Participant: Ainārs Balodis

Sending Institution: Luther Academy

Host Country: Slovakia

Host Institution: Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica

Mobility Duration: 19–23 October 2026

Motivation to participate in Erasmus study mobility

I participated in this Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme to experience how international student mobility works in practice. I was also interested in the academic programme, especially the interpretation of the creation account, symmetry in biblical texts and Christian metaphysics. The opportunity to explore these themes in a different academic setting motivated me to take part.

Cooperation with the sending and receiving institutions

The programme was well organised, and I encountered no practical difficulties or delays. The lectures and group discussions provided a constructive learning environment. I appreciated the opportunity to engage with the topics through both teaching and discussion.

Academic and personal achievements

The programme deepened my understanding of the interpretation of Genesis 1, particularly the significance of repetition, parallelism and symmetry in biblical texts. It also encouraged me to reflect on Christian metaphysics and the relationship between spiritual and material reality. Another valuable area was the critical discussion of artificial intelligence, including its benefits and possible risks for human responsibility, learning and relationships. The group discussions helped me understand the lecture themes more clearly and consider them from different perspectives.

Most memorable impressions

One of the most memorable ideas was that the whole of creation can be understood as God's temple and that everyday human life can be lived as worship and service to God. During a group discussion, I also noticed a detail in the creation narrative that I had previously overlooked: God explicitly blesses living creatures in Genesis 1:22 and human beings in Genesis 1:28. This observation encouraged me to read the text more attentively. (Genesis 2:3 also speaks of God blessing the seventh day.).

Practical advice for future Erasmus+ participants

I do not have any specific practical recommendations for future Erasmus+ participants. My own experience was positive, and the programme ran smoothly.

Additional reflections

The programme helped me see how close attention to the structure of a biblical text can open up new questions and insights. I particularly valued the connection between biblical interpretation, Christian understandings of reality and practical issues such as the use of artificial intelligence. The discussions showed me the value of exploring theological questions together with other students.