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VIA LIGHT

Newsletter 5, March 2013

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Dear ladies and gentlemen,
dear colleagues,
dear readers,

we are glad to present to your attention a fifth issue of the VIA LIGHT educational project's newsletter. The project partners can be proud of their achievements in the first quarter of the year 2013.



Courses, seminars and exams in partner countries: a short review

It was at the end of the year 2012 when partner countries had already started realisation of the VIA LIGHT project's main tasks by organising first seminars for school and kindergarten teachers who worked with bilingual children. In the first quarter of the year 2013 the number of courses and seminars grew sharply. Today we would like to inform you about several events organised by us.

Courses under the common title

„Child, family and teacher in a multicultural environment“ were launched in Latvia

On the 25th of January 2013, professional training courses for teachers under the common title „Child, family and teacher in a multicultural environment“ were launched in cooperation with corporate partners in Riga preschool institution no. 275. Thematically the content of the courses (a total of 24 academic hours) was divided in three blocks: «The bilingual child», «Cooperation in a multicultural team» and «Cooperation between school and family in a multilingual environment». The organised courses were aimed at Latvian preschool and primary school teachers working in ethnically heterogeneous environment in accordance with the educational programmes, which considered learning of school subjects with the help of at least two languages.



Seminar entitled «Speech development and its support among the children growing in a bilingual environment»

A first seminar in the framework of the VIA LIGHT was organised in Germany by the leading partner of the project, the MITRA society. On the 30-31 January 2013, thirteen teachers took part in this event entitled „Speech development and its support among the children growing in a bilingual environment”. In the course of the two-day seminar, participating teachers improved their professional and methodological skills in the field of speech development among bilingual preschool children. Lessons took place in the form of group work, role games, thematic discussions, study of special-purpose materials as well as debates around practical experience in this sphere.

Seminars in the framework of the VIA LIGHT project started in Finland

On the 18-22 February 2013, seminar series entitled «The forms of intercultural upbringing and their significance” took place in Helsinki. Doctor of pedagogical sciences Ekaterina Protasova from Helsinki University delivered theoretical and practical lessons on the «Methodology of foreign language teaching to preschool children» to Finnish language teachers in the kindergarten “Kalinka”. In the course of the seminar series, participating teachers were acquainted with the role playing method of the foreign language teaching. Dr. Protasova also organised a seminar (a total of five lessons per two hours each) entitled “Peculiarities of the oral speech among adults and children” for Russian language teachers.

Seminars of the VIA LIGHT in Estonia: education, study and holiday

On the 20th of February 2013, a practical seminar called “The holiday of songs and dance” took place in the kindergarten „Lijkuri“ (Tallinn) in cooperation with the kindergarten “Sipsik” (Maardu). According to the organisers, among the aims of this event there were:

- Consolidation of knowledge and skills acquired during professional training courses by teachers (seminars in the kindergartens “Lijkuri” and “Sipsik”).
- Integrated approach towards teaching of a second language to preschool children.
- Formation of intercultural competence through communication between children and teachers of Estonian and Russian languages in kindergartens.
- Development of tolerance, understanding of culture and traditions of different peoples.





Head of the VIA LIGHT project visited Slavonic University in Moldova

On the 3-6 March 2013, head of the European educational project VIA LIGHT Marina Burd visited Slavonic University (Chisinau). In the framework of the course „Theory and methodology of bilingual education and upbringing“, introduced at the given university in 2013, she presented a paper entitled “New approaches to the work with parents of bilingual children”. In her paper, Marina Burd discussed existing problems referring to the example of the work of bilingual kindergartens in Germany and other European countries. On the 4 and 5 March, there were also organised thematic lectures and seminars under the title “Theory and methodology of bilingual education” for students specialising in the following academic programmes: “Pedagogy of primary school education” and “Psychopedagogy”.

Professional training courses in the framework of the VIA LIGHT project took place at Tallinn University

In March 2013, successive professional training courses took place at the Centre for Additional Education at Tallinn University according to the programme “Peculiarities of teamwork and cooperation in a bilingual kindergarten”. This programme has been registered as a professional training programme at Tallinn University (TLÜ reg nr. 2012/2240) and as such has been given a legal framework to be frequently repeated in a load of up to 12 academic hours in the course of two years.

VIA LIGHT project “passed and took” first exam in Moldova

On the 26th of March 2013, Slavonic University (Chisinau) students, studying programmes of „Primary school education pedagogy“ and „Psychopedagogy“, successfully passed their exam for the academic course «Theory and methodology of bilingual education».

The given course was worked out in the framework of the VIA LIGHT educational project in cooperation with specialists from eight European countries. The above-mentioned exam became first of its kind in the academic field of bilingual education in the Republic of Moldova, the country in which a problem of bilingualism has always been relevant. Against this background, preparation of specialists in the sphere of bilingual education in Moldova is an important step forward.



Dear readers,

we are very glad that you show 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

