



LEADERSHIP AND CULTURE THROUGH NATURE



erasmus+ and
european solidarity
corps agency

**YOUNG
FOLKS**



Co-funded by
the European Union

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Youth Leadership Development in Estonia–Latvia Cooperation is an Erasmus+ youth project designed to strengthen young people's leadership skills, participation and cooperation through nature-based and outdoor learning. The project uses nature, outdoor activities and hiking as tools for developing leadership, teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills.

It creates opportunities for young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, to learn through experience, challenge themselves and build confidence in their ability to take initiative and lead.

Through activities involving Estonian and Latvian young people and youth organisations, the project promotes cross-border cooperation, intercultural learning and the exchange of experiences. Outdoor and nature-based activities provide a space for young people to work together, overcome challenges and develop stronger connections across borders.

The project also aims to create a more inclusive environment where young people with fewer opportunities can actively participate, develop their leadership potential and become more engaged in their communities.

The project is implemented in cooperation between Estonian and Latvian organisations, with the financial support of the Estonian National Agency and co-funding from the European Union through the Erasmus+ Youth Programme, KA210 – Small-scale partnerships in youth.



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MEET THE PARTNERS

The project is implemented by two experienced youth organisations:



MTÜ KoosOn



Young Folks LV

Together, the partners combine expertise in inclusive youth work, outdoor education, inclusion of minority groups, non-formal learning and youth participation.



KoosOn



MTÜ KoosOn is an Estonian non-governmental organisation founded in 2017. The organisation develops and implements experiential learning programmes in nature, focusing on youth development, leadership, cooperation skills and psychosocial resilience.

KoosOn works with schools, youth centres and community partners to create structured outdoor learning experiences that strengthen communication, responsibility and group cohesion.

The organisation combines non-formal education, reflection-based methods and practical field experience. KoosOn organises experiential camps, outdoor leadership programmes and class-based development hikes, including the KLAPP methodology. Activities focus on teamwork, communication, emotional self-regulation, responsibility and community engagement.



Young Folks LV

Young Folks LV is a youth organisation and community based in Riga. Since 2014, it has created opportunities for young people to learn, volunteer, develop their ideas and become more active in their communities.

The organisation runs a youth centre and works with more than 500 young people through educational, cultural, civic and international activities. Its work is based on non-formal education, peer-to-peer learning, learning by doing and lifelong learning.

Young Folks LV pays particular attention to inclusion and works actively with ethnic and linguistic minorities, migrants, refugees and young people facing social or economic barriers.



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PROJECT ACTION OVERVIEW

- Implementation period of whole project
September 2026 - February 2028

- Capacity building activities for organisational development
September 2026 - December 2027

- Leadership camp Estonia Implementation period
October 2026

- Leadership camp Latvia Implementation period
June 2027
Location: Latvia

- Local Youth Initiatives Implementation period
November 2027 - September 2027
Location: Estonia and Latvia / National level



CROSS-BORDER LEADERSHIP CAMP I: ESTONIA

The Cross-border Leadership Camp I

will bring together 40 young people aged 15-19

from Estonia and Latvia, including young people from rural and border regions and those with fewer opportunities.

The five-day residential camp will take place in Estonia from

22-26 October 2026

at Tartumaa Tervisespordikeskus in the Elva area



The venue provides accommodation, catering, indoor activity spaces and extensive possibilities for outdoor and nature-based learning.

THE PROGRAMME

Will combine

- hiking and outdoor cooperation activities with structured non-formal education methods
- including teamwork challenges,
- intercultural activities,
- public speaking exercises
- guided reflection
- emotional self-regulation practices



The learning process will follow a continuous cycle of action, reflection, conceptualisation and application, allowing participants to connect their experiences in nature with concrete leadership competences.



PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

The camp will involve

40 young people
aged 15–19

20-Estonia

20-Latvia

Recruitment will particularly focus on:

- young people from smaller towns,
- rural and border areas,
- including those with fewer opportunities due to geographical,
- socio-economic or previous international-experience barriers.

Approximately two staff members from each country will support the programme

VENUE



**We will stay in shared gender divided rooms
and small houses on campsite**



INTERESTED ?

Check social media of partner organisations to find the application form:

Latvia: <https://www.instagram.com/erasmusyf/>

Estonia: www.kooson.ee

Application form:

<https://forms.gle/LtiqDMCtLxwtCTAo8>

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