



**The first meeting of the project “Challenges of Regional Centres: Depopulation Control, Development – best practices” (DeCoDe) to be held in Daugavpils**

This year on May 23-24 Daugavpils City Council as the Lead Partner of DeCoDe project will host the meeting for partners from seven countries: Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Romania, Italy, Denmark and Spain. This will be the first meeting of the project. The project is implemented within the framework of the 2<sup>nd</sup> strand "Democratic Engagement and Civic Participation" action 2.2 “Networks of Towns” of the European Union programme "Europe for Citizens". The project aims to create an international, sustainable network of European cities to share their experiences on depopulation processes and their impacts, and to find solutions to reduce depopulation.

The EU programme “Europe for Citizens” aims to bring Europe closer to its citizens by stimulating the debate on topical issues of the European Union at local, regional and international or member state level. To create conditions that enable citizens to participate in the European Union policy-making processes, to strengthen solidarity among European citizens, and to ensure that civil society organizations, their members and any member of society are involved in the democratic life of the European Union.

In Daugavpils, the project participants will get acquainted with the essence of depopulation in the context of the European Union, Latvia and Latgale region, learn about the Latvian pilot project on remigration, share experience about depopulation as a regional challenge, discuss the topicality of the project in the EU context, participate in the debates about the future of the EU, and get acquainted with the local attractiveness of Daugavpils. By implementing this project, the participating cities will promote international cooperation and sum up proposals for the control of depopulation, which will be available for the cities to use and integrate into their planning documents.

The project is financed under the European Union programme “Europe for Citizens”.  
Implementation timeline: 01.03.2018.- 01.02.2020.

*Information provided by the project coordinator J. Ūzuliņa*

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Co-funded by the  
Europe for Citizens Programme  
of the European Union

