Teaching with TECHNOLOGY

Innovative Technologies for Active Language Class
I-TALC

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School to School Strategic Partnership n° 2014-1-FR01-KA201002536_1

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SECOND MEETING – SHORT TERM JOINT STAFF TRAINING EVENT

Neringos vidurinė mokykla

Nida secondary school ,G.D. Kuverto 12, 93012 NIDA
☎ + 37846952505 🖨 +37846952505

Monday 16th to Friday 20th March 2015

All partner institutions attended.

PROGRAMME OF THE MEETING

The second meeting knows as „Short-term joint staff training events „ took place in Nida in Neringa secondary school in Lithuania. All seven partners (except hosts Lithuania) arrived to this ICT workshop in number of 23 teachers alltogether.

Workshop „Innovative lessons using digital teaching methods and ICT"

Lecturer	Contacts	Short description
Norbertas Airošius	norbertas@airosius.lt, 00 370 675 251 53, http://www.airosius.lt	Educational technology expert, informatics Msc and IT teacher supervisor in Nida secondary school. He is certified consultant in educational leadership and manages the school's methodological council. During the period 2013 - 2014, the European schoolnet (Brussels) Scientix community assigned him as deputy ambassador in Lithuania. He regularly participates in international educational projects to deploy ICT in the educationnal process.

Basic information

Description

Teachers' confidence in use of advanced ICT is very important. An international research studies reveal that purposeful use of ICT improves the atmosphere of class cooperation, memorization, understanding, self-learning and increase motivation to learn. With the advanced educational technologies, there are new, exciting and playful ICT tools that make it easier to organize an exciting teaching and learning activities. In order to efficiently use ICT in innovative lessons teachers will become familiar with a variety of ICT tools (e.g. Evernote, Blendspace) and two digital skills training approaches: the creation of digital stories (Storybird, Storyjumper) and a web quests.

Participants expectations

The participants intend to learn how to create innovative lessons using different kinds of new technologies such as pictures, learning object, video, flash animation, gif animation, sounds, etc. They expect to understand the usage of smart phones and tablets and be able to place and share all created materials on the websites and enable learners to follow personalized learning paths. The ability to follow class activities even if pupils are absent and to implement flipped classroom model will be the most promising models in future classroom. Moreover, there is a need to create innovative lessons using cloud technologies.

Course aim

To enable teachers use Digital competence orientated teaching and use interactive ICT scenarios, methods and tools for learners' success.

Objectives:

- To introduce digital teaching scenarios, tools and methods
- To foster participants use ICT based practices in innovative lessons
- To train practical skills of ICT application in education process
- To expand participant ICT based teaching experience

Workshop materials

Learning paths

To enable teachers to use latest technologies and to implement systematic technology integration matrix there will be five learning paths accessible online.

Teaching materials

Every teacher will get a pack of slides, concept and tools maps for spreading the novice

technology in their community.

Edmodo virtual community

All learners will join online community of practice in Edmodo virtual community to share their good practices, learning object, etc.

Day 1 "Digital competence & learning paths"

Module	Time, hour	Teaching methods
Morning session		
Introduction of workshop modules, lecturer and participants	1	Presentation, Team building exercises
Digital Competence	2	Lecture
Afternoon session		
Technology integration matrix & Learnin resource exchange databases	1	Simulation, presentation
Learning styles and online learning paths	2	Simulation, presentation
Total	6	

Day 2 "Educational technologies & assessment"

Module	Time, hour	Teaching methods
Morning session		
Educational technologies in classroom	1	Lecture, discussion
Edmodo & virtual communities & communities of practice	2	Simulation
Afternoon session		
Summative assessment online tool	1	Lecture, simulation
Formative assessment online tool	1	Lecture, simulation

Summative and formative assessment criteria	1	Lecture, discussion, World Cafe
Total	6	

Day 3 "Digital teaching methods"

Module	Time, hour	Teaching methods
Morning session		
Digital teaching methods I: Modern storytelling components	1	Lecture
Modern storytelling tools	1	Lecture, simulation
Modern storytelling practice	1	Simulation
Afternoon session		
Digital teaching methods II: web quest	1	Lecture
Web quest practice	1	Simulation
Educational resource exchange	1	Simulation
Total	6	

Day 4 "Mind mapping & open space"

Module	Time, hour	Teaching methods
Morning session		
Mind & concept mapping	1	Lecture, simulation
Mind mapping tools	1	Lecture, simulation
Mind mapping practice	1	Simulation
Afternoon session		
Open space "Challenges for teachers in Innovative lessons"	1	Simulation
ProAction Café "Olympics of innovative lessons"	2	Simulation
Total	6	

Day 5 "Flipped classroom model based on ICT"

Module	Time, hour	Teaching methods
Morning session		
Flipped classroom model based on ICT	2	Lecture, case studies, discussion
Summary of key messages	1	Lecture
Afternoon session		
Course reflections & evaluation	3	Personal competence net evaluation
Total	6	

Competence level	Methods
Knowledge and understanding of ICT in curriculum (theoretical aspects)	Tests and quizzes
Digital teaching methods, tools and scenarios (practical skills)	Learning paths, final story telling products, web quest, self-assessment form
Attitudes and values for future ICT based classroom	Personal competence map

List of resources

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18. Jones-Kavalier, B., & Flannigan, S. L. (2008). Connecting the digital dots: Literacy of the 21st century. *Teacher Librarian, 35*(3), 13-16.

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Useful links:
http://www.blendspace.com
http://www.storybird.com
http://www.plotagon.com
http://www.prezi.com
http://www.snappywords.com
http://www.wolphramalpha.com
http://www.edmodo.com

School is lokated in protected area called Curonian Spit National Park (2002) The whole area was added by World Heritage commettee on World Heritage list in November 2000.
Curonian Spit (at Lithuanian, Kursiu Nerija [Kurshyu Nerrya] is the belt of sand with area of 94.4 km^2 and its width from 0.5 to 4 km) has the four settlements in Lithuania (Juodkrante, Pervalka, Preila and Nida) situated on the road which is 50 km long. To get to the Spit from Klaipeda (Memel) it's necessary to take a ferry across Curonian lagoon of fresh water.

Curonian Spit ia a natural **wonder** created by sea, wind and man.

People have long been trying to solve the enigma - how did the sand bank appear? Legend narrates that this place was covered with water from which a chain of the islands protruded. On the one of them a golden-haired girl was born having name Neringa (old Lithuanian name). The girl grew into a giant and helped people in all kinds of ways: to fishermen who had been carried far away from the shore, drove fish into their nets and so on.

Nida – a little town just 48 km from Klaipeda. Archeologists think that people were there in 2000 B.C. They've established that Baltic tribe had already settled in the area at this time. In the beginning of the 18th century the old settlement was covered with sand of Parnidzio dune.

Nida was first mentioned in written sources in 1385 as the Crusaders moved through the spit on their way to plunder and baptize the Lithuanian lowlanders (at this time the Lithuania was still pagan State amidst Christian world). The lighthouse (23 m) at Urbas Hill (with height of 52 m, same as height of Great Dune near Nida) was built at 1874 and was destroyed by the Nazis.

At nowadays there are only 1400 pernament living inhabitants but officially Nida has 4000 inhabitants. More than 750 000 people come every year to visit Nida. German writer and Nobel Prize laureate Thomas Mann spent the summers of 1930-1932 in Nida. He called this place as 'finest in the world'.

The Baltic sea is famous with its amber. The amber was formed during two millions years from resin and tar and has many forms, colours and mysterious fossills. An insects caught in tar 2 mln. years ago seems as if it were alive today. At Lithuania you can see amber jewellery in many places. At Nida is the Kazimieras Mizgiris's private Amber Gallery - the good place to visit at cloudly day.

VISIT OF THE LITHUANIAN SCHOOL

Neringa secondary school was established in 1932. Over the years, it has been renovated but it still remains an old building. It is located at the entrance on the left if you are coming from the city of Klaipeda. School is on one side surrounded by forest and the Baltic sea is also not far away. There are ground floor and the upper

two floors. Classrooms, offices, gym and school cantee are located on ground floor. Classrooms are well equipped, there are 43 computers for learning and teaching purposes, 26 Laptops, 28 tablets, 3 smart boardsand Wi-fi zone for pupils . Teachers can use two labs: for physics and chemistry. School has also wonderful manifestation hall for all the concerts, performances and meetings. Outside the school you can find : football pitch, basketball playground, skateboarding area which are ussually busy all days. Since the school has good conditions for sport, so there are held various sports camps, especially during holidays.

The staff

Teaching staff consists of headmaster, deputy headmaster and 41 teachers.

1-4 grade –   6 teachers (only female)
5-10 grade – 24 teachers (7 male and 17 female)
11-12 grade – 11 teachers (2 male and 9 female)

Pupils

There are alltogether 172 students in the age from 7 to 19 - 95 male students and 77 female students.
Students from Nida: 138: 74 male and 64 female
Students from Juodkrante: 15
Students in Juodkrante kindergarden : 19.

Organization

School year has got 2 semesters :

I.   September 1st – January 31st
II.   February 1st– June 6th

Number of lessons: 1-4 grade: 22-24 hours per week
5-10 grade: 26-32 hours per week
11-12 grade: 28 – 35 and more hours per week

School subjects:

1-4 grade (about 20 hours): Lithuanian, Mathematics, Music, PE, Art and Craft, Music, Dance, Religion, English (from the 2nd grade).

5-10 grade: 26-32 hours per week: Lithuanian, Mathematics, Music, PE, Art and Craft, Music, Religion or Ethics, Geography, History, Chemistry, Biology, ICT, English as the first foreign language; Russian and German as the second foreign languages (from the 6th grade).
Foreign languages:

English (from the 2nd grade) – 2-3 hours a week (1-4 grade)
English (5-12) 4 hours a week.
Russian and German as the second foreign languages (from the 6th grade) – 2 hours a week.
After school activities:

Extra-curricular activities:
Primary school (1-4 graders) 1-2 hours per week Etnoculture, Ceramics, Regional studies Junior nature lovers
5-12 graders (1-3 hours per week):   Junior Ceramicists, Sea Cadet Basics, Vocal instrumental ensemble, Outdoor tennis, Arts and crafts, Structural materials Junior programmers club, Sports

School holidays
Autumn holidays moveable, Winter holidays (Christmas), spring holidays (Easter. moveable) – 1 week.
National holidays (a day off):
November 1st – All Saint's Day
December 25th - 26th - Christmas
January 1st – New Year
February 16th – Independence Day
March 11th – The **Act of the Re-Establishment of the State of Lithuania**
May 1st – Labour Day

Traditional school events
September 1st - School Year festival
European Day of Languages
International Teacher's day
Autumn Harvest Feast – primary school
Tolerance Day
Events dedicated to Town's birthday
Christmas carnival
January 13th- Lithuania Defenders of Freedom Day
100 days before exams
St. Valentine's Day
Shrove Tuesday – winter farewell
Action week – Against bullying
Earth's Day
Eco action „Let's Do It"
European Day
The Last Bell
School leavers festival

Native Language week
STEM week
Foreign language week

School council

School Council consists of 3 parents, 3 teachers and 3 students. They are repsonsible for the initiatives to unite school community in order to collaborate and contribute to the school objectives. They have a say about school matters, issues, care about the education quality, learning and teaching process at school, provide any help to the school members.

Absences

If a teacher is away less than a week, he is substituted by the colleagues under their individual agreement with no extra payment.
If a teacher is away for more than a week, an order has been signed by the headmaster.

School canteen

School canteen has got 80 seats. Open hours 8.00 – 14.00 only for school community. The menu is based on the traditional and healthy Lithuanian cuisine.

A buffet provides only healthy snacks and refreshments. Junk food is strictly prohibited.

PROJECT WELCOMING MEETING

The first day, Monday 16th, the headmaster and deputy warmly welcomed the visitors and explained how enthusiastic teachers, pupils and parents, were about the project.
Then, the Lithuanian pupils and teachers presented their school in English. Afterwards, they performed some traditional dances and musical instruments. All teachers were given bracelets in Lithuanian colours and main coordinator received more hat, also in Lithuanian colours. We could feel the great atmospfere throughout the whole welcoming ceremony.

The Lithuanian partner offered us an interesting cultural program to discover the Lithuanian history, the customs, traditions and religion of the people who live in this beatiful country.

During this interesting cultural journey we discovered little town Nida. We have visited Neringa Municipality, we have walked around Amber road, we have had an

excursion to the Etnographical cemetery and Neringa History Museum.

One afternoon we visited the school also belonging to the school in Nida, school in Juodkrante. We also saw the school in the distant city Telsai. Telsai is historical city and we had chance to see nice square, an old Jewish school and a beautiful church. In both schools, we presented our project I-TALC and we familiarized both teachers and students with the content and objectives of our project.

DIFFICULTIES TO SOLVE

About the first language camp in FYRM:
- Date is fixed, arriving 10th May, departure 21st May 2015
- Macedonian coordinator explained situation with wi-fi in the camp (other partners promised help to with expansion of wireless connection bringing wi-fi routers)
- Macedonian team promised to arrange transport from the airport to the camp and return for all partners
- Macedonian team will arrange T-shirt and cups for all language camp participants
- The second transnational project meeting will take place in Romania from Monday 8th to Friday 12th June 2015. During this project meeting, all7 partners will attend some local classes and learn about Romanian school system.
- All partners must continue to work on the projects from the first meeting in Crete, which are not yet implemented such a video most used expressions, video conferencies etc ......see report from first transnational meeting in Crete

CONCLUSION

During this second meeting in Lithuania, all the participants were involved enthusiastically in the activities proposed by the host school and especially by our ICT expert Norbertas. All scheduled on the agenda were discussed in great details .Lekturer was very helpful, patient and led us to motivate to our further work. It has been seen that Norbertas is an experienced teacher and trainer in the field of ICT. We ourselves could most directly to try new methods, new applications and web pages and it was the

most precious thing we could get. All participants of the workshop were leaving with a lot of new knowledge, tips and ideas for your next work with their students. All the project partners have worked hard and honestly with a view to learn something new. The entire ICT workshop achieved its goal for 100 percent.

This report was made within a collaborative work between the Czech team and the project coordinator.

Radek HENDRYCH   Czech coordinator   Lahachmi MECHKOUK, coordinator

Jana OLŠINOVÁ   English teacher   Collège Georges Pompidou

Základní škola Odry   Villeneuve-la-Garenne

Czech Republic   France