

The LOCUS field trip in Tallinn

Participants explored Põhja-Tallinn with a guided tour, learning about the district's history, socio-economic dynamics, and social challenges. The tour emphasized the area's multiculturalism, ongoing developments, and the contrasts between old and new. We decided on a bus tour because the different areas of North Tallinn are so diverse and, on the other hand, covers a very large area. First, the participants visited Telliskivi Creative City, a vibrant cultural hub that has transformed a former railway factory complex into a thriving space for artists, designers, and creative enterprises. The exploration extended to the northernmost tip of the Kopli peninsula, an area undergoing significant redevelopment. Historically home to shipyard and factory workers, this locale is witnessing the rise of new residential complexes. This shift prompted reflections on the fate of former residents, many of whom find themselves priced out of these upscale developments, raising concerns about displacement and gentrification.

Afterwards, participants visited the Põhja-Tallinn District Government, where the Deputy District Mayor presented the work of the local administration, community events, and future plans. A local child welfare specialist also discussed current issues in social work and highlighted concerns around the transition to Estonian-language education reform.



The group then visited the Kopli 93 Repair Workshop and Community Centre, where community leader shared how a long-abandoned building (former cultural house) was transformed into a vibrant community hub for repair activities and social connection, showcasing grassroots social work in action. In addition to various repair workshops, they also have a community garden with beehives.



In the afternoon, students conducted group field observations around Põhja-Tallinn, each focusing on specific social themes as part of their project tasks.

Equally significant was the exchange of reflections among students, lecturers, and local partners. These discussions provided a platform for sharing diverse perspectives, leading to deeper insights and critical thinking. Reflective practice is a cornerstone in social work education, enabling practitioners to learn from experiences and improve their practice.

Overall, the experience in Tallinn highlighted the importance of integrating collaborative and reflective practices in social work education to prepare students for the complexities of their future professional roles.

