



International Federation of Language Teacher Associations
Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes

The Nordic-Baltic Region

Electronic Newsletter No.3 (September 2016)

PRESIDENT's Note



Sigurborg Jónsdóttir

It's autumn once again and we are back at school, busy working with our students on different projects and activities. We just celebrated the European Day of Languages with different focus depending on the countries. It will be interesting to learn more about the different ways, in which this Day is celebrated. It is also a good time to think back to the inspirational FIPLV-NBR Conference in Tallinn and to take a closer look at what teachers and other language educators came away with from some of the wonderful summer courses and workshops held by different monolingual Associations. I am very grateful to our members, who are willing to share their ideas and thoughts with us. Collaboration and dialog are so important. Giving ourselves the time to share with others, what we have learned and also to take the time and learn from others, is so important. It is one of the main pillars in our continuing professional development. If we are to help our students on their way with their language learning, we need not only to be open to new ideas, but also to remember the good and valid methods we have been

using and never go out of date. Young teachers at the beginning of their career and teachers of long and outstanding experience must have the time and the chance to work together and learn from each other. Together we are stronger.

Leena Möls, Chair of the Association of Teachers of Russian



Summer News from the Association of the Teachers of Russian in Estonia

This year the Association of the Teachers of Russian organized their summer event from 6 to 8 June. The wish of teachers was to organize an excursion following the itinerary: Setomaa- Pechory -Pskov.

The Seto region, also called Setomaa, is the historical area of settlement of the Seto people in the south-eastern corner of the Republic of Estonia and the Pechory region of the Russian Federation. Setomaa is located on the border of Eastern and Western civilization, an area that remained quite isolated for centuries. Setos are separated from Estonians by religion and administrative border, while the Setos' language, outlook and customs keep them distinct from Russians. The Setos have been influenced by both neighbours.

The programme included school visits, too. We got acquainted with the organization of studies at Meremäe School and at Pechory Linguistic School. We had a round table where participants could exchange their experience on the topic related to teaching foreign languages. During the excursion we could develop our professional knowledge and get acquainted with the Setos language and culture. We had an interactive workshop at Obinitsa Seto Museum.

In Pskov we visited Pskovo-Pechersky Monastery, a Russian Orthodox male monastery, just a few kilometres from the Estonian border. We visited an impressive fortress in Izborsk, a village to the west of Pskov and just to the east of the Russian-Estonian border. Pskov is one of the oldest cities in Russia. We could enjoy an unforgettable view from the Pskov Kremlin and got an overview of fortress architecture and the Orthodox church art.

Although we had a tough programme and visited several museums each day, we did not get exhausted because all the visits and meetings in the programme were exciting and useful.

We could realize our excursion thanks to the support from the Estonian Ministry of Education and Science.



Ilmar Anvelt, EATE Committee Member.

The Estonian Association of Teachers of English EATE 25

This year's Summer Seminar of the Estonian Association of Teachers of English was meant to mark the Association's 25th anniversary. The resort town of Pärnu has become a customary place for EATE Summer Seminars, and this year, too, it took place there 23-24 August. The general theme of the Seminar was "Lifelong Learning and Sustainable

Teacher". There were more than 200 participants from all over Estonia. Along with local teachers and university lecturers, the presenters included guest speakers from abroad – representatives of the British Council, Express Publishing, Pearson, Macmillan and ELI Publishing.

A guided tour of historical sights of Pärnu was arranged.

EATE anniversary reception was held in Pärnu Kuursaal, the largest pub of Estonia. Greetings were delivered by the Mayor of Pärnu, the Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers and booksellers.

The seminar was organised with the support of the British Council and the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research.

The next EATE event will be its Annual Conference on 28 October 2016. The new Chair of EATE is Erika Puusemp.



Members queuing up for the EATE anniversary cake.





Denis Cunningham, Honorary FIPLV Counsellor. Australia

Two International Conferences “Up North”: A Brief Report

Preamble

The international conferences were more than adequate reason for escaping 'downunder' to return to Vilnius and Moscow, as well as meeting with colleagues and friends at UNESCO, the Lycée Jean Racine in Paris and in Grenoble and Munich - and the Oktoberfest.

10th International Conference of LKPA (Language Teachers Association of Lithuania - LTAL) - Vilnius (Lithuania), 26-27 September

Having visited Vilnius en route to attend the FIPLV Nordic-Baltic Region International Conference in Tallinn on 9-11 June and having informed new LKPA President, Roma Kriauciuniene, that I would be in Moscow at the end of September, she made the obvious suggestion: since I would be so close to Vilnius, why not attend her conference on 26-27 September to celebrate the European Day of Languages? Why not indeed? Planning by email took place over the following weeks so that I arrived in Vilnius on 25 September. The anticipated one-day event had become a two-day conference. On the day I attended, there were around 100 participants from a dozen countries, including

Australia, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Slovenia and the USA.

The exceptional conference venue was the Seimas (or Parliament) of Lithuania. We were welcomed by the LKPA President before greetings from local government and university officials and delegates from the Embassies of Georgia, Israel and the USA. Plenary addresses focused on education, multilingualism, international collaboration, the promotion of the Lithuanian language and coverage of the excellent project work of Pat Williams-Boyd in the Peoples Republic of China. The afternoon's plenaries provided insights to best practice in the teaching of languages in a range of contexts. This excellent program was complemented by the rich socio-cultural interactions provided by Irena Navickiene, Vice president of LKPA, President Roma Kriauciuniene, former LKPA President (and Honorary President and Secretary of the FIPLV NBR) and dear friend, Egle Sleinotiene, Olga Medvedeva and Audrone Auskeliene, Director of the Public Service Language Centre.

Memorable moments of the conference are shown in the photographs below.





LATEUM 25th Jubilee and 13th International Conference – Moscow, Russian Federation, 29 September 2016

LATEUM (Linguistic Association of Teachers of English at the University of Moscow) is an international federation for EFL teaching, based at Lomonosov Moscow State University. They are also a member of FIPLV and have been since 1999 when I was invited to attend by Ludmila Baranova as the keynote speaker. As a result, I have been involved with LATEUM for most of their 25-year history. As they were to celebrate their 25-year anniversary, they wanted me to be there with them to celebrate, so they invited me for a date which suited: 29 September. Initially planned for two days, this international conference became condensed within a one-day program. It attracted some 100 participants, including professors, lecturers and tertiary students. I was personally delighted that the plenary program featured great friends from the past, although I had been unable to return to Moscow for a decade. We were welcomed by LATEUM President, Ekaterina Mikhaylovskaya before congratulatory greetings by other university officials. A personal highlight was being able to present the 2008 FIPLV International Award to Professor Natalia Gvishiani and that of 2015 to Ekaterina. There followed excellent plenary addresses by Professors Olga Alexandrova, Svetlana Ter-Minasova and Natalia Gvishiani – who was the co-founder of LATEUM in 1991. A DVD presentation by John Swales (of the University of Michigan) completed the program, where I also gave a plenary address. The return to Moscow was facilitated by tertiary students (Christina and Natalia) – who met me at the airport and practised their English on me – and Anastasia, who accompanied me on the obligatory visit to the Bolshoi (to enjoy a couple of pieces tailored to the music of Mozart and Puccini) and the Red Square. Additional highlights featured exceptional repasts hosted by FIPLV International Award recipients, Natalia and Ekaterina, and the President of the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Area Studies of the Moscow State University, Svetlana Ter-Minasova.

Congratulations are extended to the (past and present) leaders of LKPA and LATEUM, who organised these two excellent international conferences and which enhanced their profiles so admirably. I also express my gratitude to all who contributed. For me, it was well worth covering my airfare to promote FIPLV among such stimulating professionals and friends.



Kati Bakradze, a board member of the EATE
(Estonian Foreign Languages Teachers' Association)

The European Day of Languages was Celebrated in Lithuania and Estonia

The 10th international conference "Languages Across Schools, Cultures, Borders: Creativity, Entrepreneurship, Social Inclusion" brought together a high level of key speakers and participants from number of countries in Europe, Japan as well as over the Atlantics. Both in the academically and internationally vital conference brightest ideas of utmost key topics relating to teaching languages (an American-Chinese joint project), creativity (the core values of teaching Japanese), social inclusion (becoming international in a multicultural context but also maintaining mother tongue heritage) and many more were discussed and reflected during the conference days.

Estonian Association of Teachers of English (EATE) and Estonian Foreign Language Teachers' Association are standing for the same beliefs of preserving the national language heritage but as well as becoming internationally inclusive with the help of world languages. Cooperation and joint effort into the matter is of utmost importance now and in the future. The small independent nations first and foremost stand for themselves but only in friendly hands with neighbours.

Many thanks for emphasising the importance of language teaching and all the subject matters to the organisers and inspiring challenges for the future!

The European Day of Languages, the 26th September 2016, was celebrated in Estonia too. A wide range of languages were taught in small languages cafés as well as quizzes and meetings held in schools. One of the three prizes for the Best Foreign Language Act of the Year was awarded to the Tallinn Central Library which started literature lessons over Skype. What a simple idea of sharing values here and there with the help of technology; especially in this digital natives' age we are right now. And maybe it is our future of having some lectures on Skype during future conferences order to find out and share more about cultures and languages and people all around the world - becoming global!

I would like to finish with prof Dr Thomas Vogel's words "Lifelong learning is a concept that involves also willingness to engage in learning through life". Let then learning and teaching be our lifelong ambition!





Dr. Olga Medvedeva,

a Board Member of LKPA (Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania)

The EEA Grants Project “Modernisation of Multicultural Education Methods for Pre-school and Pre-primary Level”

On the 27th of September 2016 the Public Service Language Centre held the closing conference of the EEA Grants project “Modernisation of Multicultural Education Methods for Pre-school and Pre-primary level”. The project partners (scientists and practitioners of pre-school education from Lithuania and Norway) aimed at raising the quality of pre-school and pre-primary education through focusing on the best practice of early multicultural education. The research of the current state and needs of the multicultural pre-school education in Lithuanian kindergartens was carried out among kindergarten teachers and administration, parents, education support specialists. The project activities also included a study visit of the Lithuanian partners to several multicultural kindergartens in Bergen (Norway) as well as meetings with the Norwegian educators in Høgskolen i Bergen (Bergen University College). You can read more about the project at <http://vikc.lt/lt/projektai-38/tarptautiniai-projektai-13331>



The common work of the international team of teachers, teachers trainers, education support specialists and linguists resulted in the project publication - "Multicultural Kindergartens. Good Practice Guide", which was presented to the participants of the closing conference. The Guide covers a range of relevant topics: early multicultural education in kindergartens, its tasks and challenges; kindergarten community, cooperation with parents and ethnic minorities; tips on learning languages; education support. The presented best practice and case studies can be used for professional development by teachers working in a multicultural and multilingual environment/ The Guide offers a bank of on-line resources - games, films, educational activities, audiorecordings - that can be used in the kindergarten or at home. The e-version of the Guide is available at https://issuu.com/vikc.lt/docs/gerosios_praktikos_vadovas



Photos from the EEA Grants project "Modernisation of Multicultural Education Methods for Pre-school and Pre-primary Level" conference.



NEWS from STIL

(Association of Teacher of Foreigns Languages in Iceland)



Petrína Rós Karlsdóttir

On the occasion of the European Day of Languages on 26 September there were as usually organized conference in the University of Iceland by the Institute of Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, former president of Iceland, STIL (Association of Teacher of Foreigns Languages in Iceland) and the Ministry of Culture and Education. The program was very ambitious, first of all the former president Ms. Vigdis Finnbogadottir opened the event. She has been a powerful spokesperson for the importance of language proficiency, both in one's own native tongue as well as in other languages, and she has made a vital contribution to this field in her career as a teacher, as President of Iceland, and as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations.

Then two of the Icelandic literary giants and translators Thor Vilhjálmsson and Gudbergur Bergsson. Hafdís Ingvarsdóttir, member honorific of FIPLV 2016 gave a short speech about the history of language teaching in Iceland for 50 years and the director of the Institution of Vigdis Finnbogadóttir explained its role.

The sons (Gudmundur Andri and Örnólfur Thorsson) of the beloved writer Thor Vilhjálmsson gave a collection of books of their defund father who was a very active translator of literature. The collection contains many of the most renowned world literature, especially European contemporary literature.

This generous gift contains the most loved writers in recent times and great compilers foreign are valuable, especially as translation is intended a special role in the global Language Centre, which is currently under preparation.

"All his life Thor looked at it as part of a writers' work and the cultural promotion he always nurture this country. He lay up books, read them carefully, often with a pen in the air, so that the books bear the personal mark that went on the hands. He worked hard on literature from France and South America, Italy, Spain, the United States and Japan, without neglecting some other country or culture". The books will be available in the new building the organization in preparation for next year.

Then Audur Hauksdóttir, director explained the role of the institute of Vigdís Finnbogadóttir. The World Language Centre regards it an honour to develop and continue the pioneering work that Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, former president of Iceland, has carried out as the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Languages. The vision of a World Language Centre will be realized through the construction of a 3000m² building which will house the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute's activities.

The aim is to have this building ready in next year 2017 and situated on the University campus in the heart of Reykjavík. In the centre there will be facilities for the following activities: Languages and Cultural Database, Language Library and Resource Centre, Vigdís Auditorium, A Lecture Hall in honour of Vigdís's contribution. The Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages is a research institute working within the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Iceland. The Institute is a research centre for scholars who teach modern languages and cultures, the classical languages, and translation studies.

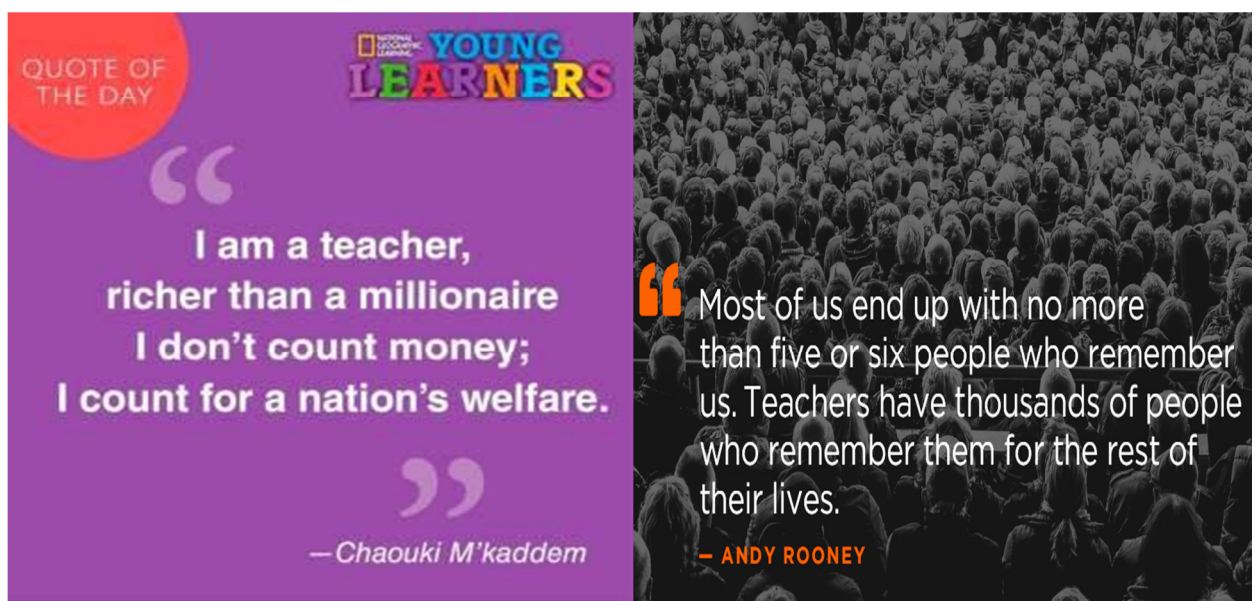
Photos from the conference in the University of Iceland.



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The Electronic Newsletter is issued by:

Sigurborg Jónsdóttir, Iceland;

Eglė Šleinotienė, Lithuania;