

GET TO KNOW OUR BIODIVERSITY!

A youth workshop on urban nature and citizen science!



Direction
University of Latvia

Date
May 06-07 , 2026

Time
10:00 - 17:00

Activity details

Section	Details
Title of the Event	Get to Know Our Biodiversity!
Type of Event	Educational & interactive workshop for young people (university students and youth 16-25)
Date & Time	May 06, 10:00 – 17:00
Venue	University of Latvia or Riga Municipality Building
Organizers	Riga City Council (Environment Dept.), Latvian Fund for Nature, urbanLIFEcircles Project
Sponsors	[To be confirmed: local cafés, NGOs, or EU LIFE funding partners]
Target Group	University students and youth (16–25 years old) interested in nature, sustainability, and citizen science
Main Goal	Introduce young people to Riga’s biodiversity and the city’s biodiversity programme; foster awareness and engagement through interactive learning
Accessibility	Event in English to encourage students to practice the language. Presentation with Ai captions in Latvian. Group activities divided in English, Latvian and Russian
Learning Outcomes	1. Understand Riga’s biodiversity, actions and goals. 2. Learn to identify species using iNaturalist. 3. Strengthen teamwork and environmental awareness.

1. Introduction (30 min)

A short presentation with slides showing:

- What biodiversity means and why it matters for cities.
- How Riga's parks, rivers, and green roofs create habitats for many species.
- The threats urban biodiversity faces (pollution, invasive species, habitat loss).

Visuals:

Infographics, photos of Riga's green areas (e.g., Mežaparks, Kīšezers Lake, Bastejkalns Park, and the Daugava riverbanks).



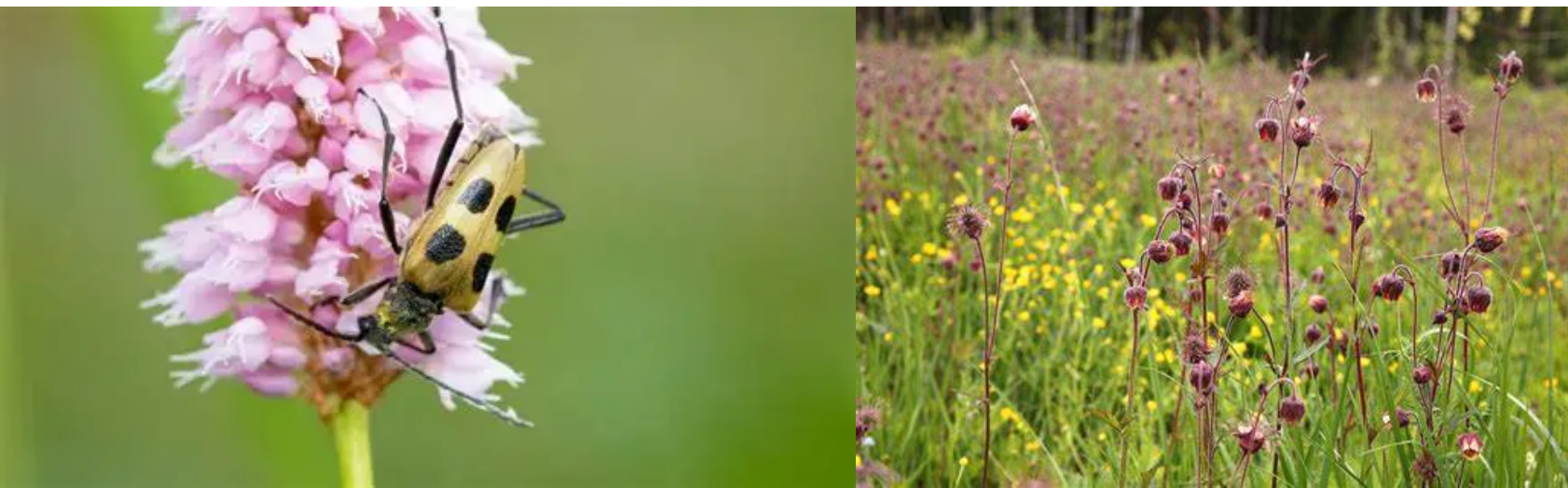
2. Explore Riga's Wildlife (60 min)

Show a slideshow or posters divided into 3 themes:

- Animals of Riga: Birds, Arthropods, Mammals, Amphibians
- Plants & Trees: Trees, Wildflowers, Native grasses and wild herbs
- Habitats & Ecosystems: Urban parks and gardens, Rivers and wetlands, Green roofs and walls, Forest patches and meadows around Mežaparks and Lucavsala.

Visuals:

photos from iNaturalist, QR codes linking to real species observations in Riga, and short video clips from Riga's biodiversity monitoring projects.



3. Interactive Session (45 min)

- Divide participants into groups (By language).
- Each group receives photo cards with local species and must match them to their correct habitat poster.

Then, play a Kahoot quiz testing what they learned — include questions like: Which park has the largest bird diversity in Riga? , Which flower species supports the most pollinators?, Name one invasive species threatening Riga's ecosystems."

- **Reward: Eco gift cards or reusable bottles for the winning team.**

Visuals:

- *Printed posters or slides with pictures of Riga's local flora and fauna.*
 - *A large map of Riga marking biodiversity hotspots (parks, lakes, meadows).*
 - *Specimens or models (e.g., insect samples, feathers, seed pods, etc.).*
 - *Table with magnifying glasses, flower samples, or insect ID cards.*
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Time	Activity	Description / Responsible
10:00–10:30	Registration & Welcome	Coffee/tea, badges, ice-breaker (“Name one wild species you know in Riga”)
10:30–12:00	Introduction + Explore Riga wildlife	Presentations by project leader and biodiversity experts (Riga City Council, Latvian Fund for Nature) + Q&A (in different languages if needed)
12:00–13:00	Lunch Break	Sponsored lunch & refreshments
13:00–15:30	Group Activity – “Biodiversity Challenge”	Slideshow about Riga's Wildlife and creation of teams (by language)
15:30–16:00	Coffee Break	Coffee, tea, and snacks
16:00–17:00	Workshop + Awards	compete in Kahoot quiz on Riga biodiversity, distribute prizes (personalized items with the Riga Green Week logo and gift cards)
17:00	Closing	Feedback form & invitation to join the next biodiversity events.

Time	Activity	Description / Responsible
10:00–10:30	Registration & Welcome	Coffee/tea, badges, recap of previous session in case there are new attendants
10:30–12:00	Expert Session	Presentations by experts (Demo of iNaturalist app, how to create accounts,practice uploading photos how to access the project umbrella account, Q&A), creation of teams. Explanation of contest of pictures
12:00–13:00	Lunch Break	Sponsored lunch & refreshments
13:00–15:30	Group Activity – “Biodiversity walk”	Teams (by language) follow a map on to target locations to take pictures of Riga biodiversity and upload them to inaturalist account
15:30–16:00	Coffee Break on target sites	drinks and snacks provided on target points in the city to attendants with budgets
16:00–17:00	Awards	announce winners, distribute prizes (personalized items with the Riga Green Week logo and gift card)
17:00	Closing	Feedback form & invitation to join the future biodiversity events.