



Participant: **Sandra Kokina**

Sending Institution: Luther Academy
Alksnāja iela 3, Rīga, Latvija, LV-1050

Receiving Institution: Evangelical Theological Seminary
Cvjetkova 32, Osijek, Croatia, HR-31000

Field of Study: Theology – Old Testament

Mobility Period: 06 October 2025 – 10 October 2025

1. Purpose of Participation

I chose to participate in the ERASMUS+ study mobility program in order to broaden my academic and theological perspectives, gain new learning experiences, meet students from other countries, and strengthen relationships with fellow students and lecturers with whom I traveled to the seminar in Osijek. This mobility also provided an opportunity to encounter different theological traditions and deepen my understanding of Scripture in a broader Christian context.

2. Preparation and Support

From the moment of application until my return home, I experienced a consistently supportive and encouraging attitude.

- From Luther Academy (Latvia): Dr. Ineta Kristovska offered clear guidance, resolved uncertainties, provided the necessary information, and cared for all participants throughout the process.

- From Evangelical Theological Seminary (Osijek): The leadership team extended a warm welcome and demonstrated sincere hospitality and friendliness during the entire seminar.

This strong support from both institutions created a secure and inspiring environment for learning.

3. Academic and Theological Experience

For nearly three decades, my theological formation has been shaped primarily by Lutheran theology. Therefore, it was particularly enriching to hear perspectives from other Christian confessions — in this case, Evangelicals — regarding the Old Testament. The lectures offered valuable insights, and I appreciated that they were recorded and made available on YouTube. This ensures that the material can be reviewed later for deeper study and reflection.

4. Cultural and Spiritual Impressions

Living abroad was a comfortable and memorable experience, greatly enhanced by the presence of our Latvian group.



Together we created a lively, supportive atmosphere — like a buzzing beehive — moving through the city, attending lectures, and sharing moments of fellowship.

One of the most striking experiences was attending an early morning Mass at the Catholic Cathedral in Osijek. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that the liturgical order closely resembled the Lutheran tradition. The only difference was in the celebration of the Eucharist: in Roman Catholic practice, only bread was distributed to the congregation, without wine.



5. Practical Recommendations for Future Participants

- Meals: Be prepared to cook at the accommodation, as eating out three times a day can be costly.



- Exploration: Balance attendance at lectures with exploring the city or making short trips beyond it.
- Transportation: Renting a car as a small group can greatly increase sightseeing opportunities and flexibility.



- Intercultural Exchange: Take the initiative to talk with students from other countries. Their personal stories and perspectives are as valuable as the academic program itself.

6. Overall Evaluation and Future Plans

I strongly encourage other students to participate in ERASMUS mobility programs. This was my first experience, and it was deeply enriching both academically and personally. In the future, I would be glad to participate in a longer mobility period, which would allow for more