



# Biodiversity meets music

## Jelgava - biodiversity at my backyard or in a park in my hometown



The fourth exchange in September 2022 brought together students and teachers who already knew each other, but also new faces. The programme was especially designed to get to know the diverse culture (music, dance, customs and tradition, dishes, architecture, etc.) in addition to dealing with nature and the biodiversity of the country.

### Group activities

- 1 Welcoming of the guests in Latvian traditional costume with rye bread, goldsmith's honey, and milk as well as a traditional bracelet with Latvian ethnographic patterns as a guest gift
- 2 Presentation of the programme, Icebreaking activities: Photo session, Games.
- 3 Welcome in the assembly hall with information on Latvian culture, music and singing, and presentation of the school by the Erasmus students.
- 4 Welcome by the headmaster, followed by a concert of the brass band Rota conducted by the headmaster, presented by the Erasmus students.
- 5 Presentation of the partner schools' activities (Biodiversity at my doorstep, Parks in my hometown).
- 6 Shared meals with tasting of local and regional specialities (canteen, restaurants with traditional cuisine and atmosphere).
- 7 Jointly prepared dinner by Erasmus students and their families, with the participation of the project partners, e.g., Greek national sweets, Italian piadinas, Spanish omelette and of course the traditional Latvian meat pies, pancakes, bread arrangements, rosol, home-made cakes).
- 8 Student-led visit of Jelgava in mixed groups (Castle Island).
- 9 Excursion to Kemerī National Park: guided tour, active nature conservation work, e.g. combating the marigold (invasive species spreading in the coastal area), side trip to the coast.
- 10 Excursion to Riga: finding animals in the architecture of the old town, history of Riga
- 11 Guided excursion to the floodplains in the backyard of Jelgava Castle: information on wild horse breeding, visit to the castle (University of Life Sciences and Technology).
- 12 Joint dinner, music, and dance (performances by the project partners, together with the Latvian folklore group Dimzēns).
- 13 Excursion to Rundāle Palace (architecture and garden), followed by a visit to Tērvete Nature Park
- 14 Walk through the nature and theme park with fairytale characters: Carrying out little "research tasks".
- 15 Picnic by the open fire in the forest.