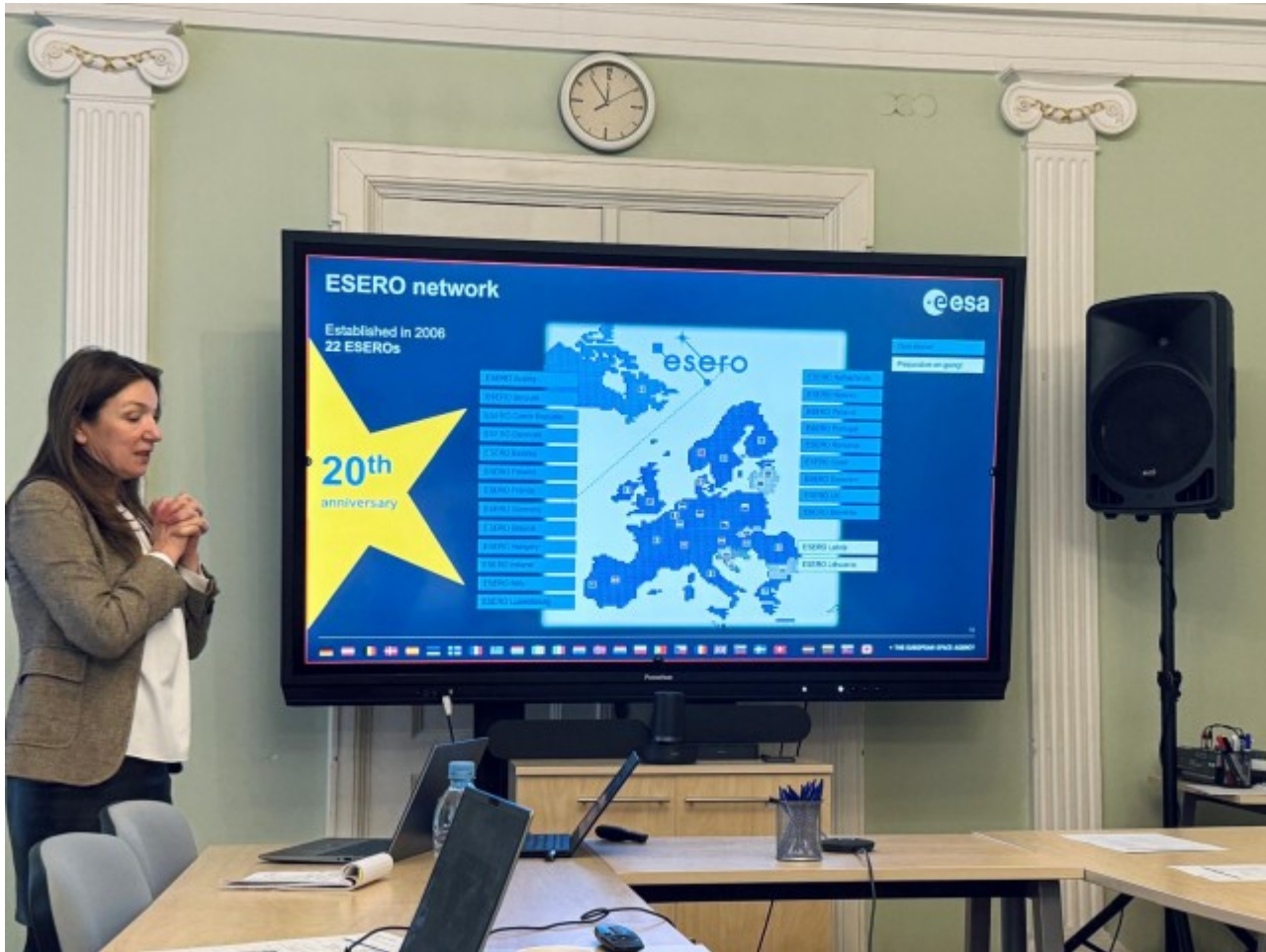


Connecting Space, Education, and National Needs: ESERO Latvia Information Day



The ESERO (European Space Education Resource Office) Latvia information day brought together representatives from the Ministry of Education and Science, European Space Agency (ESA), and national education stakeholders (both from Riga and regional cities such as Cēsis, Liepāja and Daugavpils) to explore the role of ESA education programmes and the future implementation of ESERO in Latvia.

The event highlighted that education is at the core of ESA's mission, and this principle is strongly reflected in the ESERO programme. ESERO is designed to support and evolve existing national education systems, not replace them. As a large-scale initiative backed by ESA expertise, it allows countries to build on proven resources rather than start from scratch, while still creating new and innovative solutions when national needs require it. With access to a wide range of tools and materials, countries can adapt the programme to their specific educational context. These adaptations are data-driven and informed by ESA-led studies, ensuring that decisions are based on evidence and real needs.

The agenda covered Latvia's Space Strategy, the current state of STEM education in both formal and non-formal settings, and an overview of ESA's education programme. Detailed presentations on the ESERO project addressed its objectives, key deliverables,

implementation model, eligibility requirements, and success stories from other countries. Discussions also focused on the future role of ESERO implementers, including management responsibilities, teacher and educator training, use of didactic materials, outreach activities, and reporting obligations.

The session concluded with a forward-looking discussion on ESERO Latvia, outlining next steps and opportunities for stakeholder engagement. An open call for proposals is planned to open in February/March, followed by a contract kick-off with ESA in the second half of summer, and an official programme launch targeted for September 2026.

ESA experts also emphasized the requesting party activities brief, which will take place on 31st March, as a great opportunity to learn more about creating a successful ESA project proposal. More details on the location and time of the brief to follow.

If any questions arise regarding the ESERO implementation in Latvia, please contact Ilze Stikāne at ilze.stikane@izm.gov.lv.