



# Smart shrinking as a development approach for de- populating regions around the Baltic Sea

2023 NORDPLUS intensive course (5 ECTS)

14.4. & 28/29.04.-13.05.2023

# Today's Programme

- 13:00 – 13:45 *Introduction to the course, homework , Q & A session  
(Moritz Albrecht, University of Eastern Finland)*
- 13:45 – 14:45 *Assessing shrinkage trends through statistics:  
examples from Finland (Teemu Makkonen, University  
of Eastern Finland)*
- 14:45 – 15:00 *Closing of the seminar*

# What is this about...

- **GEONORDBALT network (Human Geography)**
  - **University of Eastern Finland (FI)**
  - **University of Tartu (EE)**
  - **University of Latvia (LV)**
  - **Vilnius University (LT)**
  - **Linköping University (SE)**
  - **University Center of the Westfjords (IS)**
- **Funding from Nordplus HEI**

# The course in a nutshell...

- 28.-13.5. Lithuania & Latvia
- Mix of lectures, excursions and fieldwork
- Work in 5 small groups of mixed origin
- 5 Case studies in different countries/localities
- 5 final reports
- Lot's of work & lot's of fun...

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|---------------------|---|--|
| <b>Sa 29.4.2022</b> | 19:30   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Arrival to Vilnius &amp;</b> Evening get together (place TBA)</li> </ul> <i>Accommodation: Vilnius</i>   |
| <b>Su 30.4.2022</b> | 10-12<br>13:30 – 15:30<br><br>16 – 18:30                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vilnius City Excursion guided by LT students</li> <li>• Seminar (Hotel facilities)<br/> Student presentations (4x15min + discussion)</li> <li>• Lectures (4x 30min + discussion)<br/> <i>What can we do for shrinking areas? Perspectives, processes and policies (J Syssner LiU)</i><br/> <i>Socio-economic development in rural Lithuania (D Burneikas UV)</i><br/> <i>Local Resilience in shrinking communities (M Kokorsch UW)</i><br/> <i>Rethinking rural through a multidisciplinary perspective (M Albrecht UEF)</i></li> </ul> <i>Accommodation: Vilnius</i> |
| <b>Mo 1.5.2022</b>  | 9 – 11:30<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>13 – 20/21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morning lectures (Hotel facilities 4x 30min + discussion)<br/> <i>Depopulation in the Baltics (Z Krisjane UL)</i><br/> <i>Social innovation in shrinking localities of the North (A Sigurdsson UW)</i><br/> <i>Place-based approaches in depopulating areas: models for demographic adaptation and local economic sustainability (J Syssner LiU)</i><br/> <i>TBA (G Raagmaa UT)</i></li> <li>• Interactive Excursion (Vilnius, TV tower, surroundings &amp; Trakai) &amp; Cultural evening/dining (TBC)</li> </ul> <i>Accommodation: Vilnius</i>                      |

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| <b>Tue 2.5.2022</b> | 8:00 – 18                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interactive Excursion (Lithuania)<br/>Vilnius – Curonian Lagoon</li> </ul> <p><i>Accommodation: Dreverna Camp Site (Curonian Lagoon)</i></p>  |
| <b>Wed 3.5.2022</b> | 9 – 18<br>20-21                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interactive excursion (Lithuanian/Latvia)</li> </ul> <p>Evening debate &amp; group making (Place)</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Pakruojis Manor</i></p>  |
| <b>Thu 4.5.2022</b> | 9 – 16<br>17 – 19:30              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interactive excursion (Latvia)</li> </ul> <p>Evening Workshop</p> <p>Lecture: <i>Report writing and case study methods</i> (I Pyy UEF)</p> <p>Preparation of research plans</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Daugavpils, Biplan Hotel</i></p> |
| <b>Fri 5.5.2022</b> | 9:00-11:00<br>11 – 12:30<br>14:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of fieldwork &amp; Desktop Analysis (place)</li> </ul> <p>Research plan presentation</p> <p>Departure to case study sites</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Case study sites/Teachers Vilnius</i></p>                              |

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| <b>Sa 6.5.2022</b>  | 17 – 18:30  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field work in LT/LV case localities</li> </ul> <p>joint evening online meeting (first impression updates)</p> <p><i>Accommodation: case study sites; Teachers: Vilnius</i></p>   |
| <b>Su 7.5.2022</b>  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field work in LT/LV case localities</li> </ul> <p><i>Accommodation: case study sites; Teachers: Case study sites</i></p>   |
| <b>Mo 8.5.2022</b>  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field work in LT/LV case localities</li> </ul> <p><i>Accommodation: case study sites; Teachers: Case study sites</i></p>   |
| <b>Tue 9.5.2022</b> | <p>TBA</p> <p>13:06 – 16:30</p> <p>19 – 20:30</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field work in LT/LV case localities</li> </ul> <p>Collection from case localities</p> <p>Departure to Riga (train 801 from Daugavpils)</p> <p>Evening seminar (place, raw data presentation)</p> <p><i>Accommodation: Riga</i></p> |

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|--------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Wed<br/>10.5.2022</b> | 09:00 – 18:00                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report writing (University of Latvia)</li> </ul> <p><i>Accommodation: Riga, Rixwell Elefant Hotel</i></p>   |
| <b>Thu 11.5.2022</b>     | 09:00 – 12:00<br>13:30 – 17:00                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report writing (University of Latvia)</li> <li>• afternoon excursions (TBA)</li> </ul> <p><i>Accommodation: Riga, Rixwell Elefant Hotel</i></p>                                       |
| <b>Fri 12.5.2022</b>     | 9:00 – 12:00<br>14:00 – 16:30<br>18:30 – 22:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report writing</li> <li>• Final seminar (University of Latvia)</li> <li>• Dinner party &amp; certificate ceremony</li> </ul> <p><i>Accommodation: Riga, Rixwell Elefant Hotel</i></p> |
| <b>13.5.2022</b>         |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Departure to home country</b></li> </ul>   |





# Communication & Information

- **Common language of the course is English**
- **Teams channel: Nordplus IP LT/LV 2023**
  - Tasks, lectures and information (e.g. programme, **readings**,...)
  - Group data files, case study info (e.g. pics, documents,..) & reports/presentations
- **Registration in UEF system for CP's** (you'll get email on how to register!)
- **WhatsApp group?**
  - Objections?
  - phone numbers from Personal forms? (add to chat/or per email if you do not want to be added)
- **Student grant** (paid hopefully 28.04.)
  - Covers lunches and dinners when not offered jointly
  - Travel costs to/from course if self-paid
  - Train ticket Daugavpils-Riga & public transport during fieldwork.

# Practicalities

## Important gear:

- Rain resistant gear (e.g. umbrella for fieldwork)
- Own laptop/camera/mobile
- notebook
- Decent shoes
- Swimming gear
- Evening robe

## Other issues:

- Laundry partially possible
- Insurance own responsibility
- Complains/problems: report to own teacher or myself!



# Homework/pre-task...

- Pre-course group work by participants from each University

## **Topic:** Defining *smart shrinking* from a national perspective

- *Prepare a 15 minute presentation including:*
  - *General trends and current demographic situation in **your partner country***
  - *Potential **smart shrinking policies/strategies***
  - *Is there a common/dominant **definition of what (smart) shrinking means?***
  - *Provide **some exemplifying case/locality/programme...**(can be from home countries)*
  - *Present in first afternoon session (30.4.)*