



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

The Nordic-Baltic Region

Electronic Newsletter No.4

(December 2022)

PRESIDENT's Notes



Sigurborg Jónsdóttir, FIPLV NBR president, Vice President of FIPLV, Iceland

Dear colleagues and friends, the first half of the school year is coming to an end with the festive season just waiting for us. As always it is good to look at what went well and where we want to improve or incorporate new things into our work. A lot has changed with the internet and all the apps available to us almost everywhere and at any time. Self-learning has become a lot easier and you can communicate with people on the other side of the globe, not just in writing but verbally, almost face to face. But teachers are still as important as ever in

leading and encouraging students in their studies and creating a positive and welcoming environment in class.

The Associations play an important role in providing teachers with a forum, where they can meet with colleagues, exchange ideas and experience and learn new things. Meeting with others at seminars or discussion rounds helps teachers maintain their positive attitude and enthusiasm towards their work.

In this issue we learn about the activities of the German Teacher Association in Iceland.

The Estonian Association of Teachers of Estonian as a Second Language inform us on how seminars and discussion evenings can help recruit new members and the benefits of such a membership.

SUKOL, Finland has been giving their opinion on various government projects concerning languages and their importance through all levels of education.

The Foreign Language Centre of Vilniaus Kolegija and the Lithuanian Language Teachers Association feature an overview of their activities during these last months.

The Latvian Association of Teachers of English informs about the highlights of 2022 and what they have planned for 2023.

Make your favorite hot drink and enjoy reading this Newsletter.

We wish you and your loved ones all the very best and a festive season.



**Merry
Christmas**



Welcome to FIPLV Executive Committee, Sigurborg!



Terry Lamb, FIPLV President, Professor of Languages and Interdisciplinary Pedagogy,
University of Westminster.

Dr. Geraldo de Carvalho, Vice President of FIPLV, Head of the German Language Department
Werther Institut - Juiz de Fora - Brazil.

We now have a Vice President! We are delighted to inform you that Sigurborg Jónsdóttir was nominated by the Nordic-Baltic Region of FIPLV, which she has led so ably for many years, and that this nomination has been ratified by your representatives on the FIPLV World Assembly. On a personal level, I am very happy, as I have previously worked closely with Sigurborg on a number of activities and projects, such as the ECML-funded project LACS (Language Associations and Collaborative Support), which led to the production of a Handbook for Language teacher Associations, available in

English, French and German. Sigurborg will make an important contribution as we begin a series of meetings to discuss our new Action Plan. I'm sure that many of you will already know Sigurborg, but here is an introduction:

My name is Sigurborg Jónsdóttir and I am a German teacher in the only PASCH school in Iceland and I head the project together with a colleague. My working languages are German, English, and Danish but I also have a good knowledge of French. I graduated from the Eberhard Karls Universität in Tübingen with a master's degree.

I have been involved with language teachers' organizations since 2005. I was Chair of STIL, Samtök tungumálakennara á Íslandi (The Association of Language Teachers in Iceland) 2005 - 2009. Then Chair of FP, Félag þýzkukennara (Isländischer Deutschlehrerverband) 2010 - 2012. In 2005 I became the Treasurer of the Nordic-Baltic Region of FIPLV and Chair since 2010 of the same Association. It has been my good fortune to work closely with FIPLV promoting all languages and collaboration between Associations, both through projects at the ECML and elsewhere. Active support of NBR 's main event, the biannual conference alternating between the member states, is also an important task of mine. Now NBR is preparing for the next conference in 2023 in Reykjavík. In my work for the different Associations in Iceland, I have collaborated with other interest groups to support a strong language education policy in my own country and still do, and I hope to use my experience in a wider field.

Welcome to FIPLV Executive Committee, Sigurborg!

GREETINGS FROM LANGUAGE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION of LITHUANIA

We are privileged to introduce newly elected Board members of LKPA Association.



Dr. Almantė Meškauskienė
President, Vytautas Magnus
University



Audronė Auškelienė
Vice President, Public Service
Language Centre



Dr. Loreta Chodzkienė
Vice President, Vilnius
University



Vigilija Žiūraitė, Vice
President, Vytautas Magnus
University



Prof. Dr. Jolita Šliogerienė,
Vice President VILNIUS
TECH University



Asterija Raudienė, Treasurer,
Public Service Language
Centre



Jūratė Patackaitė,
Secretary,
Vilnius College



Prof. Dr. Liudmila Mockienė,
Member, Mykolas Riomeris
University



Doc. Dr. Laimutė Kuprienė,
Member, Klaipėda
University, Vytautas Magnus
Gymnasium



Dr. Teresė Ringailienė,
Member, Vytautas Magnus
University



Ramunė Sarnickienė, Member,
Public Service Language
Centre



Vytenis Končius, Member,
Vilnius College

“WINDOW TO LITHUANIA” Has Opened: a Project by the Association of Language Teachers of Lithuania



Audronė Auškeliėnė, VIKC director, LKPA former Vice President, project co-ordinator

150 Ukrainian children aged 13-18 were learning Lithuanian language online from September to December 2022. They seemed really happy and grateful to Lithuania that has become a new home for them and their families during Russia’s barbaric military attack on their country. Ukrainian children have made new friends with Lithuanian children as they have been learning in Lithuanian schools since they moved to Lithuania with their families or alone seeking shelter and refuge here.

During the project “WINDOW TO LITHUANIA” Lithuanian language teaching experts also developed video lessons and teaching materials with recommendations

how to teach Lithuanian language to Ukrainian children that will be uploaded and available on the Association of Language Teachers of Lithuania website.

Language is the key tool for socialization and building fellowship ties. Without language one can hardly develop social networks or integrate into Lithuanian community as language is a sort of a window to Lithuania. While learning Lithuanian language Ukrainian children managed to develop new ties of friendship with their Lithuanian peers, many of them would like to continue learning Lithuanian language thus opening the window to Lithuania wider.

The project "WINDOW TO LITHUANIA" targeted at the online Lithuanian language lessons to Ukrainian refugees' children who in September started attending Lithuanian schools. The Lithuanian language lessons were tailored according to the students' needs: age, abilities and interests and covered topics "It's Me", "My Country", "My Native Town", "Colours", "Food", "Shopping", "My school", "Human Body", "Clothes", "Family", "Home", "Hobbies and interests", "Travelling", "Museums", "National days" etc. and taught by Lithuanian language teacher and teacher-trainer, active member of the Association of Language Teachers of Lithuania, Daiva Stasiulionienė. The project coordinator and manager was the Public Service Language Centre, an institutional member of the Association of Language Teachers of Lithuania.

Erasmus Project THINK4JOBS Events at Vilnius University



Prof. Roma Kriaučiūnienė, Director of Institute of Foreign Languages of the Faculty of Philology of Vilnius University, former President of LKPA

Erasmus project THINK4JOBS events took place at Vilnius University. On 7-11 November 2022 the Institute of Foreign Languages of the Faculty of Philology of Vilnius University successfully hosted three events of the Erasmus project THINK4JOBS.

A multidisciplinary team of scholars from Greece, Germany, Portugal, Romania, and Lithuania representing Higher Education Institutions (HEI) and Labour Market Organizations (LMO) participated in the events and discussed the results of the project on the development of critical thinking (CT) across different disciplines and the importance of close collaboration between HEI and LMO.

A five-day Learning Teaching Training Activity (LTTA) was held on 7-11 November 2022 to share expert knowledge on the development of critical thinking across different disciplines and highlight the importance of close collaboration between HEI and LMO to foster CT skills.



On 10-11 November 2022, the THINK4JOBS 3rd Transnational Meeting took place where each partner institution shared the project outcomes for the last 25 months and discussed the next steps of project dissemination. Much attention

was devoted to the publication of the project research findings in a special issue "Critical Thinking: Bridging a Successful Transition between University and Labour Market" in the journal Education Science (https://www.mdpi.com/.../education/special_issues/labor_edu).



The Critical Thinking (CT) Forum was held on 11 November 2022. The key presenter of the Forum Prof. Dr. Daiva Penkauskienė (Mykolas Romeris University) presented the results of national research into CT in institutions of higher education and labour market. Panagiota Christodoulou (University of Western Macedonia) made an extensive overview of the outcomes of the project THINK4JOBS and the project partners shared the results of their interdisciplinary research into the development of CT in HEI and LMO with the audience.



We are grateful to all our LTTA presenters, especially to our key-note speaker Prof Dr Daiva Penkauskienė (Mykolas Romeris University) for her most in-depth analysis of critical thinking and the necessity of its development in HE.

We are especially thankful to the project coordinator Prof Dr Dimitrios Pnevmatikos (University of Western Macedonia, Greece) who highlighted aspects of the CT curriculum, and other project partners: Juho and Elena Mäkiö (Germany), Rita Payan Carreira, Hugo Rebelo, Ruben Silva, Margarida Maximo (Portugal), and Daniela Dumitru (Romania) who demonstrated CT teaching methods in their most enthralling and thought-provoking seminars.

We are sincerely thankful to Asterija Rudienė and Rita Samukienė, our LMO partners from Public Service Language Centre (Lithuania), for their most engaging and captivating workshops on CT development.

We are indebted to our colleagues from the Institute of Foreign Languages: Liudmila Arcimavičienė, Ovidiu Ivancu, Simona Kontrimienė, Roma Kriauciūnienė, Adam Mastandrea, and Svetozar Poštič for their most comprehensive and exhaustive presentations on possibilities of CT development in foreign language teaching process.

We express our sincere gratitude to all the attendees of the project THINK4JOBS events who expressed their interest in CT development and took an active part in the discussions.

We are especially grateful to Eglė Šleinotienė, our external expert, for her advice, support, participation, and involvement in the project.

More about the project:

<https://think4jobs.uowm.gr/lt/pagrindinis-puslapis/>

https://m.facebook.com/Think4jobs_EU-102212831706571/

Photos: Justinas Auškelis, Orianta Gerikaitė, Eglė Šleinotienė.

Höhepunkte der Arbeiten von Linguisten des Fremdsprachenzentrums der Vilniaus kolegija / University of Applied Sciences und des Litauischen Sprachlehrerverbandes zum Abschluss des Jahres 2022!



Textautoren: Violeta Žemaitienė Dozentin am Zentrum für Fremdsprachen der Vilniaus kolegija, Jūratė Patackaitė Leiterin des Zentrums für Fremdsprachen der Vilniaus kolegija, Sekretärin des Litauischen Sprachlehrerverbandes

Projekte, ukrainische Bürgerinnen und Bürger, litauische Sprache und Kultur, Zusammenarbeit - das sind die Schlüsselbegriffe für die Aktivitäten der Linguisten in diesem Herbst.

Der September fing mit arbeitsreichen Projektaktivitäten an. Der Litauische Sprachlehrerverband gewann das Projekt "Fenster nach Litauen" (<https://vikc.lt/lt/naujienos/nuotolines-lietuviu-kalbos-pamokos-ukrainieciu-vaikams-2/>). Das Projekt wurde vom Staatlichen Sprachenzentrum, einem Mitglied des Verbandes, zusammen mit Linguisten aus anderen Mitgliedsinstitutionen des Verbandes durchgeführt. Das Projektziel war, Kindern aus der Ukraine im Alter von 13 bis 18 Jahren Litauisch beizubringen. Die Kinder konnten dreimal pro Woche am litauischen Fernunterricht teilnehmen.

Dozenten des Fremdsprachenzentrums der Vilniaus kolegija setzten im September gemeinsam mit anderen Kollegen das Projekt „Litauische Sprach- und Kulturkurse für ukrainische Pädagogen und Studenten“ fort

(<https://ukc.viko.lt/2022/10/11/tesiamas-projektas-lietuviu-kalbos-ir-kulturos-kursai-ukrainos-svietimo-darbuotojams-ir-studentams/>). In der Herbstkursgruppe hatten 15 Studenten, Lehrer, ihre Assistenten, Kindergärtner und ihre Assistenten den Wunsch, die litauische Sprache zu lernen und etwas Neues und Interessantes über die Kultur und Geschichte des Landes zu erfahren.

Im Oktober wurde ein weiteres Projekt des Litauischen Sprachenverbandes „Von Antigone bis Barbora Radvilaitė“ gestartet (<https://vikc.lt/lt/uncategorized/kvieciame-lietuviu-k-mokytojus-i-40-ak-val-cikla-nuo-antigones-iki-barboros-radvilaites/>). Im Rahmen dieses Projektes wurden methodische Seminare für Lehrer der litauischen Sprache und Literatur im Fernunterricht organisiert, die für Mitglieder des Litauischen Sprachlehrerverbandes kostenlos angeboten wurden.

In diesem Monat veranstaltete die Vilniaus kolegija einen Intensivkurs der litauischen Sprache und Kultur für Studierende und Lehrkräfte aus der Ukraine. Da die TeilnehmerInnen sowohl vom Alter als auch von der Erfahrung sehr unterschiedlich waren, mussten die ProjektlehrerInnen Ingrida Galkauskienė, Virginija Andriusevičienė, Violeta Žemaitienė, Jūratė Helsvig, Jūratė Patackaitė und Vytenis Končius, ihr Bestes geben, um mit verschiedenen Unterrichtsmethoden die Schönheit der litauischen Sprache, die Kenntnisse und die Liebe zur Muttersprache, ihrer Kultur und Geschichte zu vermitteln.

Der November war für die Sprachwissenschaftler ein besonders intensiver Monat: die Projekte wurden fortgesetzt und die 11. internationale Studentenkonzferenz „Jugend in einer sich wandelnden Gesellschaft“ fand an der Fakultät für Business Management der Vilniaus kolegija statt. Der Litauische Sprachlehrerverband ist seit vielen Jahren ein Sponsor dieser Konferenz. Mitglieder des Sprachlehrerverbandes, diesmal vom Institut für Fremdsprachen der Vytautas Magnus Universität, begutachteten und bewerteten die Arbeiten der Studierenden, während Dr. Teresė Ringailienė, Direktorin des Instituts für Fremdsprachen und Mitglied des Sprachlehrerverbandsrates, eine Plenarrrede hielt. Linguisten des Fremdsprachenzentrums von Vilniaus kolegija: Danutė Belazarienė, Halina Klupšienė, Jūratė Helsvig, Violeta Žemaitienė und Jūratė Patackaitė, waren Mitglieder der Arbeitsgruppe und betreuten die Studenten bei der Vorbereitung ihrer Arbeiten für die Konferenz. „Language Studies at a Specialised University'22: Intercultural Aspects“, eine internationale Konferenz

für Sprachlehrer von nicht-humanitären Hochschulen, fand am 25. November an der Litauischen Universität für Gesundheitswissenschaften statt. Linguisten aus Litauen und anderen europäischen Ländern sowie Mitglieder der Litauischen Sprachlehrerverbandes kamen zur Konferenz zusammen, um ihre Forschungsergebnisse zu präsentieren. Diesmal wurde das Zentrum für Fremdsprachen der Vilniaus kolegija durch Mitglieder des Sprachlehrerverbandes Ingrida Galkauskienė, Violeta Žemaitienė, Halina Klupšienė und Vytenis Končius vertreten (<https://ukc.viko.lt/2022/11/29/uzsienio-kalbu-centro-destytoju-taikomuju-moksliniu-tyrimu-rezultatai-pristatyti-tarptautineje-konferencijoje/>)



Der Dezember ist solche Jahreszeit, in der Projekte und andere wichtigen Tätigkeiten vollendet werden müssen, so dass die Linguisten für die Fertigstellung der Berichte und die Zusammenfassung der Projektergebnisse zuständig sind. All

diese Projekte werden von der Stiftung zur Förderung des Bildungsaustausches verwaltet und vom Ministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Sport der Republik Litauen finanziert, um die Integration ukrainischer Bürger in Litauen zu unterstützen, die aufgrund der Militäraktionen der Russischen Föderation nach Litauen geflohen sind. Litauische Linguisten und Mitglieder des Litauischen Sprachlehrerverbandes haben sich dieser Initiative angeschlossen und setzen sie erfolgreich um.

Outputs of the QuILL Project Reach their Target Users

Vilnius University

Erasmus+ projekto „QuILL – Kalbų mokymo(si) kokybė“ mokymai

- ✓ Trys programos etapai
- ✓ Programos trukmė - 16 ak. val.
- ✓ Išduodamas VU Senato patvirtintas Mokymosi visą gyvenimą (MVG) programos pažymėjimas

16-hours of training in 3 stages

1 PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT & RESULTS (ON ZOOM) FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11 15.00-16.30 (2 AC. HRS)

REGISTER NOW

2 SELF-TESTING OF THE PROJECT MATERIALS (6 AC. HRS) INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION ON THE MATERIALS (6 AC. HRS) NOVEMBER 11-22

3 COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE (2 AC. HRS)* BY 22 NOVEMBER

Certificate of completion 16 academic hours under the Lifelong Learning Programme (Vilnius University)



Dr. Loreta Chodzkiene, LKPA Vice President, Vilnius, University

It is the second year when a team of foreign language lecturers of the Faculty of Philology, Vilnius University, has taken part in the Erasmus+ project 'QUILL

- Quality in Language Learning' (Programme KA2 - Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education; Project No.: 2020-1-PT01-KA226-HE-094809). The project addresses the issues of teaching foreign languages, particularly, languages for specific purposes, in the context of higher education. It aims at responding to the need to update language lecturers' professional skills, as well as their choice for relevant teaching resources. Therefore, the project targets at providing language lecturers with the skills to identify, assess, use, create digital and ICT based language teaching sources.

The project teams representing the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (Portugal), Pixel (Italy), University of Bologna (Italy), Károli Gáspár University (Hungary), Vilnius University (Lithuania), Cordoba University (Spain) and the University of Cuza (Romania) have already compiled a 'Database of Teaching Resources' containing over 360 Open Educational Resources (OERs) in 18 EU languages available at: <https://quill.pixel-online.org/> . There is a wealth of material at different levels on various topics for teachers and learners involved in LSP. Every language lecturer can find something interesting and get some inspiration for their lessons while visiting the mentioned database.

The second outcome, an online 'Training Package' https://quill.pixel-online.org/TP_Material.php , meant to equip language teachers with the skills to identify, assess, use, and create digital and ICT-based language teaching sources, has also been designed. It comprises three modules:

- Module 1 outlines how to identify good quality OERs,
- Module 2 covers the integration of OERs in the classroom,
- Module 3 provides suggestions on how to create your own resources,

where either a complete module or just part of it could be most relevant to a particular teaching context.

Both project outcomes were presented to the wider community of language teachers of the Republic of Lithuania in three stages: 1) Introduction to the QuILL project theoretical background and its outcomes; 2) Training session on how to use the outcomes; 3) Language teachers' autonomous work while testing the outcomes.

On 11 November 2022, the QuILL project outputs were introduced to the community of language teachers of Lithuania at the joint online event organised by the Faculty of Philology (Vilnius University) and the Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania. University language lecturers as well as the invited guests representing other institutions of language teachers of the Republic were introduced to the theoretical premises of the project, trained how to identify, evaluate and apply the selected resources from the project database to their language classes, and how to equip themselves with some knowledge and skills with the help of the QuILL 'e-Training package'.

After the Training session, a two-week period of Testing the QuILL outcomes followed. The participants explored the 'Database of Teaching Resources' themselves, selected the most relevant OERs for their language classes and provided their comments about the materials available in the database. In case they needed some extra help they could refer to the 'e-Training Package' and find a solution to the problem according to the level of its difficulty or be consulted by the members of the project team. Consequently, the QuILL outcome users shared their feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the project outcomes.

In return, to the presentation of the QuILL outputs, the participants thanked the event organizers for being united, inspired and enabled to grow and respond to the challenges of the ever-changing conditions of language teaching.

Greetings from Finland



Outi VILKUNA,

The Federation of Foreign Language Teachers in Finland (SUKOL) chair.

(https://www.sukol.fi/in_english)

The Finnish Foreign Languages Teachers' Association has been very busy in giving statements on different governmental projects such as the following:

As of 2020, more than half of new university students have been selected by a certificate selection based on the matriculation score tool. The scoring tool's impact on upper secondary school studies has been significant and the impact on taking the matriculation examination in other languages than English or Swedish (as the second national language) even more devastating. Great effort now has been put into lobbying on the importance of foreign languages as the matriculation score tool is being renewed and the new tool is to be in order from 2026. SUKOL ry has been lobbying for the importance of foreign languages skilled academically educated future workforce.

SUKOL ry's statement on the National Board of Education's proposal for the criteria for the academic year evaluation of the 6th grade (age group 11-12 years) has been given in the Digital Opinion Service system as requested of the association. According to SUKOL evaluation criteria must clarify teachers' evaluation work and thus support the equality of evaluation. Despite the good goal and commendably progressed work, there is still plenty of room for interpretation in the criteria. As a whole, the evaluation criteria for the 6th grade have been drawn up on the same principle as the criteria for the final evaluation which is also cause for further discussion on the matter. SUKOL has also taken position on the City of Helsinki budget proposal 2023:

In the budget proposal, the productivity measures include increasing the size of teaching groups and cutting back on the teaching offer, especially in less taught foreign languages and optional subjects, as well as savings on the facilities of kindergartens, schools and educational institutions. According to SUKOL possible reduction in the number of hours threatens to affect optional subjects in particular, including language subjects. When, at the same time, it is proposed to increase the offer of joint courses between upper secondary schools, these actions are also most likely primarily aimed at optionals, including subjects that increase language capital. These measures are not suitable for increasing the attractiveness of Helsinki and the education level and well-being of the residents and the future workforce. Even now, the field of education and training should monitor more closely the equal distribution of opportunities to study language subjects at all levels and ensure that, in addition to English, it is possible to study other foreign languages regardless of the area of residence.

SUKOL has also given a statement on the government's proposal to the parliament on amending the law on general language examinations. The annual meeting of SUKOL was held in Helsinki on November 12th 2023 and the undersigned was chosen unanimously to be the Chair of the association for the next term.

ESTONIAN Experience: Seminars and Discussion Evenings Attract Teachers to Become a Member of the Association



Ingrid Prees, Chair of the Board of the Estonian Association of Teachers of Estonian as a Second Language.

The Estonian Association of Teachers of Estonian as a Second Language started its activity under the leadership of its new Managing Board in June 2020. By today the activities of the Association have become more visible. The representatives of the Association are called upon to join as different discussions and working groups related to Estonian educational life as to meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science and the Estonian Parliament (Riigikogu in Estonian).

Since January teachers of Estonian as a second language have been meeting in Zoom every Friday to share their experience and methodological techniques. All these meetings are long-awaited. As old as new participants are welcome to the meetings. It is worth to mention that after each meeting there were participants who showed interest towards the activities of the Association and became our members.

The events that attract teachers to join the Association

In autumn we organized one day seminar "From a teacher to a teacher" consisting of two parts. During the first part of the seminar the teachers had the opportunity to observe colleagues' lessons in four different educational establishments in Kohtla-Järve. Kohtla-Järve is the city in the north-eastern

part of Estonia, 150 kilometres from Tallinn with 32, 273 inhabitants comprising 2 per cent of the inhabitants of Estonia.

The doors to teachers were open at Kirju-Mirju kindergarten, Kohtla-Järve Järve school, Kohtla-Järve Slaavi lower-secondary school and Kohtla-Järve upper-secondary school. The aim of the visits and observations was to get new experience, observe teachers and learners in the classroom environment. The teachers had looked forward to this event for a long time.

After lunch at TalTech Virumaa college the second part of the seminar followed. Ingrid Prees, the chair of the Association opened the seminar. The study director of the college Anu Piirimaa welcomed the participants. The panel discussion focused on the questions related to the transition to Estonian-language education.

The main goal of the transition to Estonian-language education is to provide all children in Estonia, regardless of their mother tongue, the opportunity to acquire quality education in Estonian. To achieve this, it is necessary to increase the volume of teaching in Estonian at all educational levels and to ensure the availability of teachers with the necessary Estonian language skills.

The panel discussion was followed by four plenaries and two workshops. Ly Leedu, a member of the Board and a teacher of Estonian and methodologist at Multilingua language centre shared her experience in using board games in teaching Estonian. Nelli Kuldmaa, a member of the Association and an education youth work specialist for Alutaguse Local Government focused on the development of digital skills in four sub-skills: speaking, writing, reading, and listening.

In December we organised two-day field trip seminar to Viljandi county to discover Heimtali Museum of Domestic Life where visitors could familiarize themselves with perfect collection of the examples of national handicraft like old household goods and the furnishings of hundred years old schoolroom. We could participate in two workshops. The participants in the first workshop "Pattern painting" became aware of the history of painting and tried to create together a piece of art inspired by the introduced patterns. In the second workshop "Letter patterns" the participants got to know about the meaning of patterns, experience the rhythms of patterns and use their creativity in implementing new patterns into practice. The seminar ended with a seminar "The principles and methods of

the CLIL” conducted by the CLIL specialist and teacher Maret Vandel. The seminar continued the next day, but in the evening the teachers could make new friends and discuss the possibilities of further cooperation.



According to Ingrid Prees, Chair of the Board, and lecturer of Estonian at TalTech Virumaa college, the studies of the language and culture go hand in hand as language and creativity do. She continued that the organisers were surprised that 34% of the participants seized the opportunity and registered for the field trip seminar during the first day and were ready to sacrifice their day-off to travel to the other side of Estonia.

Teachers are eager to acquire new experiences, broaden their horizon and meet their colleagues. The Association continues to follow the mission to organise joint events and support their members` professional development. At the beginning of this year, we had only 68 members, but during the year the membership has increased by 39 new members.

The Association is a strategic partner of the Estonian Ministry of Education and Science 2022-2024.

NEWS from ICELAND: Ein Bericht über die Arbeit des Isländischen Deutschlehrerverbandes



Der Isländische Deutschlehrerverband wurde 1970 gegründet und zählt heute etwa 50 Mitglieder. Erster Vorsitzender war der Deutschlehrer und Lehrbuchverfasser Baldur Ingólfsson.

Die Aufgaben des Verbandes sind verschiedener Art, vorrangig ist jedoch die Förderung des Fachgesprächs und der Zusammenarbeit unter den Deutschlehrern. Dies leisten wir u.a. durch den Austausch von Materialien und Ideen auf unserer Facebook-Seite sowie von Best-Practice-Beispielen bei unseren Treffen. Eine weitere wichtige Aufgabe des Verbandes ist die aktive Unterstützung der Fortbildung der Mitglieder durch Workshops, Seminare und Webinare in Zusammenarbeit mit unseren Partnern. Da wäre an erster Stelle die Zusammenarbeit mit dem Goethe Institut zu nennen. Unsere Mitglieder machen immer wieder von dem reichhaltigen Angebot an Vorlesungen und Fortbildungen des GI Gebrauch. Trotz der Schnellebigkeit unserer anspruchsvollen modernen Gesellschaft, versuchen sie diese Angebote wahrzunehmen. Es ist von unschätzbarem Wert, sich an ein Forum wie das Goethe Institut wenden zu können, um fachliche Unterstützung zu erhalten. Im November dieses Jahres fand beispielsweise ein interessantes und unterhaltsames Seminar mit der Überschrift „Raus mit der Sprache“ statt. Dort haben die Teilnehmer verschiedene Möglichkeiten kennengelernt, die Schüler zum Sprechen zu bringen. Das Seminar wurde sowohl als Präsenzveranstaltung als auch online angeboten. Dies bietet Kollegen, die außerhalb des Hauptstadtgebietes wohnen, die Möglichkeit aktiv teilzunehmen, ohne eine lange Reise im Winter auf sich zu nehmen. Wir haben hier viel gelernt und gelacht. Es besteht schon eine Idee für

die nächste Fortbildung, und zwar „Kurzfilme im Unterricht“. Diese geht auf einen Workshop der IDT 2022 in Wien zurück, wo es interessante Präsentationen zu vielfältigen Methoden gab, Kurzfilme in den Unterricht einzubauen.

Das sogenannte „Þýskupraut“ oder Deutschquiz ist ein jährliches Event, das vom DLV veranstaltet wird. Da nehmen Schüler landesweit an einem Wettbewerb auf Deutsch teil. Die Gewinner können entweder am Eurocamp oder am PAD (Deutschcamps für Jugendliche aus vielen verschiedenen Ländern, die in Deutsch gute Leistungen erbracht haben) teilnehmen. Die Schüler profitieren sehr von der Teilnahme an diesen Camps und erweitern auch ihren Horizont.

Des Weiteren organisiert der Verband einen Filmwettbewerb, bei dem die Schüler einen Kurzfilm in deutscher Sprache mit selbst geschriebener Geschichte drehen. Die Deutsche Botschaft in Island stiftet die Preise. Die Botschaft unterstützt den Verband auch anderweitig auf verschiedene Art und Weise.

Der gesamte Fremdsprachenunterricht hat sich in den letzten Jahren parallel zur schnellen technologischen Entwicklung stark verändert, man könnte sogar von einer grundlegenden Veränderung jeglichen Sprachenlernens sprechen. Der Vorstand des DLV versucht mit allen Mitteln seine Mitglieder zu unterstützen, damit sie sich den Herausforderungen besser stellen können, die auf sie zukommen. Dadurch kann die fachliche Arbeit des Verbandes weiterhin blühen. Mit den besten Wünschen/Grüßen.

Katrín Högnadóttir, formaður stjórnar Félags Þýzkukennara / Vorsitzende des DLV. Der jetzige Vorstand



Von links: Rannveig Árnadóttir, Vorstandsmitglied, Linda Hængsdóttir, Schatzmeisterin, Vanessa Isenmann, Vorstandsmitglied, Katrín Högnadóttir, Vorsitzende, Kristana Sveinsdóttir, Schriftführerin fehlt leider.

News from the Latvian Association of Teachers of English (LATE)



Inga Linde, the president of LATE

This autumn LATE has been running the 4th year of the "Reading Circle" project in conjunction with Pearson. 36 teachers from different schools all over Latvia have the chance to participate in the project. Primary school students will read 6 Disney Kids Readers books, lower secondary school students 8 Pearson Graded Readers and, we are particularly glad that this year we have launched also 2 circles for secondary school students from grades 10 and 11 and they will have the chance to read 4 Pearson Graded Readers during this school year.

As a new Higher C1 level final year leaving exam has been introduced this academic year (first administration in June 2023), LATE decided to run a set of three four-hour seminars on teaching presentation skills, writing essays and creating posters. These are important as the students have to qualify for the examination by submitting a presentation, 800-word essay and an academic poster and teachers are uncertain about how to teach these, especially extended essays and posters, and what exactly constitutes C1 performance. The seminars were led by our Vice-President, Robert Buckmaster and took place on Zoom.

Forty-six teachers attended the three seminars which were held on three Saturday mornings in October and November. In the presentation and writing seminars Rob stressed that both of these should be developed and practiced over all the high school years - Years 10 to 12. Presentations should be practiced from a script in Yr 10 and then this should be developed in Year 11 until in Year 12 the students are speaking without notes. In the essay session we examined the characteristics of academic essays

and considered a number of sample essays and decided if and why they were C1 level. In the poster presentation Rob explained the spectrum of posters from event posters to academic posters and looked at some design criteria. In each of the seminars Rob presented for the first half and then the teachers did collaborative tasks to review and understand the main points. Rob has a page on his English Ideas Project website for High school teachers: <https://www.englishideas.org/materials-for-high-school-teachers/>

On the 4th of January our sixth annual Winter Teacher Training Day will be held online, on Zoom as this gives an opportunity for teachers from the remote areas to join as well. Like before, this is a free event for LATE members. Jennifer Uhler (Regional English Language Officer (RELO) for Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Poland, and Greenland based at the U.S. Embassy Tallinn will speak on professional growth. Robert Buckmaster will present an exploration of the English noun phrase. Tatjana Kunda (VISC) and Dita Lapiņa (School2030) will ask: What is an authentic language test? And Andrew Doxsey (Limbaži State Gymnasium) will consider: Assessment for Learning: Why and How? In order to find more information about the event, please visit LATE's website at: <https://late.lv/> .



The Electronic Newsletter is issued by:

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