**Seminar-discussion on math skills promotion**

*Jelgava, Latvia, August 20, 2014*

Employers, representatives of NGOs, Zemgale region and Jelgava, teachers, tutors and parents were invited to a seminar-discussion to work together and find answers to your questions:

* What should be done at national, institutional and individual level, to promote citizen's basic mathematical skills;
* How different types of organizations / institutions can participate in this process;
* How to organize the adult continuing education in mathematics and what methodological support is desirable / necessary.

The seminar-discussion was held in Jelgava Palace and was attended by 38 participants. The work was organized in three sections.

During the first work section the project manager Anna Vintere provided information on Nordplus program, project MathPRO goals, objectives, results and study carried out in the framework of project.

Ilze Balode (*IIPC*, Ventspils University College) gave insight into International comparative study - research results on Baltic States citizens' attitudes towards mathematics knowledge, skills and abilities.

Svetlana Atslega (LLU, Latvian Mathematical Society) explained the term "math competence" and shared practical experience on cooperation to promote math competence at university.

Edgars Paulovics (Zemgale Planning Region) analysed employment and presented need for math knowledge and skills in Zemgale region.

Uldis Dumins (Zemgales NVO centre) emphasize NGOs role in the adult education, shared experience in several European projects and told how to develop "competence to learn" and about validation of competences at European level.

Rudite Andersone (LU, Latvian Association of Mathematics Teachers) explained the interrelations among theoretical and practical knowledge in mathematics, mathematics for life and mathematics for the workplace. A lot of discussions were on mathematics as a part of cultural heritage.

The second section of the work was devoted to a variety of methodological issues.

Ivita Steke (Jelgavas Secondary school No.4) - "Mathematics as a game". She shared projects experience as well as introduced with the results. More information on it is available at:

<http://prezi.com/tfw3bhkedvs2/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=ex0share>.

Raitis Ozols (LU, Latvian Mathematical Society) presentation was about thinking and it the development in mathematics.

Sarmite Cernajeva (*IIPC*, RTU, Ozolnieki Secondary School) presented several options how to enhance the learning process in order to improvement mathematics learning at school and university. She introduced seminar-discussion participants with a number of e-materials to improve math knowledge and skills. She also showed changes in the paradigm of teaching / learning mathematics.

Natalija Sergejeva (LLU, Latvia Mathematical Society) told about courses organized for adult in the framework of Latvia-Lithuania Cross border project MATNET - topics, teaching issues, learners interests etc.

Rasa Žilionė (VšĮ "Žinių kodas / NGO Knowledge Code) from Lithuania told about youth employment in Lithuania and basic skills (math) as well as about main reasons for youth unemployment and analysed Results of state maturity math exam. She said that Lithuania needs more people with math skills and that Ministry of Education on 5th August, 2014 decided that from 2016 applicants to state-funded places at universities or colleges will have to take the mathematics exam.

During the third work section all participants worked in group. The moderator of first group was Evija Kopeika (*IIPC*, RTU). The topic discussed: How different types of organization / institution can:

1. Participate in the promotion of education of the population, as well as the identification of needs
2. Cooperate with each other to promote math skills.

Second group was moderated by Sarmite Cernajeva (*IIPC*, RTU, Ozolnieki Secondary School). Topic - What should be suggested to do at the national level, institutional and individual level in order to promote basic math skills?

Third group moderated by Irena Eglite (RTU) discussed how to organize adults’ continuing education in mathematics - the potential target group, level of knowledge and determination, themes ... and what methodological support would be desirable / necessary.

After that group presented their work as well as discussed the issue with other seminar-discussion participants.

At the end of the seminar-discussion the participants were awarded certificates.