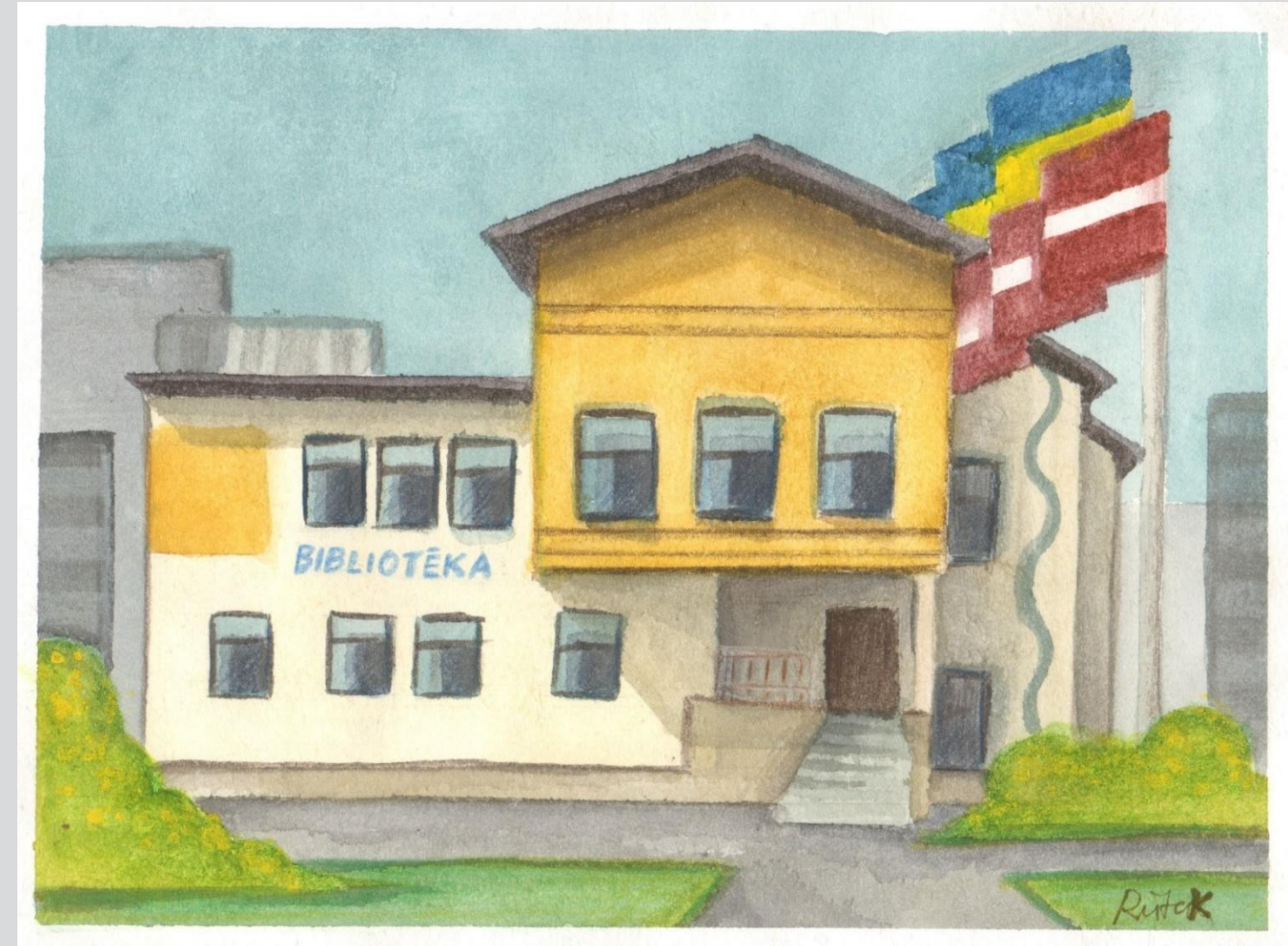


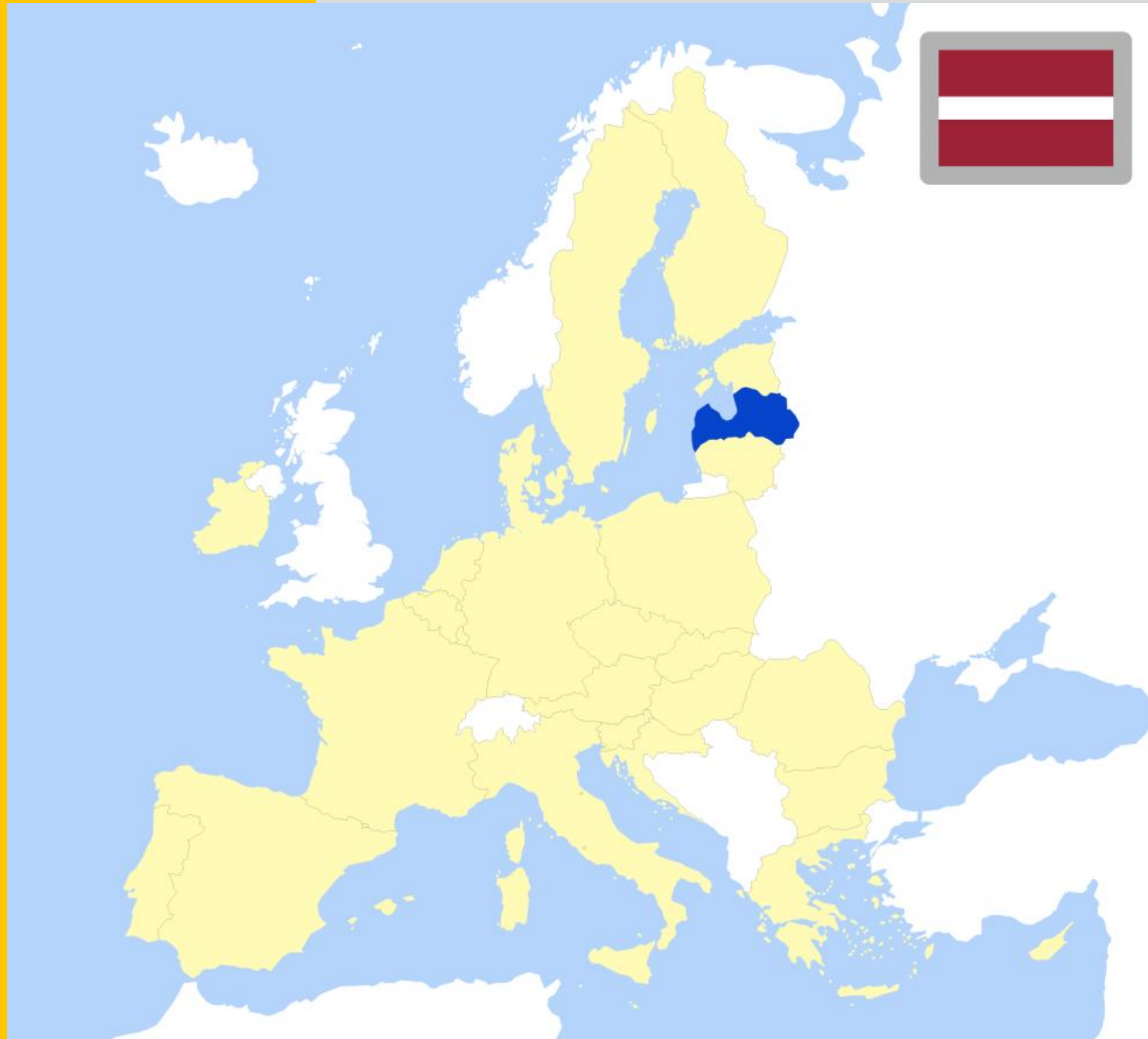
Bridging community divides

Examples from practice

Baiba Īvāne
Chief bibliographer
Salaspils Regional Library

April, 2026





Latvia in Europe.

Source: an official website of the European Union.

- **Founded:** 18 November 1918
- **Official language:** Latvian
- **Population:** ~ 1.9 million people
- **Occupied:** during World War II by Soviet Union and Nazi Germany
- **Soviet rule:** 1940–1991
- **Independence restored:** 1991
- **Joined European Union:** 2004
- **Member of NATO:** since 2004



Salaspils Regional Library



Salaspils Regional Library team.

Salaspils Regional Library

- ❑ The main library of Salaspils county with two branch libraries, providing services to residents of all ages.
- ❑ The coordination and methodical center for 38 public libraries and 24 school libraries in the capital city Riga metropolitan area.

Salaspils, historical context

- Between 1966 and 1974, the Riga Hydroelectric Power Plant was built. To accomplish this, about 200 buildings in Salaspils were demolished. Hundreds of people had to leave their homes.



Salaspils near Daugava river in 1935



Salaspils near Daugava river in 2026



Salaspils elementary school until the 1960s



Salaspils elementary school in 1968 before flooding



- ❑ Population: 17 7794
- ❑ 49% Latvians; 34% Russians; 12% other nationalities
- ❑ 14.7% non-citizens

Salaspils

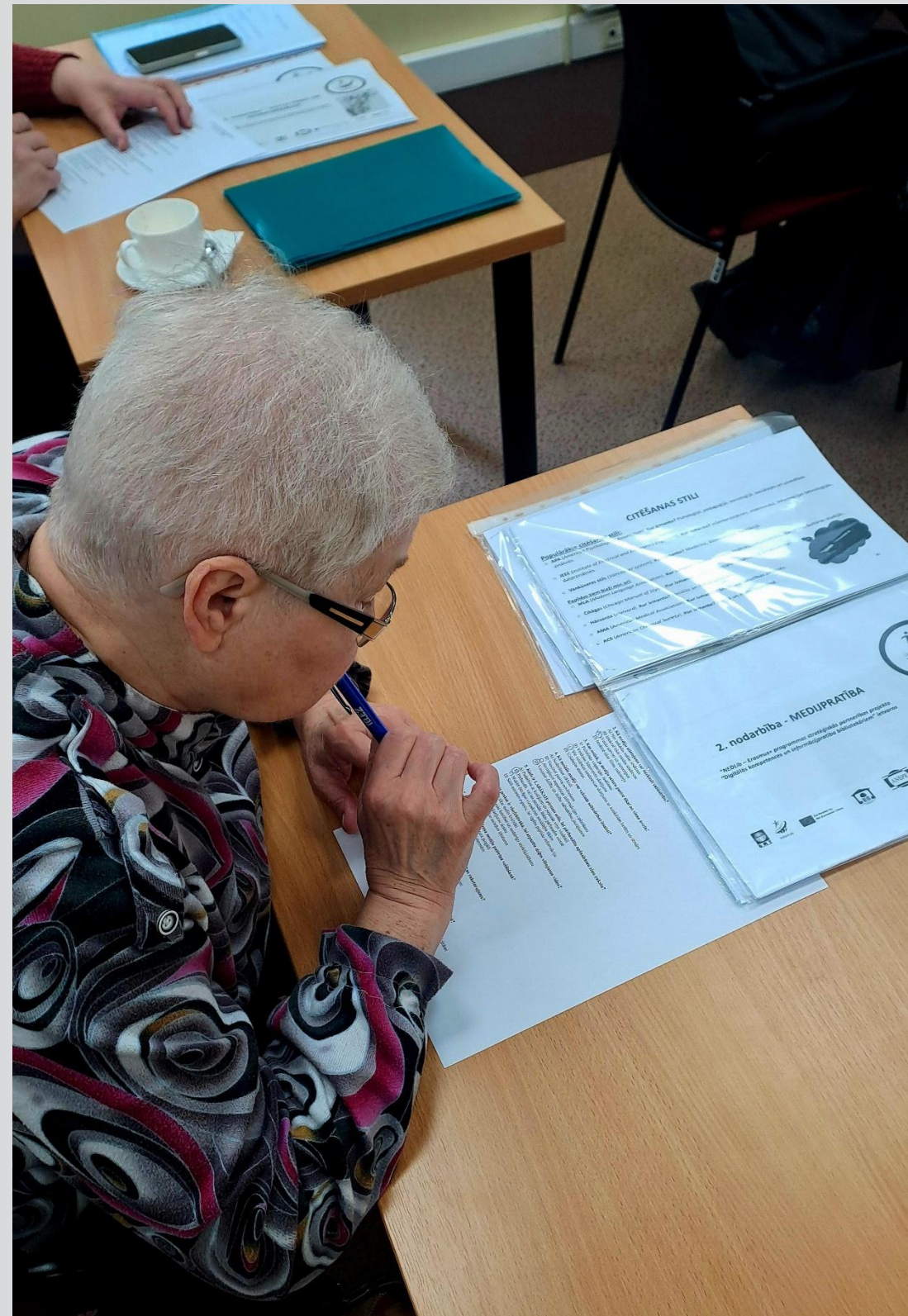
Source: <https://aktivalatvija.lv/salaspils-ko-apskatit-kur-paest-ko-darit-ar-berniem/>

Examples from practice:



- Digital skills, media and information literacy.
- Latvian language conversation clubs.
- Implementation of «Living Library» method.

I. Digital skills, media and information literacy



A senior visitor to our library takes a knowledge test to determine her level of digital literacy

Project «Development of Digital Skills for Society»



- National-level project in Latvia, led by Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development.
- Target group: seniors with little or no digital skills.
- Duration: Dec 2024 – May 2026 (extended).
- 20 sessions delivered, 5 groups (+ 1 ongoing).
- 39 participants successfully completed and received certificates.

Project «Digital Competencies and Information Literacy for Librarians»



- Objective: to develop the skills of librarians and information specialists and to create electronic learning tools that they can use in their work with the local community and library users.
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project (Bulgaria, Latvia, Greece, Romania, Portugal)

Project «Digital Competencies and Information Literacy for Librarians»



- The training modules are developed by experts to ensure the exchange of knowledge and skills in four areas: **information literacy; media literacy; disinformation and fake news; gamification in libraries.**
- The disseminators of knowledge are public library staff.
- Project duration: 2023 – (July) 2026.

II. Latvian language conversation clubs

Latvian language conversation clubs



III. Living Library method

Localizing «Living Library» method in order to reduce ethnic tension.

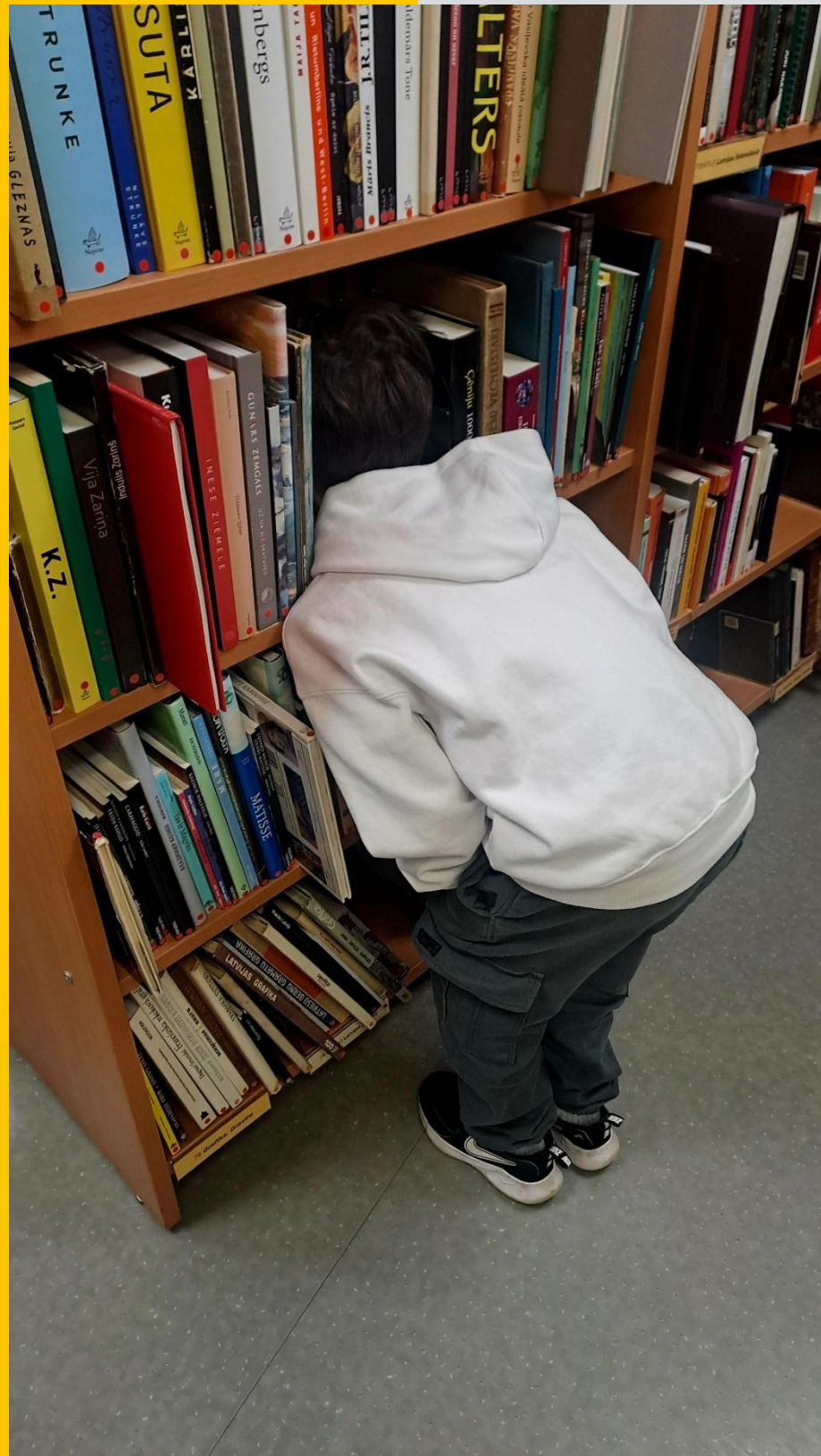


Localizing «Living Library» method in order to reduce ethnic tension.



«Peace does not mean an absence of conflicts; differences will always be there. Peace means solving these differences through peaceful means; through dialogue, education, knowledge; and through humane ways.»

Tenzin Gyatso, Dalai Lama



Don't bury your head in the sand
— bury it in books.