



Nordic Council of Ministers' Information Office in RIGA

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Conference „Co-operation on Research Training in the Baltic Sea Area“

The Nordic Academy for Advanced Study (NorFA) and the Nordic Research Policy Council (FPR) organise a conference on research training co-operation between the Nordic countries and other countries in the Baltic Sea Area with a special focus on Baltic States and North-West Russia, but also including Poland and Germany.

The objectives of the conference are as follow:

- to stimulate networking between key actors in the organisation of research training in countries in the Baltic Sea Area
- to enhance co-operation between research schools and research training networks, to explore the possibilities for new joint training programmes and a more efficient use of existing training programmes as platforms for collaboration
- to disseminate information about research training systems in the region.

The main target group are persons responsible for policy design and implementation concerning research training in the region. The conference will take place in Riga on May 10-11, 2004.

Nordic Music Afternoon at the NCM Information Office



Everyone who feels close to the Nordic culture and music is welcome to attend the Swedish Music afternoon on 18 of May.

Swedish music traditions will be presented by Ethnomusicologist Professor Boriss Avramecs. The previous Nordic Music Afternoon about the contemporary Finnish music took place at the NCM Information Office on 23rd of March and was very well attended. There were over 60 people listening to the lecture of the professor B. Avramecs.

Additional information: Ieva Hermansone ph. (+371) 782088. Please call to register – restricted number of seats. Phone: (+371) 7820089.

The Nordic Film Club in May

The Nordic Film Club at Kinogalerija (Riga Old Town) continues to present Nordic movies:

May 7, 8, 9 **Lovers and Leavers**,
Director Aku Louhimies,
Finland, 2002.

Short annotation of the movie "Lovers and Leavers":



Love is perfect only in books and movies. Everyone knows that. But Iris, 30 years old bookstore assistant refuses to believe it.

In contradiction to her friends' opinions, Iris keeps on looking for the perfect love. She sincerely thinks that love has to change your whole world. Then Marko appears on the scene, and he seems to be the answer to Iris' prayers. But who knows best, the cynics or the romantics? Do perfection and love fit in the same sentence?

Nordic Film Club is organized by the Nordic Council of Ministers' Information Office in cooperation with Kinogalerija, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Embassy of Sweden, Embassy of Finland and the Danish Culture Institute. Showing of films in Latvia is supported by the Nordic Film Institutes.

Additional information: Ginta Tropa, Culture Adviser, ph.: (+371) 7820055, 7211006, e-mail: ginta@nmr.lv.

Film reviews you can also read on our website www.nmr.lv/eng/news/Kino_klubs.htm.

Exhibition "Glass from Gotland"

Swedish glass has a long history and many artists with differently approaches to this material. There will be a possibility to see the glass from Gotland at the Menczendroff's House in Riga Old Town from 19 May – 30 June. The exhibition is organized by the Glass Art and Study Center. The artists themselves will also give a lecture about their work. Next to the Gotland's glass exhibition there will be exposed art pieces of young Latvian artists.

The 5th RAM Workshop "Open Source Media Architecture" in Riga, May 4-9

"Open Source Media Architecture" is a part of the "Re-approaching New Media" series of workshops and events being held across six Nordic and Baltic countries.

The aim of the workshop is to investigate how the Open Source concept, applied in contemporary practice of architecture, locative art and streaming media, can turn closed systems into open-ended narratives. The three working groups will focus on exploring the potential of open source architecture in mobile communication's repleted city; the impact of ad-hoc wireless networking on architecture, art and social organization and the implication of streaming sound in acoustic cell-space of mobile media.

The workshop mainly addresses architects, designers, sound artists, open source activists and programmers. The activities are held at Latvian Artists' Union House.

More information about the 5th RAM workshop read at <http://rixc.lv/ram/>

Conference on Nordic Studies and Philology in the Baltic States



The Centre of Nordic Studies together with the Latvian Academy of Culture and with the support of NCM Information Office in on Nordic Studies and Philology in the Baltic States.

The conference is for undergraduate, graduate and PhD students who study Nordic languages, literature, culture and history. People from seven universities in the region will participate.

The aim of the conference is to motivate students of Nordic philology for scientific work and research and to contribute to the development of Nordic studies environment in the Baltic States.

The conference will take place on 20-23 of May, 2004 at the Latvian Academy of Culture.

For registration and more information, please, contact the Centre of Nordic Studies, nordistika@lka.edu.lv, ph. +371 7143573, www.nordistika.lv.

NORDIC MUSIC CONCERTS



Liepaja Symphony Orchestra will give concerts with works of three famous Scandinavian composers – Edvard Grieg (Norway), Jean Sibelius (Finland) and Hugo Alven (Sweden). With these concerts Liepaja Symphony Orchestra will facilitate the development of the international connections between Latvia and Nordic Countries, continue the tradition of the Orchestra to present music masterpieces of European music culture and this time – music culture of three Nordic countries. There will be two Nordic music concerts – one at the Liepaja Theatre Hall on 21st of May, the other at the Great Guild Hall in Riga on 22nd of May, 2004.

Young Nordic Dance in Riga: guest performances and workshops

Latvian Contemporary Dance Centre in close co-operation with the Nordic Council of Ministers' Information Office in Riga is planning a series of Young Nordic dance presentations and workshops "Young North" in Riga. It is a long term project focused around 2 sessions during the year. The first country to present is Finland in May 21-22, 2004 at the Jaunais Rigas Teatris, followed by Sweden in autumn 2004.

The main goals of the project are to introduce young dance from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland in Latvia and to become a meeting place between young professionals through creative workshops.

The Photography Project "What is important?"

From 14th of May till 13th of June the Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art organizes the photography project "What is important?". The project presents a look on current tendencies in conceptual development of photography in Nordic / Baltic countries. There will be exposed two photo exhibitions at the former building of Riga City Council: 3rd International Ars Baltica Triennial of Photographic Art and the Latvian artists' photo exhibition.

The project is financially supported by NCM Information Office in Riga.

Scandinavian Design Beyond The Myth

Scandinavian design has become synonymous with the development of modernism in the 1950s and 1960s, and it has been featured in numerous exhibitions, trade shows and publications.

Next year Riga will host a travelling exhibition "Scandinavian Design Beyond The Myth", commissioned by The Nordic Council of Ministers, the Nordic Cultural Projects Abroad. The exhibition includes 200 exhibits - 40 pieces from each Nordic country.

Until the middle of the summer the exhibition will be in Milan. Before coming to Riga, it will be set up in several European cities - in Gent, Prague, Budapest, Glasgow and from July 3, 2005 - September 4, 2005 in Riga at the exhibition hall of the Latvian Decorative and Applied Arts' Museum.



For the exhibition the Nordic Council of Ministers has commissioned a catalogue containing the latest research on the Scandinavian Design concept, its origins, history and myths. Seventeen design researchers and scholars from the five Nordic countries, Germany, Great Britain and US give the picture of how this post World War II design success was launched with the help of industry, marketing and media in Europe and North America.

The catalogue of the exhibition "Scandinavian Design Beyond the Myth" now is available at the library of NCM Information Office.

To read more about the exhibition please visit www.scandesign.org.

Nordic - Baltic Meeting for Senior Officials Responsible for Narcotic Drug Issues

A Nordic - Baltic meeting for Senior Officials responsible for narcotic drug issues was held in Riga on 10th and 11th of March. The aim of the meeting was to discuss future co-operation within the EU Northern Dimension Action Plan. Representatives from each country presented the current situation in fighting the use and spread of narcotic drugs, as well as the national strategy for it. Nordic Senior Officials shared their opinion about the work of international structures.

New films at the NCM Information Office

The Nordic film collection offered by NCM IO now is supplemented with new items - Nordic classical and contemporary films. There are several films of Lars von Trier – "Europa" and "The Kingdom" as well as the film of the year 2003 – "The Dogvill". There are also new Nordic children films that can be interesting for our youngest library visitors and their parents. The total number of films that NCM Information Office has to offer is 50!

Please visit the "News" section of our home page www.nmr.lv to see the list of the new items of each month.

NCM SUPPORTED PROJECTS

"Baltic Sleipnir" Grants

For the 11th time NCM Information Office is supporting young professional artists, art reviewers and journalists who cover art topics within the program "Baltic Sleipnir". The scholarship offers an opportunity to visit Nordic countries in order to get involved in ongoing art processes, to get acquainted with Nordic art and to develop new contacts. There were 53 applications received.

Expert commission, with participation of NCM IO Director Eva Emneus, Culture Adviser Ginta Trope and participants from different culture spheres: Gundega Cēbere, Valda Čakare, Pēteris Krilovs, Egils Rozenbergs and Rasa Šmite, awarded grants for the total amount of 18 190 LVL.

Additional information: Culture Adviser Ginta Trope ph. 7820089, 7211006, e-mail: ginta@nmr.lv; list of grant holders on our website www.nmr.lv.

Nordic-Baltic Co-operation in Combating the Use and Spread of Drugs

The Joint Action Plan in Combating the Use of Drugs is a new grant program announced by Nordic Council of Ministers in the Baltic States and Northwest Russia in 2004. The program foresees funding for different activities in the fields of prophylaxis, therapy and rehabilitation including informative and educative activities for children and youth, specialists' training, output of methodical materials etc. The program supports acquiring Nordic experience with combating the use and spread of narcotics.

Exchange of Civil Servants

The aim of the Nordic Council of Ministers' Scholarship Scheme – Exchange of Civil Servants – offers civil servants opportunities to build networks between civil structures of Northwest Russia and the Baltic States from one side and the same structures from the Nordic countries on the other side. This can be done either by study visits to Nordic countries or by inviting of Nordic experts.

The aim of the study visits is to broaden ones outlook and to take over the good experience in such fields as:

- Food safety and the legislation;
- Territorial planning;
- Spreading of EU information;
- Cooperation models between state, public and non-governmental sectors;
- Use of IT in municipalities;
- Alternative care systems for children and elderly people;
- Verification of knowledge of state language;
- Elaboration of strategy for culture policy of the cities;
- Real estate evaluation;
- Social work and social services for families with children.

NordProLink

For the second year NCM IO continues to award grants for the traineeships of young professionals from different spheres within the program – NordProLink – *Nordic Professional Links*. After the evaluation of applications and interviews NCM Information office decided to support 12 applications for the total amount of 18 428 LVL.

Additional information: Ieva Arnte ph. 7820051, e-mail: ieva.arnte@nmr.lv; list of grant holders on our website www.nmr.lv.

Nordic Action Plan for Children and Youth at Risk

This spring the NCM Information Office has received 82 project applications for the grant program "Nordic Action Plan for the Children and Youth at Risk". The applications will be evaluated by the reference group from four ministries and international organizations. NCM Information Office is pleased to register so many project proposals from NGOs, schools, municipalities and organisations working with children and youth at risk in the cities and rural areas.

On 10th of March the Adviser of NCM IO Daina Mežecka together with the journalist of the Nordic magazine "Social & Hälsovårdsnytt i Norden" visited projects funded through the Nordic Action Plan for the Children and Youth at Risk.

The trip included a visit to the **Sign Language Centre of the Latvian Association of the Deaf**.



One of the project results will be a video vocabulary and video fairytales for the deaf people. It is possible right now to learn the sign language (at least the alphabet) online by visiting the website of the

Association: <http://www.lns.lv>. The aim of these materials is to help deaf children and their hearing parents to learn sign language. This learning possibility is the basis for further development of literacy for these children. It will also help to integrate deaf people into society of hearing people. But for the hearing parents the learning of the sign language radically ameliorates their communication with their deaf child.

The **Day Centre for the Street Children in Riga** received financial support for the project "Street children and social integration of their families by using methods of the play therapy" last year. The project has been going on for nine months and was concluded in January 2004. During this time daily visiting families were observed and regular play therapy seances for children and their parents were carried out in order to improve the communication skills within the families.

Integration of children and young adults with disabilities in comprehensive education schools was discussed during the visit at the organization of people with disabilities and their friends "**Apeirons**". Strategies have been elaborated for Integration of Handicapped Children and Young Adults within the NCM supported project "The Bridge to Understanding" in two regions – Liepaja City and Madona district. The Project Manager Kārlis Viša confirmed that the team has worked with a great outcome. Neighboring town and regional municipalities have shown an interest in using the gathered experience in developing their own integration strategies.

Creation of an International Language Network

The project "Establishing Network for Exchange of Language Teaching Methods and Training of Translators/ Interpreters" was supported by the Nordic Grant Scheme programme last year. The Project Coordinator, assist. prof. Anita Eglite, Dr. Ph. has given us an opportunity to learn more about the project theme in the report which is published on our website in English. The present project deals with:

- the investigation of the actual language and intercultural communication situation in the Nordic as well as in the Baltic region;
- creating network;
- formation of the appropriate linguistic awareness;
- language situation management on the verge of expanding boundaries of EU towards Baltic and other European countries.

You are welcome to read the report about the Creation of an International Language Network on our home page www.nmr.lv in "Activities/Projects" section.

Closer co-operation in education, training and research


The Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Education and Research agreed to work more closely together at their meeting in Copenhagen in March.

















The ministers agreed to formalise co-operation by drawing up a joint action plan for the establishment of a Nordic/Baltic area in adult education, school co-operation, research and higher education. The purpose is not harmonisation of the educational systems – the intergovernmental partnership will be based on the differences between the countries. They also discussed ways of opening up the Nordplus mobility and networking programmes to allow Baltic participation and agreed to improve research co-operation by increasing Baltic participation in Nordic research programmes or at Nordic research institutions. A contact group will be set up, consisting of representatives of the education and research ministries in all of the Nordic and Baltic States. A Nordic secretary in the Nordic Council of Ministers and a Baltic Secretary from one of the Baltic ministries will co-ordinate its work.
















SCHOLARSHIP and PROJECT APPLICATION DEADLINES

| Title | Description | Application deadline | Contact person/ Organization |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nordic Action Plan for Children and Youth at Risk | Financial support for projects aimed at children and young adults at risk | 1 st of April 1st of October | Daina Mežecka, NCM/IO daina@nmr.lv Telephone: +371 7211506 www.nmr.lv |
| Exchange of Civil Servants | Study trips for civil servants | 15 th of March 15th of September | Daina Mežecka, NCM/IO daina@nmr.lv Telephone: +371 7211506 www.nmr.lv |
| Development of local and regional administration | Financial support for local and regional co – operation networks | 15 th of April 15th of October | Vida Rožīte, NCM/IO Vida@nmr.lv Telephone: +371 7213231 www.nmr.lv |
| Baltic Sleipnir | Study trips for young artists active in the spheres of music, literature, visual art, dance etc. | 1 st of March 1st of October | Ginta Tropa, NCM/IO ginta@nmr.lv Telephone: +371 7820055 www.nmr.lv |
| NordProLink | Training program for young employees from private small and medium – sized enterprises | 1 st April 1st October | Ieva Arnte, NCM/IO ieva.arnte@nmr.lv Telephone: +371 7820051 www.nmr.lv |

CALENDAR of the NORDIC EVENTS

 Events, where NCM or NCM IO is supporting.

| Date | Events | Place | Contact |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| APRIL | | | |
| 01.04.04. | 2 nd International Animation Film Festival "BIMINI 2004". (Swedish and Finnish animation films will be presented among the others) | Cinema "Riga", Elizabetes 61 | Phone: +371 7281105 |
| 01.10.04. |  Days of Swedish Traditional Food within the Cookery Festival "100 Days Untill European Union" | Riga, "Grand Palace Hotel", Pils iela 12 | Phone: +371 7044000 |
| 03.-04.04. |  NORDTOLK seminar for translators and interpreters | Latvian Academy of Culture, Riga, Ludzas 24 | The Centre of Nordic Studies Snorre Karkonens-Svensons snorre@lka.edu.lv , phone: +371 7143573 |
| 09.04. at 7:00 pm |  Mihala Petri gives a concert in Riga together with Kremarata Baltica. The program includes music of Part, Telemann, Maskat, Koppel and Vivaldi | The Big Guilde, Riga | The Danish Cultural Institute dki@dki.lv ; phone: +371 7289994 |
| 09.-11.04. |  Nordic Film Club The Guy in the Grave Next Door, Director Kjell Sundvall, Sweden, 2002 | Kinogalerija, Jauniela 24, Riga | NCM /IO, Ginta Tropa, ginta@nmr.lv |
| 20.-21.04. |  Training seminar "Strategic planning in Cross-border Regions" | Rezekne Business Centre, Atbrivosanas al. 93, Rezekne | Šarūnas Radvilavičius NCM IO in Lithuania sarunas@nmr.lv ; phone: +370 5 2123697 |
| 14.-15.04. |  Nordic Council Theme Meeting 2004 "The Northern Dimension in an Enlarged Europe" | Helsinki | Nordic Council & Nordic Council of Ministers |
| 15.-18.04. |  Film Forum "And The Word Became Film..." | Riga, Kinogalerija, Jauniela 24 | NCM /IO, Ginta Tropa, ginta@nmr.lv |
| 23.04. |  Pjers Derg with "New Jungle Orchestra" gives a concert in Riga | Club "Sapnu fabrika" (Factory of Dreams), Lāčplēša 101 | The Danish Cultural Institute dki@dki.lv ; phone: +371 7289994 |
| 24.04. at 12:00 |  Latvian Puppet Theatre offers new performance dedicated to H.C. Andersen 200 jubileum | State Puppet Theatre | The Danish Cultural Institute dki@dki.lv ; phone: +371 7289994 |
| 23-24.04. |  International conference "Competitiveness of small economies - how will small countries such as the Baltic States compete in the EU single market?" | Stockholm School of Economics in Riga | NCM / IO, Vida Rozite, vida@nmr.lv |
| 30.04. |  Walpurgis Night at the Open Air Museum in Riga | Latvian Ethnographic Open-air Museum | Society Sweden - Latvia |
| MAY | | | |
| 01.05. |  Sylvia Vrethammar (Sweden) and Jazz group from Germany perform in Riga | Latvian National Opera | |
| 01.05. |  "Granhøj Dance Theatre" perform in Riga. Performance dedicated to Latvia's joining EU. It is also the part of 9 th International Ballet Festival | Riga | The Danish Cultural Institute dki@dki.lv ; phone: +371 7289994 |
| 03.-09.05. |  The 5th RAM workshop: Open Source Media Architecture | Riga | Riga Centre for New Media Culture, phone: +371 7228478 |
| 06.-06.05. |  IV Nordic Poetry Festival in Estonia | Tallinn, Parnu, Tartu | NCM Information Office in Tallinn |
| 07.05. |  Nordic Cooperation Minister of Sweden Ms. Berit Andnor visiting Latvia | Riga | NCM / IO Director, Eva Emneus, eva.emneus@nmr.lv |

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| 07.09.05. | - |  Nordic Film Club Lovers and Leavers, Director Aku Louhimies, Finland, 2002 | Kinogalerija, Jauniela 24, Riga | NCM / IO, Ginta Tropa, ginta@nmr.lv |
| 10-11.05. | |  NorFa Conference „Co-operation on Research Training in the Baltic Sea Area” | Riga, University of Latvia | Nordic Academy for Advanced Study |
| 14.05.-13.06. | |  Ars Baltica Triennial of Photographic Art, project “What is important?” | Riga | Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art, phone: +371 7039285 |
| 17.05. | |  Norwegian National Day | | |
| 18.05. | |  2 nd Music Afternoon “Swedish Music Traditions” | Riga, Latvia/NCM / IO | NCM / IO Adviser Ieva Hermansone, ieva@nmr.lv |
| 18.05.-18.06. | |  Artists from Sweden Christer Mattsson, Mona-Lisa Eriksson, Hanna Stahle and Mårten exhibit in Riga. | Mencendorf House Grecinieku 18, Riga | Phone: +371 7212951 |
| 19.05.-30.06. | |  Exhibition “Glass from Gotland” | Riga, Mencendorff's House | Glass Art and Study Centre, phone: +371 7212951 |
| 21.-22.05. | |  Conference on Nordic Studies in the Baltic States | Latvian Academy of Culture | Snorre Karkonen – Svenson, The Centre of Nordic Studies, snorre@lka.edu.lv . |
| 21.-22.05. | |  Scandinavian Music Concert | Liepaja, Riga | NCM / IO, Ginta Tropa, ginta@nmr.lv |
| 21.-22.05. | |  Young North: Nordic Dance performances and workshops | Riga | NCM / IO, Ginta Tropa, ginta@nmr.lv |
| 24.05. | |  Presentation of the book by Svend Åge Madsen | Riga, Latvia/NCM / IO | NCM / IO Adviser Ieva Hermansone, ieva@nmr.lv |
| JUNE | | | | |
| 14.06. | |  Presentation of the book “Ragnaroks” by Villy Sorensen | Riga, Latvia/NCM / IO | NCM / IO Adviser Ieva Hermansone, ieva@nmr.lv |
| 05.06. | |  Danish National Day | | |
| 06.06. | |  Swedish National Day | | |
| 04.06.-28.07. | |  "European Space - Sculpture Quadrennial Riga 2004" - exhibition, seminars, workshops. Charlotte Gyllenhammar and Maria Miesenberger participate. | Exhibition Hall "Arsenals", Riga | Art Management and Information Centre, , Mara Adina, mara.adina@mmic.lv . |

Abbreviations in the text:

NCM – Nordic Council of Ministers

NC – Nordic Council

NCM/ IO - Nordic Council of Ministers Information Office

Read this calendar in Latvian and in English also on our home page: www.nmr.lv.

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