



# KULDĪGAS NOVADA PAŠVALDĪBA

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## INFORMATION FOR MASS MEDIA

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### **Latvia has received the right to hold the 68th World Ploughing Champion competition – Kuldīga region has been chosen as the venue**

In the fall of this year, from October 13 to 14, in Latvia, Kuldīga will happen 68th World Ploughing Championship competition, in which plowmen from 26 countries of the world will participate. In addition to Europe – New Zealand, Australia, Kenya, USA, and Canada will also be represented. The right to hold such competitions in Latvia was received from the World Ploughing Organization by Latvia Ploughing Organization, which together with the municipality of Kuldīga region and the agricultural machinery trading company Amazone grupa LV will organize a world-class competition.

Last year, the World Ploughing Organization visited Latvia and decided on the most suitable venue for the competition. "Kuldīga region was chosen as the venue for the championship because there are agricultural companies with high-level management practices, as well as the necessary volume and quality of hotel and catering capacity. Kuldīga region is undeniably a unique and beautiful place, so we are certainly happy that we can host the world-class championship directly", says Mrs. Anne Marie McHugh, General secretary of the World Ploughing Organization.

"Initially, it was planned that Latvia would hold the World Ploughing Championship competition only in 2032, but two years of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine changed the situation. The 2022 championship was hosted by Ireland, where ploughing is as popular as football and rugby, and I suggested that Latvia could be hosted this year, because why not? After the restoration of Latvia's independence, we have developed strong and globally exportable farms", says Aigars Laurinovičs, chairman of the board of the Latvia Ploughing Organization and member of the board of the World Ploughing Organization.

"This year is special and important for both Latvia and the Ministry of Agriculture – this year we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Ministry of Agriculture since the declaration of Latvia's Independence. That is why we are pleased that such an ambitious, world-class event is being organized in Latvia and we can provide both financial and moral support for its organization. It is a time when the agricultural sphere of Latvia can show itself in the best light to the European Union and other NATO members, how after the collapse of the USSR we have been able to develop economically, restore our forces, resources and become a modern agricultural country, as well as our ability to use our natural resources wisely", marks Mr. Didzis Šmits, Minister of Agriculture.

The competition will take place on October 13 and 14 of this year in the fields owned by Ltd Upeskalni AB. Arrival of the participants, preparation for the competition, official training will start from October 7.

"The furrow is evaluated in 12 parameters, for example, the important furrow straightness, furrow, time, etc. Last year, the 67th Ploughing Championship, which took place in Ireland - for the first time in 20 years, Latvia took the highest 6th place and this was achieved by Jānis Vaitkevics from Jaunbērze, Dobeles region, from the farm "Mārtiņi". Also this year, J. Vaitkevics will represent Latvia again and he will be joined by the young plowman Richards Dambergs, who is still studying at the Kandava School of Agriculture. The top ten come to the



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championship with their equipment. More tractors and plows from Australia, Canada and the USA are already on their way to Latvia," adds Mr. Laurinovičs.

On the second day of the world championship, October 14, parallel to the competition, a series of entertaining and educational events "Get to know Latvia's modern agriculture" will be held, Latvian agricultural machinery dealers will demonstrate the latest equipment, there will be a home producers' market and the end of the event "Taste of Regions" organized by the Latvian Rural Consulting Center. where you can enjoy the traditional dishes and unique flavours of our country.

The 68th World Ploughing Champion competition is organized by: World Ploughing Organization, Latvia Ploughing Organization, Ministry of Agriculture, Kuldīga Municipality, Amazone Grupa LV.

**Additional information:**

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