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АΥΤΟ ΠΑΡΟΒΟΖΙΚ **CHILD LERNEN** ДЕТИ ΔΡΟΜΟΣ
ΣΠΙΤΙ **LIMBĂ** JOCURI **LEIKKIÄ** ΜΗΓΟΕΖΙΧΙΕΤΟ
ΠΡΟЦЕС **ВЪЗΠΙΤΑΤΕЛ** ΜΑΘΑΙΝΟΥΝ
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VIA LIGHT

Newsletter-1, April 2012

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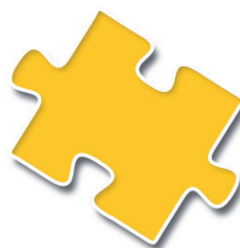


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Dear ladies and gentlemen,
dear colleagues,
dear reader,

We are glad to present the first issue of the VIA LIGHT newsletter, in which the following topics are covered:

- 1) What is VIA LIGHT?
- 2) VIA LIGHT in the first quarter: what have we achieved?
- 3) VIA LIGHT in the future: what is awaiting us?



1) What is VIA LIGHT?

Do you know that about 500 million people of different ethnic origins and linguistic affiliations live in the European Union, among whom about 25 million people have foreign roots? That is why language competence has become one of the essential factors conditioning successful economic, social and education development in modern Europe. In its turn, European education policy aims at diversified support for multilingual upbringings and forms of education, considering them to be important preconditions for peaceful unity in diversity.

However, today there is a severe shortage of qualified pedagogical staff who have the education and training to work with multilingual children. In its turn, the VIA LIGHT project aims to contribute towards the successful realisation of EU policy in the sphere of the upbringing and education of future generation of Europeans. It is not accidental that the acronym "LIGHT" stands for "Language for Integration and Global Human Tolerance".

That is why in the course of the VIA LIGHT project's two-year period (2012-2014), different programmes for professional education as well as educational modules for advanced qualification trainings for teachers working with bilingual children will be developed. Moreover, it is envisaged to create a virtual educational platform that will provide users with the opportunity to acquire experience and to develop skills in working with bilingual children.

Who takes part in the project?

The project participants include eleven partner organisations, different children and pedagogical institutions from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, and Moldova as well as Russia's leading information agency, RIA Novosti, and German graphic design and web development agency SCHLEICHER-FARM.COM.

2) VIA LIGHT in the first quarter: what have we achieved?

The VIA LIGHT project officially started in Tallinn, Estonia, on 18 January 2012. The following issues were included in the working agenda: project coordination, project management, project planning and introductory seminars. Three months have passed since that time. The first quarter of the project has come to an end and we are eager to present preliminary results of the first quarter.

Our partner organisations have presented the EU project in their countries and attracted a lot of interest. Numerous meetings with politicians, officials, teachers and educators have taken place. Moreover, our project has been covered in regional and international media. Besides, our partner organisations have succeeded in finding many cooperation partners ready to support our project and to assist in the realisation of its objectives.

Between January and March 2012, our partner organisations carried out monitoring aimed at identifying the availability of education infrastructures (faculties or study courses) for preparing teaching staff for bilingual education institutions. Results collected from the monitoring will serve as the basis for discussions and definitions of criteria in evaluating the work of educators and teachers in the above-mentioned institutions during the next international meeting in Moldova.

Last but not least, a special Internet site has been developed for the VIA LIGHT project and offers visitors a lot of useful information about our project. In the future that site will become a dynamic educational platform, instantly updated with new subjects for teachers and all those interested in bilingual education. The Internet address of our web-site is: www.vialight.eu.

3) VIA LIGHT in the future: what is awaiting us?

The turning point of the first quarter of the project year will be a second conference organised in collaboration with Moldova partners in Chisinau (22-25 April 2012). The conference will include preparation and approval of the project's programme as well as organisation of the video conference between Chisinau and Brussels. Participants of the VIA LIGHT project will have the unique opportunity to talk live with European Parliament MP in Brussels Dr. Tatyana Zhdanyuk (Latvia).

To sum up, it should be noted that the foundation for successful realisation of our project has already been laid down and we are continuing to build the VIA LIGHT "house" further. Stay with us and follow developments of our project!

Your VIA LIGHT team

The first meeting of VIA LIGHT participants in Tallinn (Estonia), January 2012

