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# **Latvian folk applied arts studios – social responsibility or place of knowledge transfer**

**Linda Rubena**

**Latvian National Centre for Culture, Latvia**

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## What is a **Folk Applied Art Studio**?

- Studies began to develop in the 1960s at the cultural centers in various regions of Latvia;
- The best studios were awarded the "Honorary Name". This was done by the Ministry of Culture until 1990;
- Folk applied art studios are still developing in various regions of Latvia - currently **128** studios;
- It's not just about spending your free time, but striving for quality results;
- The studios retain their ancient crafts and skills.



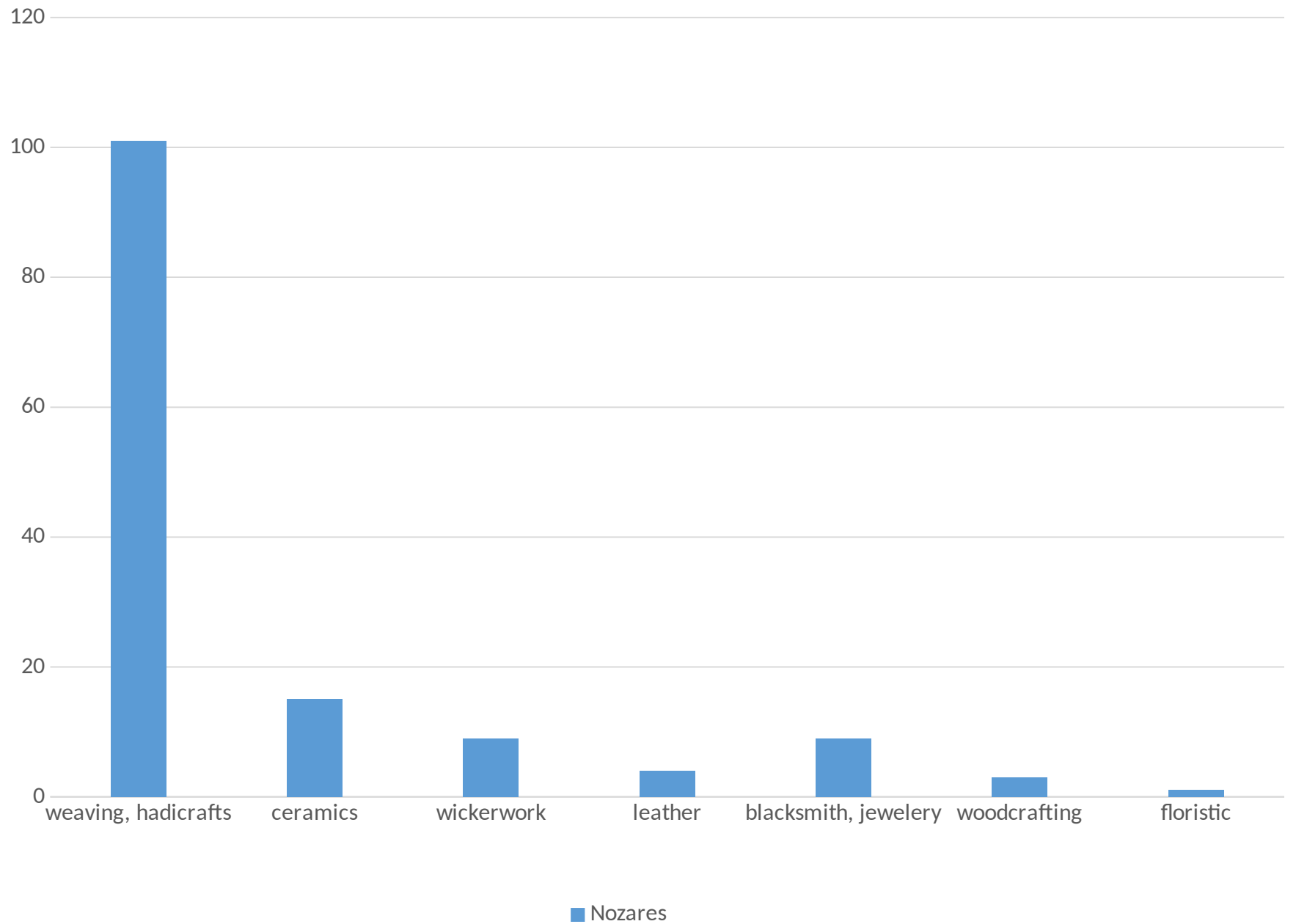
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## The folk applied arts studio hosts

- Craft skills - craft skills are acquired from senior and experienced members;
- Some studios have developed special training programs, such as «Rota» studio in Riga, where the young participant takes 3 years of special classes to learn the basics of weaving - theory and practice before being included in the studio;
- Studies include studying traditional cultural heritage - in museums and from written sources, from which they educate themselves;
- The studios organize exhibitions of their participants works, sometimes creating special thematic exhibitions;
- With their works they participate in national exhibitions as well as outside Latvia;
- The participants of the studio participate in fairs with their works;
- The participants of the studio sometimes become self-employed entrepreneurs;
- There is an active changing of generations in the studios;
- Studio space, electricity costs and the studio head are paid from municipal budget (not everywhere);
- Studio heads also have little financial support from the government.



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## Head of studio

- The head of studio is a studio member who is committed to coordinating and directing studio work, sometimes being the chief artistic director of the studio;
- The head of studio have artistic education or in recent years at least LNKC courses specially for the head of studio;
- The head of the studio is familiar with the history, ethnography, composition of folk applied arts;
- Sometimes the studio head needs pedagogical and psychological education.



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Paldies!

Riga city Culture and Folk Art Centre „Ritums”, video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIZuPKZrnYI&t=1038s>

Linda Rubena

Expert of folk applied art

Latvian National Centre for Culture

[linda.rubena@lnkc.gov.lv](mailto:linda.rubena@lnkc.gov.lv)

+37126658903