



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

The Nordic-Baltic Region

Electronic Newsletter No.4

(December 2018)

PRESIDENT's Note



Sigurborg Jónsdóttir, Iceland

How time flies. It's almost Christmas and half the school year has already passed. We are all getting ready for the holidays and are in dire need to reload the batteries. But it has not just been all work, as the Associations have been offering their members different kinds of activities and supporting teachers in their good work. So it will be exciting to learn, what they are planning for next year.

Apart from all the activities organized in different countries, there were two international conferences this year, first our excellent NBR conference in Vilnius in June and then the FIPLV World Congress taking place in New Orleans this November. Further details of both can be found on the FIPLV homepage (www.fiplv.com). The value of such gatherings is not only the great talks, workshops and discussion rounds but just as much meeting with other professionals and profiting from direct discussions with colleagues from other countries.

Depending on our working conditions, both in school and also the demands made by the curriculum, there will be different points of focus. But when we get the chance to sit back and relax, we might ask ourselves what is it we want to accomplish in our work, what do we want to give our students? It is a question we must to ask ourselves regularly. We need to give our students practical tools like foreign languages to use in everyday life, help them open and broaden their minds for them to connect better and more easily with an ever changing world, in which no one knows how tomorrow will look like.

On these notes I wish you all happy holidays and a wonderful new year.



FIPLV Vice President's Feedback on the World Congress in New Orleans



FIPLV Vice President Terry Lamb (UK)

It was good to see those of you who were able to attend the World Congress in New Orleans. We missed those of you who for reasons beyond your control were unable to attend but hope to see you again soon.

In our World Assembly meeting, we decided in the spirit of inclusion to bring some of the decisions taken to you all for ratification. One of these relates to the new Statutes - changes were supported but these are so important that we wanted to get wider approval. Unfortunately I have been extremely busy with my University work since November so have not yet been able to make the amended version clear enough to send you again. However, two of the other decisions are rather urgent so I will deal with them now.

The first relates to the new FIPLV Executive Committee. We didn't need to hold any election, in fact, as there was only one nomination per category, as follows, but they were approved by World Assembly members in New Orleans:

President: Mirostaw Pavlak (Poland)

Vice President: Terry Lamb (UK)

Secretary General: Matteo Santipolo (Italy)

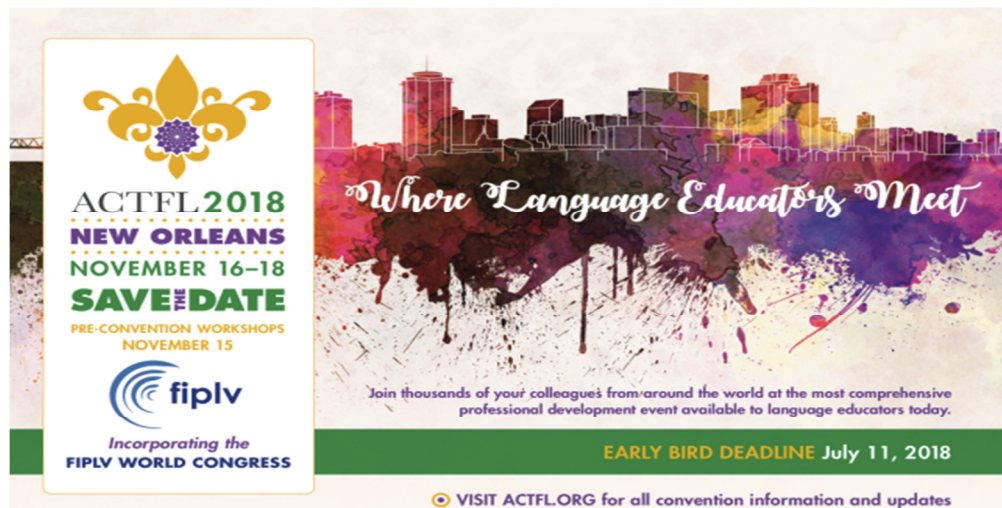
Treasurer General: Judith Richters (The Netherlands)

Publications Officer: Sylvia Velikova (Bulgaria)

The location of the next World Congress in 2021, which will be FIPLV's 90th anniversary, is Europe and it will take place in the beautiful city of Warsaw, Poland, hosted by our member association, the Polish Association of Modern Languages.

I would be very grateful to you if you could email me before 24th December either to ratify these decisions or to raise any objections should you have any. If I do not hear from you by the 24th, I will assume that you are happy with the decisions. I hope, indeed, that you are willing to confirm the decisions of World Assembly members in New Orleans so that we can move forward into the new period as soon as possible in 2019.

In the meantime, I wish you all a peaceful and restorative holiday season, whether you celebrate Christmas or not. I also send you the very best wishes of FIPLV - and my own - for a happy and healthy new year 2019.



STÍL: Feedback on FIPLV World Congress in New Orleans



Petrina Ros Karlsdóttir, president of STIL and Thorunn Sleight, treasurer of STIL

Last November 15-18, 2018, STIL as a member of FIPLV were invited to take part in the annual ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) conference, which was held this year at the Ernest Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Aside from the attraction of the conference being held in such an exciting location, it held great interest, being such a very large gathering more than 20,000 language educators and materials developers. We were only two representatives from Iceland, Petrína Rós Karlsdóttir, the president of STIL and Thorunn Sleight, treasurer of STIL. We were representating the compulsory schooling level and the upper secondary level in Iceland.

We were both more than a little surprised and annoyed to find that the existence and contribution of FIPLV to the conference was almost nowhere mentioned, either in the program or on any of the signs around the venue;

however, that can be regarded as a testament both to the extreme size of this organization and the extreme insularity of the US, in education as in other matters. We were also surprised that the teaching of English as a second language was not at all represented in ACTFL, unlike the situation in the Icelandic Association of Language Teachers, which includes Ísbrú, the association of teachers of Icelandic as a second language. We got no explanation of why this is.

The conference center in New Orleans is enormous and spread out, so that sometimes we couldn't manage to get to where an offering that interested us was located, but in spite of that we managed to get a lot out of our four days there (a day of pre-conference workshops on Thursday plus the actual conference itself Friday to Sunday). But there were of course a lot of workshops specifying other foreign languages could just as easily be applied to the all languages we teach here in Iceland. We attended several 45 minute lectures and workshops and pre-conference which was the typical time given for these but seemed rather too short.

On Saturday afternoon we met our fellow FIPLV members for coffee and had an impromptu meeting of the board, though lacking several key people. Sunday we took off for sight-seeing to enjoy the city of New Orleans or NOLA as they say. This was altogether a very successful and worthwhile conference, which we would recommend to any Icelandic foreign language teacher.



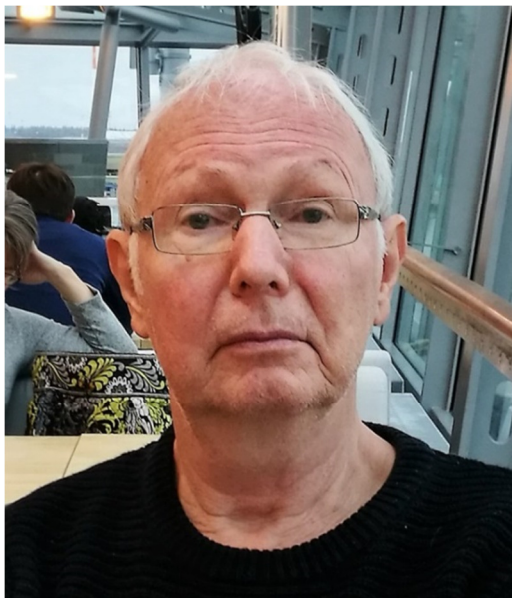
European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML).

The Governing Board Meeting



The Governing Board of the European Centre for Modern Languages met at ECML premises in Graz on 9 - 10 October. Turnout at the annual meeting was a record high with 40 participants representing 28 of the 33 States party to this Partial Agreement. In addition to reviewing the ongoing ECML program, the Governing Board finalized the Call for projects for the upcoming 2020 - 23 program, considered the future orientation and organization of language policy and practice in the Council of Europe Education program, and took stock of the ECML cooperation program with the European Commission. The Governing Board re-elected Ms. Ursula Newby (Austria) as its Chair and partly renewed its Bureau.

ESTONIA: Seminar “English Language as a Life Skill” organised by EATE



Ilmar Anvelt, Until retirement, he worked as a lecturer at the University of Tartu, teaching mainly translation studies and societies and cultures of English-speaking countries.

As usual, the Estonian Association of Teachers of English (EATE) held its Summer Seminar in the resort town of Pärnu on 22-23 August 2018. The theme of the seminar was “English Language as a Life Skill” and the speakers included teachers and lecturers from Estonian schools and universities, presenters invited by the British Council and the US embassy, and representatives of several publishing houses.

The themes of the presentations ranged from teaching of elementary learners to CLIL, total physical response, development of listening and speaking skills through music, the readers' theatre, and many others.



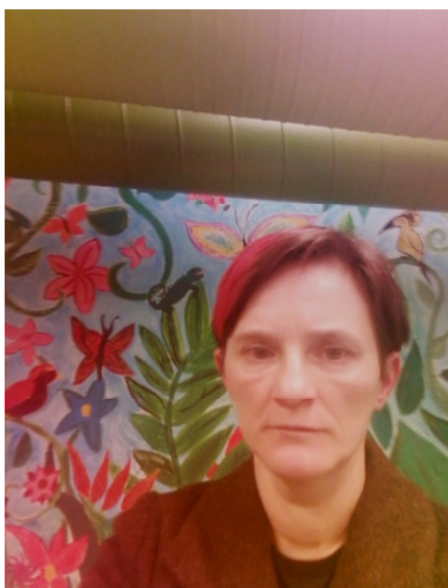
Participants of the seminar.

A much-awaited presentation for schoolteachers was the analysis of the results of the national exams in English by a representative of Innove, the agency that arranges the exams.

If you are interested, the seminar programme and PowerPoint slides of several presentations can be found on our website www.eate.ee. There you can also read about our other activities and see our publication – the EATE journal OPEN!

Another event organised by EATE was Autumn Seminar in Tartu on 24 October 2018.

FINLAND: Teacher Training Seminars organised by SUKOL



Outi VILKUNA, The Federation of Foreign Language Teachers in Finland SUKOL, vice chair
https://www.sukol.fi/in_english

The Federation of Foreign Language Teachers in Finland SUKOL is offering training seminars in spring 2019 focusing on Early Onset Foreign Language Teaching, a continuum for the training seminars held in 2018. There is considerable demand for this type of training seminars due to the new curricula.

SUKOL Winter Training Seminar will be held in Helsinki 1.-2.2.2019 at Helsingin Suomalainen Yhteiskoulu <https://www.syk.fi/info-en> with possibility to follow lessons on Friday and meet colleagues in the evening at gathering held at Allas Sea Pool <https://www.allasseapool.fi/en/> There will be language specific training (English, French, German, Swedish, Russian, Arabic, Japanese, Chinese) and general seminars on eg. Assessment & Evaluation and Neurolinguistics.

In January SUKOL will be present also at the largest event for education and training sector EDUCA 2019 <https://educa.messukeskus.com/?lang=en> .

SUKOL be present in several similar events during 2019 aiming at getting media presence to emphasise its' concern on the current and future situation of Teaching of Foreign Languages in Finland.

LITHUANIA

LKPA Presents it's PUBLICATION



Eglė Šleinotienė, LKPA Honorary president, Secretary FIPLV NBR.

Dedicated to the Centennial of the Restored State of Lithuania, the publication presents one hundred most active language teachers of Lithuania, who have achieved acknowledged results in their research and practical work in the country and beyond; who have contributed to setting up and promoting the Lithuanian Association of Language Teachers (LKPA). The teachers - main heroes and heroines of the book - express their views on language education, share experience and insight into learning and teaching languages.

The publication celebrates one hundred LKPA members who have contributed to the implementation of the Association's mission, who have been dedicated to the honorable vision of the Association since its foundation to the present day. The publication is available here: <http://lkpa.vdu.lt/wp-content/uploads/docs/kalbupedagogai-lt100.pdf>

PUBLIC SERVICE LANGUAGE CENTRE - 25 Years of Language Teaching



Audronė Auškelienė, PSLC Director , LKPA Board member, Treasurer.

On 6 December 2018 the Public Service Language Centre, Lithuania (PSLC) celebrated its anniversary - 25 years of language teaching in Lithuania. At the Vilnius Teachers' House gathered distinguished guests from the Government and abroad, teachers and other professionals from different educational institutions and associations, PSLC teachers and staff as well as institutional partners from international organizations residing in Lithuania, such as the British Council, Goethe Institut and Institut Français.

PSLC is on the Founders' Board of the Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania that aims at promoting language learning and contributing to professional development of language teachers, cooperating with the European language teaching community in civic education and raising cultural awareness.

The Centre has extensive experience and expertise in teacher training and material development, including several computer based learning programmes, textbooks for schools, learning materials for self-study, other publications. It has been involved in several teacher training initiatives: in-service training seminars and workshops, intensive courses for teachers, training and testing school administration, professional development activities, especially in the field of adult and non-formal education.

On this occasion the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania passed on the letter of acknowledgement to the PSLC team presented by the Government Chancellor Algirdas Stončaitis. The Prime Minister thanked the PSLC team for their enthusiasm, creativity and professional work teaching languages to the civil servants and other professionals as well as for their solid contribution in international language projects.

The Director of the British Council in Lithuania PhD Artūras Vasiliauskas congratulated the PSLC team on the anniversary and praised their contribution in professional development of Lithuanian EL teachers encouraging the Centre to continue with the development of in-service teacher training.

The Director of Goethe Institut Detlef Gericke expressed his gratitude to the PSLC team of German language teachers for their professional work administrating international Goethe Institut examinations and promoting German language learning in Lithuania.





Snieguolė Kavoliūnienė, the head of language and education at the Institut Français as well as a former language teacher at the PSLC thanked both directors of the PSLC – the ex-director Eglė Šleinotienė and the present director Audronė Auškelienė for the long-lasting networking and fruitful cooperation in promoting language learning. She also emphasized the PSLC team's contribution to multilingualism with the traditionally nationally organized annual event European Day of Languages.

The President of the Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania PhD Roma Kriauciūnienė together with the Vice President of the LKPA Jūratė Patackaitė congratulated the Centre with their anniversary and emphasized the importance of one of the Founders of the Association encouraging language learning and promoting multilingualism and multiculturalism through the annually organized event European Day of Languages.



The first PSLC director, LKPA honorary president and FIPLV NBR secretary, Eglė Šleinotienė shared her memories from the foundation of the Centre, the beginning of its

activities, international projects and teaching materials developed by the team of Centre's experts. Eglė encouraged the PSLC team of professionals not to limit themselves with traditional in-service teacher training and search for more ambitious and innovative projects in the future.



After the screening of a 10-minute video shortly covering the history and achievements of the organization the director of the PSLC Audronė Auškeliėnė thanked the partners for their support and cooperation and awarded the most outstanding personalities for their professional merits and contribution in promoting language learning with certificates of gratitude: Nijolia Buinovskaja, Head of Goethe Institut language division "For long-lasting cooperation and active partnership encouraging German language teaching and professional development"; Irena Juškauskaitė, Director of "Litterula" bookstore "For long-lasting cooperation and active partnership organizing teachers' conferences and multicultural events promoting language learning"; Eglė Šleinotienė "For long-lasting cooperation and active partnership in promoting multiculturalism in Lithuania and networking on the international level in language learning and teaching"; PhD Olga Medvedeva "For long-lasting cooperation and professional work at the PSLC coordinating international language projects"; Ramunė Sarnickienė "For long-lasting professional work at the PSLC organizing and administrating international Goethe Institut examinations and promoting language learning in Lithuania"; Lidiija Šipelienė Valienė "For long-lasting professional work at the PSLC and for transparent management of finances"; Angelė Maslauskienė "For long lasting and patient work at the PSLC as an administrator and effective communicator with clients"; Asta Jarutienė "For long-lasting, creative and effective work with public relations at the PSLC".

After the formal ceremony followed by the "Battle of Brain" quiz the guests of the PSLC anniversary event - teachers, educators and other professionals - were invited for the fellowship coffee to share their memories of cooperation at the PSLC and discuss the possibilities for future professional cooperation and networking.

I would like to congratulate our professional and dedicated PSLC team with this solid anniversary and wish them all enthusiasm, creativity and joy in teaching, determination in lifelong professional development to challenge the future with innovative ideas in language teaching and learning.



(Photographs from VIKC 25th years anniversary by Milda Juknevičiūtė and Eglė Šleinotienė)

Latvian Association of Teachers of English (LATE)



Nora Kalnača, Member of the Board

This autumn has proved itself very challenging for many people in Latvia. The most important news is, of course, that there were elections for the new Parliament of Latvia (Saeima) nearly two months ago but we still do not have a working government. The Minister of Education Mr Karlis Sadurskis has left his position to go to Brussels, and we have had Mr Janis Reirs as a temporary Minister since 27th November. Mr Sadurskis is going to work in the European Parliament instead of another politician, who has been elected in this Saeima. Therefore, the situation can be considered as not very stable but, of course, the teachers and other educators are working, the children are being taught and all of us are waiting for the outcome of this because there are several important educational projects started and not finished.

LATE has had several events: the annual teachers' conference of Latgale region, a couple of Professional Development events by publishers, a Latvian and Estonian joint seminar in Valka, a webinar held by James Egerton. The next planned event is 'Innovative Teaching Methods to Promote a Contemporary Learning Process' on Friday 4th January 2019.

The first event after our annual August conference was the 18th Latgale English Teachers' Methodology Conference "Competence-based Teaching and Learning - Gateway to Learner's Success" in Daugavpils, on the 23rd of October.



Publishers (Pearson and Oxford University Press) also had their autumn Teachers' Professional Development Days in October, with several foreign speakers invited.

Friday, November 2, was a significant day for Vidzeme region teachers from Valka, Strenči, Valmiera, Smiltene (Latvia) and Valga Municipality teachers (Estonia) as there was a fantastic opportunity for the teachers of English to take part in a joint seminar organised by Pearson Latvia, Pearson Estonia and LATE in Valka Janis Cimze Gymnasium.



Pearson Estonia representative Ursula Erik dealt with the 21st century teaching skills based on the course book "Wider World". The title of the session was "It's All about Communication: Authenticity in the Language Classroom". Spoken practice and communication were the two main issues, and we investigated ways how we can bring them closer together. The concerns looked at particularly were the following: elements

of communication in terms of linguistic and communicative competences and some shared activities and ideas to take away and try out in class with your teenage students.

Pearson Latvia representative Iveta Vītola, in her session "A Competence Based Approach to Teaching and Learning English", looked at the language learning materials that engage students increasing their confidence and equipping students with knowledge and skills required to succeed in their education and in their lives in general via the latest books by Pearson publishing house. There was some group work and teachers became acquainted with the colleagues from the neighbouring country and shared common teaching ideas. There was a bookstall prepared by Pearson, Estonia.



After the seminar, the educational board of Valga Municipality added a surprise to the programme of the day with one more lecture led by Louis John Wierenga MA (Political Science) Junior Research Fellow in Comparative Politics, University of Tartu. Mr Louis John Wierenga was very interested in cooperation with the Latvian teachers alongside with the Estonians. It was interesting to listen to the native English speaker comparing the Canadian - Estonian cultures.

Lay Ivi, the Valga Municipality educational board representative, expressed a wish to continue our co-operation and collaboration in the future with paying a visit to the schools in Valga, and there was an offer for Latvian students to participate in Valga Municipality English Language Olympiad in spring.

James Egerton held a webinar on the 2nd December about 21st Century Fox - Media Literacy. James is a Delta-qualified teacher and teacher trainer currently working at International House Rome Academia Britannica. He studied French and Spanish at university before teaching in Spain for four years and Latvia for two, before arriving in

Rome a few months ago. In this webinar, teachers went through techniques and activities to encourage learners to divide fact from fiction among the avalanche of online information.

LATE is delighted to announce the second January Seminar in our series 'Innovative Teaching Methods to Promote a Contemporary Learning Process'. Join us for an inspiring day of professional development at Riga Teika Secondary School on Friday 4th January.

The highlights of the programme are:

- Džefrijs Grinvalds will look at Public speaking- training your students and yourself to be a persuasive public speaker
- Kelli Odhuu will ask Why Don't You Add a Little STEAM to Your Classroom?
- Tatjana Kunda will discuss Assessment as Learning
- Martha Lee Alexander will explain the Use of Poetry in Language Teaching
- Robert Buckmaster will talk about Speaking and Speaking Skills
- Inga Linde will talk about Motivational Grammar Tasks.

Feel free to follow the information on our website www.late.lv . We wish everyone a merry and white Christmas, and we hope that your next year will be successful, productive and healthy.

CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS and TRADITIONS in EUROPE and the WORLD:



Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_traditions

<https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/>

Christmas Around the World:

<https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/>

15 Christmas Traditions to Celebrate With Your Family:

<https://www.countryliving.com/life/g3868/christmas-traditions/>

50 Christmas Traditions For Having Yourself a Merry Little Christmas:

<https://daringtolivefully.com/christmas-traditions>

Christmas Dishes:

<https://estilo-tendances.com/5-christmas-dishes-everyone-will-love/>

https://www.google.com/search?tbm=isch&q=christmas+dishes&chips=q:christmas+dishes,online_chips:recipes&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj8igt6ffAhUMIIsKHcKDC3sQ4lYILSgI&biw=1185&bih=541&dpr=1.35



Top Christmas songs and Carols:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33_trxIrJHk



Christmas.History

<https://www.historytoday.com/alison-barnes/first-christmas-tree>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_tree

<https://www.hillbillyhousewife.com/the-history-of-the-christmas-tree.htm>



Christmas Crafting With The Kids

<https://www.hillbillyhousewife.com/christmas-crafting-with-the-kids.htm>

Christmas Fun, Games & Activities:

<https://www.whychristmas.com/fun/>

The Christmas Story:

<https://www.whychristmas.com/story/>



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