



ERASMUS+ STAFF MOBILITY REPORT

Participant: Ineta Kristovska

Sending Institution: Luther Academy, Riga, Latvia

Host Country: Rwanda

Host Institution: Kibogora Polytechnic

Mobility Duration: 9 - 17 October 2026

Motivation to participate in Erasmus+ staff mobility

My main motivation was to strengthen Luther Academy's international cooperation with higher education institutions in Africa and to gain a deeper understanding of Rwanda's academic, social and religious context. The visit offered an opportunity to exchange experience in institutional development, quality assurance, teaching and research, while exploring possible long-term cooperation with Kibogora Polytechnic. I was particularly interested in the relationship between higher education, community engagement and the practical service of Christian communities.

Cooperation with the sending and receiving institutions

During the visit, I met with the Vice-Chancellor of Kibogora Polytechnic and the Deans of the Faculty of Business and the Faculty of Theology. Our discussions focused on institutional priorities, opportunities for academic exchange, collaboration in business and theological education, and the development of sustainable partnerships. An important outcome was the conclusion of an Erasmus cooperation agreement between Luther Academy and Kibogora Polytechnic. This agreement provides a foundation for preparing a future Erasmus+ KA171 international credit mobility project proposal and for promoting continued cooperation, including potential staff and student mobility, joint academic activities and exchange of expertise.



Academic and personal achievements

The meetings with the institutional leadership and the Deans of Business and Theology strengthened my understanding of the academic environment in Rwanda and helped identify areas for future collaboration. To conclude, the Erasmus cooperation agreement was a significant institutional achievement and an important step towards preparing an Erasmus+ KA171 project proposal. The visit also contributed to my professional development in international cooperation and research management. An especially meaningful part of the mobility was meeting three Luther Academy students who serve in congregations in Kigali and other parts of Rwanda. Our conversations offered insight into their pastoral work, local church life and the practical application of theological education.

Most memorable impressions

One of the strongest impressions was the opportunity to experience Rwanda's cultural and community context firsthand and to see how education, faith and service intersect in everyday life. The visit to the Kibogora area and the conversations about local educational and community needs provided valuable perspectives. The meetings with the three Luther Academy students were particularly memorable: hearing about their ministry in Kigali and other congregations highlighted the international reach of the Academy's educational mission and the importance of maintaining close ties with students and graduates working in different contexts.



Practical advice for future Erasmus+ participants

Establish contact with the host institution well in advance and agree on the purpose, programme and expected outcomes of the visit. Allow sufficient time for travel within Rwanda, especially when visiting institutions outside Kigali, and confirm transport arrangements before departure. Be prepared for differences in local working practices and remain flexible with the schedule. Familiarise yourself with local cultural and religious contexts and use the mobility not only for institutional meetings but also for meaningful dialogue with students, academic colleagues and local communities.



Additional reflections

The visit established a practical basis for a longer-term partnership between Luther Academy and Kibogora Polytechnic. The Erasmus cooperation agreement will support the preparation of an Erasmus+ KA171 project proposal and the exploration of future mobility and joint academic initiatives. Continued dialogue with the Vice-Chancellor and the Deans of Business and Theology will be important for defining concrete activities and responsibilities. Meeting three Luther Academy students engaged in ministry in Kigali and other Rwandan congregations also demonstrated the Academy's international reach and the value of maintaining close relationships with students serving abroad.

