

# Nordic Newsletter

Nordic events and activities in Latvia

September 2020

## Recent events

### LAMPA 2020

With the encouragement 'the world is changing – we must continue the conversation!', the yearly democracy festival LAMPA opened in early September in a hybrid format. Various actors from both state and civil society offered interesting and inspiring discussions on some of the most important issues to Latvia, the Nordics, Europe and the world.



NCM Latvia hosted three panel discussions at this year's LAMPA-conference. One conversation on increased social and economic inequality was organised together with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. Discussions touched upon the increased tensions among groups of citizens in the Baltic-Nordic region and in Europe who perceive an unfair distribution of resources. Also, the state of the 'Nordic Welfare System' and solidarity were discussed. Morten Hansen, head of the Economics department at SSE and human rights expert Nils Muižnieks were among the participants. Watch the full conversation [here](#).

Another conversation between media researchers and broadcasters aimed attention on "[How and why to demystify media literacy?](#)". The panel, which included Saara Salomaa from the Finnish National Audiovisual Institute, shared their interpretation on what media literacy is and discussed how we can think strategically about it in an era of artificial intelligence, 'big data' and 'capital surveillance'.

How does the future of food look like? We already know that the food sector has a critical impact on climate change and biodiversity. The discussion "[Future of foods](#)" addressed this topic with both optimism and scepticism. The role of technology was a recurrent topic

among the participants. Jesper Vad Holm, founder of Hereford Agro organic Farm, stated that “It [technology] can help farmers produce more food to a growing population and at the same time protect the environment and reduce food waste.” On the other hand, technology can cause competitive problems.

The Danish Embassy participated together with State of Green, the Ministry of Economics of Latvia and the Latvian Wind Energy in a conversation on [the future of wind energy](#) in Latvia. Finn Mortensen from State of Green shared Danish know-how and experience on the topic and initiated a fruitful discussion on the future of Latvian renewable energy.



### **A dedication to Nordic literature: “The Book Flood”**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of September the opening of “The Book Flood” – The Nordics meet the Baltics in children’s books, took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the National Library of Latvia. The exhibition offers playful games, interactive tasks, illustrations and prominent Nordic children’s authors. The exhibition is a project supported by NCM Latvia and can be visited until Christmas, before it will tour the Baltics.



### **Danish Embassy’s visit to Ogre**

The Danish Ambassador made a visit to the city of Ogre on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September where he met with a school class to discuss energy, climate and environmental issues. The meeting was followed by a bike tour of the city by the city’s mayor – to learn about the developments of the city. The visit also included the opening of the exhibition “Green

Together” at the Ogre Culture Centre – illustrating Denmark’s green transition and how Denmark is dealing with global challenges related to the climate and the environment.

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### **Swedish Embassy’s project Never Violence**

The Embassy supported and participated in Centrs Dardedzes conference on how to prevent child abuse, which took place 10<sup>th</sup> of September at the national library. The conference was well attended by Latvian officials, among them President Egils Levits – who gave an introductory speech.

The purpose of the conference was to find better ways of coordinating work against child abuse in Latvia and explore an opportunity for Latvia to become a ‘path finding’ country, which is a part of the End Violence Against Children initiative. Sweden demonstrated their experience in the field, by an inspiring digital speech by Ombudsman for Children, Elisabeth Dahlen.

### **Riga Photography Biennial 2020**

The international contemporary art event Riga Photography Biennial are on display this month. The event is partnered by the embassies of Finland and Sweden and NCM Latvia and focuses on the archaeology of reality, while continuing to trace the development of image culture. The exhibitions and workshops are open for the public and can be visited throughout the fall. See the complete program [here](#).

### **Riga Urban Lab**

Supported by the Danish Cultural Institute, The Riga Urban Lab named “Cultural Shift: Social innovation and cultural drivers” was held digitally on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of September. The

goal of the two-day workshop was to explore when and how cultural drivers shift from being cultural actors to being social change-makers.

### **Baltic Sea Forum for Documentaries**

The Baltic Sea Forum for Documentaries was originally held in Denmark but has since 2005 taken place in Riga. This year's event was held between the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> of September. The forum gathers professional documentary filmmakers from the Baltic sea region as well as Central- and eastern Europe to participate in various sessions and workshops. The Danish Cultural Institute in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania has partnered the event for many years, and this year's programme also included films from Norway and Sweden.

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### **Coming events**

#### **18 September**

The eight Nordic-Baltic Migration Conference in Tallinn will be held online and focus on the challenges of migration policy and cross-border mobility in the Nordic-Baltic region. [Read more.](#)

#### **22 – 23 September**

Swedish Days in Daugavpils organised by the Swedish Embassy in Riga. The visit includes a meeting with the City Council, a visit to the city's university and the Swedish company Cabinline, as well as an opening of the exhibition "Swedish Dads. Latvian Dads". NCMs Office in Latvia's Director Stefan Eriksson will also join the delegation.

#### **23 September**

UNESCO Vidzeme regional seminar: "Sustainable Development of Libraries and Societies: We are Building this World Ourselves". Supported by NCM Latvia and the Embassy of Finland in Latvia.

#### **24 – 25 September**

Nordic Days in Rezekne. This year's programme offers a broad set of events for a varied audience and age groups. The programme will include seminars and discussions, lectures, exhibitions, films and musical performances. See the full [programme](#) (In Latvian).

#### **30 September**

Opening of the Sustainable Nordic Cities exhibition at the Latvian Museum of Architecture. The exhibition will be at display from 01.10.2020 until 20.11.2020. Organised by NCM Latvia and the Latvian Museum of Architecture.