

Ceļa zīmes latgaliešu rakstu valodā: sabiedrības attieksmes izpēte

Exploring public attitudes towards road signs in Standard Latgalian

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Background

- ***The Law on Historical Regions of Latvia (2021):* “the State and the respective local governments shall ensure the preservation and sustainable development of the Latgalian identity and cultural and historical environment (..) by restoring and using the place names in the Latgalian language in the environment, including in road signs, location and street names” (section 4.8).**
- In 2023, € 106,000 was allocated from the state budget for the priority measure submitted by the Ministry of Transport for ensuring road signs in Latgalian written and Livonian languages (LVC, 2023).
- At the end of 2023, bilingual road signs for settlements of Kurzeme and Latgale regions began to be installed along state roads.
- The installation of the first road signs in Latgale caused a clash of public opinions, which was visible both in the media and on social networking sites.



30.11.2023, LRT

International practice



Bilingual directional signs, Basque – Spain.



In Ireland, a specific font associated with Gaelic is used in traffic signage to differentiate from English.

The reasons for implementing bilingual signage are varied and include:

- cultural aspiration;
- cultural protection;
- improved safety;
- assistance for temporary visitors;
- multilingual communication being the norm or default.

(O'Donnell&Trotter, 2021:12)

An insight into recent history

[LRT, 23.03.2016.](#) Kārsavas novads nepiekāpjas Valodas centram – ielu norādes arī turpmāk būs latgaliski. *[Kārsava Municipality does not yield to the Language Center – street signs will continue to be in Latgalian.]*

[ReTV, 20.07.2021.](#) Liepiņa, S. Neļauj izvietot ceļa zīmes lībiešu valodā. *[Does not allow the placement of road signs in the Livonian]*

LTG

LV



Survey

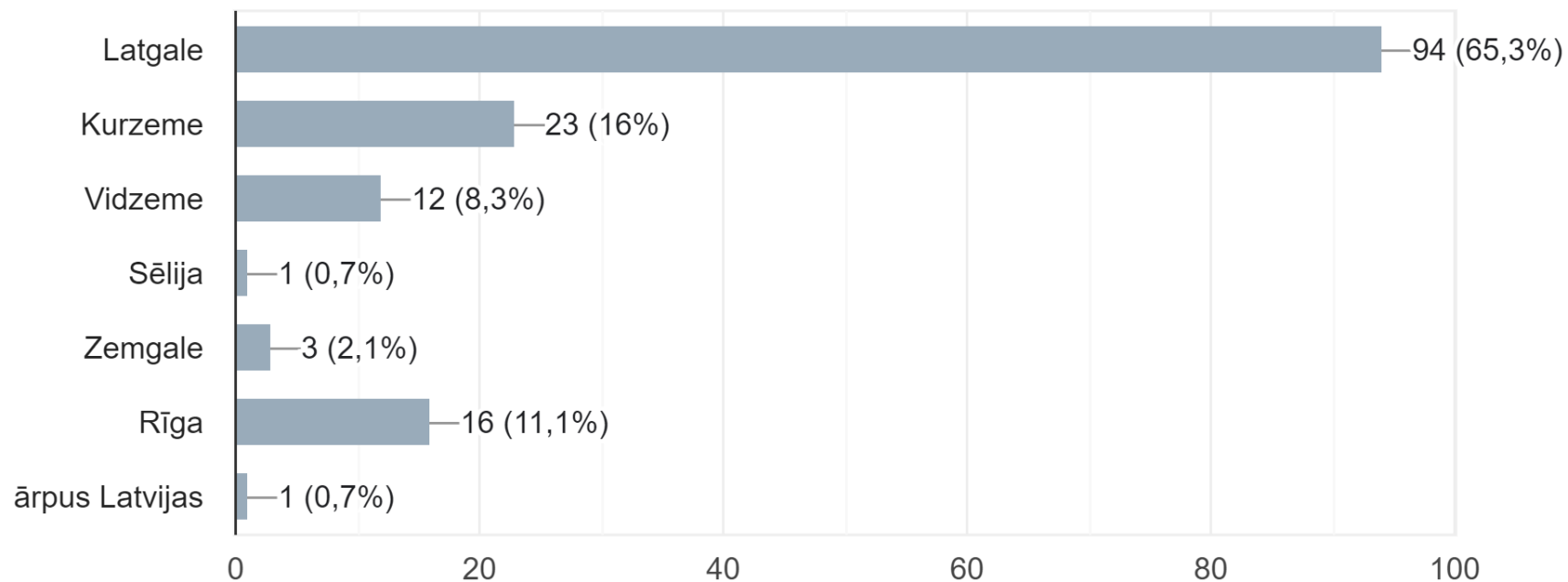
Public attitudes towards bilingual road signs

- Objective: to assess public attitudes towards the initiative in Kurzeme and Latgale to install road signs that indicate place names in parallel with both Standard Latvian and Livonian or Latgalian written languages. The focus will be on road signs in the Latgalian.
- The study includes close-ended questions about the respondent's profile, close-ended questions and rating scales regarding bilingual road signs in Latgale and Kurzeme, as well as close and open-ended questions about the functionality of the Latgalian in the linguistic landscape of Latgale .
- <https://docs.google.com/forms/u/0/>
- April 22 - May 5, 2024

Place of residence (144 responses)

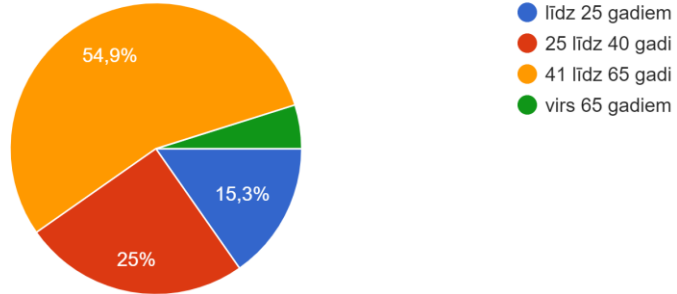
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144 atbildes

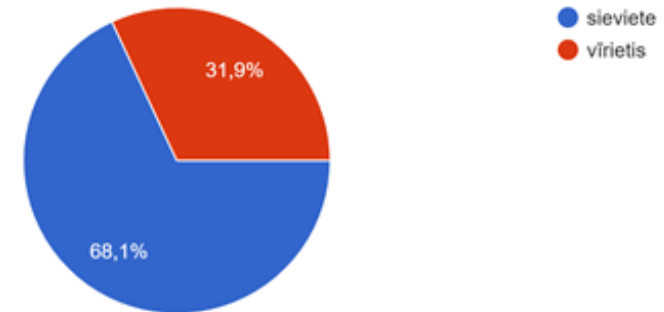


Age, gender, language use within and outside the family

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144 atbildes



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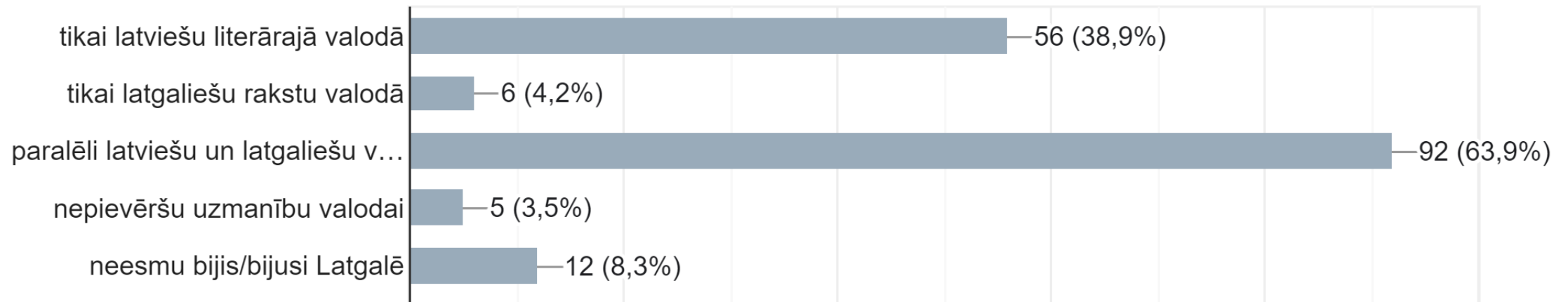
- Languages used in family: Latvian (89,6%), Latgalian (38,9%), Russian (17,4%), English (2,1%).

Languages used outside the family: Latvian (97,2%), Russian (38,9%), Latgalian (38,2%), English (28,5 %), German (1,4%), Polish (0,7%).

What language(s) have you noticed in road signs indicating the settlement names **in Latgale**?

Kādā/-ās valodā/-ās esat ievērojis/-usi ceļa zīmes, kas norāda uz apdzīvotu vietu nosaukumiem, Latgalē?

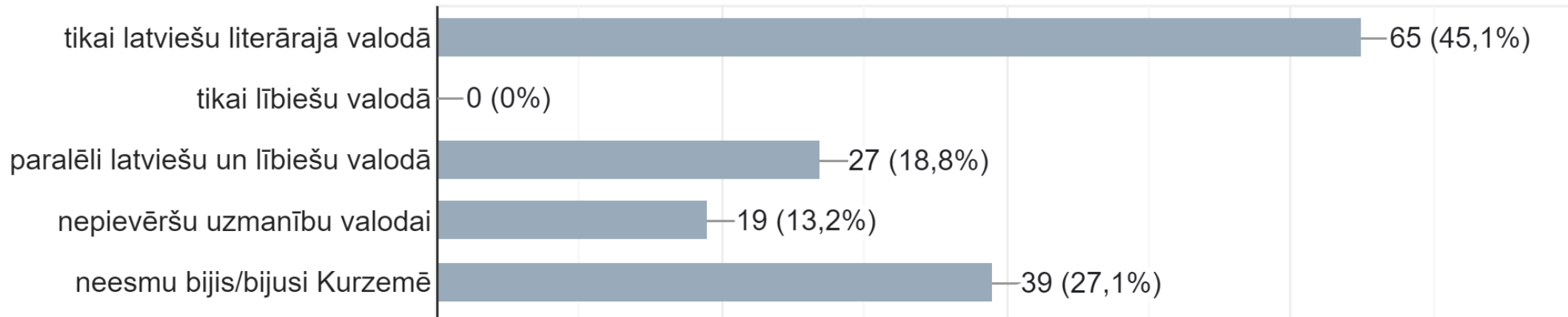
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What language(s) have you noticed in road signs indicating the settlement names in Kurzeme?

Kādā/ās valodā/-ās esat ievērojis/-usi ceļa zīmes, kas norāda uz apdzīvotu vietu nosaukumiem, Kurzemē?

144 atbildes

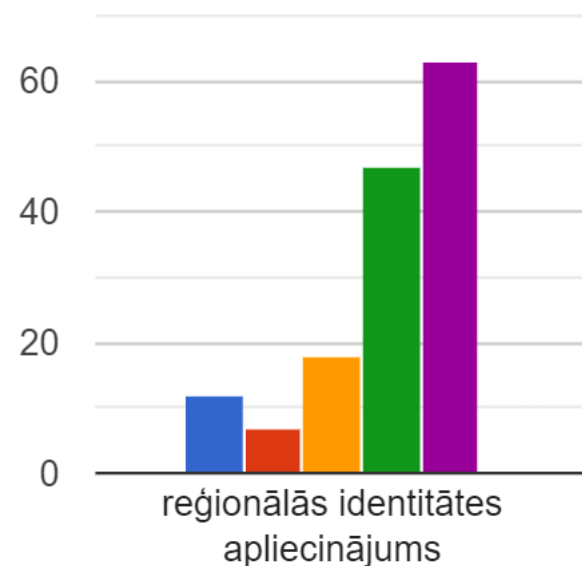
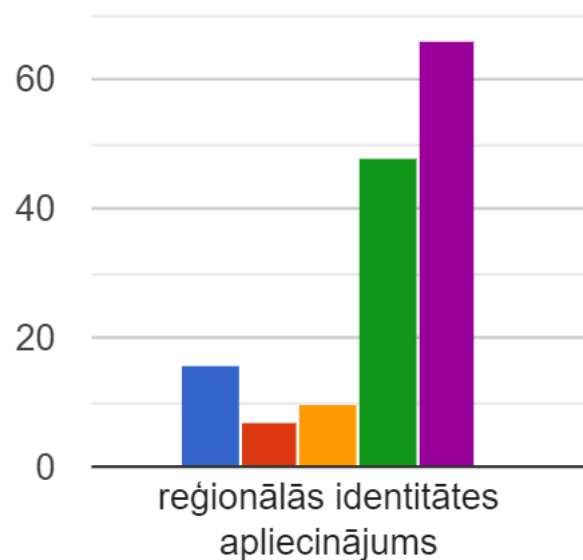


On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the following statements:
The installation of bilingual road signs in both

Latvian and Latgalian written language is

Latvian and Livonian is

an affirmation of regional identity



1 (pilnīgi nepiekrītu) 2 (nepiekrītu) 3 (nezinu, nav viedokļa) 4 (piekrītu) 5 (pilnīgi piekrītu).

1 (fully disagree)

2 (disagree)

3 (neither agree nor disagree)

4 (agree)

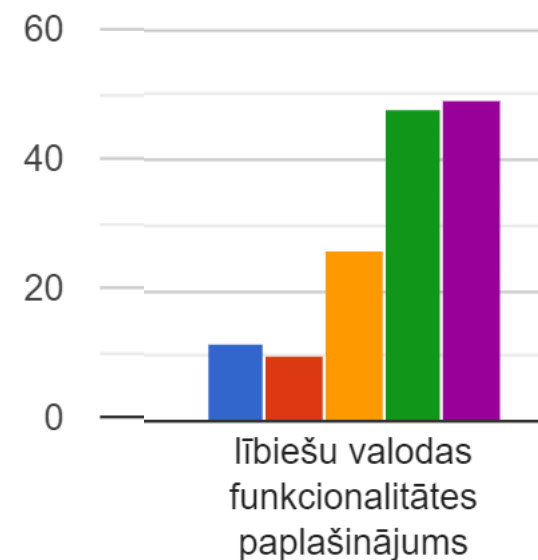
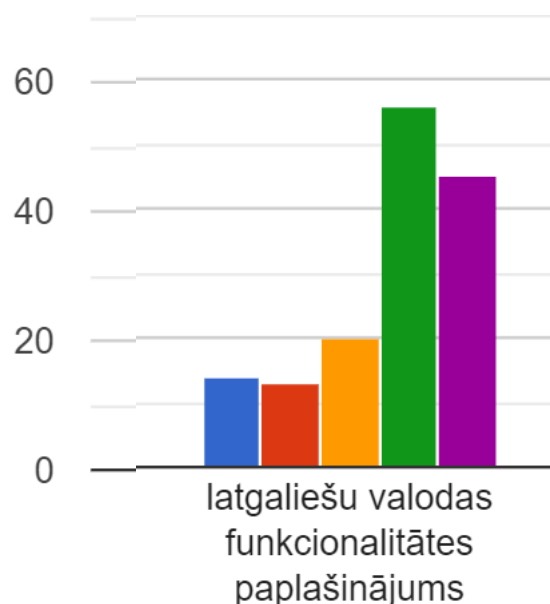
5 (fully agree)

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the following statements:
The installation of bilingual road signs in both

Latvian and Latgalian written language is

Latvian and Livonian is

expansion of the functionality of the Latgalian expansion of the functionality of the Livonian



1 (pilnīgi nepiekrītu) 2 (nepiekrītu) 3 (nezinu, nav viedokļa) 4 (piekrītu) 5 (pilnīgi piekrītu).

1 (fully disagree)

2 (disagree)

3 (neither agree nor disagree)

4 (agree)

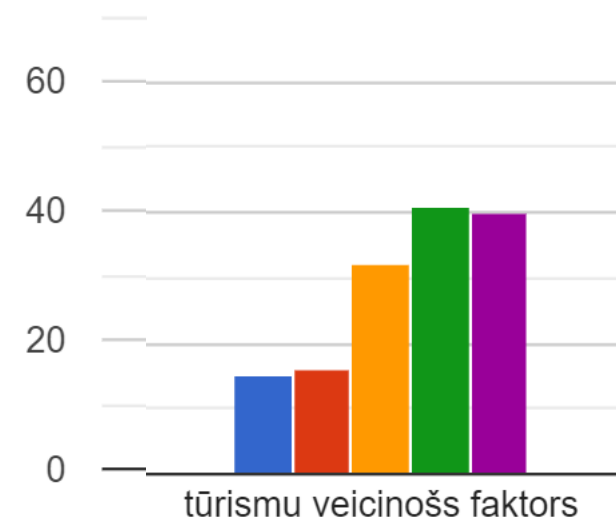
5 (fully agree)

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the following statements:
The installation of bilingual road signs in both

Latvian and Latgalian written language is

Latvian and Livonian is

factor that promotes tourism



1 (pilnīgi nepiekrītu) 2 (nepiekrītu) 3 (nezinu, nav viedokļa) 4 (piekrītu) 5 (pilnīgi piekrītu).

1 (fully disagree)

2 (disagree)

3 (neither agree nor disagree)

4 (agree)

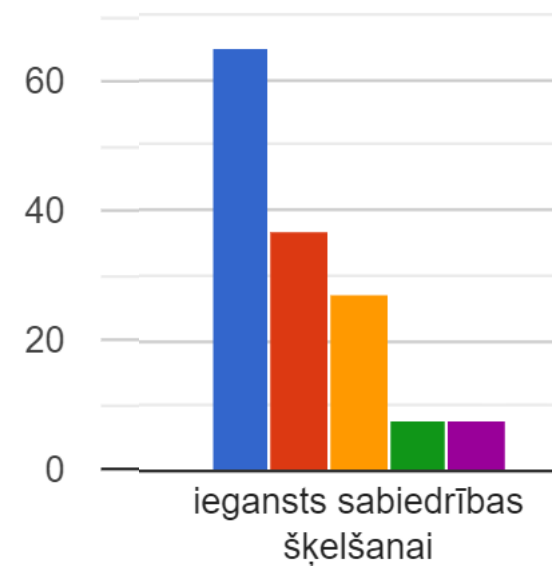
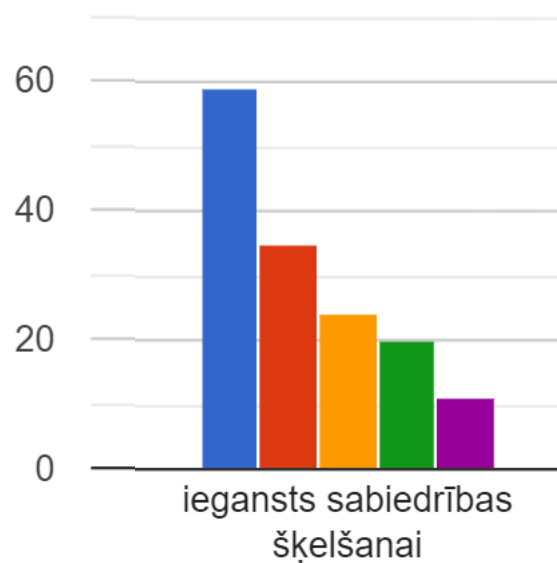
5 (fully agree)

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the following statements:
The installation of bilingual road signs in both

Latvian and Latgalian written language is

Latvian and Livonian is

pretext for dividing society



1 (pilnīgi nepiekrītu) 2 (nepiekrītu) 3 (nezinu, nav viedokļa) 4 (piekrītu) 5 (pilnīgi piekrītu).

1 (fully disagree)

2 (disagree)

3 (neither agree nor disagree)

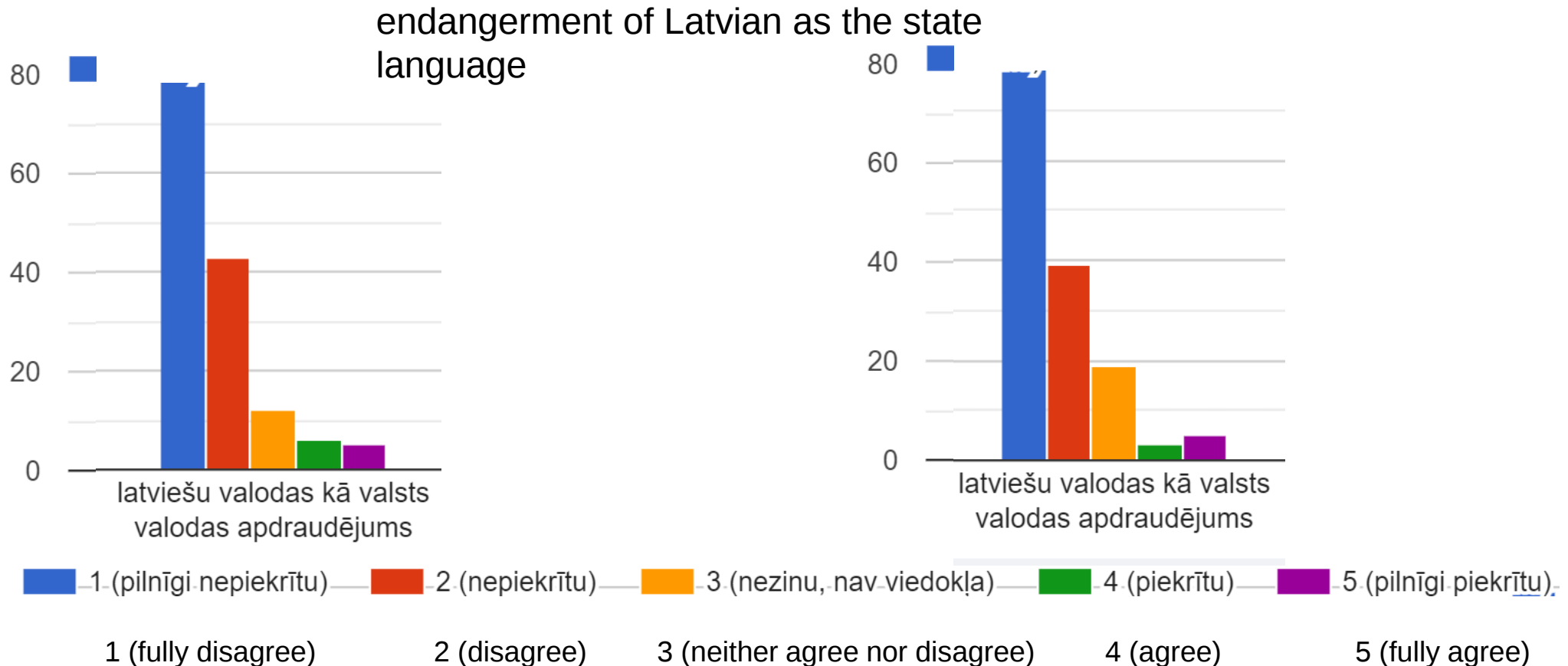
4 (agree)

5 (fully agree)

On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the following statements:
The installation of bilingual road signs in both

Latvian and Latgalian written language is

Latvian and Livonian is

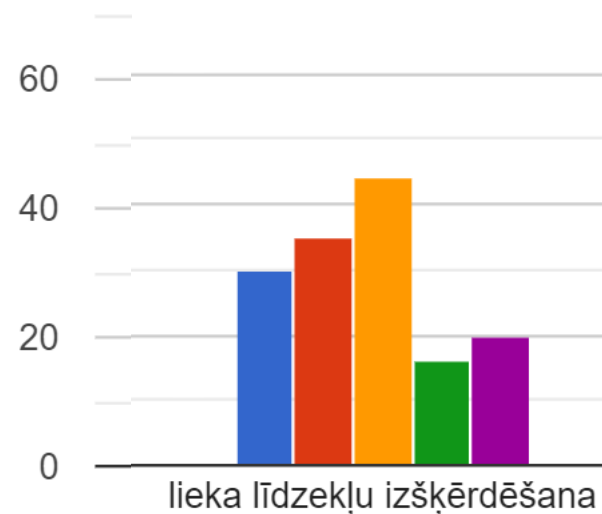
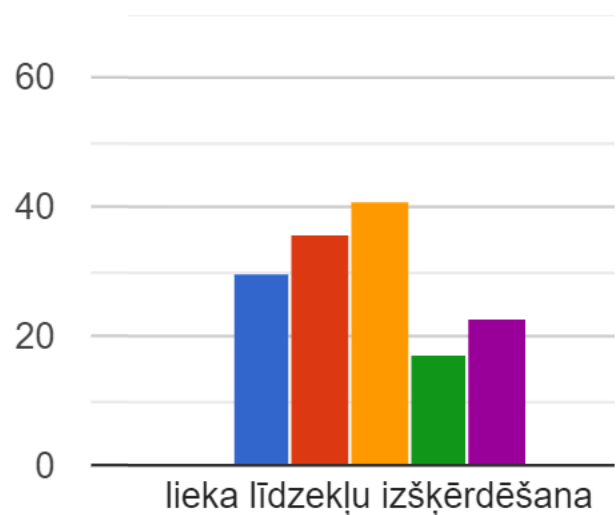


On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the following statements:
The installation of bilingual road signs in both

Latvian and Latgalian written language is

Latvian and Livonian is

an unnecessary waste of resources



1 (pilnīgi nepiekrītu) — 2 (nepiekrītu) — 3 (nezinu, nav viedokļa) — 4 (piekrītu) — 5 (pilnīgi piekrītu).

1 (fully disagree)

2 (disagree)

3 (neither agree nor disagree)

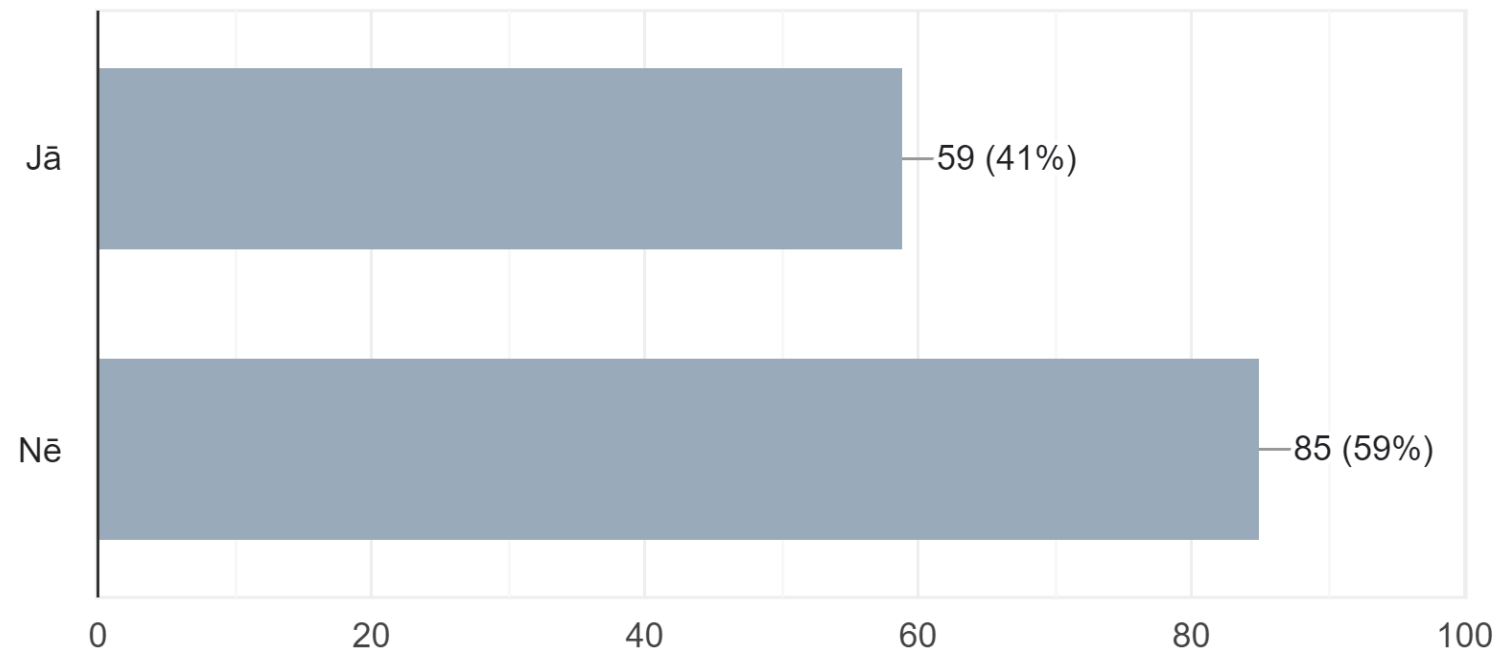
4 (agree)

5 (fully agree)

Did you observe road signs, other informative signs in the Latgalian written language in Latgale before the entry into force of the Law on Latvian Historical Lands (2021)?

Vai Latgalē esat ievērojis/-usi ceļa zīmes, informatīvas norādes (ielu nosaukumus, iestāžu nosaukumus u.c.) latgaliešu rakstu valodā pirms L...u vēsturisko zemju likuma stāšanās spēkā (2021)?

144 atbildes



Which municipalities, communities, or individuals have been the most active in implementing the Latgalian written language in public signage? (91 responses)

Kārsava / Kuorsova, 2014



Cibla / Cybla, 2021



Ludza, 2018

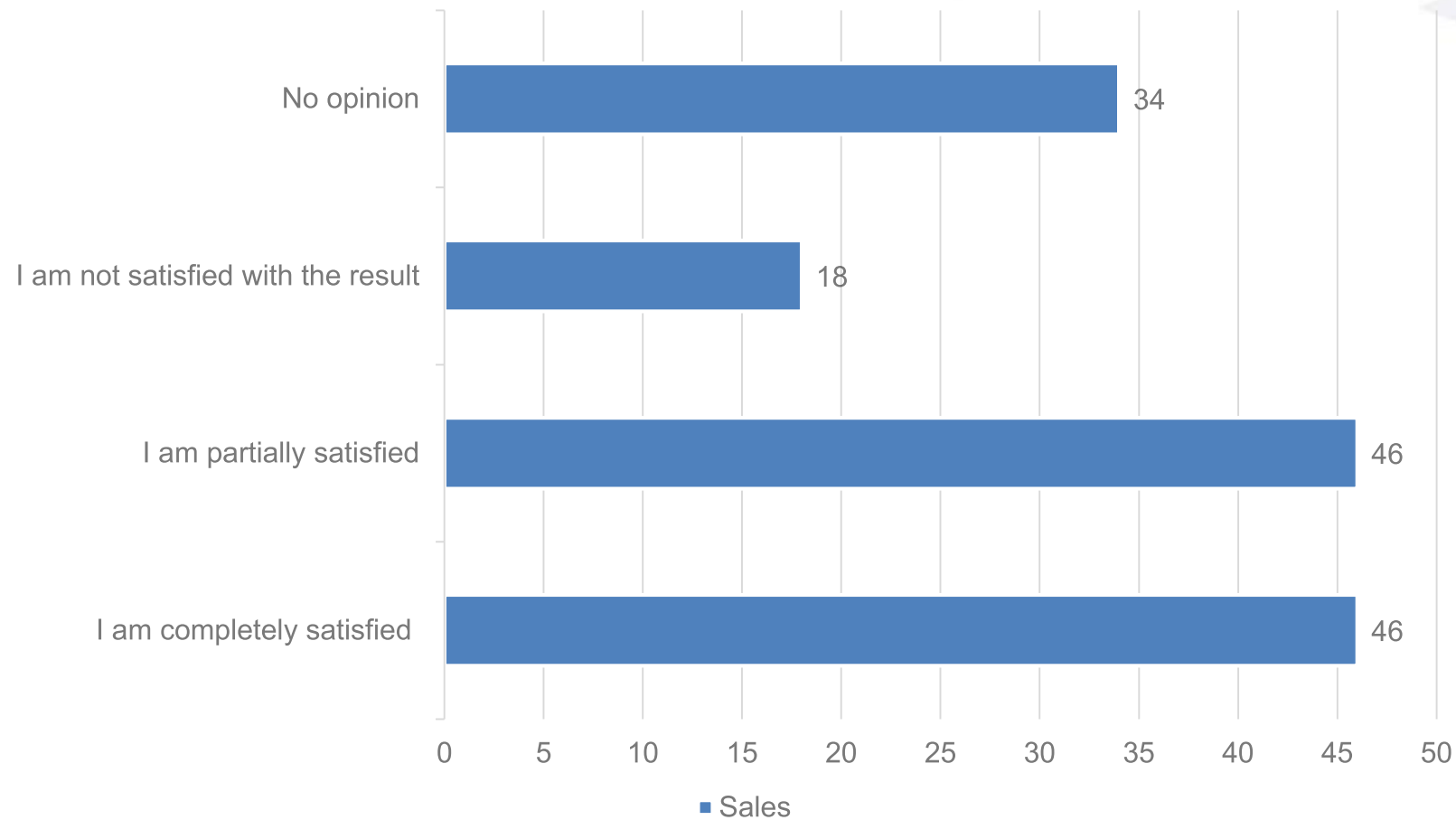


Nautrēni / Nautrāni, 2020



2022

How do you assess the results of the bilingual road sign installations in **Latgale**? (144 responses)





- *Tūristiem būtu interesanti, jo katrs novads ir ar savu odziņu (Rīga, M, 41-65)*
- *Tas ir interesanti pašiem latgaliešiem, iespējams kultūras un valodniecības cilvēkiem. Cik nācies dzirdēt: „kaut ko redzēju!”, (Latgele, F, 41-46)*
- *Kurzemē šo zīmju nav daudz, galvenokārt piekrastē. Ir labi, ka tās tur ir, vai vajag vairāk, nezinu. (Rīga, F, 41-65)*
- *Man ir interesanti redzēt rakstību latgaļu valodā un respektēju, ja tas ir svarīgi Latgales iedzīvotājiem. (Rīga, F, 41-65)*



- *Nav pīteikami līdzekļi, lai pabeigtu īsuoktū; ceļa zeimu izvērtējums naatbiļst viesturyskūs zemu lykuma nūsaceitajom viesturiskūs zemu rūbežom. (Latgale, F, 41-65)*
- *Manuprāt, ārzemnieks nevar īsti nolasīt, ka tie ir divi dažādi vienas vietas nosaukumi, nevis viens garš. Būtu gribējies vizuālu atšķirību un kur valsts valodā atveidojums ir nepārprotami būtiskāk izcelts. (Vidzeme, F, 25-40)*
- *Citām zīmēm, kur garš vārds, mainās tikai 1 burts. Tad jau tā zīmju pārtaisīšana šķiet izšķērdīga. Vai arī nosaukumi šķiet nepareizi latgaliski uzrakstīti (Rēzeknes novadā tos izrunātu nedaudz savādāk, kā tas zīmēs ierakstīts). (Latgale, F, 25-40)*



- *Pirmkārt, būtu jāsaremontē ceļi, tad jau domāt par greznības lietām kā ceļa zīmju mainīšana. Otrkārt, neesmu labs braucējs un manuprāt tādas zīmes tikai radīs problēmas braucējiem orientējoties ceļā.* (Latgale, M, 25-40)
- *Man nepatīk ka tagad visur bāž latgalisko, ka kautko īpašu. Mani tas kaitina.* (Latgale, M, 41-65)
- *Latvijā ir viena valsts valoda un tā arī jāizmanto sabiedrības informēšanai, tai skaitā arī par vietām.* (Latgale, M, 41-65)
- *Pilnīgi nevajadzīga līdzekļu izšķērdēšana un cilvēku sanaidošana.* (Vidzeme, F. 41-65)

In your opinion, what are the reasons why people have defaced or otherwise damaged inscriptions in Latgalian written language in public spaces? (101 responses)



Photo by Andris Slišāns (facebook.com),
23.10.2023

- *Nepatika pret latgaliešu rakstu valodu publiskajā telpā; viedoklis, ka šis rakstījums latgaliski nav pareizi; vienkārši - pusaudžu izklaidei. (Kurzeme, F, 41-65)*
- *1) viesturis nazynuošona; 2) identitatis krīze (Latgale, F, 41-65)*
- *Ar uzrakstiem latgaliešu valodā tiek provocēta krievu sabiedrības daļa. (Latgale, F, 41-65)*
- *Nepietiekama informētība. (Latgale, M, līdz 25 gadiem)*

Your comments and suggestions on the use of the Latgalian written language in the linguistic landscape (83 responses)

Latgaliešu valodu var plašāk lietot dažādos uzrakstos, reklāmās, izkārtnēs. (Latgale, vīrietis, 41-65 gadi)

Jāpaplašina uzrakstu daudzveidība. Piem., izglītības iestāžu nosaukumos. (Latgale, sieviete, 41-65 gadi)

Varētu būt pietiekami. (Rīga, sieviete, 41-65 gadi)

Your comments and suggestions on the use of the Latgalian written language in the Latgalian linguistic landscape (83 responses)

Tikai ģimenes tradīciju saglabāšanai un identitātei. Svarīgākais - stiprināt latviešu valodas pozīcijas Latgalē, kur nacionālais īpatsvars nav 92% (latvieši), piemēram, kā Ziemeļkurzemes reģionā. (Kurzeme, sievietes, 41-64 gadi)

Katrā ciemā runā citādāk, savā izloksnē. Tikai priekš tūristiem. Nevajag uzspiest mākslīgi. (Latgale, F, 41-64)

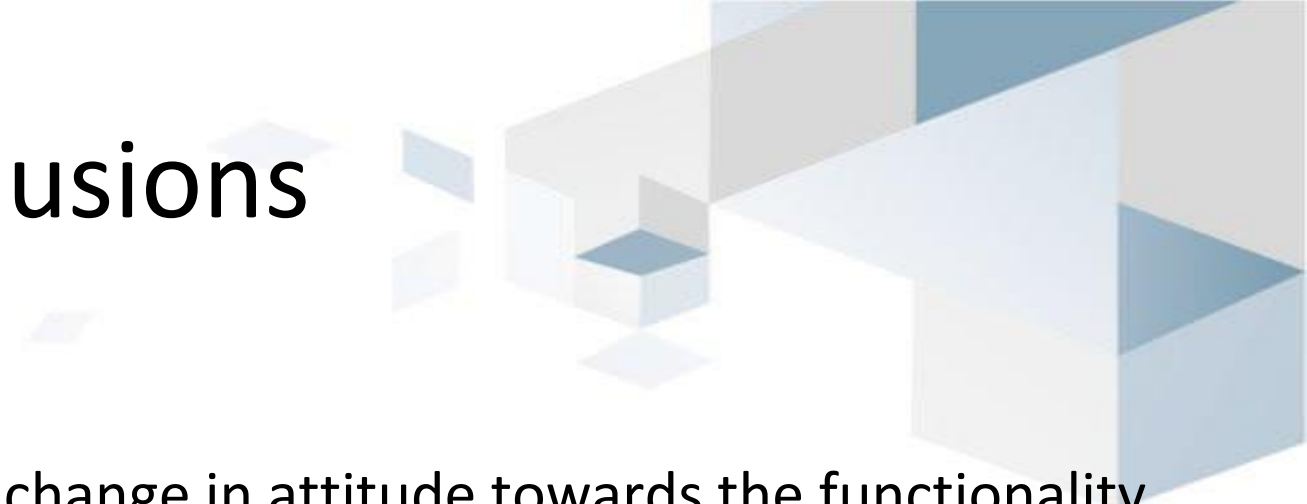
Pirms rakstīt nosaukumu izpētīt kā ir pareizi. Piemēram: Varakļuoni - nekāda sakara ne ar izrunu ne ar vārda būtību. Vara kluoni = Vara klāni norāda uz augsnes sastāvu. (Latgale, M, 41-65)

Mani labāk apmierina variants, ka uzraksti ir tikai latviešu valodā, jo vietu nosaukumi jau tika mainīti, atbilstoši to vēsturiskajam nosaukumam, 90.gados (Latgale, F, 41-64)

The effective implementation of bilingual signage (O'Donnell&Trotter, 2021:8)

- **robust stakeholder engagement** that maps the values, preferences and concerns of relevant stakeholders;
- **an iterative design process** that incorporates best-practice design and research with the needs and requirements of the relevant stakeholders;
- **the development of relevant legislation** and standards to enable bilingual traffic signage;
- **pragmatic budgeting**, potentially with staged implementation across traffic sign categories;
- **targeted communication, education and engagement to successfully transition the public;**
- **ongoing monitoring to determine the effects of any new sign designs**, as well as to close the research gaps.

Conclusions



- At the state level, there is a noticeable change in attitude towards the functionality of the Livonian and Latgalian written language in the linguistic landscape of Latvia (legislation, funding).
- Municipalities and individuals face several challenges, such as transcribing place names in Standard Latgalian, taking into account phonetic and morphological variants functioning in different sub-dialects, as well as the public's ambiguous attitude towards the use of Latgalian place name variants in public spaces.
- There is a need for broader public awareness and education, both about the historical, cultural context and linguistic processes.

References

- *Law on Historical Regions of Latvia*. 2021. (<https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/324253>) (Accessed 2023-10-31.)
- LRT 2016 - *Kārsavas novads nepieņems Valodas centru – ielu norādes arī turpmāk būs latgaliski* (https://www.lsm.lv/raksts/zinas/latvija/karsavas-novads-nepiekapjas-valodas-centram--ielu-norades-ari-turpmak-bus-latgaliski.a174952/?utm_source=lsn&utm_medium=article-bottom&utm_campaign=article)
- LVC 2023 – *Gar valsts autoceļiem sāk uzstādīt ceļazīmes lībiešu un latgaliešu rakstu valodā* (lvceli.lv)
- ReTV 2021 - Liepiņa, S. *Nelauj izvietot ceļa zīmes lībiešu valodā*. (<https://www.retv.lv/raksts/nelauj-izvietot-cela-zimes-libiesu-valoda>)
- O'Donnell, K., & Trotter, M. (2021). *Bilingual traffic signage: International experiences and outcomes*. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency research note 005.

Thank you!

Paldies!

Paļdis!

Tienū!

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