



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

The Nordic-Baltic Region

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PRESIDENT's Note



Sigurborg Jónsdóttir, FIPLV NBR president

Dear colleagues and friends, I have just come back from two days of celebrating languages, language teaching and learning at NBR conference held at the University in Vilnius. I would like to thank the Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania (LKPA) for hosting and organizing this event full of interesting and relevant presentations, workshops and poster sessions. There was something for everyone, from the theory

of languages and language teaching to workshops on storytelling and the use of different kinds of digital material. What inspired me most, was the enthusiasm of the presenters and their knowledge of the topic. With such professionals we have little to fear regarding the excellence of our profession. There was so much input during these two days and lots of inspiring tips and projects to try out once we get back to work in the autumn.

Our next NBR event will be in Reykjavík, Iceland in 2020. We will send out the dates as soon as they have been decided on. Looking forward to seeing you there.

In the meanwhile, I hope you enjoy relaxing and happy summer holidays.

News from STIL June 2018



Petrina Ros Karlsdóttir, President of STIL

STIL participated in the FIPLV- NBR Conference 2018, June 7-8. In Vilnius, Lithuania. The representants of STIL from Iceland, this time were Petrina Ros Karlsdóttir, president, and Solveig Thordardottir, former president of the German Teacher's Association, and Sigurborg Jónsdóttir, the president of NBR.

The conference was very interesting with a lot of interesting seminars and lectures. It is always a good opportunity to get to know teachers coming from different places and to see what others are doing. In addition, it is a unique opportunity to get

acquainted with the culture and language of society, thus gaining a deeper understanding of the teaching in that country. Among the seminars and lectures, I would like to mention, Terry Lamb: Developing a Plurilingual Mind-set in the 21st Century Super-diverse Urban Spaces, Steve Mann: Video-based Pedagogic Practices in Language Teaching and Teacher Education: Innovation and reflection. Bonifacas Stundizia: Language Culture and Policy in Lithuania. Sonia Carmona Tapia: Storytelling as a Means to Develop Students' Emotional and Social Intelligence. Evelin MUURPEAL: Mobile Device as Partners in Language Teaching.

I must say that I really enjoyed the time at conference and I would have loved to have the opportunity to go to more workshops. However, the agenda was even too organized because it would have been good for lecturers to have more time for discussion.

This time STIL wanted to give a presentation connected to the process of a new curriculum in Iceland, which shorten the time of upper secondary school from 4 to 3 years. This has of course had different implications such as less time, units and less knowledge. In general for language teaching this has had already a lot of implications and might have more in the future.





Presentation: Creativity and Autonomy in Language Learning in French and German in MS



Petrina Ros Karlsdóttir and Solveig Thordardóttir

Myself, Petrina Ros Karlsdottir, and Solveig Thordardottir gave a presentation about the third language French and German teaching in our school MS.

Solveig teaches German and I teach French. Our presentation had the title "Creativity and Autonomy in Language learning" and we talked about our language teaching in our upper secondary school in Iceland. Our school has a new 3-semester system where our classes are 120 and 80 minutes. The teachers have to be very creative and it is important to use different teaching methods. We talked about the school and the system and also gave a few examples what kind of methods we use and what kinds of courses are taught. We were focusing on creative language teaching methods, as we have been obliged to reorganize all the studies of language. Of course this is still in process because we only started this new system in August 2016.

Our presentation went very well and was well accepted. It is always a good feeling when you can spread information's about your school system and what we do in our classes and also to learn about different school systems in other countries.

My Experience



Solveig Thordardottir, former president of the German Teacher's Association,
Iceland

I always like the chance to meet new people and teachers, with whom I can compare experience and methods. That's why I like this kind of conferences. It's a great opportunity to hear interesting presentations, meet interesting people and get new ideas for your classroom. I must say this conference was not different, the title also arouses interest "Teaching and Learning Languages in the 21st Century" as we all know that new techniques are big part of our classrooms today. I can definitely say the presentations at this conference were all very interesting and I met people with interesting ideas and experiences from their countries and language classrooms.

Of course I also loved Vilnius. The city is very beautiful and I think it was a very good location for this conference.

On the hole this conference was a positive experience. However, the timeframe of the presentations could have been better organized. The first day we had a long program, but because everything was late, we had only a short break over the day. So everyone was really tired. If everything had been on time, it would have been a lot better. But of course that had something to do with the security at the premises of the Government of Lithuania. The next day everything was better and very well organized.

The topics were really good, the people were very nice and I had a really nice time. I'm looking forward to the next conference and new presentations.

Mir gefällt es immer, wenn ich die Chance habe, neue Menschen bzw. Lehrkräfte kennenzulernen. Die Möglichkeit, Erfahrungen und Methoden mit anderen vergleichen zu können und mit anderen zu besprechen ist meiner Meinung nach immer ein Vorteil für mich als Lehrerin. Es ist ein Vorteil interessante Präsentationen zu hören, Interessante Menschen zu treffen und man hat die Möglichkeit neue Ideen für den Klassenraum zu bekommen. Diese Konferenz war genauso. Der Name der Konferenz erweckt auch Interesse "Teaching and learning languages in the 21st century", aber wir wissen, dass die Technik ein großer Teil von unserem Unterricht ist. Die Schüler haben Smartphones und der Computer wird häufiger verwendet. Ich kann auf jeden Fall sagen, dass die ganzen Präsentationen auf der Konferenz sehr interessant waren und ich habe viele Lehrkräfte kennengelernt, die interessante Ideen und Erfahrungen aus dem Unterricht in ihren Ländern hatten. Außerdem habe ich auch alte Bekannte wieder getroffen, was sehr schön war.

Natürlich fand ich auch Vilnius sehr schön. Die Stadt ist wunderschön und meiner Meinung nach ein guter Ort für diese Konferenz.

Im Großen und Ganzen war diese Konferenz eine gute Erfahrung. Allerdings hätte der Zeitraum der Präsentationen erfolgreicher organisiert werden können. Am ersten Tag gab es ein langes Programm, aber alles wurde verspätet und die Teilnehmer hatten nur eine ziemlich kurze Pause über den Tag. Aus dem Grund waren alle sehr müde. Wenn alles sehr pünktlich gewesen wäre, wäre der Tag viel besser gewesen. Aber natürlich war das wegen der Sicherheitskontrolle am Ort, das war für alle eine Überraschung. Der nächste Tag war aber viel besser, erfolgreich und alles war sehr schön organisiert. Vielen Dank für die Konferenz.

The International Conference "Teaching and Learning Languages in the 21st Century: Linguistic, Educational and Cultural Aspects" – the Biggest Discussion of Language Educators and Researchers in Lithuania



Dr. Roma Kriaučiūnienė, President of LKPA

On 7-8 June the international conference "Teaching and Learning Languages in the 21st Century: Linguistic, Educational and Cultural Aspects" organized jointly by Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania (LKPA), Institute of Foreign Languages of the Faculty of Philology (Vilnius University) and the FIPLV Nordic-Baltic Region (NBR) took place in Vilnius. The event gathered about 150 participants from more than 20 countries. The aims of the conference were to bring language policymakers, teaching professionals and researchers together for discussions about the mission of teaching in the 21st century, the meaning of teaching quality, efficiency and effectiveness, as well as analyse the aims, needs and perspectives of teaching /learning languages in multicultural environment that could consequently enhance the

promotion of democratic citizenship, social cohesion, and intercultural dialogue. The international scientific event was a venue to exchange information and knowledge, share best practices and experiences across national boundaries on teacher training and the enhancement of the development of teachers' competences that would serve to acquire a better understanding of teaching the New Generation of students. The discussion focused not only about the international practice but also about Lithuania where Lithuanians had opportunities to introduce themselves, share best practices and establish new connections with practitioners and scientists in the field from other countries.

The events of the first conference day took place at the premises of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. The participants were welcomed by the Minister of Education and Science of Lithuania Mrs. Jurgita Petrauskienė who awarded certificates of appreciation in recognition of the most significant work for the most active language educators and linguists in Lithuania. The welcome speeches were given by the Adviser to the Prime Minister at Office of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania Ms. Une Kaunaite and Prof. Dr. Meilute Ramoniene, the Dean and Chairwoman of the Board of the Faculty of Philology, Vilnius University. The conference was also opened by Sigurborg Jónsdóttir, who is the current FIPLV Nordic-Baltic Region President (Iceland), and Prof. Dr. Roma Kriaučiūnienė, who is both the Director of the Institute of Foreign Languages of the Faculty of Philology (Vilnius University) and the current President of Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania.





During the opening session, the most active members of Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania were awarded. The certificates of appreciation were presented to Dr. Vilma Bijeiķe, the Director of the Institute of Foreign Languages of Vytautas Magnus University, Audrone Auskeliene, the Director of the Public Service Language Centre, Evelina Jaleniauskiene, the lecturer of English from Kaunas University of Technology, and Halina Klupsiene, the lecturer of English of the Centre of Foreign Languages at Vilnius University of Applied Sciences.

Secretary-General of the International Federation of Language Teachers' Associations (FIPLV) Prof. Dr. Terry Lamb presented the important certificate of appreciation to Egle Sleniotiene, the Honorary President of Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania, in recognition of her continuous and active dissemination of FIPLV activities both in Lithuania and across Europe.



The organized international conference had a long list of experts as leading speakers who came from the United Kingdom, Germany, Turkey, Latvia and Lithuania. Their plenary speeches encouraged discussions on the mission and quality of foreign language teaching/learning in the 21st century as well as about the evolution and necessity of intercultural dialogue nowadays. For instance, Prof. Dr. Terry Lamb from Westminster University, who is a prominent policymaker not only in the UK but also all over the world, shared various practices contributing to the promotion of foreign language learning. The researcher Dr. Steve Mann from Warwick University (United Kingdom) shared a range of video-based practices for language teaching and teacher education. Prof. Dr. Georg Lind (University of Konstanz, Germany) introduced his original theory of moral competence development as well as shed light on the ways of the development of moral competence in the process of language teaching by presenting Konstanz Moral Dilemma Discussion (KMDD) method. Prof. Dr. Thomas H. Bak from Edinburg University (United Kingdom) presented the latest findings of neuroscience research on the effects of language learning on cognition and brain, which was recently introduced in the European Commission. A considerable attention was also given to the Lithuanian language considering its history, culture and language

policy in Lithuania. Prof. Dr. Bonifacas Stundžia gave an informative speech on these aspects. However, this is just a small part of plenary insights.





The other events of the conference took place at the Faculty of Philology of Vilnius University. They included a number of workshops and presentations as well as proceeding discussions on diverse aspects concerning the topics of the conference. The presentations were delivered and workshops organized by the attendees from the United Kingdom, Germany, Turkey, Spain, Iceland, Australia, the United States of America, Sultanate of Oman, Greece, Brazil, Finland, Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia, Latvia, Estonia, Georgia and, of course, by a great number of participants from Lithuania.





All presentations were divided into the following main sections: Language Teacher Training and Development of Teachers' Competences, Language Learning and Teaching New Generation Students, Literary and Linguistic Research as well as Multilingualism and Intercultural Communication. Only a small number of interesting topics could be mentioned here. For example, Dr. Irina Lebid ran the workshop "Bringing Real England into the Classroom", where a number of practical ideas helping to relate the development of cultural awareness with language learning were introduced.

The workshop "Storytelling as a Means to Develop Students' Emotional and Social Intelligence" was organized by Dr. Sonia Carmona Tapia from Spain. It caught attention of many attendees as being useful for acquiring practical ideas on how language learning could be coupled with the development of this kind of intelligence. The Estonian attendee Evelin Muuripeal delivered the workshop "Mobile Devices as Partners in Language Teaching" where she showed how such devices could be employed for learning a foreign language in practice. During the session of literary and linguistic research, Prof. Dr. Vilmante Liubiniene (Kaunas University of Technology) gave the presentation on the advantages and drawbacks of semantic multimodal approach for the analysis of media narratives. Dr. Dorisa Costello (Vilnius University) focused on the topic of sexual euphemisms in the novels by Nora Roberts. Dr. Ovidiu Ivancu (Romania) talked on the issue of inadequacy as a symptom of the crisis of modernity. Nikolay Nikolov (Bulgaria) introduced the T.I.M.E. (Teenodrama Interactive Method in English) model which, according to the presenter, could increase students' motivation for learning foreign languages and help them become more successful in communication using a foreign language. The lecturers Gintare Gelunaite-Malinauskiene and Rima Sabaliauskiene (Vytautas Magnus University) delivered a presentation "Advertisements as reflections of culture in the classes of foreign languages". During it, they shared ideas on how short advertisements could be used for learning German and Spanish and in this way increasing cultural awareness of the international students coming to Lithuania. During her presentation "Lexicology and Multilingualism", Alla Anisimova (Ukraine) focused on the aspects of multilingualism as the part of the lexicology course. In addition, her presentation included the discussion on the ever increasing popularity of CLIL (Content Language Integrated Learning) and the advantages of its application.



To conclude, this event was important in the field both on national and international scales. All attendees had opportunities to find out about diverse linguistic, educational and cultural aspects in the area of foreign language teaching/ learning. By having the conference that was attended by such a big number of attendees from so many countries, it can be concluded that such face-to-face discussions are extremely important for scientists and practitioners from both Lithuania and abroad, who seek to apply the most advanced research and practical ideas in the area of foreign language teaching thus shaping the next stage of impact agenda.

UNFORGETTABLE DAYS IN VILNIUS



Ene Peterson, Chair of the Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers

On a sunny Wednesday evening three representatives of Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers Ene Peterson, Karola Velberg and Evelin Müüripeal arrived at Vilnius airport with the plan to participate in the NBR 2018 conference "Teaching and Learning Languages in the 21st Century: Linguistic, Educational and Cultural Aspects".

The first unforgettable experience awaited us at the airport - a taxi driver greeted us with a friendly smile and asked us to follow him (the taxi was ordered by the hotel we stayed at). And there we were at the hotel Congress Avenue, a stylish and elegant

hotel with a friendly staff in the old town of Vilnius. We could enjoy the buzz of city life in an unparalleled atmosphere next to the most prominent places of interest in a prosperous and gorgeous city Vilnius listed as a UNESCO world cultural heritage. We would like to share our experience as presenters and as participants, and highlight memorable conference moments.

We were warmly welcomed by our Lithuanian colleagues as on the eve of the conference as well as throughout the conference, we witnessed the whole-hearted hospitality and wish to make the conference a success. The best part of the conferences is meeting old friends once again and making new ones. Meeting with colleagues and exchanging ideas with them is one of the added values of events like this one. I had inspiring meeting with colleagues from Ukraine, Finland, Russia, Iceland, Lithuania... and an unexpected meeting during the reception. I was surprised when Sigurborg Jónsdóttir told me that somebody wanted to talk to me. It came out that Mr Hayford A. Anyidoho from Ghana /Germany could not participate in the NBR 2016 conference in Tallinn although he was registered as a presenter, and finally, two years later, we met in Vilnius... I am certain that for many participants NBR conferences are the beginning of closer collaboration.

I was impressed by the conference venues (the premises of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and Vilnius University), conference opening with enthusiastic speeches and warm award ceremonies, eight plenary talks on a variety of topics beginning with developing a plurilingual mindset (Terry Lamb), the training of moral language ability (Georg Lind), the role of digital video (Steve Mann), deep symbolic interactionism (Harun Serpil), and ending with the talks about being a teacher in the 21st century (Lilija Duoblienė), a competence based approach to teaching and learning English (Iveta Vitola), language culture and policy in Lithuania (Bonifacas Stundžia) and the latest trends in English (Bob Dean). There were a lot of interesting parallel sessions but unfortunately I could not attend all the sessions I would have liked to visit. The most impressive was the workshop on storytelling by Sonia Carmona Tapa. Many thanks to Sonia for creating "Lithuania Storytelling Workshop" group, giving us advice and supplying us with links, storytelling manuals and stories almost every week after the conference.

As for me, I conducted the workshop "The journey into the world of words". Due to technical problems my workshop was moved to another room, and as there was no information about that, there were not too many participants. I shared my

experience with the work as with university as with middle school students how to develop students` creativity and enrich their vocabulary with the help of different digital tools. There is so much to explore. As practice makes perfect, the workshop participants had to become word detectives and solve eight puzzles related to word origins, foreign words in English, the irregularity of English spelling and pronunciation, misleading meanings of English words, words in the news and the future of English. It is important to go beyond the course book, surprise students, give them stimulating tasks, raise their curiosity and praise their efforts. Students need to experience success. The participants were supplied with useful resources and the toolbox for further research. If you are interested in the materials of my workshop, then you can contact me via e-mail (ene@peterson.ee).

To sum up, I do believe that NBR conferences help us become more professional and successful. I look forward to our next conference.



Karola Velberg, Board member of the Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers and chairman of the Estonian Association of Finnish Language Teachers

I ran a workshop on how teachers can motivate students to use board games. Unfortunately my workshop was cut short and I only had 20 minutes to rumble through my ideas and games. My goal was to introduce the games I daily use once you have a 10-minute gap in a lesson or how you can motivate students to communicate with each other in short notice. Nevertheless, the participants were very interested

in the topic and understood the main goal of my presentation: you don't have to make any preparations for playing with children or with adults and it is always fun for both parties! After my workshop people came up to me and told me how excited they were about my workshop; also one of my participants Nikolay Nikolov from Bulgaria invited me to listen to his workshop on drama which was hilarious and also fun. Sonia Carmona Tapia from Spain was unforgettable with her stories and with the idea of how we can find stories from everyday life and how we can use it in teaching. I got lots of ideas how to wake up my students in a regular classroom. In addition, participating in this conference gave me much experience and better knowledge of how to organize an international conference, what not to do or avoid, because we had lots of organizational problems.

In conclusion, I met many interesting speakers and teachers, who I will always remember. I am also glad that people were impressed by my topic. I wish we would play, invent, innovate, and listen more. I am inspired.



Evelin Müüripeal, Member of the Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers

I had a splendid opportunity to take part in the Vilnius NBR Conference, for which I thank both the country of Lithuania and the Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers.

Exchanging experiences and sharing thoughts about our field is always inspiring. My personal highlights of the conference were undoubtedly the presentations of Terry Lamb and Steve Mann. The latter covered the topic of reflection in teacher education which was engaging and that I could certainly relate to from my own personal experience. A teacher being alone in the classroom has been a burning topic also in Estonia, which confirms furthermore that dealing with the rapidly changing world poses the same kinds of challenges to all teachers, wherever they are.

I had the chance to listen to various different workshops. However, the one that struck out positively the most was definitely the workshop of my colleague, Mrs. Ene Peterson. The topics that she covered such as diversifying foreign language learning along with sparking the interest of young learners and engaging the in the presentation were met by warm approval by all the listeners. This served as a prime example of a teacher's ability to engage anyone and everyone if only they have an inner spark themselves.

There were many topics covered in the conference program, however, it would be great to see more representatives and performers from other Nordic countries as well as from Latvia since their experience is valuable and hearing from it would be highly appreciated by everyone partaking in the conference.

I am grateful to have been able to share my thoughts and ideas about using smartphones in a foreign language class and the positive feedback I got from the audience has definitely given me an impulse to actively and creatively continue my work. Our main challenge as teachers is how to present our subject in a captivating way and how not to remain in our personal comfort zone - that challenge is bigger than ever before when it comes to involving and engaging a new multimedia-driven generation.

I am looking forward to meeting my colleagues again and to creating new meaningful professional connections in the future.



Useful Information from FIPLV



Terry Lamb - Professor, Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Secretary General and former President, FIPLV

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

FIPLV EXECUTIVE and FIPLV WORLD COUNCIL

The offices of the FIPLV Executive and World Council fall vacant on 31 December 2018. Elections of officers for these positions will be conducted before and during the 2018 FIPLV World Assembly to be held in New Orleans (USA) on 14 November 2018. Only member associations who have paid their membership dues for 2017 will be eligible to nominate and only those who have paid for 2017 and/or 2018 will be eligible to vote.

In addition to the five Executive Officers, i.e., President, Vice-President, Secretary General, Treasurer General and Editor (title to be reviewed at the World Assembly 2018), the World Council consists of nominated representatives of our international unilingual member associations and of our FIPLV Regions (currently Europe, Nordic-Baltic Region and East and Central European Region). No elections are required for

these positions, but the names of the nominees should be communicated to FIPLV before or during the World Assembly meeting in New Orleans. The World Council also includes representatives of national multilingual and unilingual member associations, which are NOT in an FIPLV Region, so elections for these will be held.

Elections to the Executive and the World Council will be conducted according to Article 10 of the Statutes. It should be noted that no member of the Executive intends to renominate for his/her current position on the Executive, but Terry Lamb intends to be nominated for the position of Vice President, Judith Richters for the role of Treasurer General and Sylvia Velikova for the role of Editor.

Member associations, who have paid their membership dues for 2017 are kindly requested to nominate candidates for election to the new Executive Committee and the World Council according to paragraph 5 of the Election Procedure:

5. Any individual member of a member association may be nominated for election provided the nomination is:

5.1 formally proposed by that member association or by another,

5.2 supported by the candidate's own association in the latter instance

5.3 accompanied by a signed declaration of readiness to assume the

duties of office if elected and a summary of the candidate's professional activities.

Member associations must ensure that the full documentation (the nomination form, which follows this message and a 200 word statement of intent from the nominee) reaches the Secretary General by 30 September 2018, so that the list of nominations and information about the election procedure can be sent to all member associations by 15 October 2018. This year, all associations will be able to vote, even if they are unable to attend the World Assembly. Please send your nominations by Email to T.Lamb1@westminster.ac.uk . Receipt of nominations will be acknowledged.



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Some materials and photographs are presented by the Lithuanian team members Evelina Jaleniauskiënė, Jūrate Patackaitė and Irena Navickienė.

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