

Address by President Egils Levits at the parade of the participants of the XXVII Nationwide Latvian Song and XVII Dance Festival "Richness of Latvia's regions"

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150 years ago, at the First Nationwide Latvian Song Festival, the Latvian nation was born and our later national anthem – "God Bless Latvia!" – was played for the first time. Could there be a more beautiful way for a nation to be born if not by singing?

This Song Festival procession reflects the diversity of Latvians and the splendour of Latvian identity. There is Kurzeme, there is Vidzeme, there is Zemgale, there is Sēlija, there is Latgale.

May the generations unite in the song, and may we pass through the ages in the song!



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