



On the Planetary Scientists in Riga:

FB comment from Ingmārs Pūķis, LMT Vice President:

"It was great to have all this planetary brainpower coming to Riga:). Thank you Amara!"

On the Zinoo Space Exhibits:

FB comment from Adele Stanford, Kings College, Riga, teacher, on the Zinoo Exhibits: "Amara Graps the children from Kings College loved it. They have been telling me all about it. Thanks so much x"

FB comment from JL Galache, UK/ES/USA planetary scientist and asteroid miner, on the Zinoo Exhibits: " I hope all the grownups attending the conference took a few minutes to go enjoy the Zinoo exhibit. The Mars rover, for one, was very cool and enlightening."

On the Congress:

EstLat-2020 SPACETEM Intern, Anni Kasikov:

"As a bachelor's student it was difficult to understand many of the presentations, because I don't have enough knowledge about the subjects. But the best experience for me was the Tuesday's poster session, where I could walk around and ask people about their posters. So I asked them "Could you explain your research to a bachelor's student?" And I learned so much during those few hours! I learned about magnetic fields of Uranus and Saturn, about the geology of Mercury, about the processes on a comet's surface and how the solar wind affects Earth's atmosphere. By the end of the night I felt like my head was about to explode from all the cool things I heard! And the rest of the night me and the other LU students were discussing what we learned that day. This was the most awesome experience for me at the EPSC and it gave me a lot of motivation to do well at my studies, so that in the future I could also be one of those planetary scientists presenting a research."

EstLat-2020 SPACTEM Mentor: Endija Briede:

"Great conference, especially high level keynote speakers. The ability to meet and network with great people was excellent. I was happy to see captivated trainees and hear positive feedback from them."

On the black, handmade t-shirts worn by the SpaceTEM team.

Twitter comment by USA planetary scientist @asrivkin :

"A group of Baltic engineering interns are wearing this shirt tonight at #EPSC2017. I post this for the gang of engineers back at @JHUAPL..."

[pic.twitter.com/sBg1mERjmd](https://t.co/sBg1mERjmd)<https://t.co/sBg1mERjmd>[pic.twitter.com/sBg1mERjmd](https://t.co/sBg1mERjmd)

Twitter comment by USA planetary scientist and asteroid miner @drphitill :

"Seen at #EPSC2017" <https://t.co/5Eb1nYw50n>

FB comment by Andris Slavinskis, LV/EE space engineer on the EPSC 2017 Riga scientific sessions:

"Interplanetary Nanosatellites, CubeSats/SmallSats session at #EPSC2017 makes me very happy. When proposing an engineering session for a science conference, only I could dream about such excellent talks, and I definitely did not expect the Latvian Minister of Finance giving a talk there and an article in The Economist coming out the session. Thank you everybody who contributed!"

FB comment by Glenn Orton, JPL (USA) planetary scientist:

"I will attest that, even with the tremendously challenging travel from the western US, the Congress as a whole was exciting and immensely worth while. I'd do it again in a heartbeat, including the challenges we have just to approve the required travel."

FB Comment by Rosaly Lopes, JPL (USA) planetary scientist:

"It's been a great meeting! I hope for more meetings in Riga!"

FB Comment by Philip Metzger, Univ Central Florida, planetary scientist and asteroid miner: "EPSC 2017 was great. Kudos to Amara Graps and the other organizers. Everything went smoothly (from my perspective!); the talks were great, lots of cool science, the conversations were great, lots of coffee and snacks, Amazing social event. Beautiful city. Everything one could want in a planetary science conference. Thank you Amara!"

Twitter pic of Opening EPSC sketch of Riga from USA planetary scientist & artist: @jtuttlekeane
<https://twitter.com/jtuttlekeane/status/909655231205699584>

Twitter comment/pic from UK planetary scientist: @leighfletcher

"My first time in the Baltics, and fantastic to see a former Latvian president addressing our planetary science community in Riga! #EPSC2017"
pic.twitter.com/6wh6EIWrIJ

Twitter comment from UK/ES/USA planetary scientist and asteroid miner: @JLGalache

"Madam President Vaira Viķe-Freiberga gave a beautiful talk about the significance of the Sun in Latvian folklore and life. #EPSC2017"

Twitter comment from Nature Editor @LucaPlanets

"Should we mention that the two (important) Baltic politicians that talked at #EPSC2017 opening ceremony were women? Let's mention it..."

Twitter comment from German planetary PhD student @lets_boldly_go

"Pleased to see so many women speakers in the first hours of #EPSC2017 . So so important! @europlanetmedia"

Twitter Comment from Finnish space scientist @samooja

"One great thing about #EPSC2017 #European planetary #Science conference are amateur astronomy sessions. (this year in #Riga #Latvia) #space"

Twitter comment from French planetary PhD student @Ines_Blgcm

"#EPSC2017 is also the 1st conf I've heard of with amateur astronomers sessions as well as science & industry ! Diversity is so appreciated!"

Twitter comment/pic from UK planetary scientist: @leighfletcher

"One thing #EPSC2017 does really well is the inclusion of amateur observers in the sessions, particularly to support missions like Juno." pic.twitter.com/sjBZAHVwrO

Twitter comment from USA planetary scientist @asrivkin

"Great to see the turnout at the Diversity Breakfast at #EPSC2017!"



Twitter comment from a French planetary scientist: @davidwdubois
"Thanks to @euoplanetmedia for organizing such a wonderful meeting this week, with amazing talks all throughout! #EPSC2017 @balticsinspace"

Twitter comment from Spanish planetary scientist: @ajd_geosci
"A huge thank you to the #EPSC2017 organisers for a great congress!"

Twitter comment/pics from USA planetary scientist: @asrivkin
"We're just about to start the road trip leg. Thanks to @amaragraps and @anitaheward (et al!) for doing an amazing job with #EPSC2017 !"
"Farewell #EPSC2017! Thanks for the science! We're off to Lithuania with the brave @asrivkin behind the wheel!" <https://t.co/rFWWaYrViu>

Twitter comment/pic from French planetary PhD student @Ines_Blgcm
"At Riga Airport getting ready to go back to Paris! Thank you 4 a wonderful #EPSC2017! Great science, awesome people! See you next year :)" <https://t.co/Bth7hMjhnP>

FB Comment from JL Galache, UK/ES/USA planetary scientist and asteroid miner, on the EPSC 2017 Riga generally:

"I spent the week asking people how they thought the organisation and conference went, and everyone was positive. The only complaint I received was "the beer at the poster sessions isn't good." To put this complaint into perspective: There was beer and wine during the poster sessions, and it was free; as much as you could drink! Personally I don't see any reason to complain ☐

Items that are always important to me:

- Free flowing caffeine: ✓
- Smooth glitchless projection and audio equipment: ✓
- Ample rooms for talks and socialising: ✓
- Easy to navigate floor plan: ✓

One issue I saw was a session on the first day that many people ended up sitting on the floor for (I tweeted a photo). Amara heard about this and the next day that room had some 50 extra chairs in it.

So bravo Amara for a hugely successful conference, with the highest attendance since the London EPSC (2013?). And let's face it, to "lose" the attendance battle to London says a lot about how well Riga did. “

I come back home scientifically refreshed (if physically exhausted) and with wonderful memories of Riga and the conference. Thank you, Amara!!!

On the EPSC 2017 Riga Social Event:

Twitter comments by Dr. Margaret Harris, Industry Editor at Physics World @drmlharris

"Turns out that planetary scientists are really into orbits, even on the dance floor! Traditional Latvian dance at the #EPSC2017 social" pic.twitter.com/WxMdFov0GP

"This is genuinely one of the most adorable conference social activities I've ever seen, and I go to lots of conferences. Well done, #EPSC2017"

Twitter pic by Welsh planetary science PhD student: @caryshuntly

"Cheers #EPSC2017! Tonight is all about trying local food and drinks!" <https://t.co/OndUyBSJ6d>

Twitter comment by USA planetary scientist and asteroid miner: @DrPhiltill

"Great conference social at #epsc2017" <https://twitter.com/drmlharris/status/910566095542775808> ...

On Riga:

(FB comment on the first days of Riga rain)

Scot Rafin, USA Mars scientist

"I really enjoyed the mix of sun and rain. Coming from a mostly dry and crunchy land, the rain can be refreshing."

Twitter Pics of Riga during EPSC from Nature Astronomy Editor

<https://twitter.com/LucaPlanets/status/909400673825038336>

Twitter Pics of Riga during EPSC from UK planetary scientist: @nick_attree

https://twitter.com/nick_attree/status/909474733883822080

Twitter pics of a Riga Old Town street from a UK planetary scientist: @physicsJ

"This photo was all about the cat. #EPSC2017" <https://t.co/0zobJrV6wM>

Twitter pics of Riga by a Welsh PhD planetary science student @caryshuntly

"Very cool sightseeing lunch break at #EPSC2017. Riga is a beautiful city. #scienceinthepark"

<https://t.co/18nWoB342v>

Twitter pic from USA planetary scientist: @schmemela

"Enjoying the view from my #epsc2017 hotel room" pic.twitter.com/PBGsattTCq

Twitter comments from UK/ES/USA planetary scientist and asteroid miner: @JLGalache

"I do appreciate the directness of this [Caffeine] establishment's name. No beating around the coffee bush here!"
in response:

Twitter comments from USA planetary scientist: @schmemela

"Latvia, I love you. #epsc2017"

Twitter comment/pic from USA planetary scientist: @schmemela



"Not entirely certain what I'm eating, but pizza in Latvia does not disappoint! #epsc2017"

<https://t.co/ngNm5bsGXF>

Twitter comment/pic from USA planetary scientist and artist: @jtuttlekeane

"Taking a break from drawing planets to relax and enjoy Riga #EPSC2017" pic.twitter.com/qaZx15POSI

Twitter pic from USA planetary scientist: @schmemela

"#EPSC2017 coffee break comes with adorable merengues! I've never had one before. Tastes like crunchy cotton candy." <https://t.co/ww2oz0nf7V>

Twitter pic of group in Riga Esplanade park by UK planetary scientist: @leighfletcher

"Farewell Riga #EPSC2017 and thanks for a great week - love from the Leicester planetees @PhysicsUoL #RSPP" <https://t.co/vJMHSQOxH9>

Twitter and Instagram pic in front of a Riga old town restaurant from a UK planetary scientist @davidaw222

"And it's over. Had a great time in Riga at #epsc2017. I had a good talk on NASA Dawn mission..."

<https://t.co/plm7zJEe5b> <https://www.instagram.com/p/BZWdJ3cHKcT/>

Twitter comment/pic from French planetary PhD student: @planeto57

"In #Riga witches are not allowed in bakeries #EPSC2017" <https://t.co/HrmHloNB5h>

Twitter comment/pic from from a UK planetary scientist: @physicsJ

"Riga was fun. #EPSC2017 was productive. On way to DC now" <https://t.co/wN92UANGs7>

Twitter comment/pic from USA planetary scientist and artist: @jtuttlekeane

"Goodbye Riga! Great city, fantastic #EPSC2017! I'll be back sketching at #DPS49!" <https://t.co/GxjEDeeiCw>
Phil Metzger with alot of riga photos

Twitter comment/pic from USA planetary scientist and asteroid miner: @DrPhiltill

"#EPSC2017 was great! FInal day in Latvia before returning to the US. I'm heading to the Baltic coast now to see some sand." pic.twitter.com/ljH6Tv2dNf <https://t.co/ljH6Tv2dNf>