



Tibetan Buddhist Center Drikung Kagyu Ratna Shri, Vilmsi 45A-2, Tallinn, Estonia,
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Drikung Kagyu Ratna Shri Center's bank account:
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Dear Dharma friends,

Drikung Kagyu Ratna Shri Dharma Center was established more than 20 years ago. Over the years the Dharma Center has gone through different times: years of high activity as well as years of stagnation. New community members appear, old activists leave or continue their dharma activity or dharma practice somewhere else. This shows that dharma center is alive, active, it is like a living organism. Fresh ideas appear and inspiration rapidly grows, with some ideas coming to life and some not. We consider this absolutely natural. There has been one steady support during this long period – that is the presence of our dear and precious Lama Drupon Sangyas Rinpoche.

Drupon Sangyas Rinpoche was sent to the Baltic countries by his guru Kyabgon Drikung Chetsang Rinpoche at the request of the first Drikung Kagyu Ratna Shri community members. Since then many things have changed, Estonia has become the second homeland for Drupon Sangyas Rinpoche. Under the guidance of our Lama many people in Estonia have made their first steps in meditation practice, learned ancient Buddhist philosophy and taken refuge. Some disciples have travelled to India, Tibet, Nepal and some have also looked for other teachers and tried various practices, finding their own way to develop spiritually. As Drupon Sangyas Rinpoche always says: people he meets are like old friends and the Drikung Kagyu community of Estonia is like a community of true Dharma friends.

Over the years there have been many various attempts to search for alternative sources of financial support and the main purpose has been the upkeep and maintenance of our practice center and making the cost of all teachings and retreats reasonable for everyone interested. Unfortunately our financial growth and development has not been as successful as we would have hoped for, but we have achieved our main aim: Drikung Kagyu Ratna Shri Center has maintained its stable existence.

All teachers who visit us make almost the same statement: it is easy to establish a Buddhist community, but it is hard to keep it up. But it is especially important to do it, because we have here an authentic Lama with living Dharma experience as our spiritual guide. We should think about the Buddhist communities of other countries where there is no resident Lama. They can only dream about such a precious opportunity. But we have it due to auspicious causes, interdependent origination and our karmic connections.

Our precious Dharma center functions only thanks to donations we are getting from people, participation fees of retreats and teachings. But the fact is, that donations from community members do not cover even 50% of our monthly expenses. If someone has no possibility to make any donations, he/she is anyway welcome to visit our Dharma Center or teachings, every single case can be discussed and agreed, because we all understand that it is not possible for everyone to make donations.

Such discussions have existed as long as our Dharma center exists. All Dharma centers have the same issues, our case is in no way unique. And please believe, if it were only possible, all events would be free.

The main reason why we have to request participation fee is due to the necessity of covering the expenses we have.

For example to keep up our Dharma Center, we have to cover expenses including: rent with all



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inevitable costs (in our case Dharma center and Lama's living place), Lama's monthly food money + taxes, other running expenses (web site, internet, etc.). There are no other expenses. Everyone can see that we are not renting any luxury place, our Dharma center is quite simple, even without a proper kitchen or bath. This is why we remind everybody that donations are highly appreciated – because without monthly member offerings we just would not survive.

At the moment we have around 57 registered members. 14 of them 57 make donations on monthly basis, some people make yearly single donations, amounts are very different and we appreciate any contribution from members and supporters, because without it we would not make it.

In case we invite teachers, we must cover expenses including tickets, food and accommodation of the teacher, the rent of the event place, advertisements and other running expenses. Larger part of the income from such events goes as a donation to the teacher. Donated money is mainly used to support the monasteries and the teacher's projects such as publishing Dharma books and many other Dharma activities.

Our Lama, the board and all active members consider a month or an event successful when we can keep financial balance; cover all expenses and, if possible (but this is not always the case), can leave something on our bank account to cover monthly Dharma center's expenses. All activities in the center are based on voluntary work.

All financial details are discussed openly at our general meetings, all activities are transparent and everyone can participate or request financial or other reports. Everyone can contribute not only financially, but also with fresh ideas, advice or various activities.

We all should remember that Drikung Kagyu Ratna Shri Center has existed all these years only thanks to your kind donations and support, our precious Lama is still in Estonia and we are able to invite lineage teachers only thanks to your support.

Our main wish is to keep our Dharma center alive and continue our activities for the sake of everyone interested in Buddha-Dharma.

Now approximately during one year our monthly expenses exceed our regular income almost every month and the few thousands euros we have had as a reserve fund is almost finished. Therefore we would like to ask for donations. Any donations will be extremely helpful for the community. Also voluntary work is highly welcome. If you have any questions, ideas, feedback or something to share, please feel free to contact us. If you wish to become a member of Drikung Kagyu Ratna Shri Center, please feel free to contact us.

If you wish to contribute in some way to Buddhist activity in Estonia, please feel free to contact us.

Driking Kagyu Ratna Shri Tallinn