | Moderator J. Blažiūnas

10.30–11.00 Keynote speaker from UNESCO WHC

11.00–11.20 Michał Krasucki **A New Formula for the Management of the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Warsaw in the Face of Changes in the Contemporary World** (Warsaw City Municipality)

11.20–11.40 Kristýna Drápalová **Prague: A Medieval City in the 21st Century. Notes on Managing a UNESCO World Heritage Site** (Prague)

11.40–12.00 Aigars Kušķis **Experience and Insights on the Management of World Heritage Values in Riga"** (Riga City Municipality)

12.00–13.00 **Lunch break**

### II Session. Culture and craft connections of Western Europe with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania | Moderator D. Baronas

13.00–13.20 Dr. Mathias Niendorf **City of Many Languages – Who Cares: Multilingualism as Immaterial Heritage** (Germany)

13.20–13.40 Dr. Anna Sylwia Czyż **The Artistic Genius of Vilnius. Innovations in the Work of Vilnius Artists in 17th-18th c.** (Poland)

13.40–14.00 Dr. Auksė Kaladžinskaitė Jocienė **Artistic Relations Between Vilnius and Königsberg in the first half of the 18th Century** (Lithuania)

14.00–14.20 Dr. Ieva Blinstrubienė **Vilnius Monasteries: Influences and Origins** (Lithuania)

14.20–14.40 Discussion

14.40–15.10 **Coffee break**

### III session. Politics, Science and Ethnic/Confessional Diversity in the Territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: Europe's North-South Axis | Moderator J. Blažiūnas

15.10–15.30 Dr. Darius Baronas **The Meeting of Rome and Constantinople in Vilnius in the 14th-16th Centuries** (Lithuania)

15.30–15.50 Dr. Liudas Glemža **Searching for a Strategic Location of Kaunas City in the 18th Century: Between Lithuania, Prussia, Poland, and Russia** (Lithuania)

15.50–16.10 Dr. Natalia Bilous **Historical and Cultural Relations of Ukrainian Cities with Vilnius in the 15th-17th Centuries** (Ukraine)

16.10–16.30 Dr. Jurgita Verbickienė **The Phenomenon of Lithuanian Jerusalem in the Context of World Jerusalems** (Lithuania)

16.30–17.00 Discussion

17.00–17.20 "Vėjūna" singers of sutartinės, Lithuanian Multipart Songs

19.00–20.30 **Dinner**

## October 18

09.30–11.30 Seminar *in situ*: **Franciscan monastery** (Trakų str. 9, Vilnius) by Stanislovas Latonas with Ieva Blinstrubienė | **The East pavilion and the South building of the Vilnius Jonušas Radvilas Palace building complex** (Vilniaus str. 24, Vilnius) by Marija Nemunienė | **Pociejus' Palace** (Senators' Passage Dominikonų Str. 11, Vilnius) by Robertas Zilinskas

11.30–12.30 Discussion about the forum and future cooperation (VOTRA, Stiklių Str. 4)