

“Safeguarding cultural heritage through learning”

STUDY VISIT TO LATVIA 25.04.2022- 29.04.2022

Exchanging and Experiencing Educational Methods which are Essential for Preservation of Cultural Heritage

Day	Proposed activities and methods
25.04.	18: 00 to Jaunpils 19:40 Arrival at Jaunpils Castle
26.04.	Breakfast 9:30 - 11:00 Short introduction of partnering organizations, at NGO “Jaunpils regional development center “Wheel”” (15 minutes walk from Jaunpils castle) Experience in rural municipality to activate community for learning and safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Introduction to project partners of learning activities developed through the project. 11:00 Travel to Viesatas 11:30 - 13:00 Discussion at the local museum about experience and skills on safeguarding local heritage. Local museum experience and skills on safeguarding local heritage. Visiting NGO Kamenes (Bumblebees), library, local museum. 13:15- 14:15 Viesatas upes loki nature walk (walk, small picnic lunch) 14:15-14.30 Travel to Jaunpils 14:30 - 16:00 Story on weaving tradition and searching of Jaunpils traditional costume, Jaunpils Craft house 16:00 - 17:30 Walk in Jaunpils historical center (museum, medieval castle, church, watermills). Jaunpils watermill story, role in keeping watermill traditions, grain processing and old skills alive in learning. Free time 17:30 - 19:00 Dinner 20:00 Public Bath, Bebru street bath
27.04.	Breakfast 9:30 departure to Kuldiga 11:00 Visit to the Restoration center of Kuldiga. Discussion about used methods. 12:30 Visit to the Old municipality building and crafts’ centre 13:30 Lunch at Marmelade 14:30 Visit to the local museum of Kuldiga district. 15:30 Visit to the open collection of the local museum of Kuldiga district (ethnic exposition) 16:00 UNESCO city game “Find the unicorn in Kuldiga” or free time 17:00 Visit to the Duna creative quarter. Brewery, tasting of beer and different drinks. 19:00 Diner at the restaurant Riverside
28.04	8:30 breakfast at Marmelade 9:30 Short visit to the main library and walk along the central pedestrian street 10:00 departure to Alsunga from Pilsetas laukums 11:00 – 15:00 Introduction with the immaterial heritage of SUITI, included at the intangible list of UNESCO. Experiencing the traditional way of singing and performing music on traditional instruments – pipes and string instrument “kokle”. Discussion about the role of traditional costumes. Visit to the museum, church, castle, ceramics workshop, and crafts’ center. Role of traditional food. Practical cooking WS together with locals and food tasting, lunch included. 16:00 arrival in Kuldiga. Practical craft WS on clay with Kristine 18:30 Diner at the restaurant Kursas zeme 20:00 Possibility to join swimming pool with saunas
29.04.	8:15 Breakfast at Marmelade 9:15 departure from the hostel to Riga

Nordplus adult learning study visit
“Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through learning”
April 26, 2022

Non - governmental organization Jaunpils Regional Development center “Wheel”, Vija Ziverte

Jaunpils regional development center “Wheel” established in 2002 is located in a rural municipality of Jaunpils parish, Tukums county, Kurzeme region, Latvia. The center was established with an aim to promote lifelong learning activities in the countryside. Since its establishment, more than 90 different learning courses through different projects and co-operations have taken place, both for increasing competitiveness in the labor market and hobby courses.

The center has an important role of development and education of leaders of nongovernmental organizations in the parish. It also has experience in municipality starting small-scale local community projects and organizing Inhabitants forums in Jaunpils funded by different projects. Also, the NGO “Wheel” work in close cooperation with Jaunpils municipality council. The NGO is a member of different cooperation at regional and state levels. It is a partner in the Latvian Rural Forum (LRF), which is a non-governmental organization with an aim to “Promote sustainable development of Latvian rural territories”. It is also a member of Latvian Adult learning association, with an aim to contribute to the development of the adult education system and to the development of lifelong learning policies.

www.facebook.com/JaunpilsRATS, <https://jaunpils.lv/NVOjaunpilsrac.php>

Non - governmental organization “Bumble bee”, Viesatas parish, museum, library, Sandra Steina

NGO “Bumblebee” established in 2008 with an aim to support activities implemented by women, preservation of culture traditions, supporting activities related to the improvement of the municipality environment. Through the years implemented different activities, such as gathering life stories learning the history of the place, doing expeditions on finding lost homes, discovering lost, forgotten place names. In 2021 established six rooms for local museum in memory of local people cartography Matiss Silins, Latvian folklore Krisjanis Barons, actor of National theater Karlis Teikmanis, general history of the place and history of primary school, history on kolhozs.

<https://www.facebook.com/viesatukulturasnams/>

Non - governmental organization “Dzīpars”, Jaunpils craft house, Velga Pavlovska

<https://www.facebook.com/jaunpils.amatumaja>

NGO Dzipars “Thread”/“Worsted” established in 2006 with an aim to teach handicraft techniques, organizing workshops, exhibitions, organizing experience exchange tours. In 2015, the House of Crafts under the management of the weaving expert Velga Pavlovska started to operate. The Jaunpils weaving workshop has 17 looms, including the functioning pulley and shaft looms and the famous Vilumsons looms. The craft house offers also exhibition of local craftsmen’ finished works.

www.jaunpilsipils.lv; <https://www.facebook.com/jaunpils.amatumaja>

Jaunpils castle

www.jaunpils.lv

Jaunpils Castle initially used to be knight's castle, which was built as a "water-castle" in year 1301, during the time of Livonian Order Master – Gottfried von Roge, and was owned by the von der Recke dynasty during the time frame from 1576 until year 1920. Castle has been renovated several times, exterior and some part of the interior has kept the medieval style of architecture. Now in the castle located hotel, museum, tavern, library, escape room game in the basement of castle. At the castle located several medieval tools used in history to punish and to get the evil out of thieves and criminals.

Watermills

Watermills was built in 1802 (1803). It still has the milling equipment, which was operated during 1920-ties/1930-ties, as well as the hydrotechnical structures and the water reservoir.

Can learn interactively about history of the mills, various grains, products made from grains.

Jaunpils Lutheran church

Church construction started in 1592, it is one of the first churches built in the Duchy of Kurzeme.

It has reconstructed altar and organ. In the renovation process of altar it was discovered that is more colorful and rich in contrast as though of modest Lutheran churches.

Bebru ielas pirts Public bath

Established with support by local municipality small projects contest NGO "Created in Jaunpils county" project and private financing and voluntary work in 2018. Bathhouse is run by certified bathhouse women Silva Zāgmane (pirtniece, pirtnieks) running traditional bath rituals.



**Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through learning
historical stories, family stories, cooking, art and music
Jaunpils regional development center "Wheel"
Since 2002**

1. 2022 Project "The Art to be a beginner" On-line Tukums art museum lecture about local artists Valdemārs Tone, Laimonis Mierins, and three on-line different style educative and practical art classes (sketching, lithography, calligraphy with brushpen). Participants received materials for classes through post. All together participated 11 participants, some of the works presented in online exhibition: *Youtube.com search for Jaunpils RAC Rats*.
2. 2022 Nordic council of Ministers Nordplus adult learning project "Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through learning" project study visit in Vaasa, Finland
3. 2019, 2020, 2021 yearly December ginger bread activity, gathering of recipes, making dove, baking.
4. 2021 Project "Encouraging music education in countryside" buying of guitars and equipment for guitar classes.
5. 2021 Project "Guitar workshop for beginners" Two hours guitar short course for beginners in small groups of up to 6 people. Participated all together 27 participants from age of 6 to 74. Created online video - "Guitas first class" *Youtube.com search for Jaunpils RAC Rats*.
6. 2020 "Family stories in countryside" Project included three meetings which start with lecture on verbal - history and how to do interviews. Independent Work on family story research through, pictures, old newspapers, older generation interviews, writing biography. Work continued through autumn month and in next year with closing event in next year summer in Jurgi, Jaunpils parish. Lecture in cooperation with University of Latvia oral history experts. www.mutvarduvesture.lv Activity in cooperation with Viesatas NGO "Bumblebees". *Youtube.com search for Jaunpils RAC Rats*.
7. 2020 - 2022 Nordplus adult learning project "Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage through learning"
8. 2020 Workshop on Latvian culinary heritage and wooden spoons in cooperation with Kuldigas Tourism and Technology school.
9. 2020 Learning excursion, exchange of experience in Padure, Kuldiga County.
10. 2019 Digital archive of Latvian folklore lecture in Jaunpils in cooperation with University of Latvia, Literature, folklore and art institute, Archives of Latvian culture. www.garamantas.lv
11. 2019 "In four hours from and to Jaunpils" excursions prepared for yearly one week long Latvian tradition family camp 3x3. Project included short training with tour guide training preparation trips.
12. 2018 Piano renovation for piano classes. Piano gathered from a country house where teachers piano were kept from times of Polish kingdom Russian Imperial times.
13. 2018 Renovation of chairs for beginners. Three 3,5 hours workshop with local renovation experts at NGO 7 balles, Jaunpils parish, Strutele.
14. 2017 Established NGO "Created in Jaunpils county", created excursions one through local small producers in the parish and second exchange of experience in Tukums county. *Youtube.com https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYAwfIXNpWc*.
15. 2016 "Smart country person", exchange of experience to nearby Dobeles county parishes. Learning experience of small producers and traditions.
16. 2013 "Kitchen unite generations" production of kitchen, seniors cooking together with youth classes.
17. 2012 "Tour guide courses in Jaunpils" .
18. 2011 Jaunpils county tourism information and leaflet preparation.
19. 2003 Tour guide training for eco-tourism.
20. 2002 Information stand preparation and tour guide preparation and eco-tourism.

Activities funded through Jaunpils municipality small local municipality grant projects and co-financed with Nordplus, Teterēvu Fonds, Society Integration funds, European agricultural fund for rural development, State Culture Capital foundation, self - funded.

www.facebook.com/JaunpilsRATS, <https://jaunpils.lv/NVOjaunpilsrac.php>

Kuldīga district and Alsunga

Kuldīga is one of the most charming and magical towns in Latvia. It is the pearl of Courland for those who appreciate history and charm. Kuldīga and its neighborhood is like a book of wonders – the more you read it, the more interesting it gets until you become part of it. Kuldīga is attractive to those who appreciate history, small town charm and cosy atmosphere. Here are some of the attractions that you can see and visit while in Kuldīga. There is the widest natural waterfall in Europe situated, with a width of 249 m and a height of 1.6 to 2.2 m. During spring and autumn, you can see fish “flying” over the waterfall.

<https://visitkuldiga.com/>

Partner ‘Coordination Centre of Cultural Projects’, further in text Centre is established in 2001, it is acting in the most beautiful historical town of Latvia – Kuldīga which is inscribed at the national list of UNESCO. Centre is actively cooperating with the local municipality and has established common wooden restoration workshop where residents have possibility to get advice in restoration of historical houses, they can work practically and use equipment of the workshop. Aims of the centre are to give contribution for preservation of authenticity of the cultural heritage of Kuldīga old town for next generations; to ensure sustainability and continuity of traditional crafts and methods that are essential for preservation for historical buildings. Centre is organizing cultural heritage labs, practical workshops and seminars with aim to educate local citizens to understand the value of the local cultural heritage. Centre has broad experience of development of international projects with partners from Baltic and Scandinavia.

Contacts – Ilze Zarina, ilze.zarina@kuldiga.lv

The Restoration center of Kuldīga is a contact point for residents of Kuldīga old town, owners of the houses, local entrepreneurs, builders, architects, and craftsmen about the questions which are related to maintenance, conservation, and renovation of historical buildings. The center is explaining the importance of the use of traditional building methods for the sustainability of the houses and promoting the use of traditional building materials within the organization of adult educational activities. Specialists of the center are implementing practical conservation works of wooden joinery building details with a particularly unique value which are serving as excellent examples at the old town environment, attract funding for the particular conservation works, and are consulting and giving recommendations for the craftsman during the process of conservation works. Acting locally and internationally center is an active promoter of the identity of the place for the people feeling belonging to the Kuldīga old town.

Contacts – Ilze Zarina, ilze.zarina@kuldiga.lv ; Facebook/Kuldigasrestauracijascentrs

Vecais ratsnams or Old municipality building - a cultural place for adults, where the intangible cultural heritage meets contemporary art. Master classes, exhibitions, story evenings, workshops, Viewing and textile workshop.

<https://www.facebook.com/Vecaisratsnams/>

<https://visitkuldiga.com/kulturvietas/arhitektura/kuldigas-vecais-ratsnams/>

Kuldīga District Museum - a pearl of wooden architecture rich in legends, Bangert’s Villa houses Kuldīga District Museum, which offers exhibitions, and events that raise public awareness about the diverse heritage of Kuldīga and its surroundings. The exhibition on the second floor is furnished as an apartment that represents the lifestyle of a wealthy citizen of Kuldīga in the early 20th century, while on the third floor visitors can enjoy the exhibition “Kuldīga Before Us” to gain an insight into the history of the town, its origins and historical development. Visitors can view valuable items from the museum's collection, and attend various exhibitions on historical events, art and distinguished personalities, as well as enjoying a unique view of the Ventas Rumba waterfall. Visits to the museum are convenient for families with children, people in wheelchairs, and seniors. Entrance to the museum is free of charge.

<https://www.kuldigasmuzejs.lv/eng>

Kuldīga Art House and library

The former synagogue complex comprises three buildings — the synagogue (built in 1875), a prayer house and Jewish chapel. Following reconstruction, in 2011 the library and art house opened their doors to visitors.

<http://biblio.kuldiga.lv/>

Alsunga – Capital of the Sūiti

This area was first mentioned in 1231 as ancient Alšvanga in a contract between the pope's local representative Balduin von Alna and the Curonians. The Livonian Order was here until 1561, but from 1573 to 1738 the order's castle belonged to the von Schwerins from Pomerania. During their reign the current stone church in Alsunga was built in honour to its patron Archangel Michael and locals were converted to Catholicism. Alsunga became the Catholic centre of Kurzeme, and the people of Alsunga became the Suiti. In 1738 the von Schwerins sold Alsunga estate to the Birons; the red and white flag of Alsunga has remained as an evidence of their reign. From 1795 to 1918 the estates of Alsunga were property of the Russian state. Alsunga is the centre of the historic Suiti region for almost 400 years. This region is known for the distinctive songs, gorgeous national costumes, traditions and beliefs. The Suiti have a specific language (dialect), food, and other traditional features that different regions have given up or forgotten long ago. Alsunga is the place where religion and traditions uniquely meet. Nowadays Alsunga Municipality occupies an area of 191 km² with a total of 1600 inhabitants.

The Suiti cultural space is a unique Latvian cultural phenomenon, in which Latvian, Liv, Polish and German cultures have developed and largely preserved their unique cultural environment and identity to this day in a compact area surrounded by historical Lutheran areas under the influence of the Catholic Church. The Suiti cultural space, which is most clearly characterized today by the polyphonic singing of Suiti women, gorgeous folk costumes, traditions, unique mentality, Suiti dialect, rich song and food, is listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Today, only about 2,000 people of Suiti origin have survived in the historic Suiti area around Alsunga. Almost 2/3 of them live in Alsunga district. The Suiti Ethnic Culture Center has been operating in the field of Suiti culture since 2001. This is the largest project implemented by the association so far. Thanks to the association's initiatives, a weaving workshop has been set up and is operating in Alsunga, training in wood for children has been started, as well as three international bourdon singing festivals. Other smaller projects have also been implemented. The association works closely with the only remaining Suiti municipality, Alsunga County Council. Alsunga Secondary School has been working on a UNESCO Associated Schools project from 2008 to 2011 with the aim of gradually introducing a Suiti district curriculum to the school.

NGO Ethnic Culture Center "Suiti"

<https://www.suitunovads.lv/en>

<https://suiti.lv/en/>

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