



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

The Nordic-Baltic Region

Electronic Newsletter No.2 (June 2016)

PRESIDENT's Note



Sigurborg Jónsdóttir

I just came back from a wonderful and inspiring NBR Conference in Tallinn Estonia. I want to congratulate the Estonian Association for all their tireless effort and preparation. Everything went smoothly thanks to their excellent work. Not only did they organize a great conference but they also offered a rich and varied cultural program.

We were warmly welcomed by our Estonian Colleagues and it was good to meet old friends once again and make new ones. I was very impressed by the quality of the presentations. The plenary talks gave amongst other things, valuable insight into the Estonian language and its heritage and their intentions for a digital learning environment in Estonia including the necessity of different ways of pedagogical thinking. We were also reminded of the fact that learners need to be autonomous and take the responsibility for their own learning. We do not yet know what the future may hold for our students, but through CLIL we can help them prepare for it, by assisting them to develop critical thinking and creativity. Because just as the heading of the Conference said "The language teacher and the teaching (are) at a crossroads". The various presentations and workshops showed us different and often new ways in our professional development. Meeting with other colleagues and exchanging ideas with them is one of the added values of venues like this one and I am certain that for many it is the beginning of closer collaboration.

Our next conference/seminar will take place in 2019. Until then let's make the most of what we learned at this one and continue our cooperation, because together we are strong.



The FIPLV Nordic-Baltic Region (NBR) Conference 2016



Ene Peterson, Chair of Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers, Lecturer of Virumaa College of Tallinn University of Technology, Head of NBR 2016 Conference Organizing Committee.

The Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers, the host for NBR 2016 conference, had great honour to continue the tradition of NBR conferences. NBR 2016 conference took place in Tallinn from 9 June until 11 June. The event brought together 130 foreign language teachers from 20 countries: Austria, Australia, Bulgaria, Brazil, Finland, France, Hungary, Germany, Estonia, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovenia and Turkey.

The conference aimed at providing a platform for the discussion of the changing roles of the teacher, dissemination of good practices of teaching in the 21st century with a special focus on research insights, innovative ideas and hands-on-activities. During conference days there was a possibility to listen to 4 plenary speeches (Terry Lamb, Mart Laanpere, Martin Ehala, Franz Mittendorfer), 31 presentations and 8 poster presentations, attend 7 workshops.

The topics of parallel sessions attracted and engaged the participants in enthusiastic conversations. An extensive cultural programme included two tours of Toompea Castle and the Riigikogu building; a walking tour in Old Tallinn, early music concert at Kadrioru Palace on June 9; a guided tour of mysterious Bastion Tunnels and beer tasting tour on June 11.

The success of the conference was the fruit of two-years labour - preparation for the conference, numerous team members meetings, cooperation between team members, Original Sokos Hotel Viru staff, Tallinn Municipal Government, Tallinn Teachers' House, partners and sponsors.

And we should not forget about foreign language teachers from all over the world who attended the conference as speakers or participants. They made our conference to happen and be a success. The positive feedback to the conference is inspiring:

"It has been a very useful and an amazing experience for me."

"I am willing to thank you for its impeccable management. Certainly a great deal of work, but you and your team made a success of it!"

"Thank you for the wonderful organisation during the conference and for creating a very inspiring atmosphere."

"The conference was a real success, it was very well-organised, the presentations were interesting and most importantly, we all had a chance to meet and establish networks for our future work. Thank you very much for your hospitality and for being true ambassadors of your country."



Congratulation to the Estonian Association and NBR for Organizing this Fantastic Conference



Petrina Rós Karlsdóttir, President of STÍL

We were 4 representatives from Iceland participating in the conference. Petrina Ros Karlsdóttur, President of STÍL, French teacher, Asta Henriksen, English teacher in Grammar School/highschool gave a lecture about the creativity in language learning, recherche done in Iceland. Then Sigurborg Jónsdóttir, President of NBR, German and French teacher and Solveig Thordardottir, President of the German Teacher Association. It was the first conference in Estonia and therefore important to support this event.

Estonia and the Estonian Association EVOL surprised us really in a good way. There were lots of interesting presentations and the plenary talks. We had fruitful plenary speakers such as Terry Lamb, Secretary -General of the FIPLV of course. Then I must say the Estonian speakers who were guiding us through the Estonian reality like Mart Laanpere, about the Implementing and evaluating the Digital Turn in Estonian Schools and Martin Ehala about "The Ecology of Estonian language in the 21st Century", did really inform us a great deal in an interesting way about the situation in Estonian.

We went to various presentations, such as:

"Perspective tridimensionnelle de l'apprentissage" with Beatrice Toufoy-Bastick, Multiculturalism, Multilingualism - Multiple choices: The Landscape of Language across Australia. Marcel Moest, and Denis Cunningham From Language

Curriculum: The Australian Experience. The impact of Neuroscience in School, by Michel Freiss. The importance of Motivation in English learning and teaching: Marina Dobrovolskya (Russia).

The frame of the conference, lecturers, the cultural programme and receptions were exemplary: I must say that I felt the very warm welcome from Estonia. Definitely everything about Estonia was perfect! All that kindness and love I felt, inspired me really and reminded me of the importance of friendship between people and countries! Congratulation to the Estonian Association and NBR for organizing this fantastic conference and for a wonderful time with people from around the world.

Vive l'amitié!

Impressions from Solveig Thordardottir, President of German Language Teachers in Iceland



Professionals from Iceland.

(Petrína Rós, Asta Henriksen, Solveig Thordardottir, Sigurborg Jónsdóttir)

This year I went to my first NBR conference in Tallinn. I only have positive things to say about my experience. I had a wonderful time, learnt a lot and met a lot of interesting people that I am hoping to see again in the future. I have to say that the organization was really good and the people there took really good care of us.

The food was excellent and all the lectures were really interesting and well carried out by the lecturers. Now I am a German teacher and I really liked the German lectures

and I learned a lot of new things and got a few Ideas for my teaching. They also had a good collection of books and games for language teaching that you could buy there. I am positive that I made many friends and hopefully new colleagues.

Congratulation to the language association in Estonia and NBR for organizing a fantastic conference and thanks for a wonderful time with very nice people from countries around the world. I have to say that I am definitely going to more conferences in the future.



The FIPLV Nordic-Baltic Region Conference 2016:

My Impressions



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

I was privileged to participate in the FIPLV NBR conference “The language teacher and the teaching (are) at a crossroads”. The conference programme focused on the following topics: Language Policy and Language Education Policy; Learning and Teaching Less Widely Taught Languages; Traditional vs. Innovative Teaching Methods; The Teaching Profession and Teacher Networks: Today`s and Tomorrow`s Challenges; Emerging Technologies in a Digital Age; Quality in Language Teaching and Learning; Multilingualism and Employability.

The conference was very well-organised: there were cultural activities for conference participants provided on 9 and 11 June 2016 giving the opportunity for all to find out about the history and architectural monuments of the Old Town of Tallinn and to visit many other historical buildings and sites. During the conference the participants enjoyed plenty of moments to share their opinions, discuss important linguistic, language teaching and language policy as well as other issues, establish networks and plan their future collaboration.

All the conference participants witnessed the most whole-hearted hospitality of the Estonian colleagues.

The Nordic Baltic Region Meeting

NBR Secretary Eglė Šleinotienė, Honorary President LKPA, Lithuania

NBR meeting was organized during the conference. President Sigurborg Jónsdóttir welcomed everyone and thanked colleagues from Iceland, Finland and Lithuania for coming to Tallinn. She thanked Ene Peterson, Chair of The Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers, for organisation of the conference and the meeting. NBR developments since the previous meeting were discussed. The participants positively evaluated NBR Facebook, Newsletters, national conferences in the Nordic and Baltic countries, representation of NBR and participation in the FIPLV World Congress of Modern Languages "Collaborating Across Languages and Borders", March 26-28 in Niagara Falls, Canada. It was mentioned that NBR members participated in the LACS Workshop in Graz, which brought together a number of representatives of FIPLV members from Europe and which stimulated interest in membership among others. A Directory of Languages Organisations was produced:

<http://lacs.ecml.at/Newdirectory/tabid/3998/Default.aspx> All NBR associations worked on dissemination and networking.

Future plans were discussed: FIPLV conference will be organised in 2018 in America, the NBR conference will be held in 2019. Representatives from Iceland and Lithuania were asked to discuss at home the possibility of organizing the conference in the country and inform the NBR Executive Committee by the end of the year.

NBR colleagues would like to invite associations from Denmark, Norway, Latvia and other countries to join FIPLV and become active members.



The FIPLV Nordic-Baltic Region (NBR) Conference 2016.

Picture Gallery





**The Electronic Newsletter is issued by: NBR President Sigurborg Jónsdóttir ,
Iceland; NBR Secretary Eglė Šleinotienė, Lithuania;**