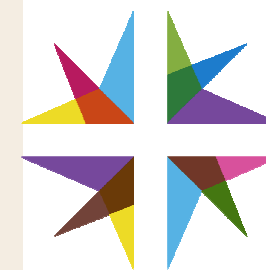


in this issue >>>

- ⇒ Who we are?
- ⇒ First meeting in Riga, Latvia
- ⇒ Second meeting in Pärnu, Estonia
- ⇒ What is done?
- ⇒ Next steps



Project ID: NPAD-2015/10009

During the next 6 months the main task is to make modules. In the meeting in Lithuania it will be important to check through all achievements.

A seminar is planned as part of the meeting where the project teams will make presentations about the developing of 3 modules: Lithuanian team will present the module "Transport", Latvian team will introduce the module "Business" and Estonian team will tell more about the module "Services".

The meeting also intends to have presentations from all institutions about innovative teaching and learning methods and the performance of some practical tasks for the suggested topics.

All the modules will be stored on the project website, which is made and administered by one of the project partners Education Innovation Transfer centre.

In the next project year two weeks before the 3rd meeting, modules will be tested in real educational setting.

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Kėdainių PRC
(Kėdainiai Vocational
Educational Training
Centre)

coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

- ⇒ Modules outcomes
- ⇒ Meeting in Lithuania
- ⇒ Conference in Latvia, Jelgava
- ⇒ Final results
- ⇒ Further approach in work and dissemination of methods

Innovative professional foreign language training - the key to adult learning motivation

current topics >>>

Partner organizations

KEDAINI VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING CENTRE

PÄRNU ADULT GYMNASIUM

LTD "HEIRO"

UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA

EDUCATION INNOVATION TRANSFER CENTRE

Who we are?

Making a good first impression counts!

Organizers and authors of the idea are Kedaini Vocational education training centre (Lithuania) in cooperation with adult education organizations from Latvia and Estonia. The project is being implemented within the framework of the Nordplus program and its objective is to improve and innovate educational systems in the Nordic and Baltic countries. Nordplus program activity is based on the agreement between the participating countries, the existing educational institutions and organizations to support projects that promote learning, sharing and networking.

The first meeting was held in 2015, October 21 – 23, in Riga, the aim of which was to get acquainted with partners, introduce the main activity areas of each organization, as well as learn about the planned project activities.

The main objective - to set up three training modules:

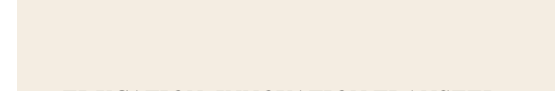
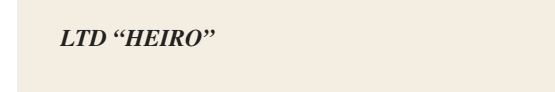
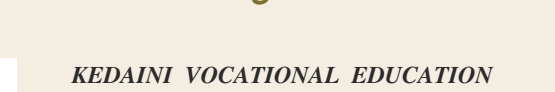
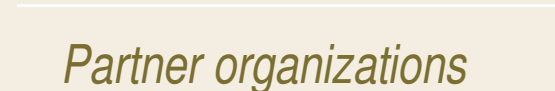
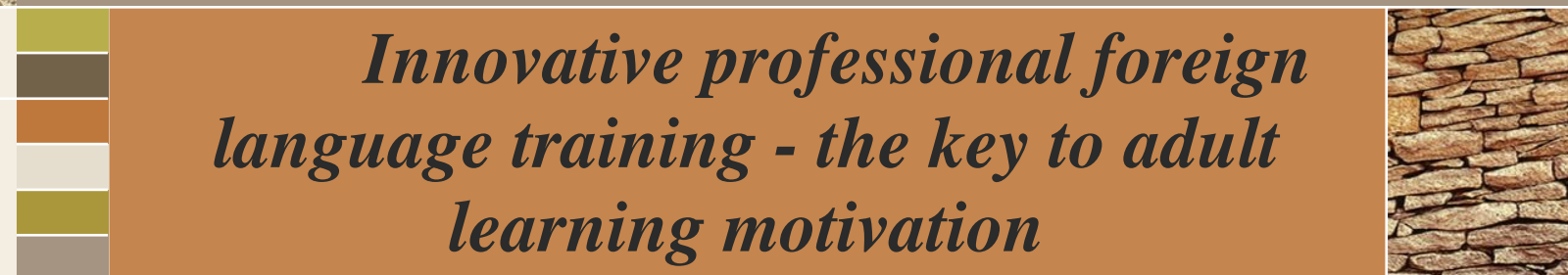
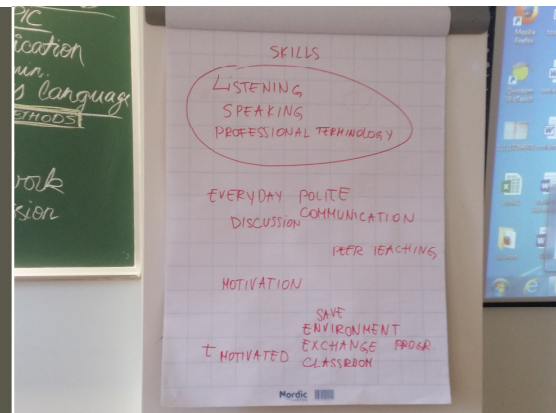
- BUSINESS
- TRANSPORT
- SERVICES

The first step was to make a research. One of the project partners, Ltd "Heiro" initially carried out a survey with the aim to question English teachers, students and employers about their expectations and needs.

The main objective of this project is to elaborate vocational English training modules or blocks of three domains - Business, Transport and Services which is combined with interactive methods and will be used in the vocational English language teaching process. It is important to develop methodology which is motivating for students, facilitates the work of teachers and satisfies the employers' requirements in relation to English language knowledge of their future employees.

Based on the results of the study a modern and interactive training program - in electronic and printed versions - will be developed for vocational school English language teachers which they could use in their daily teaching process.

The duration of the project is defined from September 2015 till September 2017.



First meeting in Riga, Latvia

1st day: First face-to-face meeting started with presentations of each country and discussion about project frame and schedule.



For each country:
50 adult learners
15 professional subject teachers
15 English teachers
30 employers

2nd day: Project participants started the day with management session discussing administrative issues, tools and procedures. Also the timetable of activities was set and timesheets discussed. Much time was devoted to discussing the planned research, the development of the electronic tool for performing the survey and the number of research participants, coming to the agreement:

To collect research data easily, fast and ergonomically, the decision was to create an electronic survey. The project partner **Education Innovation Transfer centre (EITC)** was responsible for making an effective electronic tool where to insert questionnaires. The link with the survey was sent to participants and all the answers were collected automatically.

The analysis of the survey results will be presented in the second project meeting in Pärnu.

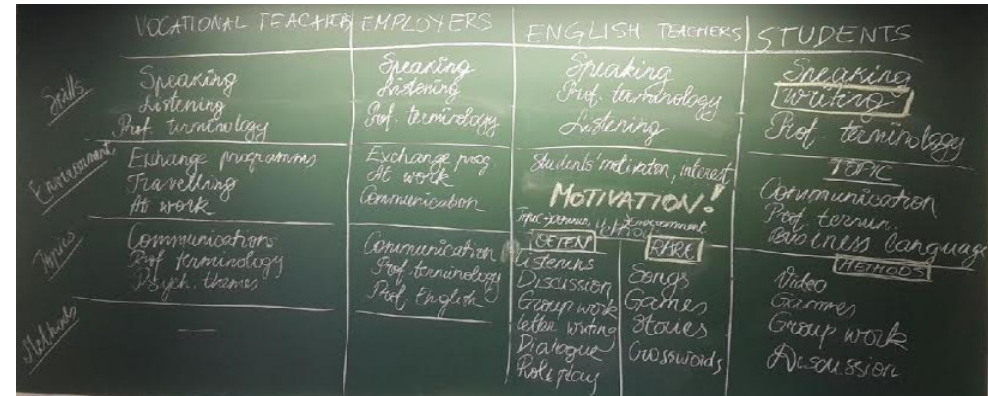


3rd day: The main task was to come to an agreement about the length of the modules, the approach to teaching and learning, the compilation of the glossary and activities. As the content of the modules will largely be based on the research outcomes more time in this meeting was spent on the structure, layout and capacity of modules as well as activities per each unit.

The analysis of the survey results will be presented in the second project meeting in Pärnu.

Research outcomes

The second meeting started with the presentation of the research results. The responsibility for data collection was equally divided among all countries. Data processing, analysis and interpretation were conducted by Ltd HEIRO. The research data showed some useful indications.



STUDENTS:

163 students participated in the research. 33% of them would like to improve their **speaking skills**. Interesting is the fact that almost 40% of them prefer learning in the classroom. A half of all students recognize that the learning process is interesting for them if teachers are using such interactive methods as videos, games, multiple choices tasks, group works and discussion. They like less lecturing, grammar tasks and word memorization. But answers to the question about the meaning of the English language in their life are: better career opportunities and communication with professional colleagues in their work environment.

The above leads to the conclusion that students see the effect of English on their future, they would like to learn English and **to learn it in**

school, but **school**; however, they also admit that an important part is to make the school environment more exciting using interactive methods.

ENGLISH TEACHERS also see that the most attention should be paid to the speaking skills as well as to listening and professional terminology, and methods they use in the teaching process are mostly those that improve these skills. Despite this, teachers find it hard to teach because students lack motivation to learn.

As **EMPLOYERS'** opinion is important, we asked 85 employers to mention some topics they consider important for their employees to know in English. The answers are as follows:

- **Everyday and professional English**
- **Terminology**
- **Polite expressions**



MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- **ENVIRONMENT** (all environments are important, need to bring other environments in school lessons)
- **HANDS-ON approach - LEARNING BY DOING**
- **REFLECTION is important**
- **Main themes:** professional knowledge, speaking, listening, writing skills, communication skills), grammar

- **Emotional and social areas**
- **To clarify customer's needs and desires**
- **The organization of work process**
- **Greetings**

Important language skills in the workplace are listening and speaking as well as knowing and using the professional terminology, so it is of vital importance for students to improve these skills.



All groups of participants think that the best language practice is in **exchange programs**. Actually it means that everyday communication is highly needed. As it is not possible to ensure exchange programs for all students, we should think how to get a similar environment in school.

Timetable

YEAR 2015

September - December

- ⇒ First meeting in Riga
- ⇒ Questionnaires for research

YEAR 2016

January - April

- ⇒ Research
- ⇒ Analyses and interpretation of survey results
- ⇒ Discussion about the structure of modules

May - December

- ⇒ Modules and newsletter development
- ⇒ Presentation of modules, discussion
- ⇒ Seminars about innovative learning methods

YEAR 2017

January - April

- ⇒ Testing of Vocational English language modules
- ⇒ Preparation and issuing the printed version of modules
- ⇒ Conference with employers
- ⇒ Assessment of the project

*Update of the website - constantly

Second project meeting in Pärnu, Estonia

During the project meeting in Pärnu project partners discussed the research results and how to make the modules and tasks user-friendly, i.e., in a way that students and teachers would like to use them. One of the most important parts was students' opinion on what could improve their motivation to learn. Based on it, the project partners need to develop tasks that include the suggested topics.

Another serious topic was to plan a detailed structure of each unit in the module. Organizations that were responsible for module development presented their vision on the information which would be important for inclusion in each theme and what the module might look like.

Thanks to our Pärnu partners about organizing educational excursions to three vocational schools where all project partners got acquainted with educational performance, teaching methods and environmental arrangement.



Interesting facts about Baltic states >>>

- Estonia has thousand of islands
- Lithuania is a paradise of basketball
- Latvians claim to have the oldest flag on the earth
- Some philologists generally agree that Lithuanian is the most ancient of all the living languages
- Estonia is the birth place of the first Christmas tree
- Latvia holds one of the largest song and dance festivals in the world (with over 40,000 participants)