

# Nordic Newsletter

Nordic events and activities in Latvia

October 2020

## Recent events

### Nordic Days Rezekne

Every year the Nordic embassies, together with NCM Latvia and the Danish Culture Institute organize the Nordic Days in one of Latvia's regions. The common goal is to promote and strengthen the Nordic-Baltic relations throughout Latvia. This year's Nordic Days took place in the region of Latgale, namely Rezekne on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of September and offered a rich and varied programme.



The Nordic delegation was welcomed at Rezekne City Council by the chairman and members, following a meeting with young students and staff at Rezekne State Gymnasium No. 1 – discussing everything from education in the Nordics and being a youth in Latgale. The delegation later had a guided tour of the city's beautiful synagogue, which is restored through the EEA/Norway Grants programme. A range of Nordic culture was displayed through exhibitions. Among them were 'Green together' – showcasing Danish solutions to a transition to a green lifestyle, 'Swedish Crime Scenes' which celebrates the boom of detective novels, 'Sustainable Nordic Cities' demonstrates Nordic solutions and were donated to the university by NCM Latvia. The Norwegian artist Beate Gjersvold and Latvian artist Anita Meldere opened their art display 'Nordic Bridge' – a tribute to their long-term friendship and cooperation. 'Nordic Bridge' can still be visited at the Culture and History Museum till the end of October.

The delegation attended the screening of the Finnish/Latvian documentary 'Fedja' at the opening of Nordic Film Days. The film tells the story of the famous Finnish director Teuvo Tulio, whose root comes from Latgale.

A beautiful concert by Vestards and Elīna Šimkus and an open-air reception at the Latgale embassy GORS concluded the Nordic visit to Rezekne. The concert 'Nothern Lights' offered music composed by Edvard Grieg, Ture Rangström, Jāzeps Mediņš, Sergejs Rahmaninovs, Olli Mustonen, Carl Nielsen and Vestards Šimkus himself.



Read the full Nordic Days programme of [here](#).

### **Launch of Norway Grants programme: Business Development, innovation and SMEs in Latvia**

The Latvian Investment and Development Agency (LIAA) organized on 15<sup>th</sup> of October the launch of the new Norway Grants programme, which constitute €12,500,00 directed towards Green Industry Innovation, ICT, Welfare Technology in Latvia. Norwegian Ambassador Kristian Ødegaard and EEA and Norway Grants Program Director Magnar Ødelien were among the speakers at this opening event. You can read more about Norway Grant's cooperation in Latvia [here](#).

### **Seminar "Sustainable development of libraries and society: We create this world ourselves"**

Norwegian ambassador Kristian Ødegaard opened the seminar for librarians in the Latgale region, which included a key speaker from Norway, Heidi Hovemoen. The focus was recognizing and appreciating the potential libraries have in becoming community centres for sustainable development and encouraging society to explore the relationship between local and global challenges.



### **Opening of the “Livonian Coast – Gotland: Photo and music exhibition”**

The exhibition by photographer [Janis Mednis](#), supported by the Swedish embassy and NCM Latvia, opened on 8<sup>th</sup> of October at the National Library. The exhibition is a virtual bridge between two beautiful coastlines that share both cultural and historical similarities. The combination of visual materials and Gotlandic and Livonian traditional music forms an exciting story and understanding of the two shores. The exhibition will be on display at the National Library of Latvia from October 8<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Finnish photographer’s exhibition in Latvian Museum of Photography**

The solo exhibition ‘Choreography of Violence’ by Finnish photographer Harri Pälviranta was opened for visitors on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Choreography of Violence is a photographic project that visually reinterprets historical press photographs, which depict actual acts of violence, using a combination of new works and appropriated photographs.

### **‘Voices of Europe’ is airing on Latvian radio**

Latvijas Radio 5 has started airing the musical radio show ‘Voices of Europe’, portraying young people from different European countries living in Latvia by playing music from their country. The show is an initiative from EUNIC (European Union National Institutes for Culture network) where both the Danish Culture Institute and NCM Latvia are partners. This year’s Nordic participants come from Norway, Denmark and Finland. Follow [this link](#) to have a listen.

### **NCM-organised workshop at the EUSBR Annual Forum**

NCM Latvia participated in the speaker’s panel and the ensuing discussion at the NCM-organised workshop “Boosting policy innovation across the BSR’s sustainable bioeconomy:

Learning from key trends and value chain opportunities during and after the COVID-19 crisis”, an event which is part of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Region (EUSBR) Annual Forum.

### **Norwegian speaker on relationships and mental health**

The Latvian movement “Viegli kopā būt” (Easy being together) organized on 10<sup>th</sup> of October, in occasion of the world mental health day, a conference about the importance of relationships for mental health. NCM Latvia supported the event with a Norwegian speaker; professor, author and couple therapist Frode Thuen. Watch the whole conference [here](#).

### **‘Nordic Highlights’ at the Riga International Film Festival**



The seventh Riga International Film Festival (RIGA IFF) will take place in eleven days, 129 films in ten thematic programs from October 15 to 25 this year. Viewers will have the opportunity not only to see already acclaimed works at world film festivals, but also to get acquainted with expressive and bold viewpoints from the Baltic Sea region and the Nordic countries, as well as to experience talented debuts and long-awaited domestic films. One of the festival's thematic programs is a selection of Nordic Highlights films, which has traditionally been produced in co-operation with the embassies of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland, as well as the Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia and the Danish Cultural Institute in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. This year, the Nordic Highlight program includes 13 films.

See the full programme [here](#).

### **How to organize environmentally friendly events**

Friday October 16<sup>th</sup> NCM LV organised a seminar for its staff and colleagues from Nordic Embassies on how to take sustainability and environmental aspects into account when organising event.

## Coming events

### 21 October

Danish embassy in cooperation with Ørsted and Port of Hvide Sande, Latvian Investment and Development Agency and Wind Energy Association, will have a roundtable discussion “Wind Energy as an Engine for a Port City Development”.

### 20-23 October

The annual conference ‘Digital Humanities in the Nordic Countries’ (DHN) takes place in the Baltics for the first time. DHN is an organisation with the purpose to strengthen research, education and communication in the field of Digital Humanities through activities and coordination. This year’s conference is supported by the NCM.

### 22 October

The Barbershop Conference on Men’s Role in Promoting Equal Rights in Modern Society is organised by the Ministry of Welfare, co-financed by the NCM. This event is a part of the joint Nordic-Baltic cooperation on gender equality, bringing state and municipal officials, NGOs and experts of various fields to reflect on men’s wellbeing and challenges men are facing as fathers, employers and employees, as well as men’s role in promoting gender equality. The event will take place on RISEBA Architecture and Media Centre H2O 6 in Riga and online. [Read more](#).

### 26 October

The Danish Cultural Institute in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania marks their 30<sup>th</sup> jubilee with the launch of their choir and music project ‘Harmonic Voices’. The event will be streamed online and offer musical performances, as well as speeches from people who have contributed to the Institutes’ work in the Baltics over the years.

### 27 October

The seminar “Museums for Environmental Sustainability” will take place at the Latvian National Museum of Art and on livestream. NCM Latvia will support the seminar with a Nordic perspective from Moderna Museet, talking about the project “Acclimatize”.

### 28 October

The industry conference ‘Energy 2020’ in Riga will take place both in person and online. NCM Latvia is supporting the event with a Nordic speaker. Klaus Skytte, CEO of Nordic Energy Research will address the potential of Nordic-Baltic cooperation to strengthen the energy sector.

### 30 October

Annual conference "Development of Social Work: Voice of Social Work" will be organised by the Ministry of Welfare, where NCM LV Office will help providing a Nordic speaker.