

Learn by Traveling and Exploring - Let's Explore Latvia!

Teachers, students and school's management team of the **Distance Learning High School "Rīga Commercial School"** by implementing the Nordplus project "Promoting Young Peoples' Environmental Awareness for Sustainable Development by Traveling and Understanding the Processes of Human - Nature Interaction in the Northern European Region" organized an exploratory trip to Latvia in cooperation with teachers, students and management team of the partner school **Miðnámsskúlin í Suðuroy**.

During the exploratory trip, students were involved in various activities to develop and improve young peoples' research skills, observation abilities, skills to discuss, present, logically support their opinion, perceive nature and man-made environment as an aesthetic value, in order to learn the processes of interaction between nature and man, which from generation to generation have ensured the development of humanity in order to be able to find answers to the questions: how do global processes affect the lifestyle of the population - living conditions, occupation in Latvia? How to balance the relationship between man and nature in Latvia? How to connect economic, ecological and social opportunities to ensure a sustainable future?



During the exploratory trip, we got acquainted with the sustainable development trends of Latvia's cultural environment and economy in the regions, as well as the processes taking place in nature, by conducting observations, research - how the natural environment affects the cultural environment, economic activity and how economic activity could have affected the diversity of nature.



While visiting the sea buckthorn farm "**Zelt**", the farm "**Krūmiņi**", we got to know the processes of interaction between nature and man, the principles of smart and sustainable farming, practical ideas that promote self-sufficiency, social responsibility. In addition, while visiting **Latvian State Forest pine cone drying facility** in Vijciems which is included in the list of European cultural heritage, and visiting **Strenči Tree Nursery** - one of the most modern in the world in the field of seedling growing technology, the ceramic workshop "**Rauna Kiln**" and the **Lake Castle "Āraiši"** Archaeological Park, we learned how to combine ancient values and skills with modern knowledge and opportunities to live in harmony with nature, respecting its rhythms and respecting its resources.



We also familiarized ourselves with the processes taking place in the natural environment- in the "**Ķemeru National Park**", in the "**Gauja National Park**", to promote young peoples' understanding of human-nature interaction processes, of environmentally friendly behavior, of the principles of environmental ethics that ensure and are able to ensure a sustainable future.

With the participation of teachers, students and parents, in the international teacher professional competence development seminar-conference "**Education for Sustainable Development - for the Future Human**", students presented their research and observations, lessons learned in selected topics, while teachers shared their experience of using project as a method in the teaching process. Teachers shared the information gathered during the project on the sustainable development model of education to understand the importance of a sustainable lifestyle now and in the future.

Thanks to the students, teachers and parents involved in the project for their active participation in the diverse activities of the project in order to understand how global processes affect the lifestyle of the population - living conditions, occupation now and in the future, in order to get to know the principles of smart and sustainable management that balances the relationship between man and nature, promotes self-sufficiency, social responsibility and ensure a **sustainable future for us!**