

news from european classrooms

Project Coordinator's Message



Dear Readers,

We offer to your attention the third issue of the newsletter of the Erasmus+ project "Development and Implementation of Innovative Methods of Teaching in the Multicultural European Classroom to Increase Student Literacy and Prevent Early School Leaving".

In April we had the fifth transnational meeting in Latvia. It was also one week of joint teaching staff training, which included express in-service training, sharing experience, open lessons and visiting different institutions. Further information about these events you can get from this newsletter.

Enjoy reading!

Ludmila Renge, Project Coordinator

Inside this issue:

Aims and Objectives	2
School Description	4
Presentations	6
Program	10
Impressions	14



Aim and Objectives of the Project



Aim

- Exploration of teaching tools and social innovations that will support low achievers, immigrants and multiculturalism in the European classroom and prevent early school leaving.

Objectives

- To investigate the ethnic composition, students' learning success of partner schools in Portugal, Cyprus, Germany, Iceland, Croatia and Latvia and the problems/difficulties that lead immigrants, Roma and other low achievers to early school leaving.
- To develop, implement and share innovative methods of teaching.
- To encourage students to view language literacy as being useful to all citizens and thus enhance literacy and increase the number of students who acquire compulsory education successfully.
- To elaborate ICT learning and teaching tools: CD-ROMs with virtual excursions, GPRS maps, mobile phone applications for Math, Science and Language lessons.
- Through this project we hope to help students to finish school successfully, to enhance their motivation, tolerance and inter-cultural competences.
- To develop, test and implement innovative approaches in teaching Maths, Science and Foreign and schooling languages.

Important outcomes expected in this project include the availability of lesson plans and resources for other teachers and the increase of teachers' professional competences.

The pedagogical staff of participating schools intends to implement, improve the resources in their everyday practice, disseminate among the colleagues. We believe it is crucially important to work in that direction because it encourages improvement of personal, professional and social competences of all participants.

For presentations, photos and more, please visit: <http://erasmus.pdps.lv/>





LATVIA

School name: Rigas Pardaugas Pamatskola
Headteacher: Irena Shinkareva
Coordinator: Ludmila Renge



CROATIA

School name: Osnovna Skola Marjan
Headteacher: Zdenka Barović
Coordinator: Zvonimir Vuković



GERMANY

School name: Stadtische Adolf-Reichwein -
Gesamtschule
Headteacher: Frank Bisterfeld
Coordinator: Ralph David



PORTUGAL

School name: Agrupamento De Escolas Gaia
Nascente
Headteacher: Sergio Afonso
Coordinators: Maria Naïr Fontes/Laura Castro Moreira



ICELAND

School name: Grunnskolin a Isafirdi
Headteacher: Sveinfriour Veturlioadottir
Coordinator: Halla Guðbjörg



CYPRUS

School name: Gymnasio Palouriotissas
Headteacher: David David
Coordinator: Christina Chimaridou

5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017

Written by the Icelandic Team



Brief description of the school

We visited Riga Pardaugava Basic school that is situated in the district of Riga city, old Ziepniekkalns. It has about 350 students age 6 – 16 years and about 50 teachers. The school also has a special teacher and two speech therapists, medical therapists and a psychologist.



In the school's lobby there is an employee that can monitor the activity on the school premises through CCTV. There was one policeman watching the schoolground to keep it safe. The building is not new but has everything that a school needs. On the walls there are artwork made by the students and a project about Riga.

5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017



The school is well equipped with computers, it has two computer rooms and many classrooms have smart boards. We had the opportunity to visit some classes and the students were open and friendly. The students don't wear uniforms. There is no teachers lounge in the school.



PARTICIPANTS

Latvia

- Ludmilla Renge,
- Irena Shinkareva
- Yelena Chernakova
- Liena Bizune
- Tatjana Moisejeva
- Anna Silova
- Tatjana Zaščirinska
- Anatolijs Sokols

Portugal

- Maria João Rios
- Maria Nair Fontes.

Croatia

- Zdenka Barović
- Zvonimir Vuković
- Vesela Visic

Cyprus

- Christina Chimaridou
- Eva Adamou

Germany

- Ralph David
- Astrid Ebnicher
- Carsten Lampe

Iceland

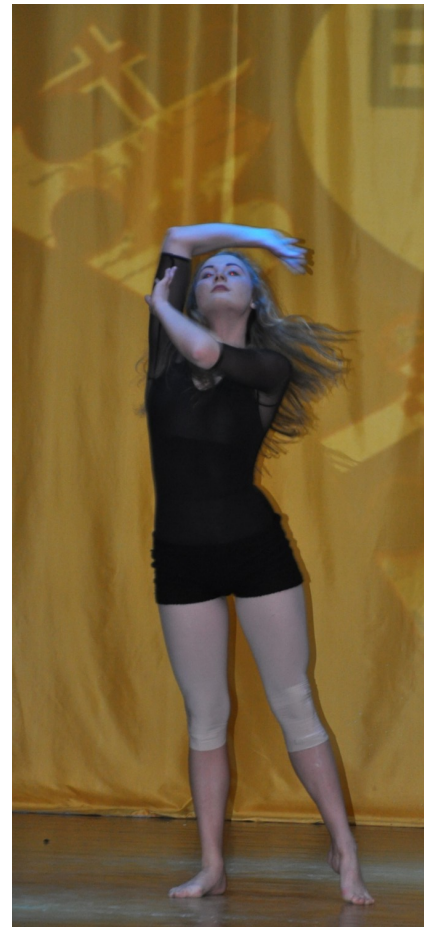
- Guðbjörg Halla Magnadóttir
- Bryndís Bjarnason
- Sveinfríður Olga Veturliðadóttir
- Helga Björt Möller

5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017



Our tour through the school ended with a great show where students and former students entertained us with dancing, music and singing.



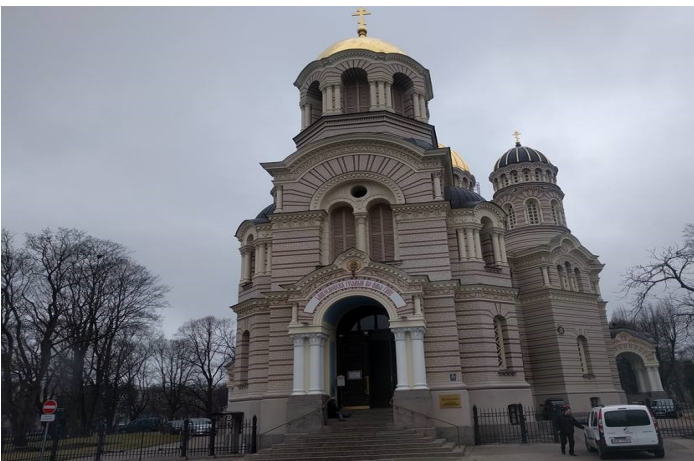




Touring around Riga

Our coordinator Ludmila Renge showed us her amazing skills as a tour guide and introduced to us the history of Riga. The old town, the architecture and many stories about buildings and people who lived in this beautiful capital of Latvia.







Visit to Bishumuizha Technical Centre

On our second day in Riga we visited Bishumuizha Technical Centre. We had a guided tour around the institution. The Bishumuizha Technical Centre was very impressive. Students can go there after school on weekdays and join workshops. It does not cost so much and you can choose between many different kinds of activity, like Lego, making masks, glide planes and many more. Our workshop was working with glass and ceramics. Every teacher made something in this workshop and took it home as a souvenir of a good time in the Centre. We also got a cup with the Centres logo as a present.



5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017



5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017



Open Class Day



5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017



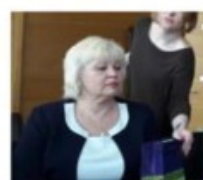
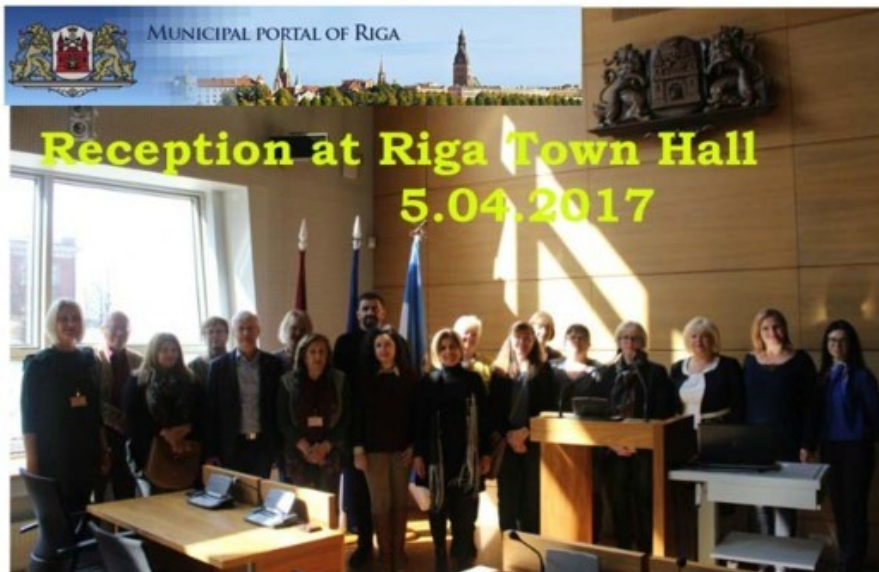
5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017



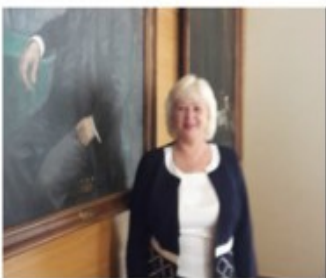
On our third day in Riga we had a visit from a representative of the Agency of Latvian Language Erica Pishukane who works with refugees and she told us about how the city plans their coming to the country and guides them into the community. We went to a concert in the Riga Cathedral and got a tour around the building after the concert. Then we went to the Town Hall and to a virtual flight above Riga in a 5D movie.



5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017



5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017





Happy Art Museum

Thursday was spent in the Happy Art Museum where all the teams did their presentations.



Friendship dinner at school



Happy Art Museum — Iceland

Halla, Bryndís and Helga held a lecture focusing on how their school uses the latest technology in teaching.

Halla explained why they chose to go this way, that is what theories are behind it. Since students learn in different ways the teaching needs to be diverse. The school is still using conventional methods, reading books, writing with a pencil etc. But the use of more technological teaching methods has increased for the last years. Mostly through using ipads but that is for 5th grade and up. Halla also talked about pros and cons of the new technology.

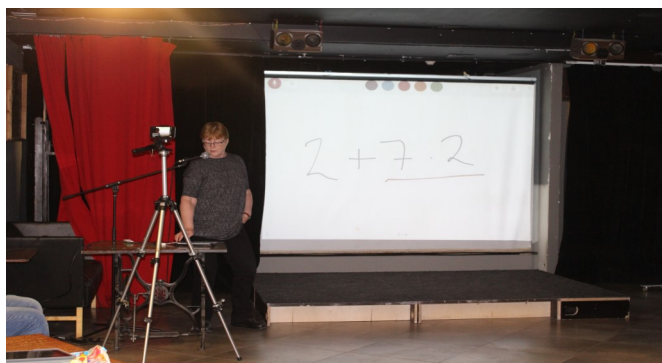


Halla showed the group few of the applications they use the most in school. The applications are Nearpod, Keynote, Showbie, Google classroom, Kahoot, Math and cheese and some more. The school uses only free application.

Helga



talked about the way she uses the application Bitsboard for teaching icelandic as a second language. She showed a video where a young student is practising his first



words in icelandic through the application and how useful the application is when a student does 'nt know how to read and write in the latin alphabet. It's really useful to hear the sound of the letters and the new words and possible for the student to hear it, even if the teacher is helping another student.

Bryndís showed the group a video her students made. At the video they are working in physics and explaining soundwaves and what causes them to be high or deep.



Happy Art Museum – Germany

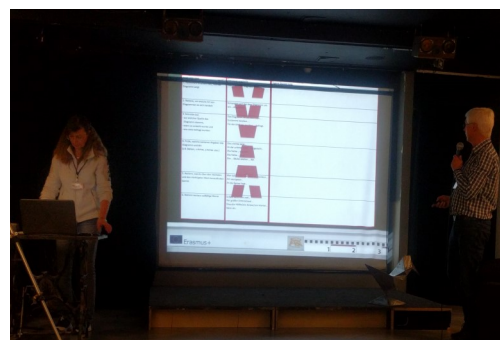
Ralph explained how Germany and their school has been dealing with a increased number of students which are refugees. Some of those students come to Germany all by themselves and without parents and live in an SOS children village. Many of these kids are traumatized and have some heavy experience in their past.

The school has got some extra financing to meet the needs of these kids. These new students go through two types of classes, level 1 and level 2 in german as a second language, over 20 hours a week were the kids are only studying german. After finishing these two levels (it doesn't take everybody the same time) they go to ordinary



classes to increase their change of adapting to everyday life in Germany. Ralph showed us an interview with a teenage boy the came to Germany only few months ago. The boy was already speaking german and seemed very satisfied with his new life there. Astrid talked about the development of german as a second language and how differently students use is through the daily routine. The language has many

fields and children have to learn what language is appropriate in each activity. In their school they divide the german as a second language knowledge into 2 parts, BICS (basic, interpersonal, communication, skills), that is the vocabulary people use in daily communications) and CALP (cognitive, academic, language, proficiency). CALP is the vocabulary people use in educational process and is really important in the field of building up a professional future. Astrid also talked about scaffolding and the methods they use to support students that are learning the new language. Carsten told the group about a project he made (an idea from Croatia) in chemistry where he connected studying the elements gold and silver with singing and rhythm. His students made a text, a lyric about the features of the elements and then the students rapped it. It was an interesting approach where different subjects are connected.





Happy Art Museum – Portugal

Maria held a lecture where she showed the group how they have been working with modern technology in their school. She introduced a project about the human body their students worked on using ICT tools, the project was very successful.



In their school they have also been using the computer program Photomath on math projects and through that students have been able to try new approaches working on their math.

After working with this new computer technology Maria

and Nair made a small survey where they used to program Webquest. The students were asked how they felt about this new approach. A majority of the students really enjoyed it and wanted to use this technique more often. It appeared to them that the project was a nice success.



Happy Art Museum—Croatia

Integration via Science lessons (national heritage, tourism, nature). In Split and Salona



there are a lot of historical artifacts and ruins, up to 2000 years old and the area is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Roman Emperor Diocletian was born in Salona and spent a great deal of time there.

The project aims to combine natural and cultural heritage. Students were taught about religion, religious symbols and sites in Salona and stories about Christian martyrs, Roman gods and culture.



Students also learned about the amphitheater and the events that took place in it. The students went on a field trip to Salona and explored the area and the artifacts that can be seen there. They received a visit to the school, went to museums and worked on various projects. Finally the students utilized all they had learned to create social games.

Happy Art Museum — Cyprus



The number of immigrants in Cyprus has increased rapidly and teachers there, like in much of Europe, must adjust to meet the needs of children of various nationalities. The aim of the project is to give the students a chance to learn Greek, increase their Greek vocabulary and use the language and culture of their

nation. The students who took part in the project come from 8 different countries. They were divided into groups according to nationality and then they chose fairy tales, folk tales, poems in their mother tongue and translated it, first into English and then into Greek with the help of their teacher. The students acted, sang and then dubbed their acts. The acts were then recorded and shown to each group's class. The students were excited to be able to present fairy tales from their own country and felt that what they were doing mattered because they had a chance to use their own language and learn the language of others. With this sort of project, immigrant students can learn Greek in an enjoyable way and their Greek vocabulary and proficiency is increasing.





Happy Art Museum — Latvia



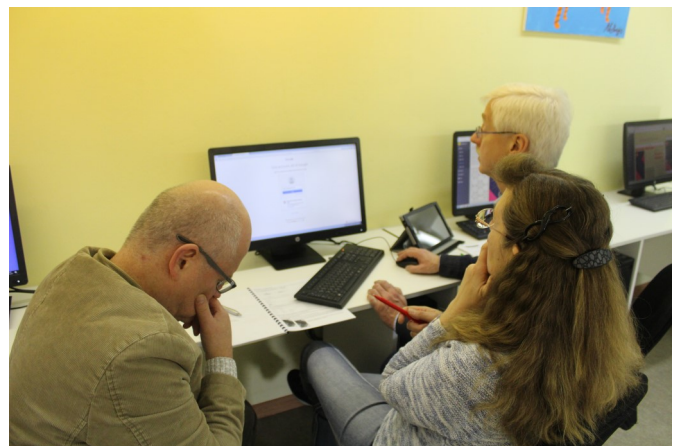
The team told us about a project they made about famous Latvian poet. The students visited his house and read poems at his favorite places and filmed it. This is a part of a bigger project about historical and cultural education and breaking up the pace of everyday classroom.

ICT tools to promote students learning motivation (virtual excursions, learning applications for mobiles to increase students interest and motivation). Express in-service training:

During the week we had three lessons from a ICT- specialist from Bishumuizha Technical Center. First he held a small lecture about mobile phones and the possibilities that arose when the smartphones arrived on the market and the difference between applications (apps) and web site. Then we learned about the Siberian that is a platform for building apps. We got hands on experience in uploading files, pictures and quizzes on the app. Each country got a special task to work on in the tour around the city. All instructions were printed out in our program book so we could follow them when we get home and want to keep on experimenting. In the last class every team got access to an app that had been prepared for us and we registered it on google play so now everyone has an app up and running.



5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017



5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017





Jurmala

After the last session with Philip (the ICT specialist) on Friday we had a bus tour to Jurmala. On the way we stopped at an outside museum that showed buildings and equipment from farming and fishing. Then we had a tour around Jurmala center and the beach. Our friendship dinner was then held in the restaurant Laiks (means time), where we had a wonderful meal with a lot of entertainment, singing, dancing and games (do we know the title of our project). Between courses we took another stroll down to the beach to make room for more food.



5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017



5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017



5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017



Impressions of the participants

Cyprus

Thank you so much Latvian team for the hospitality!

Everything was great!

I will never forget Riga and the friendly people I met. **(Eva)**

Thank you Latvian team for everything! Great country, great people! Hope to meet again in the future! xx **(Christina)**

Germany

Thank you very much, Latvian team. You took so much trouble and hosted us perfectly. It was simply wonderful and I m very sorry I won't be able to join you in Iceland. Say hello to your team, they were fantastic. **(Astrid)**

Dear Ludmila, Irena, Tatjana, Jelena, Liena,

Thank you so much for a great week in Riga.

We enjoyed the experience of this historic town very much.

Your school impressed us a lot, the way everybody was treated with respect (students, teachers, guests), the great achievements and the incredible creativity everywhere. Your music show was awesome.

It was a pleasure and honour to be your guests. We felt perfectly looked after.

As I said on the farewell dinner: a small country but great people. This was an experience we won't forget.

Thank you so much!!! **(Ralph)**

Iceland

Hello dear friends and thank you for a wonderful week in Riga. I hope my family is not getting tired of all the stories I tell about this great city. It is a big bonus to get a guided tour around all the historical places. The trip on our last day was so great that I can honestly say that the beach in Jurmala is my new happy place that I visit in my mind when I am frustrated. **(Halla)**

Portugal

Thank you, Latvian team. We are now at home. The week in Riga, was really lovely. Kisses. I love this Erasmus team. **(Maria Nair)**

Thank you very much. It was a fantastic experience and we were very well treated. **(Maria Joao)**



A note from Ludmila Renge

Dear friends thank you for coming and being with us this week:
for your enthusiasm in acquiring Riga's sights despite cold weather
for your interest in everything we showed you
for fantastically developed workshops for other participants
for unforgettable atmosphere of friendship and support.
See you in Iceland



Erasmus+



**Development and Implementation of Innovative Methods of Teaching
Math, Science and Languages in the Multicultural European Classroom,
to Increase Student Literacy and Prevent Early School Leaving
[2015-1-LV01-KA219-013422]**

LATVIA · CROATIA · CYPRUS · GERMANY · ICELAND · PORTUGAL
<http://erasmus.pdps.lv/>



EDITORIAL TEAM

**Design & Editing:
Coordinator:**

Christina Chimaridou , Palouriotissa Gymnasium, Cyprus
Ludmila Renge, Rigas Pardaugas Pamatskola, Latvia

Issue 3, May 2017