

- Implementation: tasks and supervision, conflicts and solutions, everyday life and free time

My traineeship started with contacting and meeting with the head of the Diaconia Center of the ELCL, [REDACTED]. She helped me with the acquaintance with the structure of the center, people, current projects and activities, and the possible workload in the specific institutions — daycare centers. Also, my mentor, pastor [REDACTED] who is the head of the diaconia branch in the church, helped me to clarify my inner objectives on how to approach all this workload, not forgetting that we are working for human beings not something else. It clarified my vision and helped to focus all this traineeship time.

The working environment and staff were supportive as their motivation also centered around previously mentioned ethics. It was mostly unnecessary for me to speak about an inclusive society, only to those coming from outside and not always understanding why the center accepts various people, who belong to different ethnic, social, and religious groups. One of the biggest challenges was addressing people, who were coming for free meals, and to face the intolerance for Ukrainian refugees, mostly from people of Russian ethnicity.

So, my traineeship included working with centers' visitors, explaining the mission of diaconia, and showing the possible services that various centers can offer, and why diaconia offers those services at all also to others (from exclusivism to inclusivism). It also implied working with Ukrainian refugees, welcoming them, understanding their needs, and providing the possible support from the center, for example, distributing some essential food, clothes, and means of livelihood.

The practice also fell during various holidays, for example, Easter, Pentecost, and Summer Solstice, which are very important events for Latvians. Enjoying this time helped me to value the meaning of free and safe country when you can do such activities without danger.

- Evaluation: best and worst experience

My work involved discussions and activities with children and young people, who were also visitors of the day-care centers. Once I had to install a trampoline. It was big, but once I worked as a technical assistant in the construction sphere, such a task did not seem difficult to me, but still required a lot of responsibility and skills, knowing that if something is not correctly made, it could turn out badly. Together with the manager of one of the centers and one volunteer from Germany, we checked it at the end. Everything seemed normal. And this event signifies the work with people. Sometimes you do it for big goals, but risks may be very high if not done skillfully and consciously right.

- 2-3 pictures

