**What is the online journal *Satori.lv*?**

The online journal *Satori*.*lv* ([www.satori.lv](http://www.satori.lv)) is your definitive cultural and independent opinion portal, whose goal is to maintain the highest standards in the area of cultural consumption. *Satori.lv* was established in 2003 and originally was a virtual text library and forum where one had the opportunity to challenge their views on literature and philosophy. Within a year, *Satori.lv* became a popular internet journal in Latvia that had seized upon an extensive thematic arc that was not only informing the public about current happenings in literature, theatre, music, dance and contemporary art, but also daily events, writings by locally and internationally recognized authors, essays, commentary on current social and cultural-political events, as well as editorials and original literature compositions. Today, on the portal, one has the opportunity to read at least 5000 of the most classic international and Latvian literary fragments, philosophical treatises, translations, essays, and editorials.

The mission of *Satori.lv* is to create an advantageous environment for cultural development, to provide a quality reflection of cultural events and analysis, as well as to encourage a meaningful public discussion on this sector and its current events. Additionally, the goal is also to bring interdisciplinary themes into greater focus, as well as political and social questions. One of the characteristics that make *Satori.lv* different from other Latvian internet cultural media spaces is that we are mainly occupied with the presentation of the contemporary – an analytical approach to the interpretation of current cultural events. Plenty of attention is also given to the polemical point-of-view; therefore it is not rare for different views on one theme to appear in our published articles. With regards to the *Satori.lv* editorial board, one of their main tasks is to consider increasing the critical thinking ability of the public, as well as its ability for independent thinking and constructive discourse. These are important criteria in the planning of the journal’s content.

Once a month, the *Satori.lv* editorial board organizes a closed door discussion on various themes and these discussions are later published on the internet portal. So far, the discussions have been on animal rights, feminism, and the theatrical nature of the political activities of NGOs, among others.

*Satori.lv* also supports the growth of new Latvian literature by offering authors both the chance for recognition of their text, as well as an opportunity for new authors to have their works published.

Another one of *Satori.lv*’s lines of action is the publication of printed material. Up until now, there have been two books by Latvian authors in the *Satori.lv* library series. Every year, we publish a free *Satori.lv* journal, a free literary publication for children, as well as a free publication for adults all of which are distributed to various public places in Latvia.

The “With Children” section plays a significant role in the *Satori.lv* internet journal, in that it focuses on cultural events for children. In this way, it promotes the broadening of the children’s cultural space, as well accustoms the public to critical and serious attitudes towards this area of culture. Children’s literature is also published within this section.

Every work day, *Satori.lv* offers 2-4 new original publications, 5-10 current cultural news stories, as well as two detailed cultural calendar items on events occurring today and over the next four days – for both children and adults.

Four people make up the *Satori.lv* editorial board:

* *Satori.lv* Editor-in-Chief, Ilmārs Šlāpins – A well-known publicist, literary figure, philosopher, and translator in Latvia. He is the author of various books and collections of poetry.
* *Satori.lv* Editor, Antonija Skopa-Šlāpina
* Editor of *Satori.lv* “With Children” section and Director of Community Projects, Dace Bargā
* News Editor, Elizabete Lukšo
* Freelance Authors (more than 100)

**Proposed Idea for an International Cooperation Project**

The editorial board of the internet journal *Satori.lv* is looking for partners (from similar internet journals that are oriented towards cultural themes) in other European countries who share our goal of providing quality culturally-themed content, thus reflecting the international cultural scope of the journal. In this context, exchange is important because the Latvian public is largely focused on events that occur in this country without paying much attention to cultural events outside of Latvia’s borders. In order to realize this project, within which *Satori.lv* readers are able to learn about cultural events in other European countries and to expand the reader’s perspective, the encouragement of a high-level cultural discussion is also important.

The specified aim within this cooperative project is to collaborate on film interviews or documentaries in English about important cultural events in specific European countries and for (project partners) to mutually exchange content. Later, each editorial board will have the means to translate and transfer these films into their own national language, thereby making this publication available to the widest possible audience.

**Contact person:**

**Dace Bargā; dace@satori.lv**