



Latviešu valodas
aģentūra

DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



THE NEW SPEAKERS NETWORK

International seminar

“New Speakers in Latvia: Language Education Policy for Integration and Peace”

10th April 2017
EU House, 2nd floor
28 Aspazijas blvd., Riga

Organisers:

Rezekne Academy of Technologies (manager and coordinator: Sanita Lazdiņa)

Latvian Language Agency (coordinator: Gunta Kļava)

DAAD Information Centre Riga (manager and coordinator: Heiko F. Marten)

Supported by:

COST programme “New Speakers” (<http://www.nspk.org.uk/>)

Latvian Language Agency (www.valoda.lv)

Rezekne Academy of Technologies (www.rta.lv)

German Academic Exchange Service (www.daad.lv)

Aim of the seminar: to discuss and inform about topics and perspectives which are relevant for “new speakers” of languages in present-day Latvia, as well as to discuss these issues in the context of experiences in other European countries.

The concept of “new speaker” in contemporary sociolinguistics refers to persons who have started to use a new language in their everyday lives. They are more than just “learners” and have reached a certain level of proficiency, but are still far from being accepted as native-like users. For instance, they can be immigrants who have learnt the national language of their new country of residence, or members of traditional minorities who keep learning the official language(s) of a country, or representatives of regional languages and dialects who for various reasons decide to learn the language of their ancestors.

Target audience of the seminar: researchers, officials and administrators in language education and policies, representatives of the media, and all those interested in discussing and searching for constructive solutions and creative suggestions and ideas for the integration and unity of society in Latvia and Europe.

Programme

10.00 – 10.30	Registration
10.30 – 10.45	Opening
	Introduction to the European Cooperation in Science and Technologies (COST) Action “New speakers” Sanita Lazdiņa, Heiko F. Marten (RTA, DAAD Information Centre Riga)
I. Stories of Experience	
10.45 – 12.30	The Latvian Experience
	Immigration and the Learning of the Official Language in Latvia: Experiences of the Latvian Language Agency Throughout the Past Years Gunta Kļava, Ērika Pičukāne (LVA)
	Pros and Cons of Learning Latvian: Experiences among Ethnic Minorities in Latvia Marina Kručāne (LU)
	What is the Motivation of Learning the Latgalian Written Language? Vineta Vilcāne (Latgalian Cultural News Portal www.lakuga.lv)
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break
13.30 – 15.00	Experiences from other European Countries
	Policies from Above and Practices from Below: the Case of New Speakers Sjaak Kroon (Tilburg University, Netherlands)
	Autochthonous Minority Languages in a New Speakers’ Context: the Case of Gaelic in Scotland Stuart Dunmore (University of Edinburgh, Scotland)
15.00 – 15.15	Coffee break
II. Using the Experience for the Future	
15.15 – 16.45	Round-table discussion Participants: The previous speakers of the seminar Hosts: Sanita Lazdiņa, Heiko F. Marten Summary and Conclusion

