

Nordic Newsletter

Nordic events and activities in Latvia

April 2021

Corrigendum

We are sorry for the misunderstanding caused by the last newsletter. We had forgotten to give credit to the Swedish Chamber of Commerce for co-organising the event “Female Focus” with the Norwegian Chamber of Commerce.



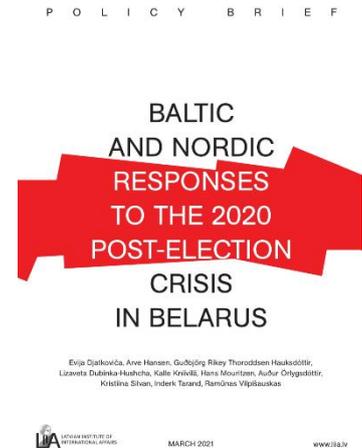
Special from last month

On March 26, the State Chancellery of Latvia held a webinar for senior-level managers in public administration. NCM Latvia provided for a Nordic speaker on digital transformation in the public sector “Digital Transformation - from Agile Manifesto to Agile Enterprise”, a lecture on modern work environments and how to get the most out of a workforce. The lecture was held by Torbjørn Larsen, who is the Executive Director for Digital Transformation at Sopra Steria in Norway and the Chair of the Programme Committee for NordForsk’s Research and Innovation Programme on Digitalisation of the Public Sector.

Recent events

Baltic and Nordic Countries' Responses to the Crisis in Belarus

On April 8 a presentation took place of the policy brief “Baltic and Nordic Countries’ Responses to the Crisis in Belarus”, conducted by the Latvian Institute of International Affairs and supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers' office in Latvia. The research compares the reactions of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden in light of the Belarus 2020 post-election crisis and assesses implications for the bilateral and multilateral cooperation of the Baltic and Nordic countries with Belarus. You can watch this anytime on [Facebook](#) and read the full review at the [Latvian Institute of International Affairs](#).



Integrating Climate Change Policy into Sectoral and Regional Policies

The Norwegian Ambassador opened a conference of the project "Integrating Climate Change Policy into Sectoral and Regional Policies" on April 9. The program's goal is mitigation and to reduced vulnerability to climate change. The project is part of a larger Norway Grants Climate and Environment Programme in Latvia. It is operated by the Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development in partnership with the Norwegian Environment Agency. The largest part of the financing in the Programme is targeted at remediation of historically polluted sites in Latvia. More information can be found on the project in Latvian at the [ministry](#) and an English version can be found [here](#).

A second Norwegian grants programme was launched on April 14. This program is targeting business development, innovation and SMEs in Latvia will launch its first open call for project proposals.

Cultural Planning for Cultural Places

On April 11, the Danish Culture institute, EUNIC-Cultural Institutes in Latvia, Art Cēsis and Culturelab held a webinar in the series “Future Creative Cities”. The event was organised by the European Parliament member Dace Melbārde. Three speakers; Emīls Rode, Travor Davies and Hans-Peter Degn, talked about different matters concerning cultural planning, and it was moderated by Mārtiņš Eņģelis. This webinar will be open and available online for all who are interested in local development, cultural planning, and capacity building of local cultural sectors. Currently, there no recording of the event but in the near future, there will be one published on this [website](#).



2nd forum Wood Building Baltic 2021

A large Forum Holzbau webinar, the 2nd forum Wood Building Baltic 2021 is being held on April 14-16. Baltic and Nordic speakers hold presentations on varied topics like “Accelerate low-carbon construction with wood – a Nordic Policy Snapshot” by Anders Vestergaard Jensen, senior adviser at the NCM secretariat. The Nordic council of Ministers' is part of organising this event. More information can be found on the [forum website](#).

Coming events

Hydrogen - Fuel of the future

On April 20, a webinar on hydrogen as a future energy technology is held. It is co-organised by Business Finland and several other partners. Hydrogen brings tremendous value-added when facing climate change, decarbonization, and energy infrastructure and storage demand among an evolving regulatory landscape. More information can be found at [Finncham](#).

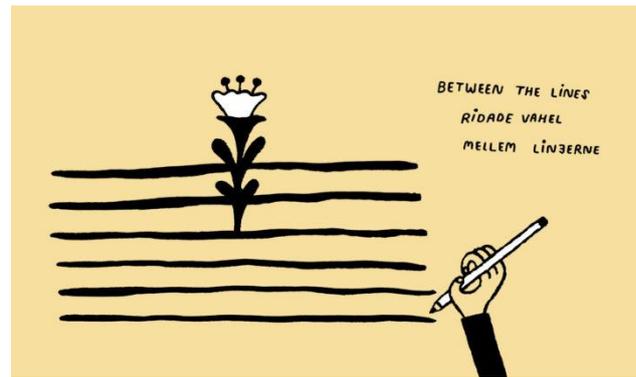
Artist's Mental Health: Can an Artist Be Happy?

A discussion about artists mental wellbeing will be held on the April 21, which is arranged by NCM in Latvia. Philosopher Finn Janning from Denmark, Norwegian art dealer Eivind Furnevski, and Latvian photo artist Iveta Gabalina share their views on this topic, the event will be arranged in the framework of the NCM concept Nordic Talks. The discussion will be moderated by Anda Kļaviņa, art dealer and positive psychology consultant. The event can be viewed on [Facebook](#) starting at 19:00.



Between the lines: young poets

On April 22 the Danish Cultural Institute in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, in cooperation with Värskē Rõhk, hosts the virtual literary event “Between the lines” focusing on young poets, their works and everyday lives in Denmark and Estonia.



During the event, the Danish poet Marie Skipper and the Estonian poet Kaisa Kuslapuu will read some of their poems to a live online audience. After the poetry readings, Marie and Kaisa will discuss their literary work and the challenges and themes that they each bring up in their poems. The discussion will be moderated by Kaisa Ling who is a co-author at the Estonian literary magazine Värskē Rõhk, as well as a translator, artist, literary researcher, and radio presenter for Estonian Public Broadcasting. The event can be viewed on [Facebook](#). Illustration by [Lote Vilma Vītina](#).

WindWorks: Powering Latvia’s energy future

On April 29, the Latvian Wind Energy Association in close cooperation with the Danish Embassy in Latvia and business technology platform BISMART will hold a conference “WindWorks. Powering Latvia’s energy future” - a hybrid wind energy conference bringing together experienced international energy experts, stakeholders and policymakers to discuss the future of wind energy in Latvia. Wind energy is a fast-growing energy technology, but to deliver on its vast potential, substantial investments, favourable policies and regulation in support would be needed. Additional information can be found [here](#).

Long term

Embracing Dignity: Prevention of trafficking

On March 31, the Embassy of Sweden launched a project with an NGO Center MARTA called “Embracing Dignity: Prevention of trafficking for sexual exploitation”. Center MARTA organized a discussion between Swedish and French experts and Latvian members of parliament. During the discussion, the experts shared their countries' respective approach to the human trafficking problem and their abolitionist approach to prostitution, which focuses on penalizing the buyer of sex and not the seller. This project will continue during the spring and continue into the summer.

Daugavpils

The Nordic pop-up office in Daugavpils now has a project manager – Vadims Murašovs – who has a background from Daugavpils University and the Ministry of Education and Science, as well as experience in cooperation with various Nordic institutions. Details about the office’s location and contact information will follow soon!