**Seminars-discussions in Estonia**

*Tallinn, April – June, 2014*

There were taken place some seminars in Estonia concerning the project context, purposes and questionnaire in period from April to June.

We have conducted three seminars with the grammar school students, teachers and parents. We discuss the mathematics as subject in school and after this one. It was interesting conversation during the seminar. How the youth and adults think about mathematics and proper questionnaire. All these opinions are taken into consideration for investigation according to the project purposes.

As mathematics are the Basic for specialists from different fields of activity, that we conducted two seminars for businessmen. We have been in the organization hamed as „Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International“. This is the largest Christian organisation of businessmen. Today thousands of people in more than 160 countries are members of this fellowship. They exchange ideals to promote the Christian work ethics in the workplace.

They are not a church and do not represent the interests of any specific denomination. Because they have found their way to God in various Christian churches, their members include Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant believers of different professional backgrounds:  managers and bankers, doctors and teachers, actors and sportsmen, scientists and cultural professionals, female lawyers, actresses, factory workers, sales assistants, journalists, nurses and people who have their own business of whatever size.

We have partnership with this organization „Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International“ and very thankful, that we are invited to their meeting to talk about mathematics values in our society. It was chance to talk with different people, including, businessmen, who have moral values and own convictions. We talk with them and saw understanding. They also have taken our questionnaire to fill up.

Then we have meeting with group of specialists and engineers from one industrial group Baltic Ship Repair Shop. These specialists use mathematics continuously and have strong knowledge.

Moreover we have meeting with bank specialists, who say, that mathematics are so important for their work in spite of the computer programs.

In addition we collect group of information technology specialists. It was strange to hear, that they are not “friends” of mathematics.

As MTÜ Innova Estonia had concluded cooperation agreement to improve education quality standards, that we have met with students and their parents. The young will be also adults in future. It was interesting to compare, what parents and students think about mathematics. How they value own mathematics skills? How do they see usage of math in everyday life? As a rule many parents help their children to do homework, especially on math. So parents have more basic mathematics skills, that their children. Moreover, many parents are interested to help their children in mathematics, so they fresh old knowledge and can decide new tasks.

We see that people have surprised to talk about mathematics, because this is not popular at present. Most people teach only foreign languages and do not understand why mathematics needs for in everyday life? Much people is interested to study mathematics, but do not see, where to apply these skills. As a rule businessmen require from personnel skills in different language, but not in mathematics.

Politics and economics should be changed, in order to promote mathematics skills.

All seminars and meetings are so useful for our project in Estonia. It is collected proper information for analysis and conclusion according to the project purposes.