

Nordic Newsletter

Nordic events and activities in Latvia

January 2021

Recent events

Adoption of the Danish pictogram system in Baltic countries

Today, waste communication varies from country to country and in some cases from municipalities to municipalities. This can create confusion among citizens, and ultimately lead to ineffective waste management. Therefore, the Danish Waste Association together with partners, have developed a common pictogram system to be used for waste sorting all over Denmark. The pictogram system is currently being implemented in several Nordic countries and NCM Latvia is now, together with the NCM offices in Estonia and Lithuania looking to extend the project to the Baltic countries.



Baltic countries have high amounts of waste that ends up in landfilling, something that was highlighted by the [circular textile system-project](#) carried out in all Baltic countries. More specifically, in Latvia, there has not been an approach to develop a unified design or to involve citizens in the process until now, and for this reason the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development are highly motivated to move forward with waste pictograms at a national level in Latvia. Cooperation partners include the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development in Latvia, Things Foundation in Estonia, Public Institution "Mes Darom" in Lithuania, Dansk Affaldsforening and Avfall Sverige.

"Icons" goes digital!

The Swedish exhibition "Icons - the right to exist" have been at display in Sigulda and Riga since last fall and is now available for everyone in a digital format. This provides a great opportunity for those who could not attend in person and for those who want to relive it. The video also presents a chance to listen to the life stories of the models. Watch the exhibition following this [link](#).

Happy double anniversary!

This year, NCM Latvia will celebrate its 30th anniversary, which also coincides with the NCM 50th anniversary. This will be a good reason to remind about the Nordic presence in Latvia, not only by looking back but rather looking ahead and celebrate the benefits of the Nordic-Baltic cooperation. Cultural cohesion, trust and sustainability are some of the themes that will be the focus of different events marking this anniversary. The final programme of the celebrations is yet to be announced.

Finnish NCM presidency – Stronger and wiser together

Finland holds the presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers for 2021 and their programme is anchored the overall strategic [Vision 2030](#): a green, competitive, and socially sustainable Nordic region. We are stronger and wiser together than as individuals is a key message in a time where the pandemic has restricted our freedom of movement within the region. “The pandemic just goes to show that we cannot solve global challenges alone,” says Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin. “It makes sense to seek ways to prepare for future crises together. This is why Finland also wants to enhance co-operation within security of supply.”



The Finnish presidency aims to develop international co-operation within the Vision and express support for an ever-closer relationship between the Nordic and Baltic countries. Furthermore, Åland’s self-government celebrates its 100th anniversary during Finland’s presidency. There will be a special focus on the participation of Åland, the Faroe Islands, and Greenland in Nordic co-operation and how this strengthens the democratic sustainability of the Nordic Region. The Finnish and Ålandic governments and the Nordic Council of Ministers are hosting an international conference on this topic in the autumn of 2021.

Read the full programme for the presidency [here](#).

New application rounds for two Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programmes

The joint mobility programmes are important instruments for developing the cooperation between the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Baltic states on an equal footing. New application round for the [Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programme “Culture”](#) has been announced. The upcoming application rounds for Mobility funding and in the module for Artist Residencies

will start on January 11, but applications for network module will start on January 25. Secondly, [The Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programme for Public Administration](#) will be open for applications from civil servants and other staff in the public sector from 15 January 2021. The next deadline for submitting applications is 30 March 2021

NCM Latvia to open an office in Daugavpils

In order to strengthen the Nordic presence in the south-eastern part of Latvia, NCM Latvia has received funds to establish a temporary branch in Daugavpils, using the same model that has successfully been implemented by NCM Estonia in Narva, which has one half-time local employee. This project would increase the possibilities for NCM Latvia and the Nordic embassies to engage with this part of Latvia and establish a better relationship with the region. The office is planned to be open early this year and exist till the end of 2022.

Coming events

January 20

The Nordic Council of Ministers and Oxford Research will host the webinar “Nordic-Baltic cooperation at a crossroad”. As a part of the ongoing evaluation of the Nordic-Baltic cooperation the webinar will feature a list of prominent speakers and will focus on the importance, direction and potentials of continued Nordic-Baltic cooperation. Read more and register [here](#).