

Roundtable for Building a Baltic Network (Baltic-ECHO) for transdisciplinary studies of the human past

Baltic-ECHO: Human Evolution, Culture, History and Origins in the Baltics. Research, Education and Science Popularisation.

Time and Place: 20–21 November 2026, Tartu

[Conference hall, University of Tartu Library, Struve 1, 50091, Tartu, Estonia](#)

The goal is to establish a **long-term Baltic-wide network for research, education and popularisation of human past studies in the region**. The primary focus of the first roundtable is on building trust, identifying common interests, and laying the foundations for sustained collaboration.

Expected outcome of the Roundtable:

- Overview of the state of the art in human past studies in Baltics
- Baltic-ECHO Network coordinators elected for a given period of time
- Communication channel(s) agreed
- Filled action plan with concrete steps to continue

Network initiators:

[Kristiina Tambets](#)

University of Tartu,
Estonia

[Rimantas Jankauskas](#)

Vilnius University,
Lithuania

[Valts Ernštreits](#)

University of Latvia,
Latvia

Quick Overview:

Friday, 20th of November - The Baltic Round Table (RT) of transdisciplinary studies of the human past & Dinner and Socializing

Saturday, 21st of November - optional networking with visits to Tartu groups and visiting the Estonian National Museum

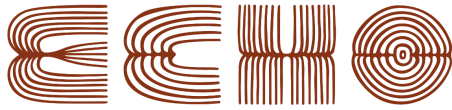
Tartu event organising team contacts:

Alena Kushniarevich (alena.kushniarevich@ut.ee) and Monika Karmin (monika.karmin@ut.ee)



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DETAILED PROGRAM

20 November DAY 1. The Baltic Round Table of transdisciplinary studies of the human past.

Throughout the day: Posters – Bring your recent relevant research posters!

NB! Action Plan Development at the end of each session: Complete the Action Plan collaboratively to ensure that the meeting produces tangible outcomes and clear next steps. Agreement on concrete actions, responsibilities, and the location of the next meeting.

Session I: Introduction and Vision 9:00

[15 min] **Why are we here?** Introduction of the objectives of the network and identification of current gaps in Baltic cooperation in research on the human past. Including the disciplines of archaeology, genetics, linguistics, and other related fields.

[45 min] **Introduction of the participants:** 1 representative per country introduces the whole group

- Up to 15 minutes per team; [presentations slides are shared prior the meeting](#) with each other; includes contacts and other important details.

Session II: Available Data and Methodologies 10:00 - 13:00 (~3h with break)

Objective: Identify available resources, expertise and expectations for the Network

Discussion Questions:

- What are the datasets, infrastructures, and areas of expertise within our institutions and countries that could be shared across the network? Expectations for the network. [Preparatory table is shared.](#)

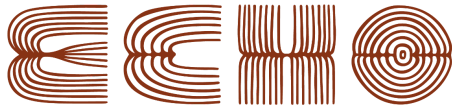
Format:

- Country-based presentations covering available resources from different disciplines are prepared ahead, but during RT, we discuss what is missing/questions/problems.



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Coffee break 11:00-11:30

LUNCH break 13:00-14:00 (on your own - library cafeteria, nearby cafe outside)

Session III: Network Structure, Practical Collaboration and Funding 14:00-16:00

Objective: Establish the foundations for a sustainable collaboration framework.

Discussion Questions:

- What should be the next steps for establishing the network's core group? Should we create a formal consortium, a non-profit association, or initially operate as an informal working group? Where should the network's coordinating hub be located?
- Which funding opportunities should be targeted first, such as Horizon Europe, NordForsk, or Baltic Assembly research funding initiatives?
- 3 seminars per year (incl. e.g. jamboree format); 1 conference (hybrid) per two years. First conference can be combined with the ECHO final event

Coffee break 16:00-16:30

Session IV: Moderated Discussion 16:30-18:00

Discussion in the roundtable of a maximum of **nine experts + moderator**, at least two experts from each Baltic country (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania), while ensuring balanced representation across disciplines.

Moderator: [Asko Lõhmus](#)

Topics:

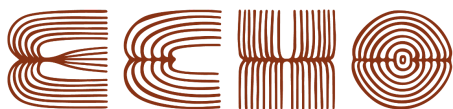
- Challenges of interdisciplinary work: how to overcome barriers between disciplines
- Specific country-based challenges and how to overcome
- Steps towards the future vision
- Other topics raised during the meeting

Dinner & Socialising 19:00 (to relax, enjoy and solidify relationships. Provided, place to be announced).



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November 21, DAY 2 networking with visits to Tartu groups and visiting the Estonian National Museum

10:00-13:00 Visits to participating University of Tartu groups facilities & collections (pre-register)

Two time slots for two parallel visits, please choose the places to visit (the questionnaire will be sent out a few weeks before the event).

10:00-11:00	Institute of Estonian and General Linguistics , Faculty of Arts and Humanities	Archaeogenomics , Institute of Genomics, Faculty of Science and Technology
11:30-12:30	Archemy Group , Institute of Chemistry, Faculty of Science and Technology	Department of Archaeology , Institute of History and Archaeology, Faculty of Arts and Humanities

~12:30 Lunch (on your own, with colleagues, reserve time for getting to Estonian National Museum)

14:00 - 16:00 Visiting the exhibitions of the Estonian National Museum (provided, with pre-registration)

Local contacts for the event:

Latvia: Valts Ernštreits (valts.ernstreits@lu.lv), Rūta Bruževica (ruta.bruzevica@lu.lv)

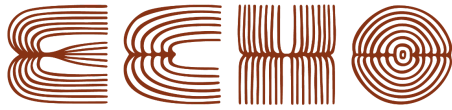
Lithuania: Ingrida Domarkienė (ingrida.domarkiene@mf.vu.lt), Justina Kozakaite (justina.kozakaite@mf.vu.lt)

Estonia: Monika Karmin (monika.karmin@ut.ee), Eve Rannamäe (eve.rannamae@ut.ee)



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Supporting material for inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration:

[Guidelines for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research by the University of Tartu](#)

[Wish-list table where we enter research problems, needs and ideas for the whole network](#)



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