



Improving the quality of life for international students and scientists

8th-9th November 2017
Tartu, Estonia

In the last session in Magdeburg, we discussed how to attract international talent. In the meeting in Tartu the central question will be: When the internationals are here, how to make sure that they have a good and meaningful time in the city?

Questions to be addressed

Information in English:

- How and with which information in English will you inform highly qualified international talents about moving in a new city (housing, health care, public transport, finance, government letters, etc.)?
- Do you distinguish between different target groups (students, researchers, company expats, different countries of origin, etc.)?

Organisation of special support: Which services and advisory services (accommodation, language courses, etc.) are offered by you and how is the service organised?

Support for partners and families: How is the care of temporarily living families (childcare, care of adult partners) organised?

What are the main challenges and difficulties in your city and university with regards to improving the quality of life for foreign workers and students (organisational aspects, legal issues, cultural differences, etc.)?

Programme

Tuesday, 7th November	
	Arrivals
20:00	Welcome dinner (Hotel Dorpat restaurant)
Wednesday, 8th November	
09:00	Arrival to the venue (Karl Ernst von Baer House, Veski 4, Tartu) Coffee
09:30	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urmas Klaas, Mayor of Tartu • Dr. Klaus Puchta, City of Magdeburg • Willem van Winden, Chair of the Meeting • Short introduction
10:00	Local context: presentation by Tartu City Government
10:30	Coffee break
11:00	Understanding the needs of international students: experiences of the universities of Tartu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Students from University of Tartu, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Erasmus Student Network</i>
11:45	Understanding the needs of international staff: experiences of the universities of Tartu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Olga Bogdanova, Vice Director for Academic Affairs, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, University of Tartu</i> - <i>Dmytro Fishman, Assistant of Data Science and Junior Research Fellow in Bioinformatics, Institute of Computer Science, University of Tartu</i> - <i>Beate Regine Noe, Researcher in Chair of Crop Science and Plant Biology, Estonian University of Life Sciences</i>
12:30	Lunch

14:00	Sharing experiences how cities and universities contribute to improving quality of life of international students and scientists in partner cities (a <u>short presentation</u> by every city followed by a joint discussion) - <i>Representatives from Magdeburg, Parma, Delft and Tartu</i>
15:30	Coffee break
16:00	Identifying key problems in partner cities (workshop)
17:30	Conclusions and reflections
20:00	Joint dinner
Thursday, 9th November	
09:00	Serving the needs of foreign knowledge workers and students in cities: Groningen's approach – Jan Kees Kleuver
10:00	Discussion about potential solutions to the key issues raised by the partner cities (workshop)
11:30	Coffee break
11:45	Conclusions and next steps
12:30	Lunch (take-away option for early leavers)
13:30	Site visits to the university campuses

Venue

For many centuries, Estonia has been a multi-national country. Peoples of many different cultures and nationalities have through the years contributed to the development of today's Estonian culture. One of the most important groups was the Baltic-Germans and among the most renowned of the Baltic-Germans was the versatile naturalist Karl Ernst von Baer (1792–1876).

Karl Ernst von Baer was a naturalist, biologist, geologist, meteorologist, geographer, and a founding father of embryology. In Tartu, von Baer lived in a house that was built in the mid-1860s. The building currently belongs to the Estonian University of Life Sciences and houses the von Baer Natural History Centre. We are honoured to welcome you at the Karl Ernst von Baer House, the work and living quarters of one of the most known Estonian scientist.

Accommodation

Some hotel suggestions in the city centre:

- Hotel Antonius (<http://hotelantonius.ee/en/>),
- Hotel Dorpat (<http://www.dorpat.ee/>),
- Hotel London (<http://london.tartuhotels.ee/>),
- Hotel Lydia (<http://www.lydia.ee/en/>),
- Hektor Design Hostel (<https://hektorhostels.com/>),
- V Spa Hotel (<http://vspahotel.ee/en/>).

How to get to Tartu?

Tartu Airport (TAY) currently has only flights to and from Helsinki, Finland. If you use that flight option, you can use the airport shuttle to get to the centre:

<http://www.tartu-airport.ee/eng/transport/airportshuttle>

Tallinn Airport (TLL) is 2.5 hours away from Tartu. A Lux Express bus to Tartu leaves every full hour from 7am to 9pm from bus stop no 2 at the airport. As it is rather popular, we would suggest to buy your ticket in advance at:

<https://www.tpilet.ee/en/timetable/lennujaam/tartu>

Riga Airport (RIX) is 4.5 hours away from Tartu. A Lux Express bus to Tartu leaves twice a day: <http://www.luxexpress.eu/en/timetable>

If you take the shuttle from Tartu Airport, they will take you to a requested address. If you book any of the hotels shown above, and take a bus from either Tallinn or Riga, you can walk to the hotel from the bus station: hotel Dorpat is located exactly at the bus station; other hotels are just a 10 minute walk away.

Please send us your arrival and departure times and airports as soon as you have booked your tickets! If a bigger group of you arrives at the same time we can organise separate shuttles from the airports.

Contacts from the city of good thoughts!

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