



REPORT OF



SCHOLARSHIP



TRAINEE

DARIUS VAŠKYS

Floristry designer, landscaper,
vocational training school teacher.



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My name is Darius, I am 25 years old. I am professional florist, wedding planner, events decorator, landscaper. I am working in Klaipeda Ernestas Galvanauskas vocational training center. I am floristry, landscaping, guest service teacher.

I am curious, I always want to learn something new, to try something new and share my experience with others. I want to understand how local action groups helping for business in rural areas.

I have dream to open family business of restaurant, hotel with beautiful garden in our farmstead in my hometown – Plunge. I am interested rural tourism experience from different countries. I want to teach, share my experience with my students how to make business in rural areas from Lithuanian/Latvian perspective. That is why I wanted this scholarship and go to Latvia.





HOST

“SERNIKON”

Public and Private
Partnership Association

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“SERNIKON” – association with headoffice in Carnikava implementing Community Led Local development strategy to make this area as recreation place to rest for short and long-time visitors and a vital place to live and organize a business.

PPP association “Sernikon” is operating in two coastal municipalities north from Riga – Carnikava and Saulkrasti municipality. The LAG is the smallest in Latvia (130 km² and 16 242 inhabitants)

Local Action group operates as LAG and FLAG- working with The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.



ACTIVITIES

Description of the activities carried out

The main idea of the internship was to acquire organizational, communication skills with local entrepreneurs, the municipality and NGOs, to explore and learn how LAGs work and implement community-led local development. I wanted to know how local action groups, EU projects helping for rural areas to be more interesting for tourists, business, young peoples.

I learned that!

How?

I was working in association “Sernikon”. Chairmen of the Board of association “Sernikon” Āris Ādlers teaches me about work in NGOs. Together with him I was working in “Sernikon” office, attended seminars about projects. Āris Ādlers showed me projects in Carnikava and Saulkrasti municipality and other villages in Latvia. We had meetings with people and organizations who wanted to write projects and get European support. Latvian Rural forum invited me to be participant in big meeting in Tūja village. There we discussed about this Village problems. LRF started to make Village developing plan. It was really interesting experience for me. We made few projects control visits around Carnikava- it was interesting. Me and my coordinator Āris Ādlers visited lot of villages which is supported by EU projects. Villages are customized for business, tourism and young peoples.

I think, that visiting all these places, is very good lessons how to work in local action groups, how to work with projects. Now I have more information and understand better how it is working.

WHAT I WAS DOING?

What I was doing every day and what result it is

Date	Action	Description	Result
14th of July	-Travel to Latvia	Introduction of Riga. Dinner	Accommodated
15th of July	-Working in office	2 Consultations in Riga about creation of rehabilitation center and new business starting in Carnikava. Introduction of Office work.	Have knowledge how Sernikon is working - making consultations etc.
16th of July	- Working in office - Seminar - Going to Mežotne for accommodation.	Knowing more about Sernikon, how this organisation is working. Going to seminar about new NGO's and know information about project writings. Get accommodation in Mežotne.	Have more knowledge how Sernikon is working. Have knowledge how to start NGO and how to write projects. Accommodated in Mežotne.
17th of July	-Visiting Bauska, Rundale municipality and gardens.	Visiting greenery in Rundale, palace gardens.	Visited Bauska and Rundale greeneries, palace gardens, have knowledge about this garden plants, design.
18th of July	- Working in office - Visit Līgatne.	Doing simple tasks in daily routine, making advertising for organisation event. Visit old paper factory in Līgatne.	Have more knowledge about work in Sernikon and more information about EU projects. Visited Līgatne, old paper factory, touristic places around Līgatne.
19th of July	- Working in office - Visit Tuja, to attend seminar.	Doing simple tasks in office, visit Tuja village, talk with local people, attending seminar about village development plan.	Have more knowledge about work in Sernikon, get more information about EU projects. Visited Tuja, talked with local people about village problems, how to solve it and attended to seminar about village development plan making.
20th of July	- Visit Kuldīga	Visiting festival "Dzīres Kuldīgā"	Visited festival in Kuldīga, places for tourists, saw parade of local communities, business,

			local action groups and willages around Kuldiga.
21th of July	- Visit Kuldiga	Visiting festival "Dzīves Kultīgā"	Had oppurtunity to visit art plenair in Strazd village and see how rural areas is customizable for tourists and business.
22th of July	- Working in office	Translation of documents from English to Lithuania about the Host organisation	Translated information about organisation Sernikon from english to lithuanian, made advertisment for lithuanians about this organisation.
23th of July	- Project visits in LAG "Sernikon"	Visit places and make control visits of places which is supported by Sernikon organisation.	Made control visit in cafe "Balta kapa", hotel "Strand", historical fishermans house in Carnikava.
24th of July	- Working in office - Visit project places.	Attend a meeting with Sernikon team, talk about organisations "Sernikon", making organisations renewing plan. Visit project places in Kalngale.	Attended in meeting with Sernikon team, had discussion about organisations vision and rebranding, visited new estrada in Kalngale witch is supported by Sernikon.
25th of July	- Fields visits	Visit Mazzalve, Sece, Straburaga, Selpils, Dignaja, Jekabpils.	Visited Mazzalve, Sece, Staburaga, Selpils, Dignaja, Jekabpils. Saw rural places which is customised for business of tourism. Had discussion with Sernikon specialist about possibilities to make these villages more touristic and more profitable.
26th of July	- Fields visits	Visit Kalna, Rubeni, Dviete, Zasa.	Visited Kalna, Rubeni, Dviete, Zasa. Saw rural places which is customised for business of tourism. Visited Grapes garden
27th of July	- Write report, travel to Lithuania	Writing diary, report about scholarship and going to Lithuania by buss.	Finished to write report and going to home to Lithuania.

MY DIARY IS ON
MY FACEBOOK PROFILE
<https://www.facebook.com/darius.vaskys>





MY COORDINATOR



ĀRIS ĀDLERS

President of PREPARE AISBL
Manager of PPP association SERNIKON

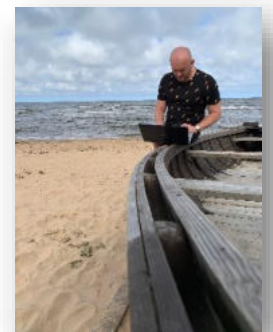
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Āris Ādlers was my coordinator during all scholarsip. I am very thankful. He tried to show me as much as possible and he tried to do his best. He helped me to make the best scholarship program that was very useful for me. We did it, we completed the whole program. He is very professional special of villages developement, he really love his work. His works inspires me. I was learning a lot from fim.

Āris Ādlers is chairmen of the Board, the main manager of the organization SERNIKON. He working here since April, 2018. Before he was working in Latvian Rural Forum. He is also President of PREPARE AISBL, working in Riga Technical University as well.

I asked few questions about his work. He said, that he like this work, because he like new challenges, he like to develop organisation. Āris really love to work with peoples, to make better life in rural areas. He said, that easiest work is communication with peoples. When I asked about works which he don't like, he answered – „I don't like political and personal conflicts in area, work with papers is hardest“.

Āris think, that these scholarships is important for young peoples. He like to see how people without experience in NGO, Civic, rural developement discovers something new.





MEMBER OF LRF

ANITA SEĻICKA

Executive manager director of
Latvian Rural Forum

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I met Anita Seļicka in big meeting with peoples from Tūja village. Then I was surprised how Latvian Rural Forum want to help for peoples in this village. Tūja dont have sewerage, they have bad connection with bigger cities.

Anita workin in LRF already 7 years, since 2012. She is executive director. I asked some questions about Anitas work. She wanted to take active part in the development of rural areas of Latvia, thats why Anita started to work here. Anita like this work because it is dynamic, creative and challenging, including applying new solutions, establishing cooperation with representatives from different sectors, practicioners and scientists as well as searching for the best practical and political solutions to. Hardest in this work is to having not enough hours in a day, days in a week and weeks in a year.

Anita said that the mission of LRF is to promote balanced development of Latvian rural territories in order to create it as a place where contented people live, able to meet their economical and social needs in the place of their residence.

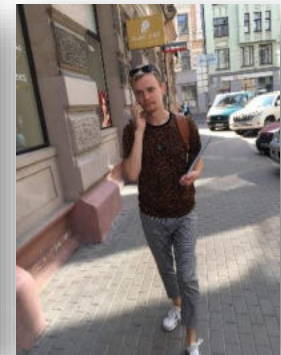
I am so thankful for Anita, that she find time and said me more about Latvian Rural Forum and Villages developement. It was very interesting for me.



WHAT I LEARNED?

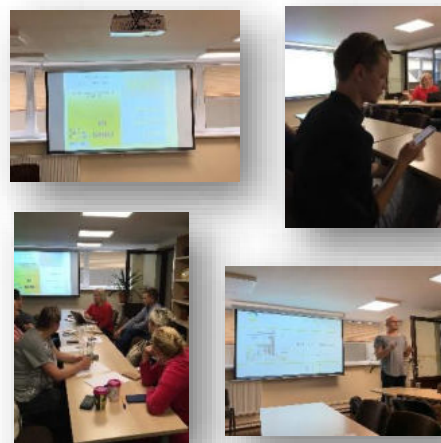
I learned a lot of things. Started from very simply and finished to very important for my scholarship. Now I know how SERNIKON is helping and developing Carnikava and Saulkrasti municipalities, I know how others organisations are working, what village development, how to write projects. Now I know how modern, for young people's interesting things, business, tourism fit with nature in rural areas.

I was in few meetings with potential candidates for writing a project. I learned what are the main questions and answers about projects, rules for project writing. Now I know how it is working.



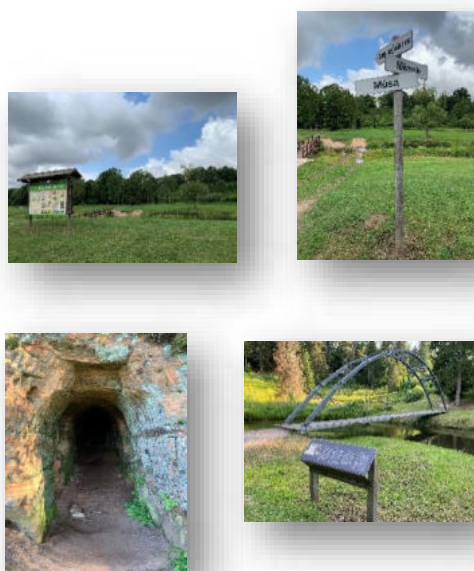
I visited project places in Carnikava and Saulkrasti which were created by SERNIKON association. It is interesting, modern places for tourists and business, but it is also fit with nature. I saw how important it is for villages and people who come here.

SERNIKON invited me to attend a seminar about NGOs. I found out how many organisations is working in Latvia, how they are working and why peoples creating organisations. Āris Ādlers in seminar was talking about organization SERNIKON projects. I am more and more learned about projects and NGOs.



I visited Rundale gardens. It is one of the most beautiful decorative gardens in Europe. I am florist and landscaper, it was important to see this french style gardens for me. This garden is created in 1735/36 by Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli. Workers said, that it is only one this size rozes garden in Europe 12000 plants, 2,3 ha. Gardeners showed how they making new planting places for flowers. It was interesting experience for me.

Āris Ādlers showed me how interesting tourism objects is integrated to nature. We visited Līgatne old paper factory, and wooden road near sand caves, Bauskas Nature park, other small villages.



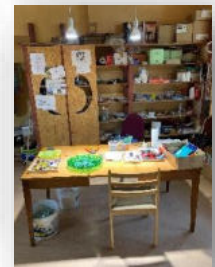
Latvian Rural Forum invited me to be participant in big meeting with peoples in Tūja village. I was watching and learning how LRF team was working, how they find out villages problems, how they started to make Village development plan. I was learning how to comunicate with peoples, work in team, how to make interesting discussion. I was excited how professional they working. Discussions with peoples from Tūja was really useful. I am very happy to have opurtunity to learn from the most professional



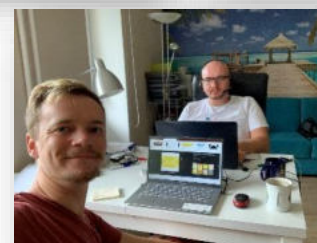
Me together with Āris Ādlers was going to check projects, places, business in rural areas which was supported by SERNIKON. It was interesting lesson about work in this organisation. I learned how to make control visits, what documents need to do. I saw business in rural areas which fit together with nature.



We traveled to East Latvia to see more projects in rural areas. We visited Mazzalve, Sece, Staburaga, Selpils, Daugava, Jekabpils, Dignaja, Kalna, Rubeni, Dviete, Zasa. It was lessons about projects, NGOs work, about projects for business, tourism which fit with nature. It was good lessons for me, people who living and working in quite big city. I am teacher of landscaping, so visiting gardens, natural places, touristic places in rural areas is good for me. It was good to learn from peoples from organisations in villages.



I was working in PPP „Sernikon“ office. I helped to make advertisement for events, seminars and information about organisation. I was doing small papers works, simply tasks. I learned to work in office, plan events, make advertisements which have same style with SERNIKON visual identity. I translated information about host organisation in lithuanian language. SERNIKON will send it for partners in Lithuania. Before I thought, that work in office is boring, but I see, if peoples combine works with papers, meetings, communication wirh peoples, do everything in active way – it is not boring, it is interesting. That is how my coordinator Āris Ādleris is working. I am happy to have opurtunity to learn from him.



DIARY OF SCHOLARSHIP:
<https://www.facebook.com/darius.vaskys>



RESULTS OF SCHOLARSHIP



It was so good time! I am very happy because I had the opportunity to learn from professionals. I was learning from real peoples. Not from books. It was not lessons when teacher give information for me and that is all. No, this scholarship gives me a lot. Lot of experience, practical lessons. People I met is real professionals, office workers, gardeners, consultants, NGOs workers, peoples in villages. They all tried to help me to understand about their works, plans, projects, lifes. I am very thankful!

I am teacher, my works again will starts in autumn. First what I will do – share my experience in school with colleagues and students. After scholarship I started to be interested about NGOs in Lithuania. I think I also have something what can help for other peoples. I am looking information how to start to work in organisation or create new. It is still in my minds, but one of point in my „To do list“.

This scholarsip changed my understanding about rural life, developement, NGO's, local action groups, peoples. I see me in this work also.

THANKS for all peoples who helped me in this scholarship, who teaching me everything what I learned. I am very happy!

AČIŪ!