

Latvia – Lithuania

The Flax Museum in Panevėžys district is being revived

In Panevėžys district, work on the Flax Museum – a digital exhibition under Interreg VI-A Latvia-Lithuania Programme 2021–2027 project LL-00100 „Digital Craft Tourism” (D-tour) – is gaining momentum. This marks an important step toward preserving and presenting the district’s cultural heritage in a modern way and enhancing the region’s appeal for cultural tourism.

Panevėžys district municipality administration director Edmundas Toliušis, together with Remigijus Vilys, a specialist in the field of culture, visited the Stultiškiai Windmill, where the Flax Museum is located. They inspected the ongoing renovation work, assessed its progress, and discussed how the renewed spaces will meet modern cultural and tourism needs.

„It’s great to see that cultural sites can be adapted to modern needs while preserving their authenticity. Our goal is to safeguard cultural heritage and give it a new face. The renovated infrastructure of the Flax Museum will ensure better working conditions and offer visitors more comfort and appeal,” said administration director Edmundas Toliušis.

At the windmill, new windows and glass doors have already been installed, a heating system has been added, the floors have been repaired, drainage has been installed around the building, and an accessible ramp has been built for people with disabilities.

Representatives of the municipal administration also assessed the nearby Upytė Traditional Crafts Center, where, under the same project, a digital exhibition of traditional folk musical instruments will be set up.

While the museum renovation continues, the creative team of MB „Baukas” is collecting and digitizing materials needed for exhibitions on traditional Aukštaitija woven sashes and folk musical instruments, while fine-tuning technical solutions. In preparing the exhibition content – covering the period from the oldest crafts to the present day – the team is closely collaborating with local artisans and creators, recording their stories and documenting production processes to preserve traditions and pass them on to future generations in an engaging way.

Stultiškiai Windmill, built in 1880, is one of Panevėžys district’s most distinctive cultural landmarks. The four-story mill, with its wind-facing rotating cap, was long an important part of the local community: it was used for grain milling and later served as a warehouse during the soviet era. After Lithuania regained independence, the mill was privatized, but in 1994, when it was acquired by Panevėžys district municipality, it was restored and adapted for tourism purposes.

Today, the Flax Museum operating inside the Stultiškiai Windmill invites visitors to explore the ancient process of flax processing. The museum runs an educational program called „The Journey of Flax”, where visitors can try various stages of flax preparation themselves – cutting seed heads, breaking, scutching, combing the fibers, and even weaving.

Renovation of the Flax Museum is funded by Panevėžys district municipality, while the digital exhibitions are co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund as part of Interreg VI-A Latvia-Lithuania Programme 2021–2027, which aims to promote sustainable social and economic development in the regions, creating an attractive and competitive place to live, learn, work, and travel. The project helps to preserve and promote traditional crafts, strengthens Latvian-Lithuanian cross-border cultural cooperation, and presents the living heritage of these regions using modern digital tools.

Project partners:

- Daugavpils Municipality Institution „Unity House”
- Krāslava Municipality
- Anykščiai Arts Incubator – Arts Studio
- Panevėžys District Municipality Administration together with Ēriškiai Cultural Center and Upytė Traditional Crafts Center.

Moments from a visit to Stultiškiai Windmill in photos.



The Interreg VI-A Latvia–Lithuania Programme 2021–2027 aims to contribute to the sustainable and cohesive socioeconomic development of the Programme regions by helping to make them more competitive and attractive for living, studying, working and visiting.

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