

**“From Soviet vassal to free democratic member of the Nordics and the EU”**

**5-day study visit to Latvia,  
Sunday – Friday, 18 – 23<sup>th</sup>  
of May 2025**



***Song festival, Riga 2023***

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# Erasmus+

The study visit will be supported by the Danish National Agency  
of the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union

## 1. The frame of the study visit

### Study visit title:

From Soviet vasaal to free democratic member of the Nordics and the EU.

### Time and places

The 5-day study course takes place from Sunday to Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2025.

## 2. Summary of the Erasmus+ mobility plan

### Context

The course is part of the Erasmus+ Mobility project: “NGO cooperation for European diverse heritage and shared values (COOP), incl. four courses in the period: July 2024 – December 2025.

The mobility project is coordinated by [NGO-Netværket for internationalt projektarbejde](#)

### Aim and objectives

The overall aim for this Mobility Project is to transfer new experiences and competences with social and green sustainability to our members from the Danish civil society.

The objectives are:

- to transfer experiences and good practice examples from other EU member states and to gain new inspiration and increasing innovativeness in our own activities, and
- to present good practices and methods in combining social and green sustainability, and thereby putting the green words into action without leaving no one behind.

### Number and profile of participants

Max 8 participants.

The target groups are staff and volunteers that are active in the civil societies in the Danish Kingdom, and who have become members of the NGO-Network.

## 3. The host organisation and the sending organisations

### The host association

The host organisation is Rite Folk High School - see <https://ritestautskola.org/>  
Rites pagasts, Jekabpils novads, Latvia, LV-5228

Contact: [ritestautskola@inbox.lv](mailto:ritestautskola@inbox.lv)

Niels Bendix Knudsen: Mail [nbendix@mail.dk](mailto:nbendix@mail.dk) and telf. 0045 40312345

Rite Folk High School is a private independent institution, which is located in Rite municipality, Jekabpils Novads, Latvia.

The purpose of the institution is to support a system of adult education in Latvia by creating a Folk High School inspired by the Danish tradition of Grundtvig Folk High Schools. This means that the overall goal of the school must always be enlightenment of people in order to give the students the opportunity to develop authority, openness, energy and a strong commitment to democratic governance and values.

The operation of the school is financed by voluntary contributions from members of the support circles in Denmark and Latvia, payment for courses and support from national, regional and local Latvian and Nordic governments. In addition, support from private funds.

The school building is a former primary school, which has been converted into a folk high school with 11 rooms, where it can accommodate from 2 and up to 8 people per. room. Max occupancy is 35-40 people, in addition there are classrooms, dining room and institution kitchen.

### **The sending association**

The sending organisation is the NGO Network for International Project Work (NGO-Netværket for internationalt projektarbejde) - see <https://ngo-netvaerk.dk/>

The NGO Network was founded in March 2021 as an ideal and voluntary association. The purpose of the association is to develop a forum where active members of Danish civil society can exchange experiences, disseminate knowledge and support each other in developing transnational activities that can strengthen free and democratic associational life in the Nordic and European civil societies.

The association's activities may include knowledge sharing and exchange of experience, mentoring, courses and conferences, debate activities, publications and development work, both in the Commonwealth, the Nordic area, the Baltic Sea region, the European Union and wider international contexts.

In the first years, the NGO Network for international project work will offer:

- A series of short 1-hour online webinars for Danish NGOs with knowledge and experience exchange about developing the international project activities.
- More onsite theme meetings and events on the development opportunities with international networks and collaborative projects.
- International events, such as study tours, contact meetings and theme conferences.
- Counselling on finding foreign partners, preparing applications and coordinating international projects.

#### **Course & travel leaders:**

Lis Hazel Nielsen, board member of the NGO-Network: (+45) 23 44 41 79 \* [lishazel18@gmail.com](mailto:lishazel18@gmail.com)

## **4. Day-to-day programme for the Latvian study visit**

### **Period:**

A 5-days trip from Sunday to Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2025. The 5-day course programme takes place from Monday morning to Friday afternoon, 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> of May.

Flights to Riga, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> of May: 17.25 From Copenhagen Airport (CPH) to Riga Airport (RIX):

Return flights, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of May: 19:00 From Riga Airport to Copenhagen Airport.

We go by taxi from Riga Airport to hotel.  
Local transport in Riga go by bus.  
Tuesday, we rent a minibus in Riga Airport to handle the transport to Rite Tautskola and we deliver it again at the airport.



## The day-to-day programme

### *Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> of May*

Evening:

- Departure from Copenhagen Airport 17.25 to Riga Airport 19.30 and travel by taxi to hotel in the centre of Riga:

### *Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> of May*

Morning:

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 09.00 Guided tour (Esben Kalhøj) in Riga old Town incl. coffee break
- 13.00 Lunch and a walk and talk in Alberta iela, which is a famous street for art nouveau construction.

Afternoon:

- Visiting Occupations Museum
- Private visit to a gallery Zoo

Evening:

- Dinner in Restaurant Pargrabs



13.5.24 - Facaden på Medicinhistoriske Museum. Den Russiske Ambassade ligger overfor og gaden hedder Ukraines Frihedsgade, sådan, så kan han lære det.



Art Nouveau House in Alberta iela



Outdoor restaurant in the old town

### *Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> of May*

Morning:

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 10.00 Meeting with the Danish ambassador in Latvia

Afternoon:

- Lunch at Lido
- Visit to the National Gallery
- Departure by minibus to Rite Folk High School

Evening:

- Dinner at Rite Folk High School
- Guided tour at the Folk High School
- Introduction to next day's excursions

### *Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> of May*

#### Morning:

- Breakfast at the School
- Visit to a local entrepreneur with organic products
- Visit the local municipality and school
- Visiting an old Kolhos from Soviet time

#### Afternoon

- Lunch at Rite Folk Highschool
- Round trip in the area including a visit to a local inn.
- Visiting Viesite Museum

#### Evening

- Dinner at Rite Folk High School
- Introduction to the activities of the Folk High School



Front of Rite Folk High School



Visiting a contractor at a coffee roastery.



Creativity at the summer school

### *Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of May.*

#### Morning:

- Breakfast at the School
- 09.00 Visit to a bee farm
- 10.30 Visit a cow farm
- 12.00 Visit Nereta luteran church
- Lunch in Nereta

#### Afternoon

- Trip to the village Akniste visiting museum.
- Meet Haralds Bruninieks, he is telling about partizans in Latvia (1945- 58)
- Visit to a local cemetery

#### Evening

- Festive dinner with board members and other local NGOs
- Course conclusion with handover of Certificate of Attention



Life Role Play for young people



Women singing in front of the school



Party at the school

### ***Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of May***

Morning:

- Breakfast at the School
- Departure by minibus to Riga Airport
- Visiting Kegums Waterpower station (Kegums Hess)
- Lunch in Lielvarde “Panne”
- Visiting sculpture park (Lasplaces)

Afternoon

- Flight back to Copenhagen Airport

## **5. Practical information**

### **Conditions and price**

The course is free. The mobility grant can cover the travel costs, beds, and meals as well as the study programme and fee for the hosts. The Erasmus+ mobility grant will cover the following costs:

- The administration costs of proving the Erasmus+ application and reporting, planning the programme, preparing Mobility Agreements with all participants, booking travels and accommodation, and course evaluation.
- The participants’ course fee for the 4 days programme which we must pay to our Latvian host organisations.
- The costs of a basic return flight ticket incl. hand baggage and up to 20 kg suitcase, but not extra costs for specific seat reservation, travel insurances, drinks, and meals during the flight.
- The rent of a minibus for local transport from the Airport to and from the hotel as well as local transport during the visits Tuesday – Friday.
- Booking of beds for two nights from Sunday to Tuesday in single room (or double room if wished) in Riga, and three nights from Tuesday to Friday in single or double rooms at [Rite Folk High School](#).
- Provision of main meals as breakfast, lunch, dinner, and coffee breaks all days, from Monday to Friday.

The participants shall only bring pocket money to cover their possible café visits in the free time, extra drinks during the common meals, costs of souvenirs, presents, etc.

Visa card can be used most places in Latvia, and it is easy to find cash machines in Riga Airport or in Riga city.

### **Tour leader and contact person**

Lis Hazel Nielsen, tour leader and project manager: (+45) 23444179 [\\*LisHazel18@gmail.com](mailto:LisHazel18@gmail.com)



Rite High School is located on the blue cross