

## Description:

# Safeguarding on the local level - Collecting ICH resources under one roof

### About:

Viesatu Parish Library and Kamene Association identify, preserve and promote local cultural heritage in co-operation with the local inhabitants. They have transformed a former administration building to a community building filled with information about living heritage and history, thus showcasing and promoting it.



### How it was done:

1. Family stories, or people's stories, are recorded and bound in story folders. They are kept in the Viesati Local History Room and anyone can read them and add to their knowledge about the history of the parish. These people's stories are about: people's biography, memories of childhood, formation of collective farms, old craft skills, cultural activities, etc.



2. In 2021, the Viesati Local Heritage Room (or perhaps the “Viesati Local Heritage Repository”) was created. People of all ages can do something here: they can study the materials, be creative, play games, add to the collection with objects and photographs they bring and help to organise the collection.

There are 6 local history rooms, filled with objects, documents and exhibitions. They are dedicated to:

- 2.1 Matīss Siliņš, a local cartographer.
- 2.2 Krišjānis Barons, local folklore collector.
- 2.3 Kārlis Teihmanis, actor of the National Theatre.

2.4 For the history of Kr.Barons Primary School.

2.5 The Kolkhoz era.

2.6 For the history of ancient times.



3. For several years the inhabitants have participated in the expedition “Lost Houses of Viesati Parish” and found 100 lost houses. And this is not all, because the search for the houses is still ongoing. Now the stories of these lost houses have to be written down and can only be told by the people themselves who were connected with these houses.

4. For 12 years now, people have been invited to take part in the photo exhibition “Photography strengthens families and activates society”, and every year there is a theme. Over the years, more than 700 photographs have been collected on: festive traditions, old craft skills, techniques, clothing, parish houses, destiny, school years, etc.

5. For 22 years, the Viesatu Parish Library has been producing “Viesatu Parish Yearbooks”, which reflect the most important events of the parish, and both residents and institutions have been contributing to the content of the yearbooks.

6. Since 1995, the Viesati Parish Library has been collecting and compiling place names of the parish with the involvement of the inhabitants. It has collected about 1000 place names. The place names are supplemented with photographs, stories about the place.

7. With the involvement of the inhabitants, commemorative events are created in memory of Matīss Siliņš, the first Latvian cartographer, and Krišjānis Barons, a folklore collector. In 2021, on the initiative of Matīss Siliņš’ family, a memorial stone to Matīss Siliņš was unveiled at the Viesatu Culture House.



#### More information:

Homepage of organization [Kamenes in English](#)  
Viesatu culture house and library [on facebook](#)