



**Participant:** Rinalds Grants

**Sending Institution:** Luther Academy

**Host Country:** Hungary

**Host Institution:** Evangelical University of Theology, H-1141 Budapest, Rózsavölgyi köz 3.

**Mobility Duration:** 4/12/2025-7/12/2025.

### **Motivation to participate in Erasmus study mobility**

As the Deputy Rector of the Luther Academy, I sought to strengthen academic cooperation between our institutions in the fields of theological education and research, as well as to promote intercultural exchange.

During the mobility, I aimed to familiarise myself with EHE's experience in organising theological studies, its research approaches, and its methods of preparing church workers. Such exposure helps in developing new ideas for improving the study programmes of the Luther Academy and contributes to expanding the academic networks and joint projects between our institutions. The Erasmus+ mobility at EHE was an important step in broadening the international cooperation of the Luther Academy and in enriching my professional experience within theological and academic work.

### **Cooperation with the sending and receiving institutions**

We have concluded a cooperation agreement, but our relationship is still in its early stages. This Erasmus+ mobility project helped us move forward more concretely by identifying and planning potential joint projects that would support the successful implementation of the goals and tasks outlined in the agreement.

### **Academic and personal achievements**

We agreed on several possible next steps in our cooperation, including mutual participation in upcoming academic conferences and the potential for an EHE leadership visit to the Luther Academy.

On a personal level, it was particularly significant to observe how EHE cultivates the spiritual formation of its students, creating space and opportunities for them to experience the life of the community.

### **Most memorable impressions**

I was deeply impressed by the account of EHE's work in Hungary during the period when the country was a socialist state in Eastern Europe with significant restrictions on church activity. In recent decades EHE has carried out extensive academic research on cases of cooperation between certain church workers and the state security services. This involved substantial archival investigation, as well as sensitive and pastoral engagement with the families and relatives of those involved.

This work has served not only the purposes of historical research but has also contributed meaningfully to the healing of the Church's collective memory.

### **Practical advice for future Erasmus+ participants**

In my view, it is important to familiarise yourself with publicly available information about the host institution before the mobility begins. Once on site, meaningful interaction often takes place not only during formal work sessions but also in informal shared time, which helps to build relationships that may later prove crucial. Staying in the student dormitory allowed me to observe the daily routines of students and to understand what supports their learning process. It also seems essential to remain inwardly flexible, as some of the most valuable insights and experiences may occur unexpectedly. Equally important is not only to listen and learn but also to share one's own institutional experience. For me, presenting the context of the Luther Academy was an opportunity to contribute meaningfully, as such exchange is genuinely appreciated by others.

## Additional reflections

This Erasmus+ mobility confirmed the importance of international theological cooperation in strengthening academic quality and fostering understanding among different Churches. On a personal level, the mobility renewed my sense of calling in academic and ecclesial service, encouraging me to view international cooperation not merely as a task, but as a gift.



