via LIGHT

Language for Integration and Global Human Tolerance

via LIGHT
WWW.VIALIGHT.EU
2012–2013

PUĶE
MAMA ΠΑΤΕΡΑΣ **MĀTE** ДОРОГА **MONIKIELISYYS**
PUPPE
REGENBOGEN **МЯЧ ИГРА VUODE** KVADRĀTS
AUTO **CHILD LERNEN** ДЕТИ
ΠΑΡΟΒΟЗИК ΔΡΟΜΟΣ
ΣΠΙΤΙ **LIMBĂ** JOCURI **LEIKKIÄ** МНОГОЕЗИЧИЕТО
ПРОЦЕС **ВЪЗПИТАТЕЛ** **МАΘΑΙΝΟΥΝ**
CIRCLE **ДЕЦА** **KINDERGARTEN**

VIA LIGHT
Newsletter 7, October 2013

WWW.VIALIGHT.EU

VIA LIGHT: NEWSLETTER No. 7 October 2013

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Dear colleagues,

dear readers,

ladies and gentlemen,

We are pleased to present to your attention a seventh newsletter of the educational project VIA LIGHT. Our project is slowly coming to an end. However, you may well know that as soon as one door closes, another door opens. So it is the case with VIA LIGHT: during the final international conference in Berlin the current project was completed and a new project, European pedagogical association in support of multilingual education - the Association VIA LIGHT, was launched.

1. The final conference of the VIA LIGHT project in Berlin

On the 16th-17th October 2013, Berlin hosted the fifth conference of the European educational project VIA LIGHT. The conference finalized results of the two-year long project. The project partners presented results of their work. That included professional training courses developed for educators and teachers working in the field of multilingual education as well as innovative methods of multicultural education. Moreover, a unique virtual Internet platform for the practical application of accumulated experience in the field of bilingual education was also presented during the conference.

VIA LIGHT coordinator Marina Burd (Germany) highly estimated the atmosphere of cooperation and mutual support that was formed among the VIA LIGHT team members in the course of the project. She called the achieved results "very impressive" and talked about possible options for further development of the VIA LIGHT ideas. In particular, Marina Burd touched upon the establishment of the VIA LIGHT Association - the European pedagogical association in support of multilingual education. Besides VIA LIGHT project's participants, this association also invited members of another European programme called GRUNDTVIG as well as everyone concerned about the problems of development of bi-and multilingualism in Europe and worldwide. Thus, VIA LIGHT Association may become a common platform for further cooperation in the field of multilingualism.

2. Association VIA LIGHT - European pedagogical association in support of multilingual education.

On the 18th October 2013, on the initiative of Marina Burd, VIA LIGHT project's coordinator and head of the Society of Russian-speaking parents and teachers in Berlin "MITRA", the majority of partners of VIA LIGHT as well as a number of other organizations and individuals interested in supporting and promoting progressive methods of bi-and multilingual upbringing and education, signed documents on creation of the VIA LIGHT Association in the capital of Germany.

There were representatives of eleven countries among the founding members of this organization, who became its full members. Furthermore, it should be noted that both individuals and legal entities that support the goals and objectives of the VIA LIGHT Association can become its associated members with an advisory vote. After a two-year "probation" period, they have the right to obtain a status of full members if in the meantime they are actively involved in the work of the Association.

During the constitutive meeting of the VIA LIGHT Association, Marina Burd (Germany) was unanimously elected chairman of the board. There also were elected two deputy chairmen and a five-member board.

The Berlin meeting of the VIA LIGHT project's participants and creation of the VIA LIGHT Association were timed to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the "MITRA" Society (www.mitra-ev.de/ru/), so that the official events ended on Friday with the concert of pupils from bilingual kindergartens and private German-Russian school named after M. Lomonosov. Sincere and touching performances of children, who demonstrated the high level of proficiency in both Russian and German, were the clear evidence in support of methods of bilingual upbringing and education successfully used by the MITRA society. The celebration ended with no less impressive congratulations on the part of MITRA's partners from the VIA LIGHT project, members of the new VIA LIGHT Association and kind friends from different countries.

3. What awaits us in the future?

In December 2013, a booklet reporting on the results of the project VIA LIGHT in German, Russian and English languages will be published. Our media partner SCHLEICHER-FARM. COM is currently working on the structure and design of the booklet. The given booklet will present work results of partner countries as well as selected photos from five conferences and other important meetings held during the two-year project. In addition, virtual online education platform (http://vialight.vcat.de/) will be updated with materials developed by the project partners and will become available to interested users. Thereby, the multiplier effect of the VIA LIGHT project will be enhanced.

Dear friends and readers!

We appreciate your interest in the VIA LIGHT project! Please also visit our web-site on the following address: www.vialight.eu. You will find there a lot of interesting information about developments of our project as well as photos and video records made in the course of it.

Your VIA LIGHT project's team