

**UNITAS**  
FOUNDATION

2015  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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## Introduction

The Unitas Foundation is a non-profit organization established in Tallinn in 2008, dedicated to the advancement of a society where historical consciousness is based on the common values of humanity. The activities of the foundation are focused on raising awareness of the inhumanity of totalitarian regimes and ideologies and on pursuing the international condemnation of their crimes. The founders of the foundation are Mart Laar, Damian von Stauffenberg and Meelis Niinepuu.

## Message from the Chairman of Board

For seven years now, the Unitas Foundation has been committed to shaping more compassionate and aware societies where human rights and the common values of humanity are respected and upheld. At the Unitas Foundation, we keep innovating history education through digital storytelling. Every year we collect and distribute hundreds of personal life stories where the center of gravity lies not only in historical facts and figures type of thinking but in the power of storytelling and empathy. In 2015, the foundation set on a new strategic course under the leadership of a new Management Board and Council. On behalf of the Unitas Foundation, I would like to extend my gratitude to the growing number of volunteers, partners and sponsors associated with the foundation, supporting our cause and helping us shape the peaceful future of Europe.

Meelis Niinepuu  
Chairman of Board

# Unitas Foundation in 2015 – a glimpse

After the successful completion of several large scale projects in 2014, including the three year Baltic Sea region history education research and strategy development project Different Nations - Shared Experiences, we had our hands on a repository of fully developed methods and materials that address complex issues and tensions around the history of totalitarianism in Estonia and the Baltic Sea region.

Thus, in 2015 our focus was on the implementation and further development of digital storytelling and awareness raising projects addressed primarily at youth and educators.

Throughout 2015, oral history video interviews produced in the United States and in Estonia in 2014 as part of the Kogu Me Lugu oral history initiative were analysed, translated and edited into video stories, adding more than 50 short films to the existing collection. The development of the Kogu Me Lugu Internet-based learning platform of recent history and human rights was launched and a number of think tanks were held with specialists in the fields of remembrance, education, ICT (information and communications technology) and other related fields to contribute to its development.

The first Kogu Me Lugu based exhibition – The Station Talks – was created in cooperation with film maker Anna Hints as part of the Kilometre of Sculpture art programme in Võru. Fundraising campaigns were carried in Estonia as well as in the US, to increase the visibility of the foundation and the Kogu Me Lugu initiative and to collect additional funds for its financing.

The Tallinn Collector travelling exhibition, introducing visitors to the history of tourism in Tallinn during the Soviet Union, was once again featured in Tallinn, at the Museum of Occupations, after its introduction at the Telliskivi Loomelinnak in 2014 with the foundation's support. The short film Escape, which tells the story of a family's escape from Estonia in 1944 and their journey into the free world, was translated into ten additional languages.

A conference on European remembrance took place in Tallinn, with Timothy Snyder, professor of History at Yale University as the keynote speaker, gathering more than 100 participants from Europe and beyond.

As part of the Estonian Development Cooperation programme, 16 youth trainers were trained to teach and altogether more than 50 young people were given a chance to experience the Model International Criminal Court simulations in Ukraine.

International co-operation was strengthened in Estonia, the Baltic Sea region and in Europe at large, but also in North America with organizations dealing with the history of totalitarian regimes, through several jointly organised projects. Further cooperation was established with the Estonian Public Broadcasting, the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association, Hooandja crowd funding platform, the Republic of Estonia 100th anniversary project, the Estonian Art Museum, artists Hanna Sjöberg (SWE/GER) and Edward von Lõngus (EST), the Center for Contemporary Arts in Estonia, Williams College in the United States and other organizations and individuals.

Throughout the year we carried out public awareness activities, including organising or participating in the organisation of commemorative events regarding the March and June deportations and victims of totalitarian regimes on 23rd August, the organisation of conferences, seminars and training courses, and participating in discussions and think tanks on both national and international levels.

Sandra Vokk  
CEO



# New Management Board and Council

After 6 years as Chief Executive Officer for Unitas Foundation and the successful completion of several large scale projects, in November 2014 Uve Poom transferred the responsibilities as CEO to Sandra Vokk, former Communications Manager at Unitas Foundation. Uve Poom continues to support the Unitas Foundation as Strategic Adviser.

In November 2014, the council of the foundation welcomed three new members – Toomas Hiio, Aet Kukk and Kadri Viires, in addition to Meelis Niinepuu, who was appointed Chairman of Council. In October 2015, a fifth member was welcomed to the council, Mariann Rikka, former legal and human rights adviser to the foundation.

## Management Board:

Sandra Vokk – CEO

## Council:

Toomas Hiio - Estonian Institute of Historical Memory, Member of Board

Aet Kukk - Estonian Institute of Human Rights, CEO

Meelis Niinepuu - Unitas Foundation, Co-Founder, Chairman of Council

Mariann Rikka - Estonian Ministry of Education and Research, Chief Expert

Kadri Viires - NPO Fenno-Ugria, Estonian Academy of Arts, Lecturer and Curator

## Team Unitas in 2015



Aleksei Boris  
Project Manager



Alice Pia Kattago  
Volunteer



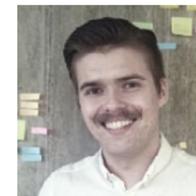
Anne-Mai Saar  
Human Rights  
Youth Trainer



Aramays Madatyan  
Intern



Daria Mangione  
Intern



Karl Erik Esko  
Project Manager



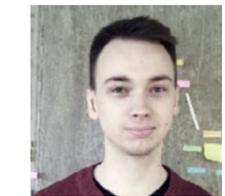
Marlen Ulrika  
Elisabet Kakkori  
Project Manager



Merilin Mihkeles  
Research Assistant



Michaela Snopkova  
Project Manager



Rauno Kiviloo  
Project Manager



Sandra Vokk  
CEO



Thanakorn Cheung  
Project Manager



Anna Hints  
Kogu Me Lugu  
Producer-Director



Uve Poom  
Strategic Adviser



Viktor Nikonov  
MICC Head Trainer



# Activities in 2015

## January

### Holocaust Remembrance Day & preparatory meeting for the European Remembrance networking event in Brussels

On 27th January 2015, CEO of the Unitas Foundation Sandra Vokk attended a commemoration ceremony held on the occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day at the European Commission in Brussels, followed by a preparatory meeting to organise an European remembrance networking meeting in Tallinn, in May 2015. The meeting was attended by representatives of the European Commission, Tallinn University and the Unitas Foundation.



## February

### Human Rights in Youth Work thematic week at the Tallinn University Pedagogical College

As part of the Human Rights thematic week, on 20th February 2015, the Unitas Foundation held a workshop for Tallinn University Pedagogical College 1st year students on the possibilities for the integration of Estonian youth through history and human rights education. The thematic week was jointly organised by the Tallinn University Pedagogical College, the Estonian Human Rights Centre, the Estonian Union for Child Welfare, Unitas Foundation, NGO Mondo, the Estonian Association of LGBT youth and students.

## March

### Second preparatory meeting for the European remembrance networking event in May 2015 in Tallinn

On 3th-4th March 2015, representatives of the European Commission visited Tallinn to attend a second preparatory meeting to organise the European remembrance networking event in Tallinn in May 2015. The delegation visited the conference venues and met with its Estonian partners including representatives from Tallinn University, the Unitas Foundation, the Museum of Occupations and the Estonian Institute of Historical Memory.

### Women and Security. Ida-Virumaa

On Women's Day, 8th March 2015, Sandra Vokk, CEO of Unitas Foundation participated in a panel discussion at the conference Women and Security. Ida-Virumaa, organized by the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association at the Narva College of the University of Tartu. The conference investigated questions of home security and social well being. Participants included the representatives of the Estonian Foreign Ministry, Police and Border Guard Board, Tartu University Narva College, the Narva Power Plants, Estonian Public Broadcasting, Defence League, Women's Home Defence, the city of Narva and others.



### Commemoration of the 25th March 1949 Soviet deportations

On 25th March 2015, a commemoration seminar was held at the Museum of Occupations where the Unitas Foundation introduced the Kogu Me Lugu project. This was followed by the annual candle lighting ceremony at Tallinn Freedom Square in remembrance of the deported population by the Soviet regime in 1949.

## May

### The 5th network meeting with organisations active in the field of memory and remembrance in Tallinn

On 4th - 6th May, more than 100 people active in the field of history, memory and remembrance gathered in Tallinn to discuss whether a common European memory is a promise, illusion or challenge. Participants came from 21 different European countries and 87 civic associations. The event was a follow-up to the networking meetings for organisations supported by the European Commission's Europe for Citizens Programme. The key themes discussed at the meeting were the ways in which history is integrated or excluded from a common European culture of remembrance. The keynote speaker was the American historian and professor of History at Yale University, Timothy Snyder. The keynote presentation was followed by a roundtable discussion with professor Snyder, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves and professor Andres Kasekamp from the University of Tartu.

#### Organisers:

European Commission: Europe for Citizens Programme, Unitas Foundation, Estonian Institute of Historical Memory, Estonian Museum of Occupations, Providus, International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Communist Occupation Regime in Lithuania, Tallinn University

### Public debate: Do(n't) Forget - with or without brackets?

Prior to the networking meeting, a public debate on historical remembrance took place on 4th of May at the European Union House in Tallinn, featuring a debate by members of the Estonian Debating Society on the topic of whether a society should forget the divisive events from history.

#### Organisers:

Unitas Foundation, Europe for Citizens Programme Estonian Contact Point, Foundation Our People, NGO Kontakt



### The Tallinn Collector featured at the Museum of Occupations

From 12th May 2015 to 30th August 2014, The Tallinn Collector travelling exhibition, featured with the support of the foundation at the Telliskivi Loomelinnak in July 2014, was once again featured in Tallinn, this time at the Museum of Occupations. The Tallinn Collector introduces visitors to the history of tourism in Tallinn during the Soviet Union.



## June

### Commemoration of 1941 June deportations

Artis cinema, the Estonian Institute of Human Rights and the Unitas Foundation organised a week of remembrance films screenings from 14th - 18th June, 2015. The film week hosted a series of films on the experiences of different nations with deportations, including: Haitarma (Ukraine), In the Crosswind (Risttuules, Estonia), The Promised Land (Zheruyik, Kazakhstan), The Excursionist (Ekskursantè, Lithuania), Giovanni's Island (Jobanni no shima, Japan). The screenings were preceded by introductory comments by specialists in the field and short films from the Kogu Me Lugu collection.

In the spring of 2015, a foundation for long-term cooperation was laid with the Estonian Public Broadcasting. The cooperation involves the distribution of the Kogu Me Lugu oral history audio and video materials on memorial days on the public broadcasting channels. On June 14th 2015, stories from the Kogu Me Lugu collection were shown on the ETV2 channel during the whole day as part of the Broken Lives programme.



## July

### Exhibition The Station Talks in Võru

Artist, film maker and Kogu Me Lugu producer-director Anna Hints together with the Unitas Foundation created the exhibition The Station Talks in which sound installations in railway stations around Estonia reveal stories about deportation. The exhibition was opened on 4th July 2015 in the abandoned Võru railway station as part of the Kilometre of Sculpture 2015 Võru programme, and was open until 26th July 2015. The abandoned Võru railway station was the first to share the memories associated with deportations.



### Kogu Me Lugu raised over 7000€ through crowdfunding

The oral history collection and storytelling initiative Kogu Me Lugu successfully finished a crowdfunding project on the Estonian crowdfunding platform Hooandja, to finance the development of an audiovisual oral history online learning platform. With the support of helpful people and organizations, Kogu Me Lugu gathered slightly more than 100% of the funding goal: 7026,80 €. The platform goes live on 25th March 2016. Kogu Me Lugu also became an official gift project for the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia.



## August

### Truth and Reconciliation process in Estonia

On 15th August, a public discussion on the necessity of a truth and reconciliation process in Estonia took place at the Paide Opinion Festival. The moderator and organiser of the discussion was a civil society development activist Kristina Mänd. The Unitas Foundation collaborated in organising the discussion.

## 6th European workshop on dealing with the past of Auschwitz burdened by violence

From 11th to 16th August 2015, 30 representatives of 11 countries, including Unitas Foundation representing Estonia, gathered at the Centre for Prayer and Dialogue in Oswiecim, Poland for the 6th European Workshop on dealing with the past of Auschwitz burdened by violence. Participants from Germany, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Albania, Bosnia And Herzegovina, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Italy analysed Auschwitz and its consequences, including the different forms, contents, functions and ways in which Auschwitz is remembered by different European societies. The workshop is organized annually by the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation.



## The Unbearable Lightness of Remembrance: you remember what you collect

From 26th-27th August 2015, Sandra Vokk, CEO of Unitas Foundation presented the Kogu Me Lugu oral history initiative, its activities, results and goals at the seminar entitled The Unbearable Lightness of remembrance: what you collect, you remember at the Jäneda manor, Estonia. The focus of the seminar was to discuss the methods, challenges and cooperation possibilities in the preservation of Estonian historical and cultural heritage. The seminar was organised in collaboration with the Estonian Ministry of Culture and was attended by approximately 100 participants including staff of museums, archives, libraries, arts institutions, representatives of the Estonian Public Broadcasting, academics and representatives of ministries.

## September

### Preparation for the exhibition at the water's edge

On 16th to 19th September 2015, the Unitas Foundation participated in a meeting of artists, documentary film makers, administrators and museum representatives from all countries bordering the Baltic Sea (Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Poland, Germany, Denmark) in the seaside resort Palanga, Lithuania to prepare a travelling exhibition about the Baltic Sea divided by the Iron Curtain. at the water's edge exhibition builds on personal narratives from both sides of the Iron Curtain, reaching local audiences in all of the region's nine countries.

At the workshop, Unitas Foundation introduced the Kogu Me Lugu oral history initiative, its activities and methods for collecting personal stories, as well as the Baltic Sea Region history education and cooperation project Bridging the Baltic.



## October

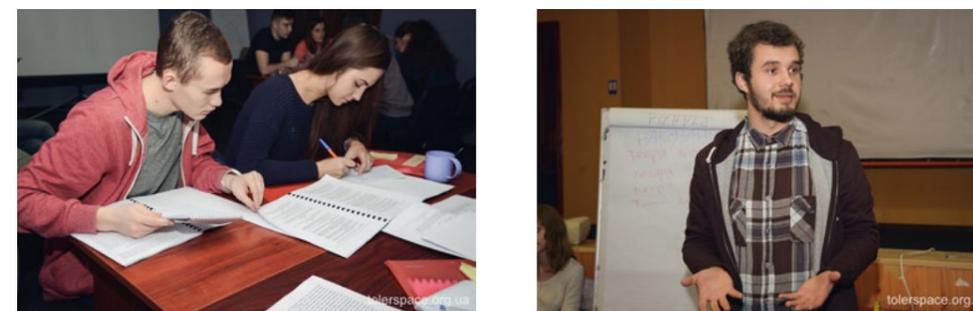
### Model International Criminal Court trainings begin in Ukraine

In October 2015, trainings to prepare Ukrainian NGO's and youth leaders to organise and execute MICC Courses (Model International Criminal Court) begun in the Ukraine's Khmelnytskyi and Kherson Oblasts. A total of 3 different MICC courses were held in each region, with a total of 16 participants. The trainings of trainers were carried out by the Unitas Foundation's MICC Head Trainer, Viktor Nikonov. As a result of the trainings, the Ukrainian MICC trainers' pool was expanded by 6 freshly coached trainers, ready to conduct MICC Courses independently and organize the MICC youth exchange in December 2015. The project was financed by the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Estonia's development cooperation instruments.

Organisers: Unitas Foundation, Congress of National Minority Groups in the Ukraine, the Charitable Foundation "Ksenia" and Youth Center for Regional Development.

„In my opinion, the MICC training had a great impact on the participants. They learned about the grave tragedies of Rwandan and Yugoslavian history, understood what the crimes against humanity and genocide are, got a solid background in human rights and enriched themselves with the theoretical knowledge in the field of criminal law. I could trace how the participants' outlook has broadened concerning understanding of human dignity and human rights.”

Kvitoslava Krotiuk, trainer



### Conference Justice in Communist and Post-communist Regimes

From 6th to 10th October 2015, CEO of the Unitas Foundation Sandra Vokk attended the international conference Justice in Communist and Post-communist Regimes in Bucharest, Romania, organised by the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and Memory of the Romanian Exile (IICCMER) in partnership with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The Unitas Foundation delivered a presentation on the topic of involving civil society in restorative justice and introduced its work in this field.



### Conference Estonian Security 2015: My Contribution

On 15th October 2015, the conference Estonian Security 2015: My Contribution took place at the Riigikogu in Tallinn. The main topic of the conference was the involvement of Estonian residents in Estonia's national defence. The conference was broadcast live on the Riigikogu webpage and via Postimees online news portal. The conference was jointly organised by the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association, International Centre for Defence and Security, Unitas Foundation, Sinu Riigi Kaitse, Estonian Defence League, academic corporation Vironia and academic corporation Amicitia.



### BAAC conference 2015: Echoes of the Past, Insights to the Future

On 28th October 2015, CEO of the Unitas Foundation Sandra Vokk attended the annual conference of the Baltic Audiovisual Archival Council called Echoes of the Past, Insights to the Future at the Tallinn University Baltic Film and Media School, to present the Kogu Me Lugu project. The conference was attended by around 60 delegates from the council member organizations from Europe and North America.

### November

#### Teacher training on the LGBT situation in school and education

On 30th November 2015, The Canadian Embassy in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Research and the Unitas Foundation organised an LGBT and human rights awareness training for general education managers and teachers, social pedagogues and school psychologists, and the staff of local education departments. on the topic of the LGBT situation in school and education. The training addressed the questions of whether it is necessary and how to recognise LGBT children in school and youth centers; how to recognise and act when children are victims of bullying and how to design a bullying-free environment where everyone can feel free to be themselves.

### December

#### Photofilm Escape available in 14 languages

With the support of the foundation, the short film Escape (Põgenemine), which tells the story of a family's escape from Estonia in 1944 and their journey into the free world and is based on the photographs of Eric Soovere, was translated into ten additional languages. The film is now available in English, French, German, Russian, Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian, Finnish, Greek, Polish, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish and Hungarian languages.

### Kogu Me Lugu featured at the e-day of the non-governmental sector

On 7th December 2015, the Kogu Me Lugu initiative was featured at an expo organised by the Europe for Citizens Programme Estonian Contact Point to introduce innovative e-solutions of the non-governmental sector. Kogu Me Lugu introduced its first visible results of the development of the Kogu Me Lugu online learning portal and gathered lots of useful feedback for its further development.



### MICC youth camp – a first of a kind for Unitas, the partners, and participants – a triple success

From 9th December 2015 to 13th December 2015, a total of 36 students aged 15-17 and an organisational team of 13 gathered in the Zazimya hotel complex in the Kyiv region to hold and take part in the first MICC youth camp ever organised in Ukraine. The Unitas Foundation's Ukrainian partner the Kyiv Educational Center Tolerspace was responsible for conducting and managing the camp. The project was carried out in Russian for maximum impact and benefit. For that, the Unitas Foundation and its partners in Ukraine translated the MICC materials from English to Russian and a total of 218 pages of high-quality MICC materials in Russian are now available for use.



## Unitas Foundation in the media:

Unitas Foundation interviewed for a report on Estonian-Russian relations in Czech magazine Reporter

Opinion article by Sandra Vokk and Mariann Rikka on psychological defence

Opinion article by Aleksei Boris on refugee policy in Estonia

Kogu Me Lugu initiative introduced in the TV3 channel Seven o'clock News programme

Kogu Me Lugu and Tiiu Teesalu story featured in the Estonian daily Postimees

Kogu Me Lugu in the Klassikaraadio radio channel Delta show

Kogu Me Lugu featured in the Vikerraadio radio channel

Kogu Me Lugu featured in the Eesti Elu news portal

Kogu Me Lugu as the official gift project for the 100th anniversary of the Estonian Republic

Kogu Me Lugu clips featured before film screenings during the remembrance films week in Tallinn, Artis cinema

Kogu Me Lugu clips featured on ETV2 channel on 15th June as part of the Broken Lives programme



## Acknowledgement of Support

The Unitas Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support of the Kistler-Ritso Foundation, the Estonian Relief Committee, the Estonian Ministry of Defence and the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research for their financial support for carrying out the Kogu Me Lugu activities. We would like to thank the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research also for financially supporting the organising of the European remembrance networking meeting in May 2015 and the teacher training on LGBT issues in November 2015.

The foundation further thanks the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their grant from the Estonian Development Cooperation funds to carry out the Model International Criminal Court expansion project in Ukraine. We are also very grateful to our donors from the private sphere who have supported the day-to-day operations of the foundation as well as to all our individual and organizational donors of the Kogu Me Lugu initiative.

Last but not least we owe our deepest gratitude to the people who have contributed their time, energy and resources to advance the foundation's mission. These people include our team members from project managers to volunteers, as well as their friends and family, our willing and able national and international partners, our partners in the media and followers on social media, the people sharing their stories on or off camera, and also our critics who remind us that there is always room for improvement.

# Financial Report

# Contact Information

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	<b>31.12.2015</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current assets	2 074,17
Non-current assets	419,30
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2 493,47</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>	
Loan liabilities	43 200,00
Total debts and prepayments	13 078,87
Donations and grants	2 433,62
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>58 712,49</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>58 712,49</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	
Foundation capital	19 173,49
Surplus (deficit)	- 171 163,10
Surplus (deficit) for financial year	95 770,59
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>-56 219,02</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>2 493,47</b>

<b>INCOME STATEMENT</b>	<b>01.01.2015</b>	<b>31.12.2015</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations and grants	201 570,86	
Business income	683,93	
Other income	2,13	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>202 256,92</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Direct expenses of projects financed from fees for specific purposes	48 334,37	
Donations and grants distributed	351,34	
Other operating expenses	16 990,07	
Labour costs	38 938,68	
Depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	863,16	
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>105 501,41</b>	
<b>Surplus (deficit) from operating activities</b>	<b>96 755,51</b>	
<b>Financial income</b>	<b>- 327,13</b>	
Interest income	- 327,13	
<b>Financial expenses</b>	<b>657,79</b>	
Interest expenses	657,79	
<b>Surplus (deficit) for financial year</b>	<b>95 770,59</b>	

Website: [www.unitasfoundation.org](http://www.unitasfoundation.org)

E-mail: [info@unitasfoundation.org](mailto:info@unitasfoundation.org)

Phone: (+372) 6645 039

Address: Roseni 7, 10111 Tallinn, Estonia

Twitter: [UnitasFNDN](https://twitter.com/UnitasFNDN)

Facebook: [UnitasFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/UnitasFoundation)