

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

### **Mārtiņš Bitāns**

Mārtiņš Bitāns was born in Livāni on 30 January 1975. He graduated from the University of Latvia in 1997 with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics, followed by a Master's Degree in International Economics from the University of Southern Denmark in Odense. M. Bitāns began his career at the Bank of Latvia in 1998 as an economist at the Monetary Policy Department. Afterwards he worked as an economist and Head of the Monetary Research and Forecasting Division, later becoming Adviser at the Monetary Policy Department and Adviser to the Deputy Governor of the Bank of Latvia on monetary and financial matters, and subsequently the Deputy Head of the Monetary Policy Department. M. Bitāns was Latvia's representative at the IMF in 2007–2009, while performing the responsibilities of the Adviser to the Executive Director of the Nordic-Baltic Constituency of the IMF. He has mainly done research on global competitiveness and sustainable economic growth. He is the author of several publications and many commentaries.

### **Kristīne Ducmane**

Kristīne Ducmane was born in Beja parish on 28 April 1946. She graduated from the Faculty of History and Philosophy of the University of Latvia (a degree in history) and did post-graduate studies at the Department of Numismatics of the State Hermitage in St. Petersburg in 1974–1976. She was awarded the Candidate of Sciences Degree in History in 1980 and obtained the Doctor's Degree in History in 1992. She worked as laboratory assistant at the Department of Archaeology of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR, was researcher with the Department of Numismatics of the History Museum of Latvia, Head of the Numismatics Department of the National History Museum of Latvia in 1987–2010, thereafter continuing with the research activities. She was a member of the Commission for the Thematic Concept of the Banknotes and Coins of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia in 1992 and 1993, Secretary General of the Latvian National Committee of History Sciences in 1992–2002, and member of the State Heraldry Commission since 1993.

K. Ducmane is the author of many books, encyclopaedias and historical essays, among them *Apbalvojumi Latvijas Republikā, 1918–1940* (1993), *Nauda* (2004), *Triju Zvaigžņu gaismā* (1997), *Nauda Latvijā* (1995), *Cēsu pils dārgumi* (2006) and *Latvija Eiropā*. She is the co-author of the publication *Monētu depozīti 1.–20. gadsimtā* (2009), the author of many scientific and educational papers as well as several exhibitions on the history of money. She has appeared at international scientific conferences.

### **Viesturs Pauls Karnups**

Viesturs Pauls Karnups was born on 30 May 1946 in Ekenford (Germany). He studied in Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, and received a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Anthropology (1973–1975), a diploma in pedagogics (1976), a Bachelor's Degree (Honours) in Sociology (1977). He received a professional diploma in applied economics from the University of Canberra (Australia) (1980–1982), obtained his Master's Degree in Economics from the Department of International Economic Relations, Faculty of Economics and Management of the University of Latvia (1997–1999), and a Doctor's Degree in Economics from the Faculty of Economics and Management of the University of Latvia (1999–2004). V. P. Karnups lived in Australia until 1990, where he was the Vice-president of the Latvian Federation of Australia and New Zealand in Canberra and the President of the Latvian Youth Association in Australia. He has lived in Latvia since 1991. He was a member of the Parliament (5th Saeima) and the Director of the Citizenship and Immigration Department.

He has worked as associate professor at the Department of International Economic Relations, Faculty of Economics and Management of the University of Latvia, director of the professional higher education Bachelor's programme "International economic relations", university lecturer on history of economics, Baltic economy, economic anthropology and business ethics. He was the recipient of the Fulbright scholarship in Washington (US) in 2008 and worked as a visiting professor at the University of Rijeka (Croatia) in 2012. He has done research on Latvia's foreign trade with Scandinavia (1920–1940) and published several papers on the history of Latvia's and international economy. He studies and prepares Latvia's historical national accounts and has likewise participated in many international scientific conferences.

### **Gatis Krūmiņš**

Gatis Krūmiņš was born on 15 August 1973. He studied at the Latvian Academy of Music (1992–1996, Bachelor's Degree in Art) and at the University of Latvia (1998–2000; Master's Degree in History). In 2002–2007, he was a doctoral student at the Department of History of the Faculty of History and Philosophy of the University of Latvia and was awarded a Doctor's Degree in History in 2007. He read a course of lectures "The Latvian economy in 1940–1991" at the Faculty of History and Philosophy of the University of Latvia and was supervisor of term papers and Bachelor's theses. He has done research for the Commission set up to identify the number of victims of the USSR totalitarian communist occupation regime, locate mass graves, compile all information about repressions and mass deportations as well as calculate the loss and damages inflicted by the said regime on Latvia and its population (2006–2008; study *Damage inflicted by the USSR occupation regime on the Latvian economy in 1944–1959*). He has been engaged in research work for the Commission of the Historians of Latvia (*Agriculture in Latvia 1985–1990, Organisation of Territorial Administration and the Policy of Selection of the Leading Staff in Latvia in 1944–1947*). G. Krūmiņš has been a member of the Latvian Council of Science since 2010 and has participated in several international scientific conferences. He is the Chairman of the Board of the Association of Latvian Young Scientists and a Board Member of the Latvian Union of Scientists. His scientific studies have been published in periodicals *Latvijas Vēsture, Latvijas Vēstures Institūta Žurnāls* and other publications.

### **Vita Pilsuma**

Vita Pilsuma was born in Riga on 18 March 1956. She studied at the Faculty of Finance and Trade of the University of Latvia (finances and crediting; 1974–1979) and obtained a diploma of professional higher education in economics. V. Pilsuma did her Master's studies in social sciences at the University of Latvia in 2000–2003, and was a doctoral student in the programme *Finances and Crediting* at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Latvia in 2003–2007. She was awarded Master's Degree in Economics in 2003 and obtained her Doctor's Degree in economics in 2010. V. Pilsuma has attended courses and seminars organised by the IMF, the World Bank, *Banca d'Italia*, the Bank of England, *Banque de France* and *Oesterreichische Nationalbank*; she did a traineeship period at the state Bank of Indiana, the US, and *Sedlabanki Islands* and *Sveriges Riksbank* using a scholarship awarded by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

V. Pilsuma has worked in Latvia's banking system and from 9 October 1991 was the Head of the International Department of the Bank of Latvia. The Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia appointed V. Pilsuma a Member of the Council of the Bank of Latvia on 31 March 1993. The Parliament of the Republic of Latvia reappointed V. Pilsuma Member of the Council of the Bank of Latvia on 4 March 1999, 17 March 2005, and 17 February 2011.

Pilsuma was the representative of the Bank of Latvia at the Committee of European Banking Supervisors in 2005–2010 and since 2011 has represented the Bank of Latvia in the Board of Supervisors of the EBA. V. Pilsuma's scientific studies have been published in several peer reviewed periodicals, and she has participated in scientific conferences both in Latvia and abroad.

### **Āris Puriņš**

Āris Puriņš was born in Riga on 5 January 1943. He graduated from the Faculty of History and Philosophy of the University of Latvia (Degree in history) in 1974. He has been committed to research work since 1973. Ā. Puriņš concluded post-graduate studies at the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR in 1986 and was awarded a Candidate of Sciences Degree in History. He worked at the National Library of Latvia, lectured and carried out research work at the Department of USSR History and the Department of Latvian History at the Faculty of History and Philosophy of the State University of Latvia; he worked at the General Office and Publications Department of the Bank of Latvia in 1995–2005. Ā. Puriņš conducted and published scientific studies on the history of Latvian libraries, cultural activities of trade unions, and the history of the Latvian Communist Party member organisation of the Latvian State University in 1944–1991. He is the author of several articles on the foundation of Latvia as well as other topics. His book about Andrievs Niedra *Četri gadi un viss mūžs* was published in 2005.

### **Vilnis Purviņš**

Vilnis Purviņš was born in Riga on 6 January 1958. V. Purviņš graduated from the Faculty of Finance and Trade of the Latvian State University (finances and crediting) in 1981 and worked at the State Bank of the USSR till 1991. In 1991 he started working at the Bank of Latvia as chief economist of the Monetary Policy Department, later Head and Deputy Head of the Macroeconomic Analysis Division, and afterwards chief economist. V. Purviņš participated in the introduction of the national currency, development of banking and monetary statistics, establishment and development of macroeconomic analysis work. Currently he is engaged in the analysis of money supply and banking performance. He is the author of several publications and many commentaries.

### **Pauls Raudseps**

Pauls Raudseps was born in Columbus, Ohio (US), on 25 December 1963 and grew up in Boston. He was awarded a degree in Russian and Soviet studies at the Harvard University. He has been living in Latvia since 1990. He joined the Popular Front of Latvia, which led the struggle to renew the independence of Latvia. He is one of the leading journalists and analysts in Latvia. P. Raudseps was among the founders of newspaper *Diena*, its editor-in-chief, and editor of the commentary page; he is co-founder of the weekly magazine *Ir*, political commentator and contributing analyst.

### **Laila Rūse**

Laila Rūse was born in Jelgava on 26 April 1940. L. Rūse studied at the Faculty of Economics and Law of the Latvian State University (1965–1975; finance and crediting; professional Master's degree) and did post-graduate studies at the Institute of Economics of the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR (1973–1975). L. Rūse worked as an accountant at Gulbene and Limbaži Branches of the State Bank of the USSR and was economist and senior economist at the Latvian Regional Office of the Construction Bank. Later she worked as an economist and researcher at the Institute of Economics of the Academy of Sciences, focusing on the matters of economic planning. In 1992–2001, she worked at the Bank of Latvia as the Head and Deputy Head of the Monetary Policy Department and developed the mechanism of monetary policy decisionmaking and implementation. She worked as an assistant to member of the Parliament in 2002–2006. She has been a member of the Riga City Council Audit Commission since 2006. L. Rūse has deepened her knowledge at courses and seminars organised by the BIS, the IMF, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Bank of England, *Oesterreichische Nationalbank* and the Swiss National Bank. She is the author of several publications.