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Lujza Hamitouche [Olsen - Lujza.Olsen@siu.no](mailto:Lujza.Olsen@siu.no)

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The new wind of The Nordplus Programme blows from the Baltic region. Participation of the tree Baltic countries and a new framework was launched nationally in Norway at the Nordplus Conference in Oslo January 28.

The Nordplus Programme is no novelty in the family of educational programmes and many lives have been enriched since the journey started 20 years ago.

"International impulses can only strengthen the Norwegian culture", means Jens Revold, State Secretary.

The cultural aspects, but also the possibilities of joint research in order to solve the bigger issues like climate changes, migration, and healthcare were the topics of his opening speech.

## Love you

Nordic - Baltic cooperation in education is just the beginning of a much broader aim. Cooperation has already been established in other fields.

"We wish to strengthen and develop the Nordic ? Baltic region to be leading in Europe?", says Ingveig Koht Astad, Senior adviser in the Nordic Council of Ministers, who gives a glimpse of a global perspective.

The Baltic region is developing rapidly and is one of Eastern Europe?s fastest growing economies. The director of the Academic Programme Agency in Latvia, Alberts Prikulis, hopes that few years from now the region can keep up with the pace of their Nordic partners and he ended his presentation with a cheerful "We love you".

## Exciting future

The examples from already existing projects proves that Nordplus works and that the programme still engages many students and teachers at all levels of life long learning.

"The Nordplus is a programme with a special place in my heart?", says Arne Aarseth, Senior advisor in SIU, and he knows what he is talking about. He has been a part of it since the very beginning.

"It was exciting at the beginning and will be even more now", he concludes.



State secretary Jens Revold blows a good fortune to windmills of the new Nordplus framework. [Photo: Lujza H. Olsen] Yes