Participant: Raimonds Blisiņš

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

My main goal for this mobility was to improve my communication skills, especially my theological English. I also wanted to broaden my understanding of the different interpretations of the Book of Genesis. Additionally, I wanted to explore the city and meet new theologians and lecturers. Making these connections is very important to me because I hope to teach my own lectures in the Erasmus program one day. Discussing ideas with international scholars also helps me better understand the Lutheran tradition and the Church Fathers.

Cooperation with the sending and receiving institutions

The cooperation was great because everything was very well organized. I really appreciated the good food and coffee, which allowed me to focus fully on the lectures instead of worrying about being hungry. There were also excursions that helped me get to know Banská Bystrica better. In fact, their wonderful hospitality made me want to return to Slovakia again in the future.

Academic and personal achievements

While there weren't many major achievements this time, academically I explored the idea in the Book of Genesis that God created the earth as a temple. The concept that all creation worships Him gives an ecological perspective and helps build the right attitude towards the world.

My personal achievements were more about discovering who I am when interacting with others. These were quite private but very valuable lessons for my self-development. By observing how I behave and connect with people, I was able to experience real personal growth.

Most memorable impressions

My most memorable impression was the beautiful, mountainous landscape of the city. Since everything is completely flat back home in Latvia, I really enjoyed being able to walk and explore so much. Walking through this environment gave me a peaceful space to reflect on the theological ideas we discussed in class, making it easy to appreciate the beauty of God's creation. I also loved the local people, who were incredibly helpful and hospitable. Sharing affordable and delicious meals with fellow participants naturally led to many great conversations about faith and life. As I mentioned before, this warm hospitality is the main reason I would love to return to Slovakia someday.

Practical advice for future Erasmus+ participants

Go and enjoy connecting with other theologians – this is a great time for networking. Don't be shy to try the local food and get to know the local people. May God bless you!

Additional reflections

As I mentioned earlier, this trip was mostly filled with deep inner reflection. I thought a lot about how I interact with other people, what my character is truly like, and what I can and cannot control. It was a very valuable trip. In a way, it changed my understanding of my own responsibilities, my personal boundaries, and how to accept others. I will definitely go on another mobility if I get the chance. But most of all, this time away made me realize that my family is my greatest value.

Banská
Bystrica