

# The Baltic Seminar - A Path to the Anthroposophical World

By Anuj Kumar

Photos: Anuj Kumar, Camphill Baltic Seminar Archive

## Background

It has been a tradition in Camphill movement to study the principles of community living in the Camphill schools and villages. The Baltic seminar's establishment goes back to 1994 when Camphill Northern Region thought of working together about the social impulse through the 9 village lectures of Dr. Karl Konig.

In 2004, an idea came out of Camphill Northern Region meeting to have a seminar about the impulses related to the village lectures and the bio-dynamic farming between the Camphill villages situated in Latvia, Estonia and Russia. The idea was to hold a seminar at different Camphill places so that the villagers and co-workers get an opportunity to know each other and get to see different Camphill villages. The Baltic seminar also provided an opportunity to develop the vital network for development and exchange of information. The theme of the seminar was selected as per the needs and wishes of the different villages.



In 2010, the Camphill villages from Norway began to participate in the seminar and in 2014, a new 3-year Baltic seminar began on further development of curriculum for European vocational education standard with different themes.

## The Baltic Seminar: Current Form

As of today, the seminar takes place in different Camphill locations in 3 years course, for example, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia and Latvia. Employees and teachers from different Camphill places participate in the courses. During one year, the course is held 4 times. Each time the participants

get the text to read and prepare for the seminar's block. After each block, participants receive homework that they answer and send to the teachers. Each block lasts for 7 days.

## The Baltic Seminar: Offerings

The objective is to learn more about Anthroposophy and the fundamentals of Camphill movement. Through the seminar, the participants dive more into the different concepts which were presented by Rudolf Steiner. The participants do various activities during the block to learn more about the themes for example, mask making, form drawing, clay forming and music therapy to name a few. During seminar, the host village gets a gift from the participants in the form of a social evening where they carry out various activities full of fun with villagers and the local co-workers.



The seminar also gives a valuable opportunity to the participants to experience the different Camphill villages and how they carry out living. Every day during seminar the participants get platform for the healthy discussion about anthroposophical themes and how these themes influence the living and work at villages. Another imperative aspect of the seminar is that the participants get to speak with colleagues from different Camphill places about challenging situations that they face at their

respective places. It is a great forum to learn new procedures and solutions. Through the seminar the participants develop a strong feeling for friendship. The seminar also provides the participants to visit different countries in Europe, Scandinavia and Russia and through this they experience the history and culture of these countries. The seminar is very vital for Camphill movement in a way that it connects different viewpoints together.



The seminar offers artistic learning that is very imperative for the Camphill movement. The day to day life at different Camphill villages revolves around logistics and planning, and seminar illustrates how the art can contribute in reducing stress and anxiety.

How we can use art to help villagers and ourselves to live with happiness. Every seminar's block finishes with a common service and review of the block. After that all the participants go out together to celebrate the completion and then travel back to their respective places.

The seminar also plays a vital role to support Camphill places in East Europe, where the Camphill places from Norway, Sweden and Finland economically support participants from East Europe. The seminar also helps participants with no anthroposophical background to acquire knowledge in relation to anthroposophy and Camphill movement. This really helps in motivating them to work with the noble and valuable cause called, “Camphill Movement”.

