

AGENDA

Peer Learning Event – Quality Education for All: Adapting School Networks for Equitable Access

12-16 MAY 2025, LATVIA & ESTONIA

SUMMARY:

The peer learning event "**Quality Education for All: Adapting School Networks for Equitable Access**" will be held from 12 to 16 May 2025 in Latvia and Estonia. Organised as part of the three-year *Supporting Education Reforms and Skills in the Eastern Partnership (SER) Programme*—funded by the European Union and implemented by the European Training Foundation (ETF)—the event aims to foster regional cooperation by facilitating exchange and knowledge sharing among Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries.

Over the course of the five-day event, participants will take part in meetings with Ministries of Education, education communities, institutions, and local authorities in both Latvia and Estonia. The programme will feature site visits to a range of educational institutions across primary, secondary, and vocational levels, offering opportunities to observe and discuss diverse approaches to optimising and rationalising school networks. The event will conclude with a wrap-up workshop in Tallinn to reflect on key insights and outline next steps.

Learning Objectives

The learning objectives of the one-week event are as follows:

1. **Enhance Understanding of School Network Optimization:** Participants will gain insights into the strategies and practices employed by Latvia and Estonia to optimise their school networks for equitable access to quality education.
2. **Exchange of Experiences and Knowledge:** The event will facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge among EaP countries, allowing participants to learn from each other's successes and challenges in the field of education.
3. **Develop Actionable Strategies:** Participants will work together to develop actionable strategies for improving school network optimisation in their respective countries, taking into account the unique contexts and needs of each country.
4. **Strengthen Cross-Country Cooperation:** The event aims to strengthen cross-country cooperation and build a network of education professionals committed to improving education systems in the EaP region.

Participants

The event brings together participants from the Ministries of Education and education authorities of Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries—Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine—representing various levels of the education system, including regional and local administrations. Delegations also include staff from subordinate agencies, school leaders, and experts or researchers involved in education policy reforms, particularly in the optimisation and restructuring of school networks across primary, secondary, and vocational education. Country representatives will be accompanied by the European Commission and ETF programme team, as well as experts and representatives from the host organisations—the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia and the Ministry of Education and Research of Estonia.

The working language of the event is English.

AGENDA 12-16 MAY 2025, LATVIA & ESTONIA

DAY 0 – SUNDAY 11 May 2025

Time	Agenda Item	
During the day	Arrival of participants and accommodation at Hotel Radisson Blu Ridzene	https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-riga-ridzene

DAY 1 – MONDAY 12 May 2025 - RIGA LATVIA

Morning session: Setting the scene – at hotel Radisson Blu Ridzene

09.00 – 9.30	Introduction and welcome of participants Short introduction of Agenda	Kristīne Niedre-Lathere , Deputy State Secretary for General Education and State Language Policy, Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia Christophe Masson – Team Leader, European Commission DG ENEST – Timo Kuusela , Programme Coordinator ETF
9.30 - 11.00	EaP Country presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">Country presentations on current state with school network optimisationA cross-country overview on school network optimisation and results of stakeholder surveyQ&A, discussion	Country delegations Luc Gacougnolle , Senior Education Economist, PPMI
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break	

11.30 – 13.00	<p>Presentation on general education school network optimisation in Latvia</p> <p>Presentation on VET school network optimisation – from past to present</p>	<p>Ramona Urtāne, School Network Optimisation Expert, Ministry of Education and Science (MoES)</p> <p>Lāsma Lancmane, Acting Head of the Education Board of the Education, Culture and Sports Department of the City of Riga Municipality.</p> <p>Ilze Buligina, Senior Expert, Department of VET and Adult Education, MoES</p> <p>Jānis Gaigals, Board Member of the Latvian Agricultural Organisation Cooperation Council, ex-Minister for Education</p> <p>Tatjana Daņilova, senior expert, State Education Development Agency</p>
13.00 - 14:00	Lunch in the hotel	
Afternoon session: School visits – RIGA		
14.00- 14.30	Transfer to educational institutions – (participants will be divided into two groups)	
14.45 – 17.00	<p><u>Group 1</u> - Riga State Classical Gymnasium</p> <p><u>Group 2</u> – Riga State Technical School</p>	<p><i>Purvciema iela 38, Rīga</i></p> <p><i>Dārziemeņa iela 70, Rīga</i></p>
17.00 – 17.30	Transfer back to the hotel	
19.00 - 21.00	Networking dinner at Gastro Pub Riga Duvels,	Meistaru iela 10/12, Riga

DAY 2 – TUESDAY 13 MAY- School visits in OGRE and wrap-up LATVIA

08.00	<p>Departure to two parallel visits</p> <p><u>Group 1</u> – Ogre Technical School</p> <p><u>Group 2</u> – Ogre State Gymnasium</p>	<p><i>Aizupes, Tīnūžu pagasts, Ogres novads</i></p> <p><i>Gunāra Astras iela 1, Ogre</i></p>
09.00 – 10.00	<p>Presentations of schools and their facilities</p> <p>Q&A, discussions</p>	
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee & tea break in the schools	
10.30 – 12.00	Discussion on the impact of school network optimisation on the provision and delivery of education programmes	
12.00 – 13.15	Lunch at Ogre Technical School	
13.15 – 13.30	Transfer by bus to the Ogre Central Library	

13.30 – 15.00	Ogre Municipality – Welcome Education ecosystem in Ogre	Gatis Siviņš Deputy Head of Ogre Municipal Council Igors Grigorjevs , Head of the Education Board of the Ogre Municipal council Brīvības iela 35, Ogre
15.00 -16.00	Transfers back to the hotel	
16.00 – 16.15	Coffee break	In the meeting room
16.15 - 18.00	Wrap-up session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key take aways • Open questions • Q&A and discussions 	ETF & MoES
18.00 – 19.30	SER steering Committee	Only ETF/EC staff
18.15 – 19.30	Guided walking tour in old Riga	

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY 14 MAY		TARTU ESTONIA
08.00 – 11.30	Transfer by bus from hotel in Riga to Tartu, Estonia	
12.00 - 13.15	Lunch in Kampus restaurant	Rüütli 7, Tartu (MoER staff will join)
13.15 - 13.30	Walk to the University of Tartu	Main building of Tartu University, address Ülikooli 18 (room 140)
13.30 - 15.00	University of Tartu – presentation & discussions Introduction to development cooperation projects	Dr Aune Valk Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs Anna Beitane Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, Head of Digital Education Projects.
15.00 - 15.30	Coffee and tea break	.
15.30 – 16.30	School network optimisation and introduction to the current education reforms Q&A, discussions	Ministry of Education and Research Indrek Riisaar – Head of State Property Management, School Network, MoER Liisa Ojaveer – Adviser, EU and International Cooperation. MoER Main building of Tartu University, address Ülikooli 18 (room 140)
16.30 – 16.45	Transfer by bus to the Estonian National Museum	
16.45 -18.00	Visit – guided tour in Estonian National Museum	
18.00 – 20.30	Departure to Tallinn - Accommodation at Radisson Blu Olumpia Hotel	https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-tallinn-olumpia

DAY 4 – THURSDAY 15 May 2025		TALLINN, ESTONIA
Two parallel whole day visits	Group 1: Saue Municipality Group 2, Haapsalu town	
GROUP 1 PROGRAMME		
8.30	Departure to Saue	
9.00 – 10.00	Saue Municipality, An Overview of the Municipality's education sector	Andres Laisk Mayor of Saue Municipality Kütise 8, Saue
10.30 - 11.30	Ruila Comprehensive School	Tiia Rosenberg Director, Ruila Village, Saue
11.45 – 13.00	Lunch at Saue State Gymnasium	
13.00 – 14.00	Saue State Gymnasium	Taavi Vilba Director Veskitammi 24, Laagri https://srg.edu.ee/
14.00 – 14.30	Transfer by bus to Tallinn Industrial Education Center	
14.30 – 16.00	Tallinn Industrial Education Center (vocational education)	Mirje Burmeister Director of Studies https://www.tthk.ee/
16.00 – 16.30	Transfer back to the hotel	
GROUP 2 PROGRAMME		
8.30	Departure to Haapsalu	
10.00 – 11.00	Haapsalu City Government Introduction of Haapsalu's education sector to be followed by school visits.	City administration Posti 34, Haapsalu
11.00 – 11.30	Walk to Haapsalu Elementary School	Mari-Epp Täht https://hpk.edu.ee/et
11.30 – 13.00	Haapsalu Elementary School	Lihula Road 12, Haapsalu
13.00 – 13.15	Transfer to Haapsalu Cultural Centre	
13.15– 14.15	Lunch at Haapsalu Cultural Center	
14.45- 15.45	Haapsalu Vocational Education Centre	Liis Rüü https://www.hkhk.edu.ee/en/news/welcome-haapsalu-vocational-education-and-training-centre

16.00 – 17.30	Departure to Tallin and transfer back to the hotel	
19.00 – 21.00	Networking Dinner at Sheeli Restaurant	Vana turg 2

DAY 5 – FRIDAY 16 May 2025		TALLINN ESTONIA
9.30 – 10.00	Transfer by bus from the hotel	
10.00 – 11.15	Pääsusilma kindergarten in Tallinn	Silvi Tuur Director Tallinna Lasteaed Pääsusilm Järveotsa tee 51, 13520 Tallinn
12.00 – 13.30	<i>Education and Discovery Center Rakett69 Science Studio</i> – promotes STEM education by providing children and adults with high-quality and diverse practical learning experiences.	Helen Saluveer Director Valukoja 12, Ülemiste City https://teadusstuudiod.ee/english/
13.30 – 13.45	Transfer back to the hotel	
13.45 - 14.30	Lunch in the hotel	
14.30 – 16.00	Wrap up workshop at the hotel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key take aways and follow up strategies • Country profiles and cross-country report 	ETF
16.00 – 16.15	Coffee break	served in the meeting room
16.15 – 17.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next steps in SER – country specific activities • Next peer learning event(s) Conclusions and next steps	ETF
17.30 – 18.30	Farewell aperitivo	

CONTACTS:

ETF: Timo Kuusela: +39 334 669 332, Iwona Ganko: +39 331 625 3538; Marie Dorleans +39 335 826 6064

MPEvents: Liga Adamovica – Event Coordinator Riga +371 26447117, Flevian Machoka +356 99656944

MoES LATVIA: Aļona Babiča Alona.Babica@izm.gov.lv +371 29222657

MoER ESTONIA: Liisa Ojaveer Liisa.Ojaveer@hm.ee +372 5122330