



Name: Raimonds Blisīņš

Sending Institution: Luther Academy

Host Country: Latvia

Receiving Institution: [Evangelical Theological Seminary, Cvjetkova Street 32, Osijek, Croatia]

Field of Study: Old Testament

Duration of Mobility: 06/10/2025-10/10/2025

### **Why did you choose to participate in the Erasmus+ study mobility programme?**

I chose to participate in the Erasmus+ study mobility programme to broaden my theological perspective and grow both academically and personally. My main motivation was to meet theologians from different traditions and engage in meaningful dialogue about faith, Scripture, and the Church. Experiencing theology in an international context helped me to see how diverse interpretations can coexist within a shared Christian understanding.

A second motivation was to strengthen my theological English. Since much of theological research and discussion takes place in English, I wanted to improve my ability to express complex ideas clearly and confidently in this language.

Finally, I sought to deepen my understanding of the Old Testament—its theological essence and relevance for modern society. I wished to explore how these ancient texts can still guide contemporary Christian thought and practice.

In short, Erasmus+ offered me the chance to connect cultures, languages, and theological perspectives, enriching both my studies and my personal faith journey.

### **What was your experience with the cooperation between the sending and receiving institutions before, during, and after the mobility period?**

Both the Luther Academy and the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Osijek provided an excellent academic experience throughout the entire mobility period. The cooperation with both institutions was smooth and professional, with clear communication and timely support at every stage.

All administrative and academic procedures were well-organized, making the process easy to follow and efficient. The quality of teaching and academic environment was exceptionally high, fully meeting my expectations. Both institutions ensured that all information and resources were easily accessible and understandable. Overall, the experience was very positive and academically enriching.

**What are your academic and personal benefits from the Erasmus+ study mobility?**

The Erasmus+ study mobility provided both valuable academic and personal growth opportunities. Academically, it allowed me to deepen my understanding of the Old Testament through engaging lectures and discussions. I particularly appreciated the interdisciplinary perspective offered by a Christian psychotherapist, who spoke about pastoral burnout and spiritual care from a therapeutic point of view. Personally, the experience greatly improved my theological English, as I had the opportunity not only to listen but also to actively converse with colleagues from different countries. This interaction enriched my communication skills and broadened my intercultural perspective. Overall, the mobility significantly strengthened both my academic competence and personal development.

**What were your most memorable impressions while living abroad during the Erasmus+ study period?**

My most memorable impressions came from experiencing the daily life of local residents in Osijek. I was deeply impressed by the hospitality and kindness of the people, as well as by the richness of the local cuisine, which I greatly enjoyed. I was also struck by the visible historical influence of the Christian world, which created a sense of familiarity and made me feel at home. The sound of church bells marking the rhythm of community life was a beautiful reminder of faith's presence in everyday life. The study days were intense and fulfilling, providing a meaningful balance between academic focus and cultural immersion. Overall, living in Osijek was both inspiring and spiritually enriching.

**What practical advice would you give to students considering participation in the Erasmus+ study mobility?**

I would strongly recommend everyone to experience Erasmus+, as it offers valuable academic and personal growth. However, it is important to be prepared for very intensive study days. This intensity is beneficial, as it creates a focused learning environment that is hard to achieve at home. Other aspects that you consider important regarding your Erasmus+ study period I believe it is essential to express gratitude for the opportunity to participate in such a program — to study theology in another country, gain new contacts, and practice language skills. This was my first Erasmus+ experience, and

I plan to participate again in the future. Most importantly, the knowledge, experience, and relationships I have gained will stay with me and cannot be taken away.

