



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

# The Nordic-Baltic Region

## Electronic Newsletter No.4

### (December 2016)

#### PRESIDENT's Note



**Sigurborg Jónsdóttir, Iceland**

**December with all its festivities and celebration of light is now well on its way. With it come the results of the Pisa Test 2016. It is a test in students ability to solve problems of the 21st Century with what they learn in school, literacy in quite a broad meaning of the word as a central focus point. Can we as teachers of foreign / second languages contribute to this? I believe we can. The first language we learn is usually our**

mother tongue and in order to learn other languages we need to feel secure in our first language. The language of schooling is for more and more of our students a second language, not always spoken at home and often the first hurdle children have to pass on their way to learning other subjects. Then come other languages. To learn those, we direct our students to look to their own language (and to the language of schooling - if a different one) for similarities and differences, not only in structure and vocabulary but also to pay attention to the different ways of expressing the same idea in various languages. The students need to really understand what is being expressed, what are the essential and if possible the finer points. They practise all the skills such as reading, writing and speaking thereby increasing their ability to understand what is being expressed not only in the target language but in their mother tongue (or language of schooling) as well. To tackle the problems of the 21st Century we need broad minded individuals with good understanding of different cultures. Using varied approaches to solving a problem, such as different languages is one way.



# NEWS FROM FIPLV



**Professor Terry LAMB, FIPLV Secretary General**

The year has been a challenging one, including a major change to a new job situated in London. (Please note that my email address has changed: [t.lamb1@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:t.lamb1@westminster.ac.uk) ). We are planning, however, to provide more regular communications with you in the shape of a short 'newsletter' four times a year and will contact you two weeks before each of these is sent out with a request for news, announcements, updates etc that you may wish to share. We will also soon be launching a Facebook page so that you can help make FIPLV more visible amongst your members. Most teachers are very pleased when they learn that their association is affiliated to FIPLV with its NGO status with UNESCO and the Council of Europe, nurturing a sense of a global community of language professionals. We would strongly encourage you to share our activities, website ([fiplv.com](http://fiplv.com)), twitter account (@fiplv) etc. with your members, as it also enhances their reasons for membership of a professional association.

I would next like to welcome our new member association, the Slovene Association of Teachers of Languages for Specific Purposes. It is wonderful for us to have a new member in Europe and we look forward to collaboration. You will already have seen news about their first conference on the FIPLV website and Twitter, but please take a minute to look at their website: [http://www.sdutsj.edus.si/english\\_index.html](http://www.sdutsj.edus.si/english_index.html) We are

also in talks with several other associations who are interested in joining our global family - more news on that next year hopefully.

This year we have begun a process of modernisation by discussing as a new Executive ways in which we can simplify our procedures whilst at the same time providing more opportunities for you to be involved and to get together. Some of this cannot happen until the next World Assembly as it involves changes to the Statutes, but we plan to hold a meeting for all representatives of member associations whenever we have an event, rather than just at the World Congress every three years. We will also be introducing the possibility of voting online, enabling everyone to have a voice in decisions and not just those able to attend meetings.

Changes in our procedures were discussed at the World Council meeting which took place in Tallinn, Estonia, in June this year (see <https://fiplv.com/who-we-are/documents/> ). Meetings of World Council and Executive Committee were organised prior to the highly successful FIPLV Nordic-Baltic Region Conference in Tallinn, organised by Ene Peterson, Chair of the Estonian Association for Foreign Language Teachers, and her team. The conference brought together people from various parts of the globe and provided a stimulating and diverse programme, including a wonderful cultural programme. You will find further news about this conference in the electronic newsletter of the Nordic-Baltic Region here. (All NBR newsletters can be found on the FIPLV website: <https://fiplv.com/members-2/the-nordic-baltic-region/> ).

Another exciting development this year is the organisation of the launch of another FIPLV Region, namely the East European Region, which was approved by World Council earlier this year. This will be launched at an exciting conference in Varna, on the beautiful Black Sea coast of Bulgaria, 22-25 June 2017. The regional conference is, as always the case with our regional conferences, open to the world, so please consider submitting a proposal and/or attending the conference to support our member association BETA (Bulgarian English Teachers' Association) who have agreed to host this first conference. You will find more information here: <http://www.beta-iatefl.org/annual-conference/conference-call/> . If you click on 'second call' you will get the latest information. Please note the deadline for proposals is 10th March 2017 and reduced fees apply for members of FIPLV member associations. We will also be holding the Executive Committee and World Council meetings there, but propose to open up the World Council meeting to all representatives of FIPLV member associations who are attending.

At the end of 2015, the ECML LACS project came to an end. Please take a look at the tools that were developed during the project. One was an Online Directory of language associations/organisations that is searchable and that is intended to facilitate

collaboration. (This is of course never finished as it needs constant updating.) The other was a Mediation Tool to help you all to use ECML materials in your own contexts. It consists of multimedia case studies that are organised around a series of frequently asked questions. You will find both of these products on the LACS website and ask you to share them with your own members: <http://lacs.ecml.at>.

FIPLV continues to be involved in ECML activities of course. Together with Brigitte Gerber from the University of Geneva, I am coordinating a project funded jointly by the ECML of the Council of Europe and the European Commission that is called Supporting Multilingual Classrooms. This involves bringing tailor-made workshops to different European countries who have applied for such support. You will see more on this here: <http://www.ecml.at/TrainingConsultancy/Multilingualclassrooms/tabid/1816/Default.aspx>

Another important piece of news is that FIPLV has been invited to represent language teachers on the European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism (ECSPM), a major alliance which will provide policy briefings with which to advise the European Commission and EU Member States on matters which are dear to the hearts of all of FIPLV's member associations. I would advise you to take a look at the website of ECSPM: <http://ecspm.org> . With this, FIPLV's advocacy of language teaching is further extended to the European Commission.

Although it seems quite a long way off, we have started planning for the next World Congress with our hosting association, ACTFL. This will be held in New Orleans, USA, 16-18 November 2018 with pre-convention workshops on the 15th. Last month, ACTFL's 2016 Convention took place in Boston and was an enormous success with 8,500 participants. You can find out about it on the ACTFL website: <https://www.actfl.org/convention-expo/2016-annual-convention-and-world-languages-expo> and you may have been able to follow aspects of it through the FIPLV or ACTFL Twitter accounts. In 2018 we will also be selecting the venue of the 2021 World Congress so you may wish to start thinking about that. Please don't imagine that you have to aspire to the same numbers as our North American colleagues (Canada's was also a very large event in 2015 with representatives from some 35 different countries). Our World Congresses always adapt to local practices whilst adding value by internationalising them.

May I, on behalf of FIPLV Executive, wish you all a wonderful Christmas if you celebrate it, happy holidays, and a successful and satisfying new year 2017. We must hope and pray for peace and joy for everyone in the world. I thank you for playing your part in this, as we continue to persevere in our task of opening minds to different languages and cultures.

# Focus on Languages in Denmark



Rita Mogensen, Chairman of the Language Teachers' Association in Denmark

The Danish Language Teachers' Association is an association for language teachers of English, German and French. These are the languages studied by students in the State Comprehensive Schools. All Danish students learn English from class 1 (age 7), and afterwards they have to choose between German and French from class 5. In some schools they also have the opportunity to choose French/German (the language they didn't choose in class 5) or Spanish from class 7. Teaching languages from this early age is relatively new in Denmark and was only introduced two and a half years ago. As far as we can tell it has really been a big success. The younger students are more motivated and spontaneous.

We are the only national association catering to all language teachers in Denmark; other associations only focus on one language. Most of our members teach in the Comprehensive School (age 7-17) or at the University Colleges. We publish a magazine four times a year. Each magazine has a theme such as "When you are no longer a beginner", "Languages as a door to the world", "Languages and sport", and "Text and media".

Right now in Denmark there is an increased focus on the importance of languages. The Minister of Education has set up a committee to come forward with a national strategy

for languages through the whole educational system. "From ABC to PHD", to quote the minister. The committee's task is to describe how to develop the students' language competences and how to maintain the students' motivation and desire to study languages.

There is good reason for this new focus on languages because we see a growing tendency among students in upper secondary schools to not choose languages. In 2007 33% of students studied 3 languages, but in 2015 this number was reduced to only 4%! Looking at further and higher education we see that universities and colleges have closed departments of foreign languages except for Departments of English.

Our Association has come forward with different proposals for the attention of the new national committee on foreign languages e.g. to have a supervisor/counsellor in languages in each school, further education for the teachers, more lessons, more focus on the intercultural work in schools, and a better transition from the comprehensive school to upper secondary schools.

The government also wants to focus on German, because there are not enough people in Denmark able to negotiate in German. More people should be able and qualified to speak German at a higher level. To encourage this the government has given grants to associations, schools and others to arrange language training courses.

A fortnight ago a new minister of education was appointed. It is our hope that she will seriously support modern languages in our schools and universities.



## Plans of STIL for 2017



**Petrína Rós Karlsdóttir, President of STIL**

**STIL has mainly been focusing on the changes in the curriculum in Iceland by the authorities. This concerns mainly the grammar school, which is now three years instead of four years. This of course effects the teaching conform to the European portfolio, so we will for the 3 language just get to the level of A1 and the beginning of A2. STIL organized together with the University of Iceland a meeting with the politicians on the importance of language learning and language teaching in this society with the increasing of tourist to three times more than the population of the country. STIL will organize workshops of dialogue between levels of education in terms of curriculum changes.**

**Because of lack of financial support from the authorities STIL, as all association have had some financial problems to organize in order to follow our goals.**

**STIL is now planning to publish its Newsletter Málfríður only on-line. We are also organizing a summer course with a lecturer from abroad in the practical domain concerning directly the teaching. As the political landscape has been rather unsure this year and teachers in Primary school are contemplating whether to agree to their new contract or not. The results from the PISA survey for Iceland were not good. We can say that these are our main issues for the time.**

**But we sincerely wish you a Merry Christmas! Gleðileg jól.**



# **The Language Teachers Association of Lithuania (LKPA)**

## **Focus on Teacher Development**



**Roma Kriauciūnienė, President of the Language Teachers Association of Lithuania (LKPA)**

**On 28 October 2016 Board members of the Lithuanian Language Teachers' Association had a meeting to discuss the Association's strategic plans and approved the action plan for 2016-2017.**

**Participants of the meeting discussed the possibilities of LKPA to organize an international conference in 2017 together with one of the institutional founders of LKPA - the Institute of Foreign languages of Vytautas Magnus University. An option to organise NRB regional conference in Lithuania in 2018 was also in the focus of their attention. Board members suggested new activities and events that could attract more members to the Association and shared experiences and news at their institutions.**



## **The Conference for the English Teachers "An Effective English Class"**

It was held in Nemenčinė K. Parčevskio gymnasium in November, brought together English teachers from 25 schools of Vilnius District and guest speakers from the US Embassy, Vilnius District Municipality, Lithuanian university of educational sciences, association of English teachers and Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania.

Ms. Althea Cawley-Murphree, Cultural Attaché of US Embassy opened the conference and highlighted the importance of cooperation among professionals seeking to enhance effectiveness of English class and teacher professional development.

Irena Navickiene, vice president of the Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania and Head of the Language teaching centre of the Professional competence development institute of the University highly appreciated the initiative of the conference organizers to share the best practices of English teaching in regional schools. She expanded on the activities of the Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania related to in-service teacher training and professional development, invited teachers to join the Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania. Her presentation about a new on-line PEARSON teacher training programme „Teacher development interactive”, offering an innovative - the anytime, anywhere approach to professional development and based on a learner focused teaching principle, rose a great interest of the conference participants.

Throughout the conference participants were exchanging ideas on how they are going to use the new methods in English lessons, how to enhance the students' motivation to learn and to improve every student's achievements.



## **"Adult Learner's Day" seminar for English Language Specialists**

On 22 October, 2016 Language Teaching Centre of the Professional Competence Development Institute at the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences and LKPA invited colleagues, English language teachers and lecturers to "Adult Learner's Day seminar".

Rob Dean, a teacher trainer and the speaker of the seminar talked about the linguistic needs and aspirations of young adults today, and looked at how teachers can cater for those in the ELT classroom. The seminar was a successful showcase of some valid 21st century alternatives -both exploiting the dynamic of the classroom as well as employing some digital online approaches to self-study -all designed to provide varied, memorable and effective language practice.

Iveta Vitola from Pearson Central Europe Representative office in Latvia welcomed the participants of the seminar and presented them with Pearson representation gifts.

## **A seminar on CLIL organised by European Centre for Modern Languages**

On 25 November, 2016 LKPA members participated in the international seminar "Ideas and Strategies for Developing Your Own Pluriliteracies Approach in the Classroom," organised by European Centre for Modern Language, the Ministry of Education and Science OF THE Lithuanian Republic and one of the LKPA institutional members - Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences.

The seminar was conducted by prof. dr. Do Coyle, Dean of the Faculty of Educational Sciences Aberdeen University, Fred Taveau, an expert of CLIL method and teacher of the International School of Geneva, and Sarah Blyth, a teacher of the International School of Geneva.

The seminar was held at the premises of the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences. The seminar was attended by a great number of LKPA members.

## **Vorstandsinformation der Assoziation der Sprachlehrer Litauens**

Die Linguisten der Assoziation der Sprachlehrer Litauens nahmen teil an der 65. Jubiläumskonferenz, die vom Lehrstuhl für Sprachen und Bildung der Universität für Gesundheitswissenschaften organisiert wurde. Die Teilnehmer erwarteten auch Gäste, wie Herrn Jean-Marie Sani, den Leiter vom französischen Institut Litauens und Frau Vilija Sipaitė, die leitende Spezialistin vom Ministerium für Bildung und Wissenschaft der Republik Litauen.

An dieser internationalen Konferenz nahmen auch Linguisten aus dem ganzen Litauen teil - aus der Vytautas Magnus Universität, Technischen Universität Kaunas, Aleksandr Stulginskis Universität, Technischen Gediminas Universität Vilnius, Staatlichen Fachhochschule Šiauliai, Fachhochschule Kaunas, sowie Gäste aus Polen, aus der Adam Mickiewicz Universität Posen und auch aus der Tschechischen Republik, aus der Masaryk Universität Brno. Die Sprachlehrer führten Diskussionen über die Lernmöglichkeiten und Probleme des fachlichen Fremdsprachenlernens, über die Studiumbedeutung der litauischen und fremden Sprachen für die Förderung der beruflichen Kompetenzen, sowie wandten großes Interesse auf moderne, effektive Lehrmethode.

Vorstandsmitglieder der Assoziation der Sprachlehrer Litauens Frau Jūrate Patackaitė (Vilniaus kolegija/University of Applied Sciences), Frau Virginija Andriusevičienė (Vilniaus kolegija/University of Applied Sciences), Evelina Jaleniauskienė (Technische Universität Kaunas), Mitglieder Violeta Žemaitienė und Halina Klupšienė präsentierten die bedeutendsten internationalen und nationalen Projekte der Assoziation der Sprachlehrer Litauens und deren Produkte, auch die Tätigkeit der Assoziation im Jahre 2013-2016, teilten Nachrichten aus anderen internationalen Assoziationen mit, beantworteten alle Fragen über die Assoziation.



## Federation of Foreign Language Teachers in Finland (SUKOL) celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2017

*We are privileged to introduce new president of SUKOL Sanna Karppanen. FIPLV Nordic Baltic Region colleagues thank former president Kari Jukarainen, the treasurer of NBR, for his energy, support, perfect work and mutually beneficial exchange of ideas. We wish the new president all the best in her future work.*



Kari Jukarainen ( former president) and Sanna Karppanen

The Federation of Foreign Language Teachers in Finland SUKOL turns 60 in 2017. The 60th anniversary celebration kick-starts at the EDUCA trade fair for education and pedagogy in January and will continue throughout the year. The events include for example a mentoring programme for teacher students and young teachers, writing competition for members and membership material for multilingual language showers. The 60th anniversary conference and gala will be held in Helsinki in October.

In addition, SUKOL will hold its annual spring teacher conference in Tampere in April. This major event will gather up to 250 language teachers from primary and secondary schools and other educational institutions.

There are two major topics of interest for SUKOL and all language teachers in Finland in 2017. Firstly, the digitalization of matriculation examination transforming the paper format into an electronic exam will concern as many as four foreign languages (German, French, Swedish and Finnish). Secondly, the application of the new core curricula for both basic education and upper secondary school education, both renewed in 2014 and in 2015 respectively and implemented from August 2016, will need further reflection.

Finally, from the beginning of 2017, Sanna Karppanen will start as the new president of SUKOL. This 41-year-old French and English teacher from Helsinki succeeds Kari Jukarainen who chaired the Federation for nine years. SUKOL would like to thank Mr Jukarainen for his excellent work and commitment for foreign language teaching in Finland.



## **The Norwegian National Centre for Foreign Languages in Education (The Foreign Language Centre)**



**Assoc. Prof. Dr. R. Steinar Nybøle, Leder / Leiar / Jodiheaddji, Director**

**The Norwegian National Centre for Foreign Languages in Education (The Foreign Language Centre) is one of several national centres under The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training and The Ministry of Education and Research. The Centre shall help implement and execute national education policy to enable all children, adolescents and adults to receive equal and adapted education and training of high quality in an inclusive environment.**

**The Foreign Language Centre is a national resource centre for English and other foreign language education in kindergartens, primary school and secondary school and shall work to improve the quality of foreign language education and give the teaching a practical and varied content. Being a national resource centre, The Foreign Language Centre shall help increase motivation for and interest in foreign languages.**

**Teachers, school managers, kindergarten- and school owners and pedagogical staff in kindergartens are the key target groups for the Centre's activities. The Centre shall assist higher education institutions and universities (primarily teacher training institutions) in their efforts to realise national initiatives that**

promote competence development. More detailed information is available on the websites: [www.fremmedspraksenteret.no](http://www.fremmedspraksenteret.no) or [www.framandspraksenteret.no](http://www.framandspraksenteret.no) .



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