The emerge of Baltic States: A self-initiated exploration Journey (11/5 – 27/5)

Project Proposal
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1. Introduction – The history of Baltic States

The origin of Baltic States

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia located in the eastern coastal areas of the Baltic Sea, sometimes including Finland and Poland. The three countries were built in 1917 and are independent republics outside the Russian Federation, which governs Kaunas and Vilnius (later Lithuania).

The three countries share the similar history background and adjacent geography. Before the World War II, Finland was under the Baltic states. The Russian Empire has conquered the three countries since the 18th century. After the World War I, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were independent from Russia, and the term "Baltic States" was used to refer to countries by the Baltic sea that had gained independence from Russia in its aftermath.

Russian conquer over the Baltic Sea

Baltic states has long been known as warzone of the Europe. During the World War II, it was one of the major battle field between the Axis Power and the Allied Power, especially the USSR and Nazi Germany because of the locational nearness. On 14th June 1940, the USSR occupied the Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia) according to the Nazi–Soviet Pact signed with Nazi Germany in 1939. Soon after this, the Germany army declared an attack to the Baltic States, which started up a 4-year long war in the Baltic States.

After Germans’ lose in the World War II, the Baltic States continued to be occupied by the USSR. Although remained ‘independent’ legally, the Baltic States were indeed combine to form one single ‘republic’ under the Soviet’s control.

1.3 Independence of Baltic States

Long under Soviet’s control, the Baltic States remain hopeful to gain independence back. On 23th August 1989, a peaceful political demonstration called ‘The Baltic Way’ was carried out across the Baltic States. Approximately two million people joined their hands to form a human chain spanning 675.5 kilometres (419.7 mi) across the three Baltic states – Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, to express their will in being freed from Russian control. Soon after this event, the three countries gained independence from the Soviet Union one by one in 1990, and became NATO and EU member states in recent ages.
1.4 Russia and Kaliningrad

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Kaliningrad became Russia's outer enclave, isolated from the Russian soil. Kaliningrad and St. Petersburg are Russia's only two frozen ports in the Baltic Sea.

During the Second World War, Koenigsburg suffered heavy losses in 1944. In 1945 after the Battle of Koenigsburg, the Soviet Red Army occupied the city. After the war, according to the "Potsdam Agreement", Koenigsburg became the territory of the Soviet Union. In 1946, to commemorate the death of the Soviet Supreme Soviet presidency Mikhail Ivanovic Kalining, Koenigsburg changed its name to Kaliningrad.

The town of Baltiysk, just outside Kaliningrad, is the only Russian Baltic Sea port said to be "ice-free" all year round, and the region hence plays an important role in maintenance of the Baltic Fleet.

Due to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Kaliningrad Oblast became an exclave, geographically separated from the rest of Russia. This isolation from the rest of Russia became even more pronounced politically when Poland and Lithuania became members of NATO and subsequently the European Union in 2004. All military and civilian land links between the region and the rest of Russia have to pass through members of NATO and the EU. Special travel arrangements for the territory's inhabitants have been made through the Facilitated Transit Document and Facilitated Rail Transit Document. The Kaliningrad oblast has been a Free Economic Zone since the early 1990s.

2. Reasons for visiting Baltic Sea

2.1 'One Belt One Road'

The Baltic States have developed rapidly in the past two decades. They are classified as high-income economies by the World Bank and maintain high Human Development Index. However, before 1991, they are once destitute. Moreover, there is more cooperation between China and the Baltic States because of the launch of "One Belt, One Road" scheme.

Last November, our Premier Li Ke Qiang visited Latvia to attend 16+1 summit with the central and east European countries. The "One Belt, One Road" initiative topped the agenda, along with the announcement of a new Chinese-led investment fund for the region. Hong Kong, as China's most cosmopolitan city, should grab this opportunity and know more about
the Baltic States. However, North-eastern Europe is always unheard of to most Hong Kong people. These are the reasons why we want to visit the Baltic States.

2.2 Big Big World(世界零距離)

Big Big World(世界零距離) is a TV programme produced by TVB news. In this programme, several news reporter visit some of the rarely visit countries by Hong Kong people, to explore the issue there and make a comparison with Hong Kong.

In 2014 the season one of the programme visit Lithuania and it tells us that Lithuania excels in playing basketball, and it also gives an introduction to ‘the independent state inside a country’ — Uzupis republic. While in 2016 Season 3 of the programme visit Kaliningrad. These programme makes us very interested in visiting the Baltic States, getting to have a first-hand experience towards the Baltic states. As the Baltic States are not commonly known by Hong Kong people, we are excited to share what we experience there with them after our travel.

3. Exploration Themes synopses

3.1 Overview

Located at the north-eastern of Europe, Baltic Sea was only a sea far from the Nordic countries. Being the countries from Baltic Sea, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia not only have the connection with Russia geographically, causing various conflicts and invasions by Russia, but also establish the economic relationship with the countries in Western Europe, such as Germany and Denmark. Obviously, having the influence from nine European countries, Baltic Small Three has evolved as a platform for a cultural shock.

After the independence from Soviet Union, how to continue to develop has become a great issue for the Baltic States. Luckily, each of the states are able to find its own identity because of the advantage in different aspects. Lithuania, excelling in historical and cultural conservation, has been reputed as “State of Art” internationally, positioning as leader in field of art promotion and culture conservation ; Latvia, with the scaled coverage of greening region, this provides various opportunities in green life promotion and the related businesses, actively promoting the notion of environmental protection ; Estonia, has been evolved as international information technology center, contributing to its development in social affairs and civic awareness, provided that it lacked residential phone-line networking twenty years ago.

After the downfall of communist ideology, Russia still retains the bargaining power in the global situation. Followed by the independence of Baltic Small Three, Kaliningrad was
separated from its country, gradually tending to be of Western Europe, and arising an identity crisis. Recently, Russia decides to promote Kaliningrad as “Hong Kong 2.0”.

The above regions are all connected geographically, and was also once governed by communism. How did they leave the shadow of communism and remain strong? This is the question to be answered.

3.2 Lithuania – Art development and heritage conservation
- Relationship between humanistic quality and city development
- The struggle between History conservation versus economic development?
- Key elements of art and cultural development
- Possibility to develop ecotourism?
- → Reflection on Hong Kong’s ‘Cultural desert’ status

3.3 Kaliningrad – HK 2.0: Special Administrative Region of Russia
- Locational advantage: Port and sea-route trading in Kaliningrad
- Military base: Military development of Russia
- Why is Kaliningrad named ‘Hong Kong 2.0’ by Russia?
- Enclave of Russia: Identity issue?
- → Analogy of the relationship between Hong Kong and China

3.4 Latvia – The Green Heaven: Environmental conservation
- Environmental protection as a life attitude
- Development mode of green business?
- → Investigation of green-life promotion in Hong Kong

3.5 Estonia – E-Estonia: Technological development
- From have deficiency in residential phone-line, to the a strong IT state
- Most social services can be used by means of the internet (voting / tax payment / medical service)
- How did Estonia It industry emerge?
- With high penetration rate in science and technology education, why and how did Estonian make it happen?
- → Reflecting technology education and IT industry development in Hong Kong
4. **Main activities**
To fulfill the proposed learning objective, several activities have been arranged in the places we are visiting.

4.1 Lithuania (Vilnius: 11/5 – 14/5, Klaipeda: 16/5 – 17/5)
There are two cities that we are going to visit for our trip. First, Vilnius, the country’s capital city, where we will stay 3 days there (11/5 – 14/5). Second, the country’s seaside resort of Klaipeda, located at the end of the world famous Curonian Spit (庫爾蘭沙洲國家公園).

(i) **Site visit: Uzupis Republic in Vilnius**

Uzupis Republic is an ‘independent republic’ in the state of Lithuania, having its own set of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, army and even flag. To protect the ‘right’ and ‘free will’ of its ‘citizens’, a set of constitutions (憲法) was set and forced to comply in the republic, including “Everyone has the right to live by the River Vilnelė, and the River Vilnelė has the right to flow by everyone” and “A dog has the right to be a dog”. Established on 1st April 1997, the republic is indeed an artist association, where thousands of artist set their own studios inside the territory. Nowadays, the republic is the major tourism spot for Vilnius.

We have contact the head of the management team of the republic and she has agreed to guide us through the republic. During the visit, we will visit studios of the artists, meet some of the artists and have brief talk with them, about their opinion towards art development in Lithuania. An interview with the ‘ministry of foreign affairs’, who is a writer is also expected during the visit. Hopefully, we are able to understand more about the vision of the republic, aiming to make a comparison to Hong Kong’s situation.

(ii) **Site visit: Trakai Island Castle**

Then, we are going to visit the Trakai Island Castle, located in the city of Trakai, at the countryside of Vilnius. The castle was once one of the main centres of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the castle held great strategic importance. In an extent that a claim ‘Who own Trakai Island Castle, is the one who own Lithuania.’ Trakai Island Castle lost its military importance soon after the Battle of Grunwald, when the chief enemy of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was defeated by the Lithuanian-Polish army.

Since its reconstruction in the 19th century, the Castle has now become a major tourist
attraction. In fact, the castle was one of the early places that is under the heritage conservation plan of the country. The re-construction work also continues despite being under German’s occupy during World War I. The castle itself is now a museum showcasing the history of Lithuania. Through walking around the castle and the Trakai town, we will better understand the history of Lithuania, as well as more about the heritage conservation work of Lithuania. Talks to the tour guide or museum helper are also planned to explore more on such issue.

(iii) Day trip: Vilnius City Tour

The Lithuanian Capital city of Vilnius was crowned the title of World Heritage back in 1994, the earliest among the Baltics States. The historical state of the City was remarked by the enormous heritage monuments spread around the city, including Gates of Dawn, once the entrances of the city in the 16th century, and the only one left in the present age.

As Lithuania had been occupied by multiple countries before, the religious background of the city is also wide-ranged, indicated by the great amount of churches in the city, especially the following three. Cathedral Basilica, built in 1251, is the oldest Catholic church in the city. St. Anne’s Church, the Gothic church built in the 16th century, which was rumored to be the of Napoleon, the French Governor in the 17th century. As well as The Archangel Church of St. Michael, a Russian-styled church built during the Renaissance period, which is now Church Heritage Museum.

The sophistication of heritage conserved in Vilnius has earned the city the entitlement of European Capital of Culture in 2009. Through wandering amount the historical sites in Vilnius, we can learn more about the historical development of Vilnius, the cultural management work of the City, as well as giving reflection to Hong Kong’s situation in historical conservations.

(iv) Site visit: Curonian Spit

Nida, the biggest town on the spit, is where we are going to spend our day on the Spit around. The town is an upmarket holiday resort, located near the board with Kalingrad country of the Russian Federation. Near the town, is where Curonian Spit National Park (Lithuania) can be found.

Curonian Spit was formed about 3rd millennium BC, which was the result of sand migration around coastal shore. The formation of the Spit also forms a lagoon separated from the Baltic Sea. The Spit is now important tourism attractions with different scenic spots. For
example, the Parnidis sand dune and sundial. Apart from that, the natural environment on
the Spit is also worthwhile to be explored, with more than 70% forest coverage and unique
ecosystem on top of a spit. The Spit is registered as an UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000.
A walk on top of the Spit, can enable us the first-hand experience of the Baltic Seas (at the
closest distance). While we also get to explore more on natural landscape conservation, as it
is one of the future tourism strategy for Hong Kong. During the visit to the Spit, we are
planning to have a talk with the Tourism Board of Nida (http://visitneringa.com/welcome), in
to understand more the natural conservation and the cultural management work regarding
to the distinctive feature of the Spit.

4.2 Russia (Kaliningrad: 14/5 – 16/5)
Although being an exclave of the Russian Federation, Kaliningrad’s culture is more similar to
that of the Baltic States and Western Europe. Being handed from Germany to USSR only after
the World War II, past footsteps of Germans can be found everywhere in Kaliningrad.

(i) Site Visit: Port Facilities in Kaliningrad

Because of its advantageous location, sea transportation in Kaliningrad is highly developed.
Ferries are run in regular basis with multiple cities in Western Europe, including Gdansk,
Poland, Stockholm, Sweden and even Amsterdam in The Netherlands. This enables
Kaliningrad to make use of its locational advantage to develop logistic industry. The potential
of Kaliningrad is also noted by the Russian Government, who once claimed to make
Kaliningrad ‘Hong Kong 2.0 in the Baltics Sea’. In 2016,

To understand about the logistic industry, site visit to the port facility is arranged. Brief talks
with the workers there are also expected.

(ii) Comparison: Public facilities in Russia

As Kaliningrad is separated from Mainland Russia, its public facilities also differ from its
mainland counterpart. During the 2-day stay in Kaliningrad, we are going to observe the
public facilities in Kaliningrad, which will be used for making a comparison with that in
Mainland Russia, when we hit Saint Petersburg for flight. Through this activity, we are
expected to understand the unique identity of people living in Kaliningrad, which is similar to
Hong Kong people’s position with China nowadays. Therefore, reflection can be made.

(iii) Site Visit: Amber Museum

Amber (琥珀) has been one type of luxury jewel since long time ago. Here in Kaliningrad, we
can find Russia’s first and only Amber Museum. Inaugurated in in 1979, the museum is
divided into two sections: one is devoted to science – natural history and geology and the other – to history and culture. Through walking through the museum, we can learn more about the amber trade industry, which is very popular in the 19th century.

(iv) Site Visit : Museum of Natural Ocean

Facing the Baltic Sea, Kaliningrad is one of the important military base for the Russian Federation. Many of military cruises start their journey here in the port of Kaliningrad. Museum of Natural Ocean, established in 1990, is now a great place for visitors to learn more about the navy history of Russia. The museum embankment of the historical fleet is a unique structure in Russian maritime museum practice, holding many historical vessels, including the Vityaz, the largest research museum ship in the world, the Kosmonavt Viktor Patsayev, uniquely designed for space communication and currently housing a museum exposition onboard and the SRT-129, the only fishing trawler in Russia, etc.

Through walking around the museum, we should be able to find a reason accounting for Russian’s emphasis on exclave, despite its remoteness from Mainland Russian.

4.3 Latvia (Riga : 17/5 – 20/5)

During the 3-day stay in Riga, the Latvian capital, we are planning to learn more about the environmental protection work of the country, who is crowned to have a ‘green economy’.

(i) Site visit : Gauja National Park

Gauja National Park is the first official national park of Latvia. It is located at the fringe of Sigulda, a town 53 km away from Riga. The National park is also the largest in size among the Baltic States, having an extend of 100 km x 50km. The National park was famous for its rich variety of natural scenery, including the beautiful Gauja River and multiple caves which have their own origins and stories behind.

Apart from that, the National Park is also well known for holding multiple historical reserve, notably the ruins of castle inside. The Castle of the Order, built in early 13th century, was the first church built outside the Country’s capital of Riga. The church was well known because of its support towards the Crusades (十字軍東征). Nowadays, it is also a great lookout point for the whole National park. Other notable castle ruins also include the Turaida Castle, which is the first church made of bricks.

While the park is full of man-made structure like the ruins of castle, its effort in nature conservation is also worthwhile to be noted. During the visit to the park, we are planning to hike along the hiking trail set by the Tourism Board there. Walking through the Walking Stick
Park and the Gutmana Cave (Largest natural cave in Baltic Sea), we are expected to have a deeper understanding in the topic of ‘striking a balance between tourism development and natural conservation.

(ii) Site visit: Getlini Eko Landfill

Despite the title of ‘the greenest country’ nowadays, Latvia was once held back joining the European Union because of an environmental issue. That is, the great quantity of methane generation by landfills. Methane is a type of greenhouse gas and it contributes to the intensification of the world-threatening global warming phenomenon. Getlini Eko Landfill, which once contributed to over 70% of methane production in the country, was believed to be the reason behind the country’s unsuccessful entry in the European Union back in 2000.

Since then, the landfill started to develop new landfill-related technology to lower the methane production, in order to ease the harmful effect brought to the environment by landfills. In early 21st century, the Landfill invented the technology of generating electricity from the methane production through landfills. Ever since then, the negative labelling towards the Landfill and Latvia has been swept and Latvia is now claimed to be the leader of green economy worldwide. At the same time, the Landfill starts to use methane generated as natural fertilizer and practice farming in the Landfill. In 2016, 23,890 pieces of tomato has been planted and 31 GWH of electricity is produced.

The Landfill is now one of the top organizations in environmental education work in Latvia and it provides talks and free excursion to hundreds of schools, companies and non-governmental organizations annually. We have already contacted the Landfill for a guided excursion around the Landfill to see their big achievements over the years. Meanwhile, brief talk to the leader of the Landfill is to be arranged to understand more about the Company’s vision and goal. Ultimately, the key of running a successful green business, while demonstrating cooperate social responsibility at the same time, can be explored.

(iii) Experience: Cycling around Riga

In some European countries, biking is one of the popular mode of transportation instead of private car, including Latvia. In the city of Riga, biking is a very popular type of sports, leisure activity as well as a way to exercise green living style. During the 3-day stay in Riga, we are planning to use bicycle as our major form of transportation. Not only see the beautiful city in a slower pace, but also figure out the feeling to exercise a healthy and green living style in ‘the greenest country in the world’. Hopefully, the experience can be used for a reference in promoting ‘Biking as transportation’ in Hong Kong among youngsters population.
(iv) Interview : Ricky Chan

Ricky Chan is a student from The University of Hong Kong, who is now studying in The University of Riga as an exchange student. Through interviewing Chan, we are expecting to learn the reason behind his act to come Latvia for student.

4.4 Estonia (Tallinn : 20/5 – 23/5, 24/5 – 26/5)

Being the Northern-most one among the three Baltic States, Estonia bears element of Northern Europe. The 5-days stay in the capital city of Tallinn will be consisted of two themes. The 3 days will circulate around the theme of technological development in Estonia, while the remaining two days will focus more on Estonian’s countryside, exploring its agricultural industry.

(i) Experience : Muuseumioo

Europe has been well known for holding many world-famous museums. It is also true in the city of Tallinn, the capital city of Estonia. Every year, the country will organize a festival called the ‘Muuseumioo’, which is known as ‘Night of museum’ in English on the third Saturday of May. This year, the event is hold on 20/5. That night, Estonian museums will open their doors for visitors for a night full of special events and exhibitions, in free entrance fee. This serves as valuable opportunities for us to take a good look at the museum culture in Europe, while learning its cultural management skills at the same time.

(ii) Interview : Kwun-Lok NG

Kwun-Lok is a Hong Kong people working in technology industry in Estonia. Before that, he has worked in San Francisco for 2 years. Kwun-Lok once mentioned that his decision to work in Estonia one year ago was a ‘brave decision’, as he doesn’t know much before he came to the country. Having been worked in a Startup company in Estonia as marketer for one year, Kwun-Lok is now more adapted to the life in Tallinn, which he thinks is even better than living in the USA or Hong Kong.

Through interviewing Kwun-Lok, we are expected to develop a more in-depth understanding on the technological industry in Estonia. Because of Kwun-Lok’s work experience in technological base of Francisco, he should be able to share some innovative ideas which government officials are not able to bring us. On the other hand, the life of Kwun-Lok as a Hong Kong people in a foreign country is also expected to be attractive.

(iii) Site visit : Ulemisty City
30 years ago before the independence, Estonia was a poor country where even normal things like telephone lines are scarce. Nowadays, Estonia has become the world’s front-runners of technological development, earning the title of ‘E-Estonia’. Part of the reason behind its success in technological development is believed to be the great support of government, including providing infrastructure and favourable policies. Ulemistry City, a ‘smart city’ built by a Finish group is now a technobase of many international IT companies. Located only 5 mins away from the city’s airport, the ‘smart city’ is expecting to be continually growing in the future.

Through walking around the Science park and conduct brief talks with the members of the management team, the success of the smart city in promoting technological innovation and scientific invention can be explored.

(iv) Site visit : E-Estonia showroom

With the title of ‘e-Estonia’, Estonia has been doing great in attracting foreign investment. To know more the success of E-Estonia, a visit to e-Estonia Showroom is necessary. The showroom is an executive briefing center and an innovation hub, aiming to introduce visitors the success story of e-Estonia. Themes set in the Showroom include the underlying mechanisms of digitalizing a society, an overview of the main challenges and policy, etc.. After the visit, we are expected to understand more about the infrastructure, e-solutions and services, ultimately be connected with the Estonian ICT industry.

(v) Site Visit : Estonian Open Air Museum

The museum located at the fringe of the city, built in 1960s, aims to recast the village life of rural Estonia. The museum area is divided into four different parts, each focus on different parts of Estonia. Full of cottages, windmills and wells, the museum is now a hotspot for tourists visiting Tallinn.

Through talking with staff member of the museum, we are expecting to learn more about the old Estonian life under the rule of the Soviet Union.

(vi) Site visit : Makory at The Tallinn University of Technology

Tallinn University of Technology (TTÜ), the only technological university in Estonia, is the flagship of Estonian engineering and technology education. Here the synergy between different fields (technological, natural, exact, economic and health sciences) is created and new ideas are born. TTÜ is to become one of the leading technological universities in the
Baltic Sea region.

The Estonian Information Technology College of TTÜ is the leading IT institution of applied higher education in Estonia. The College’s mission is to offer the best applied IT education in the region, bringing together high-tech know-how and the practical needs of the information society, while being the axis of its development. Through visiting the IT college, we are expected to understand more about the higher education in Tallinn, especially in the IT field.

Makory, the innovation centre of TTU was started in 2013. The aim of the centre was to encourage student of TTU to conduct innovation experiment and establish potential start-up company. Through visiting Makory, we are expecting to learn more the reason behind the bloom of start-up in Estonia in recent years.

4.5 Finland (Helsinki: 23/5)

Two-hour by speed boat from Tallinn, we are able to reach Helsinki, Finland’s capital city. Being the southern-most of the country, Helsinki’s culture bears similarity to nearby Baltic States and Russia. With the only 1-day visit, we are going to quickly scan through the city, to experience the ‘slow-paced life’ in Northern Europe.

(i) Experience : Silja Line Boat Trip

Frequent ferry services are scheduled between Tallinn and Helsinki, including Silja Line. To better experience the feeling of ‘sailing in Baltic Sea’, we choose to take an over-night ferry for the return trip from Helsinki to Tallinn. The 14-hour return journey, enable us to have a first-hand experience of residing on a cruise.

(ii) Attraction : Market Square

Outdoor market is very popular in Europe, same as in Helsinki. The Market Square is the oldest market in Helsinki. With handmade artworks and fresh food on sale, the market is also full of outdoor cafes, which is a good place for dining and enjoying the beautiful scenery at the mean time.

(iii) Attraction : Suomenlinna Sveaborg

This castle built in 1748 is now the biggest navy castle in Northern Europe. Being attacked by English and French army in 1856, the castle is now turned into a big museum complex showcasing the military history of Finland. Indeed, the castle is well-known for its beautiful scenery, as being the Frontier of Finland to the Baltic Sea. From here, we can get a chance to take a look at the Baltic region, from a different angle.
5. Plans for reporting
We will record the whole trip with a camera and make a documentary like "Big Big World" (世界零距離), a travel series produced and broadcast by TVB introducing different states of which most Hong Kongers are unheard. The documentary will present the rapid development and culture of the Baltics State. Not many people know where the Baltics States are. However, their economic importance is increasing in recent decades. Our documentary will be posted on Facebook and Youtube. Also, we can present what we have learnt in the trip in our college assembly.

6. Group members’ contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choi Man Kit (Angus)</td>
<td>✦ Trip planning&lt;br&gt;✦ Person-of-contact&lt;br&gt;✦ Reservation booking / billing&lt;br&gt;✦ Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lui Wai Shan (Cherry)</td>
<td>✦ Person-of-contact&lt;br&gt;✦ Video filming&lt;br&gt;✦ On-site cultural exchange (Estonia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chui Ka Lung (KK)</td>
<td>✦ On-site cultural exchange (Estonia / Latvia)&lt;br&gt;✦ Video making</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kuai Iam Chi</td>
<td>✦ Information searching&lt;br&gt;✦ Proposal writing&lt;br&gt;✦ On-site cultural exchange (Lithuania)</td>
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7. Appendix
7.1 Insurance / Flight information

Flight

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Insurance
「樂優遊+」單次旅遊保險計劃 by Zurich Insurance
7.2 Budget Breakdown

Refundable fee from College

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<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$29672</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-refundable fee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of items</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Expected Budget (for 4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross-border Transportation</td>
<td>Vilnius to Kaliningrad (Bus)</td>
<td>$360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kaliningrad to Nida (Bus)</td>
<td>$460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Klapedia to Riga (Shuttle)</td>
<td>$650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Riga to Tallinn (Bus)</td>
<td>$420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tallinn to St. Petersburg (Bus)</td>
<td>$680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In-city transportation</strong></td>
<td>€8 per day per person</td>
<td>€512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>€8 × 4 × 16 = €512</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferry</td>
<td>Return trip from Tallinn to Helsinki (Family Cabin)</td>
<td>$1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinning</td>
<td>€20 per day per person</td>
<td>€10880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>€20 × 4 × 16 = €1280</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee for attractions / museums</td>
<td>€10 per day per person</td>
<td>€5440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>€10 × 4 × 16 = €640</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel insurance</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>$1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet access</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>$2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$29042</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Refundable Fee

<p>|                                      |                                                 | <strong>$29672</strong>               |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-refundable fee</th>
<th>$29042</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Spending</td>
<td>$58714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee per person</td>
<td>$14748.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction</td>
<td>$7260.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Take 1 EUR = 8.5 HKD

### 7.3 Day-by-day schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11/5</td>
<td>Vilnius</td>
<td>Flight : HKG &gt; VNO</td>
<td>1. Day trip : Vilnius Old city tour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2   | 12/5 | Vilnius | | 1. Site visit : Uzupis Republic  
2. Day trip : Tallinn old city tour  
( Uzupis Republic > St. Anne’s Church > House of Amber > Literatu Gatve > House of Signatories > Town Hall > Ausros Vartu Gatve > Gates of Dawn) |
| 3   | 13/5 | Vilnius | | 1. Site visit : Trakai Island Castle |
| 4   | 14/5 | Kaliningrad | Bus | 1. Site Visit : Port Facilities in Kaliningrad |
| 5   | 15/5 | Kaliningrad | | 1. Site Visit : Museum of Natural Ocean  
2. Site visit : Amber museum |
| 6   | 16/5 | Klaipeda | Bus | 1. Site visit : Curonian Spit |
| 7   | 17/5 | Riga | Bus | |
| 8   | 18/5 | Riga | | 1. Site visit : Gauja National Park |
| 9   | 19/5 | Riga | | 1. Site visit : Getlini Eko Landfill  
2. Experience : Cycling around Riga  
3. Interview : Ricky Chan, Student from Hong Kong |
| 10  | 20/5 | Tallinn | Bus | 1. Experience : Muuseumiioo |
| 11  | 21/5 | Tallinn | | 1. Interview : Kwun-Lok NG |
| 12  | 22/5 | Tallinn | | 1. Site visit : Ulemisty City  
2. Site visit : E-Estonia showroom |
| 13  | 23/5 | Helsinki | Ferry | 1. Day trip : Helsinki  
2. Experience : Silja Line Boat Trip |
<p>| 14  | 24/5 | Tallinn | | 1. Day trip : Estonian Open Air Museum |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>25/5</td>
<td>Tallinn</td>
<td>Site visit: Makory @ Tallinn University of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>26/5</td>
<td>St. Petersburg</td>
<td>Bus Flight: LED &gt; HKG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>27/5</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>Back to Home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7.4 Contact info

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Uzupis Republic</td>
<td><a href="http://www.umi.lt/">http://www.umi.lt/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trakai Island Castle</td>
<td><a href="http://www.trakaimuziejus.lt/en">http://www.trakaimuziejus.lt/en</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vilnius Tourism Board</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vilnius-tourism.lt/en/">http://www.vilnius-tourism.lt/en/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visit Neringa</td>
<td><a href="http://visitneringa.com/welcome">http://visitneringa.com/welcome</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Getlini Eko Landfill</td>
<td><a href="http://www.getlini.lv/en/getli%C5%86i-numbers">http://www.getlini.lv/en/getli%C5%86i-numbers</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latvia Travel</td>
<td><a href="http://www.latvia.travel/">http://www.latvia.travel/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E-Estonia showroom</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://e-estonia.com/e-estonia-showroom/">https://e-estonia.com/e-estonia-showroom/</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kwun-Lok NG</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://startupbitsnbobs.com/author/lokinki2/">https://startupbitsnbobs.com/author/lokinki2/</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tallinn University of Technology</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://www.ttu.ee/en">https://www.ttu.ee/en</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ministry of Education and Research</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://www.hm.ee/en">https://www.hm.ee/en</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Helsinki</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tallink Silja</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://www.tallinksilja.com/book-a-cruise">https://www.tallinksilja.com/book-a-cruise</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Others</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finnair</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://www.finnair.com/hk/gb/">https://www.finnair.com/hk/gb/</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embassy of The People's</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://lv.chineseembassy.org/chn/">http://lv.chineseembassy.org/chn/</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic Of China in The Republic Of Lithuania</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>