



# Inspirational VET mobilities

for your aspiring students and staff





**Strong experience from abroad makes  
a positive impact on everyone!**

**Personal experiences are something that  
cannot be simply taken away. Travel abroad  
itself is an intense moment for everyone. And  
in combination with learning can create an  
extraordinary impact forever.**

**Latvia is one of the hidden pearls  
within the European Union.**

**Come and enjoy a fresh breeze  
of the Baltic coast!**

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# Welcome

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I would like to invite you to Latvia, a place of perfect mobility for you / your students and your colleagues.

The mission of Biedrība Eurofortis is to offer you excellent training/working experience and to enjoy Latvia on maximum. As a small country, Latvia is not often under the radar like the major travel destinations, but we can guarantee you that there is a lot to see, enjoy, and learn from.

Our customers are the key engine for us! Safety and the high standard of service and customer satisfaction are the main aspects of every mobility.

Take your time to find out more about us and our offer.

I am looking forward to our future cooperation.

Adela Vitkovska  
Director of Biedrība Eurofortis

# Meet us

Biedrība Eurofortis is a non-governmental organisation that aims to facilitate schools, enterprises, and society **since 2007** (till 2011 under the name Eurofortis SIA). Our focus on education is one of our key pillars, and during the last **13 years**, we realised **50+** development projects and many mobilities.



## Within our expertise, we specialise in 3 main areas of educational activities:

### ✓ Mobility projects

- Hosting of KA1 mobilities for students and staff
- Hosting of KA1 Trainings for school professionals (Organisational Excellence)

### ✓ EU educational project development

- eLearning development and technical support
- Content development and supporting activities

### ✓ Organisational Excellence implementation

- Organisational Excellence training
- EFQM coaching and Organisational Excellence implementation

Latest information about mobilities in Latvia you will find on [www.mobilitiesinlatvia.eu](http://www.mobilitiesinlatvia.eu).

More information about our development projects is available on [www.eurofortis.lv](http://www.eurofortis.lv).

And if you are interested in Organisational Excellence, please follow to [www.excellentorganisations.com](http://www.excellentorganisations.com).



# Your participants will be in good hands.



**Adela Vitkovska** is a project manager of Erasmus+ projects and the director of Biedrība Eurofortis with almost 20 years of experience working with EU projects. Adela started in 2001 as an assistant for a Regional agency in the Czech Republic. Since 2004 she continued her career working on Life-long Learning projects under Leonardo da Vinci call and later Erasmus+. Strong knowledge of educational projects in combination with her passion for travelling, deep interest in local heritage, gastronomy, and architecture creates the exclusive blend for your mobility. In combination with a strong customer focus, Adela can help you prepare tailor-made mobility pointing to your exact needs.



**Vanda Novokšanova** is a training expert, certified EFQM Trainer, European EFQM Assessor and your local mobility coordinator. Vanda has 12 years' long expertise in the EU project field. Having the experience of being the assessor of outstanding European organisations (EFQM Awards), Vanda can transfer her knowledge of organisational perfection into mobility. She is responsible for coordination activities and quality assurance. Her long-term relations with many educational organisations and business all around Latvia are fundamental pillars of your students' successful placement.

***Do you have any specific request or the question? We are here to answer!***

Contact us by e-mail at  
[adela.vitkovska@eurofortis.lv](mailto:adela.vitkovska@eurofortis.lv).





# Our concept

Our mission behind the mobilities is to find the balance between **Learning and Travel**.

We believe that the **travel experience** itself brings a lot of positive to every individual. But, especially at a young age, it is essential to build the personality and strengthen the competencies such as human awareness, personal relationships, practical thinking, self-confidence, sense of belonging, etc.

Also, becoming aware of different cultures, lifestyle, and historical background or a new look at environmental issues is eye-opening.



And on the other hand, there is a clear **learning experience** – we present our mobilities participants not just learning through travelling but also the possibility to become part of a local educational system for a while.

**Every mobility is organised as a tailor-made event, focusing on your school's specific needs!**

# Impact of the mobility experience

Every mobility abroad is an exceptional experience for everyone. Often this is one of the first situations when the students are abroad without the family around. Mobility is bringing not only pure academic learning to students. There is much more than that – training experience, building self-esteem, and other personal competencies or understanding the new environment's cultural differences. That all is an integral part of every mobility!

## Benefits for the students and other participants

- The participants will build their professional competencies in a foreign school and/or work environment.
- The participants will discover more about themselves and become more independent and confident individuals.
- The participants will build social and interpersonal competencies during the stay.
- The participants will practise foreign languages.
- The participants will expand their knowledge about other nations and cultures.
- The participants will understand better the common European heritage background.

## Benefits for your school / organisation

- Your school will obtain a competitive advantage on the market, offering extra-curricula (foreign experience) for your students.
- Your school will get more substantial recognition as the organisation supporting new ideas and teaching methods.
- Your school will offer your teachers and staff foreign mobility /training experience.
- Your teachers and other staff will experience the management of EU projects and connect with new organisations abroad with the possibility of further European mobility or development projects or other initiatives.
- Your school doesn't need to be worried about the mobility organisation. Biedriba Eurofortis as the experienced Latvian partner, will support you with a high standard of services.



# Latvia is a fantastic place to be!

An excellent destination for your students and staff



## Reasons why?



**Safe country to be** – Latvia is ranked between safest countries according to terrorism and current health rating reflecting the pandemic of COVID-19.



**The fast internet connection** – Latvia is a country with one of the fastest internet connections globally. And Riga itself has one of the most robust networks of free Wi-Fi spots in the world.



**Customer-friendly place** – for visitors is effortless to adapt. Shops are opened every day till very late evening (shopping centres till 22:00). Almost every business accepts credit cards. People in services often speak three languages – Latvian, Russian and English.



**Environmentally friendly place** – Latvia is a very clean country, with cities full of parks. We can't mention pristine forests, wild and pure nature, and more than 500km of clean sandy beaches.



**Rich heritage and culture** – Riga is full of cultural heritage. The vibrant, colourful old town is full of idyllic streets and medieval charm. During your stay, you will have the chance to explore and enjoy Riga's vibe.



**Strong vocational education** – Latvia has a history of strong vocational education proven by medals from EuroSkills and WorldSkills competitions.



**Fast developing economy** – Latvia is a newly born economy with a fresh spirit and sense for the newest technologies.



**A lot of unexpected experiences** – Experience the mobility in Latvia allows providing lifetime experiences as playing curling, experiencing the authentic Nordic sauna rituals, seeing KHL hockey game, visiting the National opera, or flying in a vertical wind tunnel on the open air.

**However, the most important are people, and I can guarantee you that you will always feel welcome, and together with our helpful and friendly staff, we will always care about you.**

We like to care and share the Latvian experience, and the most important for us is to see happy participants! Customer orientation is our No. 1 rule to provide tailor-made custom service for every organisation interested in Latvian mobility.

**Your students and your staff are the reason why to provide the best service we can!**

Biedrība Eurofortis welcomes you to visit Latvia and experience international mobility placement. After many years on the market, we have built a local partners network to provide a complete programme that includes every type of service required, including practical placement training, linguistic support, accommodation and catering, variable custom-made social activities, and many more.



# Btw. Latvia can always surprise you...



## Do you wonder who inspired Crocodile Dundee?

Yes, Australian legend was, in fact, Latvian named Arvīds Blūmentāls, an emigrant from Dundaga who allegedly killed 10,000 crocodiles.



## Do you know why there are rivets in your jeans?

You have a Latvian to thank for it. Jacob Davis collaborated with Levi Strauss to bring his invention to the denim-clad masses.



## What is the place of the 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas tree?

Well, several places claim to be... And Riga belongs to them. The first written record of a decorated Christmas Tree goes back to 1510. Men of the local merchants' guild decorated a tree with artificial roses, danced around it in the marketplace and then set fire to it.





# Safety first

Your student's safety is non-negotiable. We would never bring you to locations we believe to be unsafe. And especially now, in times of the COVID-19 pandemic, we can see how essential it is to follow all safety measures.

When you decide to cooperate with us, we want you to feel secure in the decision. The world changes rapidly, and we react hand in hand with the ongoing situation. We are adapting, enhancing, and expanding our policies so that the future mobilities can be better than ever.

# Planning your mobility with us

Feel confident when preparing mobility with us. Biedriba Eurofortis is working in the field of education for many years. During that time, we collaborated with most Latvian schools, many various companies, healthcare organisations, various professional associations or the key stakeholders as the Ministry of Education or Latvian Employer's confederation.

We will do our best to bring the aspect of vocational training as well as the understanding of Latvian reality. Participants will have a chance to experience life in a local vocational school and/or working life in specific organisations targeted by their study programme's particular needs.

Also, in the free time, there will be a possibility to discover Latvia from a different angle of cultural experience (guided tours to countryside, opera, sauna rituals) and active/passive sports activities (curling, visit of ice-hockey match or basketball, bowling etc.)

## Basic aspects of mobility

### Target audience

- Students of VET schools
- Staff of various organisations or associations
- Teachers for job shadowing

### Place

- Riga, Latvia (as the primary location), trips outside the city
- In specific cases is the primary location is outside of Riga (for example, agriculture students)

### Length of mobility

- Individual-based depending on sending organisation
- One week to four weeks, including arrival and departure date (our recommendation is two weeks)



## Timing

- September – June as the main season
- In case of specific wish July – August

## Language

- In Latvia is the official language Latvian, but it is widespread to communicate in English or Russian there
- English is the ideal language for the mobility
- But our team can communicate in English, Czech, Russian, Italian and Spanish and help your students/staff to communicate
- In case of specific needs, it is possible to organise translation service from other languages
- Students should have the communicative level of foreign language

# Training program and social activities

## Form of mobility

- Placement in local VET schools in combination with local enterprises
- Placement in local VET schools only
- Short working placements in local companies only
- When needed, we can organise specific training for your students/staff

## Fields of mobility

- Business and sales
- Forest, wood technologies
- Agriculture
- Mechanical, electronic and automotive engineering
- Healthcare and medical
- Building and civil engineering
- Computer and electronic studies
- Tourism and catering
- Care & Beauty & Aesthetic
- Art & culture & design
- Textile & fashion
- Pedagogy

But in general, we are very flexible  
and open to any specific field of mobility  
upon request!

## Social activities

- Guided tour around Riga
- Cultural/sport activities upon expectations (during weekdays)
- Guided trip to the heartland of Latvia (weekend)
- Trip to Jurmala, visit of seaside

## Free time

- Enough free time to relax or prepare for specific projects

# Technical service

## Transport

- Transfer from/to airport or the central bus station
- Transport in Riga
- Organised transportation for trips outside the city

## Accommodation

- Comfortable place in a central location close to public transport, shopping and the old town
- Double/maximum triple rooms for students
- Accompanying persons with their own privacy
- Available free Wi-Fi connection

## Catering

- Breakfast / lunch / dinner
- Local specialities, suitable options for people with eating disorders or allergies
- Gala dinner at the end of the experience
- Visit the central market to experience Latvian products and local cuisine



# Assistance service and administration

## 24/7 service from our side

- 24 hours of welfare and assistance
- Safety training
- Experience in problem-solving :)
- Tutoring and mentoring on place

## Administrative support during the project process

- Administrative support with the application and reporting
- Support while preparing "Experience manual"/materials needed for the mobility
- Cooperation in laying out the Learning agreement/Mobility agreement for each participant, in line with EU recommendations, in particular, EQF, ECVET and EQARF
- Assistance with preparation of Europass Mobility document for the participants
- Contribution to the dissemination of project results

## Certification

- Europass mobility document
- If visiting a specific seminar/training, the certificate of participation will be provided
- Certification from the hosting organisations (schools/companies)

# Voice of participant

"Our internship in Riga was a great experience and an opportunity to increase students' professional knowledge and establish friendly relations between our school and the institutions of our Latvian partners. We are grateful for the perfect organisation and the warm approach from our friends from Eurofortis."

*Lukáš Berndt, teacher, Czech Republic*





# How to participate

An organisation interested in mobility can participate as a commercial customer or apply for a grant by taking part in the Erasmus+ programme.

## Mobility covered by Erasmus+

The application can be proceeded either as an **individual vocational education organisation** or as part of a more extensive “**national mobility consortium**”; a group of organisations managed by a single coordinating organisation. Grant covers travel costs, living expenses and preparation costs.

## How to apply?

The applicant can apply for the grant from the local [National Agency](#). The National agency's choice depends on the applicant organisation's country of origin.

An organisation or consortium can only apply once per selection round, but organisations may be part of several separate consortia, all applying at the same time. Erasmus+ funding (Key Action 1) covers travel costs, living expenses and preparation/administration related costs.

### Training mobility step by step

1	If you are interested in cooperation, please contact us by e-mail. We can continue to communicate by e-mail or meet on ZOOM/MS Teams to discuss the specific steps and project preparation.
2	You will apply for the grant from your National Agency for Erasmus+.
3	You will receive the information about your results (accepted/not accepted project).
4	We will agree on the date of your mobility.
5	You will receive detailed travel instructions, a detailed programme etc.
6	Your mobility experience can start!

If you have not received a KA1 grant, your participation is automatically cancelled. But in case your school is interested in participating without Erasmus+ financial coverage, you are very welcome.

The Erasmus+ [Programme Guide](#) is the main source of information for these opportunities; detailed information on the award criteria, eligibility criteria, and funding rules.

Call for KA1 mobility proposals runs once a year. This year the **deadline** for the call “**KA1 Mobility of individuals in VET, school education and adult education fields**” is on **11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 12:00 Brussels time**.

Please follow the [National Agencies](#) or, for Partner countries or [National Offices](#) (where available) for the specific news or information. There you can receive the further information needed for your application.

**When your organisation is ready to apply for the Erasmus+ project, contact Adela Vitkovska on [adela.vitkovska@eurofortis.lv](mailto:adela.vitkovska@eurofortis.lv) (Adela Vitkovska, Director and project coordinator) to receive the information about Biedrība Eurofortis for your project application and to discuss concrete project details and specifications.**

**We will be delighted to assist you with your project preparation! Good luck with your project application!**





**Study experience abroad  
is waiting for you!**



**See you soon  
in Latvia!**



**eurofortis**

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