



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, Iceland

Autumn is in full swing as we can see from the trees starting to change their colours. That can only mean one thing, school has started again. At my school we took this to heart and made a language tree with proverbs in the different foreign languages taught in our school. It was fun and I believe our pupils learned quite a lot, since they had to know what the proverbs meant, it was not just about words but also about culture. But we realized one thing once we were done. Next year we need to include all the different

languages our pupils speak at home. There is a richness right there and we should further and treasure it.

The Associations have hosted all kinds of activities during the summer break and many more are planned for the winter. It is a different situation from last year and let us hope, it will stay that way. In this issue we look at what is being offered by STIL in Iceland, read about the anniversary of the German Teachers in Estonia and the Latvian English Teachers autumn seminar. SUKOL informs us about various events, such as a discussion forum with different workshops, plans for the European Day of Languages and the matriculation exams. The main theme of the Lithuanian contribution is the European Day of Languages and the competences needed in Language Teaching in the 21st Century.

So you see, there is quite a lot going on worth reading about. Please enjoy this issue and all the very best wishes to you all.





20 Years Celebrating Linguistic and Cultural Diversity"

There are lots of exciting and creative events organized all over Europe and in the world. EDL calendar is being presented here: <https://edl.ecml.at/edlevents> to discover them! The European Commission alone is involved in over 80 events!

Welcome to a journey through Europe's languages: discover similarities, differences and unique features!



This downloadable booklet seeks to encourage interest in Europe's rich tapestry of languages from an early age. Children can accompany Lara on her journey to discover the different languages spoken across the continent. Sets of stickers and sound files covering the respective languages are also available for this resource. The resource will shortly be available in around 20 languages:

<https://edl.ecml.at/languagejourney>

Belgium Becomes a Member State of the ECML!



Belgium has become the 34th member state of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the European Centre for Modern Languages! The Belgian authorities notified the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić, of the country's accession on 20 July 2021.

Belgium, which is one of the founder members of the Council of Europe, has been invited to nominate ECML national contacts and will henceforth be able to fully participate in the Centre's programme of activities.

Belgium is set to host its first activity as an official member state of the ECML on 7-8 October in Brussels - a "Supporting Multilingual Classrooms" national training event, within the framework of the Centre's joint action with the European Commission.

The Place of Home Languages at School: Participate in a European Survey!



The RECOLANG team (Resources for assessing the home language competences of migrant pupils) is carrying out a European survey on the place of home

languages at school, particularly within different education programmes or curricula involving migrant adolescents aged 11-18. This survey focuses on the practices of assessing home language skills and their role in different European education systems. The survey is made up of two complementary sections aimed at two different target audiences:

A section aimed at pupils aged between 11 and 18 (or their families), who are from a migrant background and one or more home languages other than the language(s) of the school. This section is available in Arabic, English, French, German, Persian (Dari/Farsi), Portuguese and Turkish:

<https://surveyforlearners.questionpro.com> .

A section for schools and educational institutions, teaching and supervisory staff in schools, reception centres and organisations involved in initial and further professional development of teachers working with this age group (11-18 years). This section is available in English, French, German, Hungarian and Portuguese:

<https://enqueteinstitutionseducatives.questionpro.com>.

The survey will be online until the end of 2021. More detailed information on the survey can be found on the ECML website.

Professional Network Forum of the ECML



The Professional Network Forum of the ECML is comprised of international associations and institutions that share common values and have overlapping expertise in the field of language education and assessment. Under the auspices of the ECML, the members of the Forum share their know-how and work together on areas of common interest in the service of language education.

Members of the Forum: ACTFL, AILA, ALTE, CEL/ELC, CercleS, EALTA, EAQUALS, ECSPM, ECML/Council of Europe, EDiLiC, EFNIL, EPA, EUNIC, FIPLV, IAM, ICC, OLBI.

<https://www.ecml.at/Aboutus/professionalnetworkforum/tabid/137/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>

The Multilingual Finland of Tomorrow - The Future of Teaching Foreign Languages in Finland - SUKOL



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

The autumn term has begun with many events. The Federation of Foreign Language Teachers in Finland SUKOL organised a discussion forum on Zoom on August 30th, 2021 with two prominent keynote speakers to launch off the event: professor emerita Riitta Pyykkö (University of Turku) on The Multilingual Finland of Tomorrow: challenges and solutions, and associate professor Sonja Kosunen (University of Helsinki) on Choosing to study foreign languages in primary and secondary school and educational equality. These were followed by seven workshops on different themes related to studying foreign languages at different levels (primary, secondary, vocational and higher education) and the future of teacher training. There were in all 94 participants to the workshops led by specialists in each given topic.

The European Day of Languages is being celebrated by different events coordinated by the Language Center of the University of Helsinki
<https://www2.helsinki.fi/en/conferences/european-day-of-languages>

and SUKOL is participating in creating content for the events included.

The autumn matriculation examination season has begun

<https://www.ylioppilastutkinto.fi/en/>

There are 22 066 students enrolled to take the exam of a foreign language at advanced level. This is 121 students less than at autumn 2020 exam session.

SUKOL is offering training in webinar sessions over the autumn term on positive pedagogy and the autumn training day on October 9th includes workshops specific to different languages and topics

https://www.sukol.fi/liitto/koulutuskalenteri/sukolin_syyspaiva.58.ohjelma.html

We are also looking forward to October 30th when the general assembly of The Federation of Foreign Language Teachers in Finland SUKOL will take place and the new strategy for the federation will be presented and discussed.

NEWS from LKPA, LITHUANIA



Audronė Auškelienė, Director of Public Service Language Centre, Institutional member of Association of Language Teachers of Lithuania

21st Century Competences for Modern Language Teaching at PSLC

In 2019 the Public Service Language Centre, an active member of LKPA, one of the most modern foreign language teaching centres in Lithuania, started to implement a mobility project funded by the Erasmus + program (KA1 - mobility for learning purposes) for the professional development of the PSLC staff.

During the implementation of the project "21st Century Competences for Modern Language Teaching" (2019-1-LT01-KA104-060307), two PSLC language teaching professionals Regina Mačiuitienė and Daiva Stasiulionienė have improved their professional competences in Germany and Malta, whereas the professional development plans of the other three colleagues were interfered by the covid-19 pandemics and postponed until October–November 2021.

As the teaching of modern world languages is the main activity of the PSLC, it is extremely important for teachers and administrative staff to follow the innovations in the mentioned field and to improve the language teaching practice in the organization. Training in different European countries (Germany, Malta, Italy and Portugal) with the aim to upgrade modern teaching / learning activities, learn how to use ICT in the teaching / learning process, develop competencies in the field of German language examination and testing, improve the English language communication competencies of the PSLC administrative staff - is of vital importance to the language teaching professionals of the organization.

After the training, the project participants Regina Mačiuitienė and Daiva Stasiulionienė shared the gained experience with the colleagues inside and outside the institution, disseminated new experiences through qualification seminars for Lithuanian teachers and events in the media.

Last year, Daiva Stasiulionienė, Lithuanian language teaching expert, teacher trainer and the coordinator of this project, travelled to Malta to develop her EFL skills, that are so important when teaching Lithuanian language to foreigners. Daiva is sharing her experience below:



Daiva: With the increasing numbers of foreigners in Lithuania, English language for me has become an everyday routine tool. Before I had learned English language only by myself, independently. I have been using EL in different fields of life, including my work. However, I never felt confident enough and used to

be embarrassed if I made a mistake. Very soon, after completing the EFL course in Malta, I started coordinating and implementing the online Lithuanian programme to foreigners. The EFL course in Malta was a real breakthrough for me. It was much more useful and effective than the one in Lithuania would have been because during these two weeks in Malta I enrolled in the international group of students and was communicating in English all the time. Now, when speaking English language, I no longer feel embarrassed or stressed and I am much more confident. What is more, I learned the new EFL teaching methods, that I can modify and apply in teaching Lithuanian language to foreigners.



Regina: Participation in the teachers training of the Goethe Institute „Prüfen und Testen“ ("Exams and Testing") from August 4th, 2019 to August 10th, 2019 in Munich was important to me in two respects: on the one hand, information on testing, assessment and self-assessment was relevant to the everyday teaching of German at the Public Service Language Centre. On the other hand, it was a great opportunity to meet colleagues from all over the world and share their experience.

There were analysed not only standardized exams, but also the possibility of self-assessment of language skills and its methods were discussed. The last day of the seminar was dedicated to teamwork: individual groups created and presented exam tasks.

It was an ideal opportunity to develop a wide range of professional skills: knowledge of the criteria for standardized language tests according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), forms of feedback in lessons, preparation for language tests and the organization of self-

evaluation. I was also able to further develop my soft skills: reflecting on my own approach to testing, work and discussion in groups and teamwork. And all in the German language!

The PSLC is a licensed examination centre of the Goethe-Institut. Therefore, the knowledge I have acquired is important for ensuring the quality of exams. However, it is equally important in the language learning process to promote the motivation and self-assessment of each learner's learning progress. Now after the teachers training in Munich, I can actively share these ideas with colleagues both in our Language Centre and in the wider circle of teachers. The material has already been presented in the PSLC seminars for German teachers from all over Lithuania. You can find my article on topic testing and evaluating in the magazine of the Lithuanian German Teachers Association (in German):

https://www.ldv.lt/images/PDF/Miteinander/2019_Herbst/Miteinander_online_19_2_Nr._59.pdf

Three PSLC professionals - Asterija Rudienė (Study Director and EFL teacher) Asta Jarutienė (Manager for commerce and PR) and Rita Samukienė (administrator and ELF teacher) are looking forward to their mobilities taking place in October 2021 and are sharing their thoughts on their expectations:



Asterija: I recognize that there is a need for methodology and pedagogical strategies that are consistent with both local realities and European space exploring understanding of the school content through various tools for innovative problem solving. For this reason I have chosen the course „STIMULATING CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION/FUTURE CLASSROOM METHODOLOGY OF TEACHING“ at the CREF - Educational Resources and Training Centre in Portugal which is one of the most important establishments of the region of Setúbal. On top of that, this course includes STEAM methodologies and visit to schools which

are developing methodologies according to the use of the "Future Classroom", including mobile devices in education as for me international experience is highly important. I expect to acquire new technological tools and develop my ICT skills which are of the highest importance in hybrid teaching at present as well as get new ideas for future classroom in order to foster students' creativity and innovation. My knowledge acquired during the course will help improve self-esteem of the students through encouraging their creative thinking and fostering their imagination, get higher motivation to remain on task by working in small groups, develop actively and constructively students' involvement in the work at class, encourage students to take the ownership of their own learning, improve teamwork skills, put into practice the principal that "teachers become learners at times, and learners sometimes teach", develop students' lateral thinking skills. My participation will help exchange experiences and intercultural practices in cooperative and collaborative learning process. After the course I am planning to share the knowledge with my colleagues, teachers, lecturers. Thus, the quality of our activities will get improved including teaching strategies using web platforms, ICT tools, evaluation, smoothen communication with our clients. I hope it will help organize better online events, conferences and lessons.



Asta: I have chosen English language courses at Gateway School of English in Malta because it is a great opportunity to learn English in an English-speaking environment: all teachers are native speakers, about 90 percent of Maltese are able to speak English. The best way to learn a language is to take it naturally, unconsciously from the language environment - it is the so-called "immersion" method. Proficiency in English is a necessary tool these days, so improving it will

definitely help my work environment in communicating with partners, clients, improving other skills that are provided in English. I look forward to interesting and effective English language courses that will significantly improve my current knowledge and motivate me to further my independent learning. The acquired knowledge will undoubtedly improve communication with foreign clients, partners, participation in international projects and facilitate the reading, viewing of English content. My improved knowledge of English will definitely contribute to smoother communication and image enhancement of PSLC.



Rita: The main reason I have chosen this training course Teaching languages in the digital era: the best apps, web platforms and ICT resources for learning languages in Bologna Erasmus Learning Academy is because it focuses on ICT tools and I believe will allow me to improve my ICT skills in a practical and concrete way.

I have no doubt that the course will have higher added value compared to the national in-service training course. First, even if we have ICT courses, they are being run by foreign lectures, and they are rare. Secondly, different lectures have their different programmes and impart different knowledge. On top of that, teachers and individuals working in the education field in Europe get a rare opportunity to come together and increase the range of their knowledge, understanding and experience through everyday cooperation and networking activities.

The course promises to introduce the best apps, web platforms and ICT resources for learning languages; how to create and use multimedia content to teach a foreign or native language; to teach the basic concepts about web design, blended learning and e-learning; give a new perspective on ICT tools and learn new ways and best practices to use them to teach a language etc., and

such knowledge will definitely make my teaching process more effective, motivating and interactive. 7 days in English speaking environment will be a great opportunity to merge totally in English way of thinking, broaden my impact on the personal development of the students and in particular on intercultural understanding and foreign language proficiency. I am looking forward to getting acquainted with new ways of teaching and learning, learning more about web platforms and ICT resources for teaching, especially getting more ideas about how to create a lesson around a video, an interactive presentation with Prezi, a website or blog with Weebly, and it goes without saying, merging in English environment. The course is aimed at empowering teachers to use the best apps, web platforms and ICT resources and that is especially relevant these days when we have shifted to teaching online. The knowledge it promises is directly related to teaching profession and will enable me to absorb the best practices as well as to exchange and share experiences with participants coming from all Europe. Hence, I strongly believe that the knowledge acquired will help make the teaching more effective, motivating, and interactive. I will hold a practical seminar on my return and share the newly gained points I have learnt so that all the teachers at our centre could apply them in practice.

European Languages Day 2021



On 24 September 2021 European Language Day was celebrated in Vilnius. This year European Day of Languages inviting THINK4JOBS project to join in - VU students will test high school students' CT skills in the European Language Maze BATTLE OF BRAINS.

Public Service Language Centre in partnership with the Directorate-General for Translation of the Council of Europe organized an online final of the Battle of Brains "European Language Maze 2021" run by a professional master of Brain Battles Artūras Vyšniauskas with the participation of 10 teams of sixteen-year-old students from 10 different towns of Lithuania. These 10 teams of sixteen-year-olds without any doubt were the smartest and the brightest that heated the battle for the grand prix of the contest. The winners - the high school of Kaunas Health Sciences teenagers' team - have been awarded a trip to the European Parliament by the European Parliament member Andrius Kubilius.

This year THINK4JOBS project Critical Thinking for Successful Jobs - Think4Jobs (uowm.gr) has joined the European Language Maze BATTLE OF BRAINS - Vilnius University students will analyse the YouTube recording how 10 teams of high school students from all over Lithuania will be discussing, looking for keys and solving dilemmas in the online Battle of Brains, analysing the players' open-mindedness, analyticity, inquisitiveness, self-confidence and cognitive maturity, as well as their interpretation, truth-seeking and other CT skills while they will be trying to find the answers to the Battle of Brains' questions.



European Day of Languages is a chain of events. Traditionally, since 2001 when it was proclaimed by the Council of Europe, 26th September has been celebrated as The European Day of Languages. It is the day when all Europeans remember how multilingual Europe is and aim to promote multilingualism as one of the major values and uniqueness of the European Union, nourish tolerance among cultures and encourage learning languages at school, university and lifelong. Every year in Lithuania a chain of events take place in different venues in the city: Opening of the Exhibition of Children's Illustrations of European Songs was

opened at the Visitors Centre of the Lithuanian Parliament

<https://www.facebook.com/613596008763118/posts/4245786638877352/?sfnsn=mo> ,where the authors of the best works were awarded by the speaker of the Parliament. Also, the awards were handed in to the best translators of the European songs' lyrics into Lithuanian language.

Another exciting experience will be online Workshops of Languages where children and adults were invited "on a date" with less widely used languages. This year the participants were "dating" with Greek, Hungarian, Estonian, English, French, Finnish and Japanese languages. The Workshops of Languages were be run online by foreign diplomatic missions residing in Lithuania.

Public Service Language Centre in partnership with the Directorate-General for Translation of the Council of Europe and Association of Lithuanian Language Teachers have been organizing the events of the European Day of Languages since 2009. Every year students from HEI volunteer in organizing various events on the European Day of Languages and help encourage learning languages, especially less widely used ones.

We wish all the teachers of languages and their students never to stop learning languages that help us discover new horizons and cultures, meet new people and make friends for life. Never stop learning!



Dr. Almantė Meškauskienė, Deputy Director of Foreign Languages Institute at Vytautas Magnus University, President of LKPA

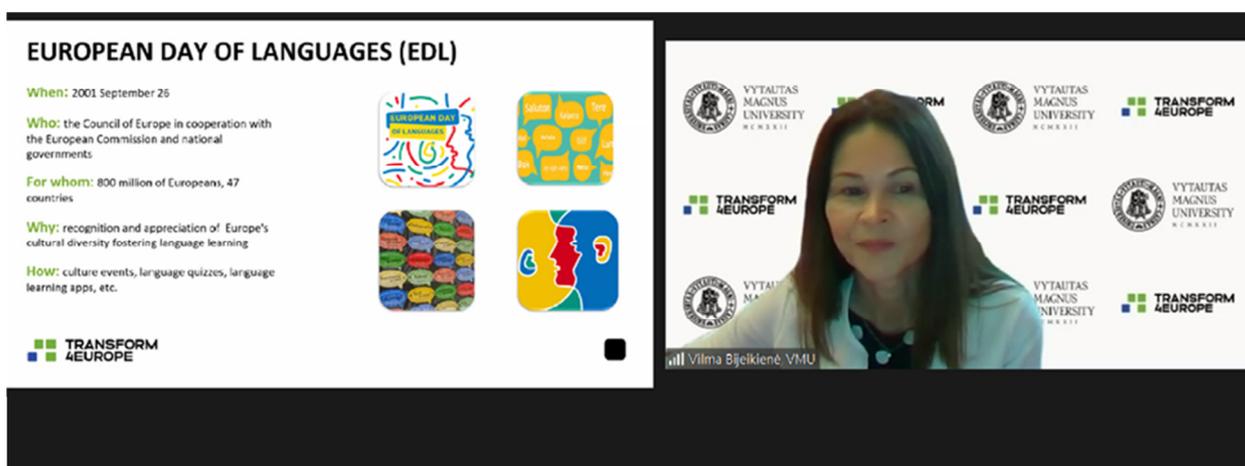
The First International European Day of Languages at Vytautas Magnus University

Which nation celebrates the Alphabet Day? How to read a German word which is one line long or even longer easily? What is the most beautiful sentence in Estonian? Is the concept of time understood in the same way in every country? Moreover, how to use this knowledge in academic and professional activities? These are just a few of the questions answered at the International Event for European Day of Languages.

For the first time, the Institute of Foreign Languages of Vytautas Magnus University, an active member of LKPA, celebrated this day together with six Transform4Europe Alliance partners. During the opening ceremony, Dr Claudia Polzin-Haumann, Professor at the University of Saarland, one of the initiators of this international network introduced the Transform4Europe initiative and mentioned that the event aims to “increase the knowledge of the partner university communities about the languages of the Transform4Europe Alliance”.



The importance of the European Day of Languages and such an event was also emphasized by the Vice-Rector for Communication of Vytautas Magnus University, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vilma Bijeikienė. "In this 20th-anniversary celebration of Day of Languages, which brought together all the Alliance partners and a good number of their students, we would like to share the Alliance's ambition to develop multilingualism in Europe, to learn about and value its cultural diversity, to encourage language learning among the Transform4Europe community, and to continue the discussion on the benefits and potential challenges of linguistic and cultural diversity in an active collaboration with business and other organizations," she said.



More than 400 participants met representatives of international companies and organizations. Participants learned more about intercultural and multilingual communication and its importance, and the need for languages in the labor market. The students also received practical advice, and various hilarious cases related to translation mistakes and misunderstandings were shared. There was the opportunity to "taste" the languages of the Transform4Europe Alliance and participate in interactive multilingual activities.

Language Tasters

Since 2001, the VMU Institute of Foreign Languages has been celebrating the European Day of Languages with the rest of Europe by organizing various events to celebrate the occasion. During this international event, participants from different countries had the opportunity to "taste" the languages of the Transform4Europe Alliance: Bulgarian, Catalan, Estonian, German, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, or Spanish, during which many interesting facts were

revealed, and participants had the opportunity to learn words and phrases in one language or another. Speakers also advised participants not to be afraid to speak, communicate, and learn languages, as they both open doors to careers and new experiences and help them see the world through slightly different eyes.



Presentations of businesses and other organizations

During the European Day of Languages celebration, Transform4Europe Alliance students, teachers, and university staff were invited to listen to presentations from businesses and other organizations in four foreign languages - English, Spanish, Italian, and German. The following organizations have made valuable and memorable contributions to the program:

Kaunas In (Lithuania);

Estonian Academy of Arts (Estonia);

The Council of Europe's Language Policy Unit (EU);

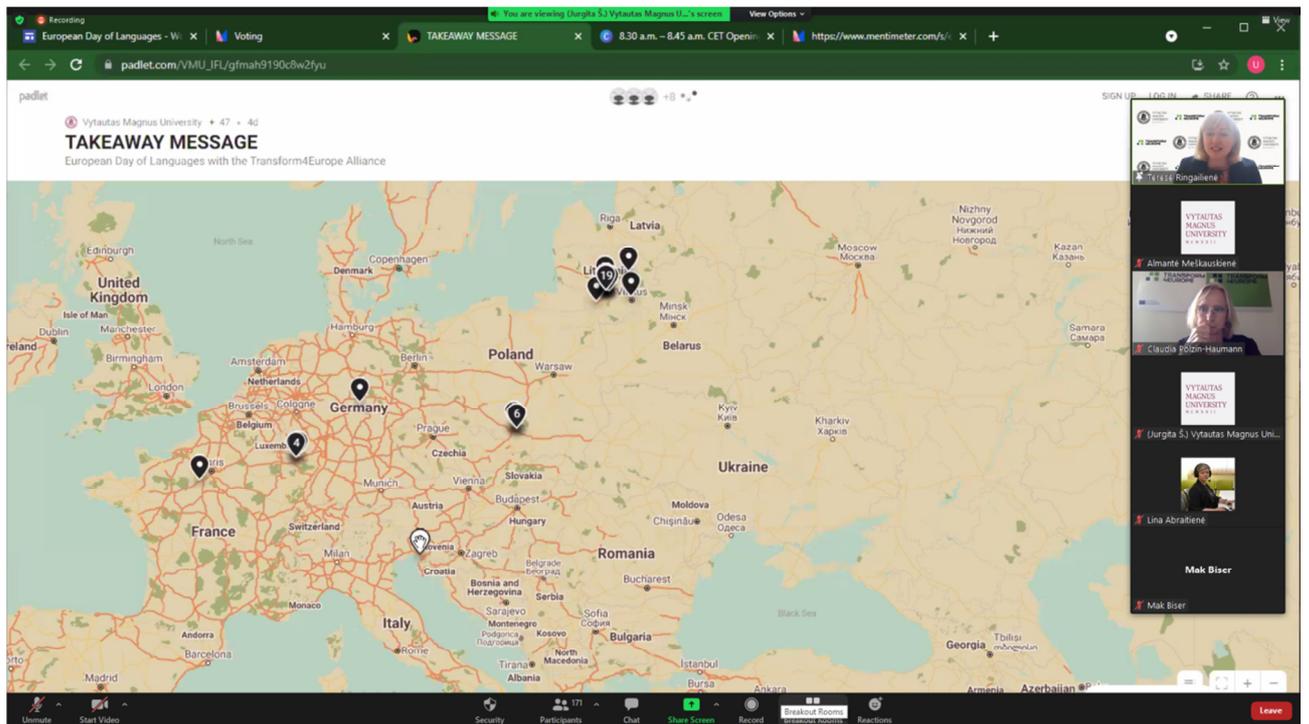
Saarland Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Germany);

UAB Festo (Lithuania);

The Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy);

CapGemini (Poland);

All answers on the map can be seen here.



In her closing remarks, head of Transform4Europe Dr Cyntia Sandes Oliveira stressed that the meeting had been “not only interesting but also touching at some points”. She summed up by adding that she was “moved by the Bulgarian video, encouraged by the German presentation and delighted by the Italian language taster”. In addition, she memorized new words in her formerly foreign Lithuanian, Estonian, and Polish languages. She was delighted to hear Catalan and Spanish again, languages that are so dear to her as well. Dr Cyntia Sandes Oliveira invited everyone to the prominent Transform4Europe events in 2022: the European Festival of Cultures in Kaunas on 4–7 May and the Mobility Week in Katowice, Poland on 9–13 May.

On the European Day of Languages

The event was an excellent opportunity for everyone to have a positive experience, to learn more about some European languages, to get to know the intricacies of working in an international environment, and to network in the Transform4Europe, which focuses on developing future European knowledge entrepreneurs, with plurilingual and intercultural skills, and on promoting change in Europe.

The Council of Europe declared 2001 the European Year of Languages, and 26 September became the European Day of Languages, involving millions of people from 47 participating countries every year. The day aims to foster and enrich Europe's wealth of languages and cultures, promote plurilingualism and motivate Europeans to learn languages through a range of informal activities. Every year, the VMU Institute of Foreign Languages joins this initiative, giving the University community, students, and all Kaunas citizens the opportunity to learn different languages.

ESTONIA

EATE SUMMER SEMINAR SUCCESSFULLY HELD



Ilmar Anvelt, EATE Committee member

The EATE Summer Seminar was planned to take place in Pärnu on 24–25 August 2021. Before the seminar, the EATE Committee members were in doubt whether to hold or to cancel it, as the covid-19 situation in Estonia had deteriorated again, and the government had issued a regulation that vaccination certificates were required at indoor events.

We still decided to organise the event and were right to do so. The checking of certificates went smoothly and did not cause any misunderstandings. The participants also liked our new venue, the Lydia Koidula Gymnasium in Pärnu.

As characteristic of the present-day situation, there were live presentations, mostly by local speakers, presentations made on zoom and pre-recorded videos

by our foreign guests who could not turn up in person. Participants seemed to prefer live presentations as seen from their opinions from the questionnaire they filled in at the end of the event.

"I also realised that listening and seeing a speaker in person or face-to-face is much more effective." "Video lessons (not the ones in zoom but actual videos) - I understand that it is the result of the present situation, but I prefer zoom to video."

As EATE turns 30 this year, we had a small anniversary celebration with coffee and cake and a presentation by a surprise speaker - Justin Petrone, a writer and journalist of Italian-American origin who has lived in Estonia for quite a long time.

The term in office of the current EATE Committee is running out with the end of the year. Usually, we have had elections during our seminars, but considering that it may be difficult for members to turn up in person in the current situation, we decided to hold the election electronically during the autumn semester.

As usual, the members received the new issue of our magazine OPEN! which this time includes articles about language teaching methodology, the English language in India, history of teaching English in Estonia, etc. In addition to locals, there are also authors from Canada and the US.

I end with a response to the questionnaire from another member of ours: "EATE is more than just connections. It is inspiration, sharing, traditions, etc. A form of consolidation. Seeing new lecturers and meeting nice friends. Uniting us in Estonia." Photos by Reet Noorlaid.



Ülle Türk, one of our most active presenters. One of our oldest members, Nora Toots.



Participants picking up snacks at our 30th anniversary reception. A workshop in computer class.

Alle Jahre wieder kommt das Sommerseminar des Estnischen Deutschlehrerverbandes



Diana Kollin-Poom, Deutsches Gymnasium Kadriorg in Tallinn

Der Estnische Deutschlehrerverband feiert das 30. Jubiläum. Das ist ein schönes Alter für eine Organisation. Jedes Jahr organisiert der Verband eine Jahreskonferenz, mehrere Schülerwettbewerbe usw. Unter anderem hat der Verband auch die Funktion, estnischen Deutschlehrern kurz vor dem Schuljahresbeginn ein Sommerseminar zu organisieren und anzubieten. Und so schon 29 Mal. Im nächsten Jahr wird die Tradition, wie auch schon der Verband, 30 Jahre alt.



Estnische Deutschlehrer sind durchaus aktive und kreative Menschen, deshalb wird das Sommerseminar immer wieder von Mitgliedern des Verbandes organisiert. Obwohl es zeitaufwendig ist und es oft viel Kraft verlangt, ein Seminar durchzuführen, ist es trotzdem eine Ehrensache. Von Anfang an ist das Seminar ein „Wanderseminar“. Das heißt, jedes Jahr gibt es einen neuen Ort, wo die Lehrkräfte sich während vier Tage treffen. Organisiert wird es von den Deutschlehrern des jeweiligen Landkreises. Bei der Ortswahl ist es immer wichtig, dass man trotz der Arbeit auch an den letzten Tagen der Ferien die Freiheit genießen kann. Normalerweise fährt man dann in die Natur und in der Nähe gibt es auch einen See oder sogar das Meer, damit sich die größten Wasserratten vor der Sauna, während der Sauna und nach der Sauna über Wasser freuen können. Für kleines Gebühre kann man an Ort übernachten und ohne Ende essen. Etwas muss ja auch Spaß machen! Und was verbindet die Menschen besser als Gespräche beim Essen und gemeinsamer Gesang beim Grillen?! Ein Ziel des Seminars ist ja Kollegen einander näher zu bringen. Man sieht ehemalige Kommilitonen, neue und jüngere Kollegen, eigene Lehrer und sogar Schüler.



Der Verband legt großen Wert auf Selbstentwicklung der Mitglieder. Darum fehlt im Programm nie eine Fortbildung. Oft findet man Lektoren unter eigenen Menschen, aber ab und zu gibt es auch Lektoren aus Deutschland, Österreich oder der Schweiz. Sehr wichtig ist die Möglichkeit, die Erfahrungen auszutauschen. Oft kann man dadurch auf eigene Fragen oder Sorgen eine Lösung finden.

Zum Sommerseminar gehören Ausflüge in die Umgebung. Man lernt eigenes Land gut kennen und unterstützt das Existieren der Einheimischen.

Am letzten Seminartag wird der Ort des nächsten Sommerseminars bekanntgegeben und dann bleibt es übrig, 12 lange Monate darauf zu warten.

Jetzt kurzer Überblick über diesjähriges Seminar.

Nach einer Corona-bedingten Pause im letzten Jahr fand das Sommerseminar dieses Jahr wie schon früher erwähnt das 29. Mal statt.

Am 16. August sammelten sich 29 Lehrer in Metsajõe in Järvamaa. Da es wegen der Corona-Pandemie schwer ist, einen Lektoren vom Ausland nach Estland zu bringen, führten die Fortbildungen die Mitglieder des EDV durch. Die Themen, die behandelt wurden, waren z.B. Bewertungskriterien in der Schule, Bewegungsspiele für den Unterricht, Programm fürs Herstellen der interaktiven Übungen. Der Verband macht enge Zusammenarbeit mit dem Goethe Institut Estland und man präsentierte kommende Projekte und interessante Internetseiten vom GI. Es wird immer auch über die Funktion und Zukunft des Verbandes und die Regelung der Lehrerfortbildungen von EDLV gesprochen. Als Letztes wurde über die Situation der deutschen Sprache in Estland diskutiert. Leider wird in Estland die Zahl der Deutschlernernden Jahr für Jahr kleiner und man muss etwas vornehmen, um die Situation zu verbessern.



Am zweiten Tag beschäftigten sich die Lehrkräfte mit dem integrierten und Sachfachunterricht. Man hat näher über elektronische Sprachtests in der 7. Klasse, die schon im Oktober in den Schulen durchgeführt werden, erzählt. Am Nachmittag gab es ein kulturelles Programm: Der Besuch ins Kinderwagenmuseum in Käru und die Stadtführung in Paide waren sehr beeindruckend und unterhaltsam.

Nach dem Abendessen im Gutshof Kirna konnten alle im Park die gewünschten Chakren reinigen und öffnen.

Die Rolle der Deutschbalten in Estland und in Järvamaa in der Vergangenheit war wichtig und man hörte eine thematische Vorlesung.

Die estnischen Deutschlehrer müssen sehr froh und dankbar sein, dass jemand vor 30 Jahren auf die Idee gekommen ist, ein Sommerseminar zu machen. Man braucht das und das zeigt auch das jährliche große Interesse. (Fotos von Kalle Lina)



STÍL – SAMTÖK
TUNGUMÁLAKENNARA
Á ÍSLANDI

STÍL, Iceland, “We are back in business”



Prof. Hólmfríður Garðarsdóttir, PhD., President of STÍL

“We are back in business” is a popular saying and a quite relevant one for the Association of Language Teachers - STÍL - in Iceland in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic. The new board, elected in May 2021, composed of

representatives from the different languages commonly taught around the island (Danish, English, French, German, Spanish and Icelandic) has, after a restful and quiet summer, recently introduced its upcoming fall activities.

Firstly, in collaboration with the University of Iceland's Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages, and support from the Ministry of Education and Culture, the association celebrated the European Day of Languages on the 28th of September with an event organized for language teachers. Its purpose was to introduce the soon to be inaugurated Living Language Lab, hosted by the institute under the auspice of UNESCO, where guests can „explore some of the many languages spoken in the world today and learn about the life-cycles of languages.“



(Photographs from the European Day of Languages event)

In The Living Language Lab, guests get a chance to glimpse into the world of languages and get to know some of the many languages spoken in the world today. The Living Language Lab provides a cross-section of the vast language spectrum of the Earth from the biggest world-languages with hundreds of millions of speakers to small and endangered ones.

-We learn about the many sides of languages with the help of interactive multimedia and virtual reality and hear the voices of the various languages spoken in Iceland today.

-We get an overview of how languages have developed alongside human history for more than 300,000 years and how they have spread and travelled across the globe.

-Finally we get acquainted with the life-cycle of languages which, like other living organisms, are born and develop before finally dying out. We also consider how it is possible to conserve languages so they can prosper for years to come.

Furthermore, the fall will be marked by monthly workshops open to all active and curious language teacher. Each session, organized on Saturday mornings from 10 - 12 o'clock, is promoted as an integral part of teacher's continuous education and as a practical contribution to language learning and teaching on the island. At the September workshop teachers were introduced to the ARC - Action Research Project conducted by the ECML in Graz, Austria, from 2016 - 2020, promoting teachers self-evaluation and progress as critical observers of their own contributions in the classroom. For more information see: <https://www.ecml.at/> .

The October workshop titled: "Transculturation. Language as a tool of transition" introduces a particularly timely topic for teachers on an island where immigration is a relatively recent reality and the challenges it entails within the everyday school environment. The organizers explain that: "Transculturation involves the ongoing process of transformation that an individual experiences when two (or more) different cultures come into contact. It is a gradual progression of change

standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, and teaching and learning conditions. The Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel was adopted in 1997 to complement the 1966 Recommendation by covering teaching personnel in higher education. World Teachers' Day has been celebrated since 1994.

World Teachers' Day is co-convened in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF and Education International (EI).

More detailed information is available here:

<https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldteachersday>



Electronic Newsletter is issued by:

NBR President Sigurborg Jónsdóttir, Iceland;

NBR Secretary Eglė Šleinotienė, Lithuania;