



The Erasmus+ project “21st Century Competences for Modern Language Teaching at PSLC” completed

As the teaching of modern world languages is the main activity of the PSLC, it is extremely important for teachers and administrative staff to follow the innovations in the mentioned field and to improve the language teaching practice in the organization. Training in different European countries (Germany, Malta, Italy and Portugal) with the aim to upgrade modern teaching / learning activities, learn how to use ICT in the teaching / learning process, develop competencies in the field of German language examination and testing, improve the English language communication competencies of the PSLC administrative staff – is of vital importance to the language teaching professionals of the organization. After the training, the project participants shared the gained experience with the colleagues inside and outside the institution, disseminated new experiences through qualification seminars for Lithuanian teachers and events in the media.

All five project participants are sharing their experience below:



Daiva: With the increasing numbers of foreigners in Lithuania, English language for me has become an everyday routine tool. Before I had learned English language only by myself, independently. I have been using EL in different fields of life, including my work. However, I never felt confident enough and used to be embarrassed if I made a mistake. Very soon, after completing the EFL course in Malta, I started coordinating and implementing the online Lithuanian programme to foreigners. The EFL course in Malta was a real breakthrough for me. It was much more useful and effective than the one in Lithuania would have been because during these two weeks in Malta I enrolled in the international group of students and was communicating in English all the time. Now, when speaking English language, I no longer feel embarrassed or stressed and I am much more confident. What is more, I learned the new EFL teaching methods, that I can modify and apply in teaching Lithuanian language to foreigners.



Regina: Participation in the teachers training of the Goethe Institute „Prüfen und Testen“ ("Exams and Testing") from August 4th, 2019 to August 10th, 2019 in Munich was important to me in two respects: on the one hand, information on testing, assessment and self-assessment was relevant to the everyday teaching of German at the Public Service Language Centre. On the other hand, it was a great opportunity to meet colleagues from all over the world and share their experience.

There were analysed not only standardized exams, but also the possibility of self-assessment of language skills and its methods were discussed. The last day of the seminar was dedicated to teamwork: individual groups created and presented exam tasks.

It was an ideal opportunity to develop a wide range of professional skills: knowledge of the criteria for standardized language tests according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), forms of feedback in lessons, preparation for language tests and the organization of self-evaluation. I was also able to further develop my soft skills: reflecting on my own approach to testing, work and discussion in groups and teamwork. And all in German language!

The PSLC is a licensed examination centre of the Goethe-Institut. Therefore, the knowledge I have acquired is important for ensuring the quality of exams. However, it is equally important in the language learning process to promote the motivation and self-assessment of each learner's learning progress. Now after the teachers training in Munich, I can actively share these ideas with colleagues both in our Language Centre and in the wider circle of teachers. The material has already been presented in the PSLC seminars for German teachers from all over Lithuania. You can find my article on topic testing and evaluating in the magazine of the Lithuanian German Teachers Association (in German):

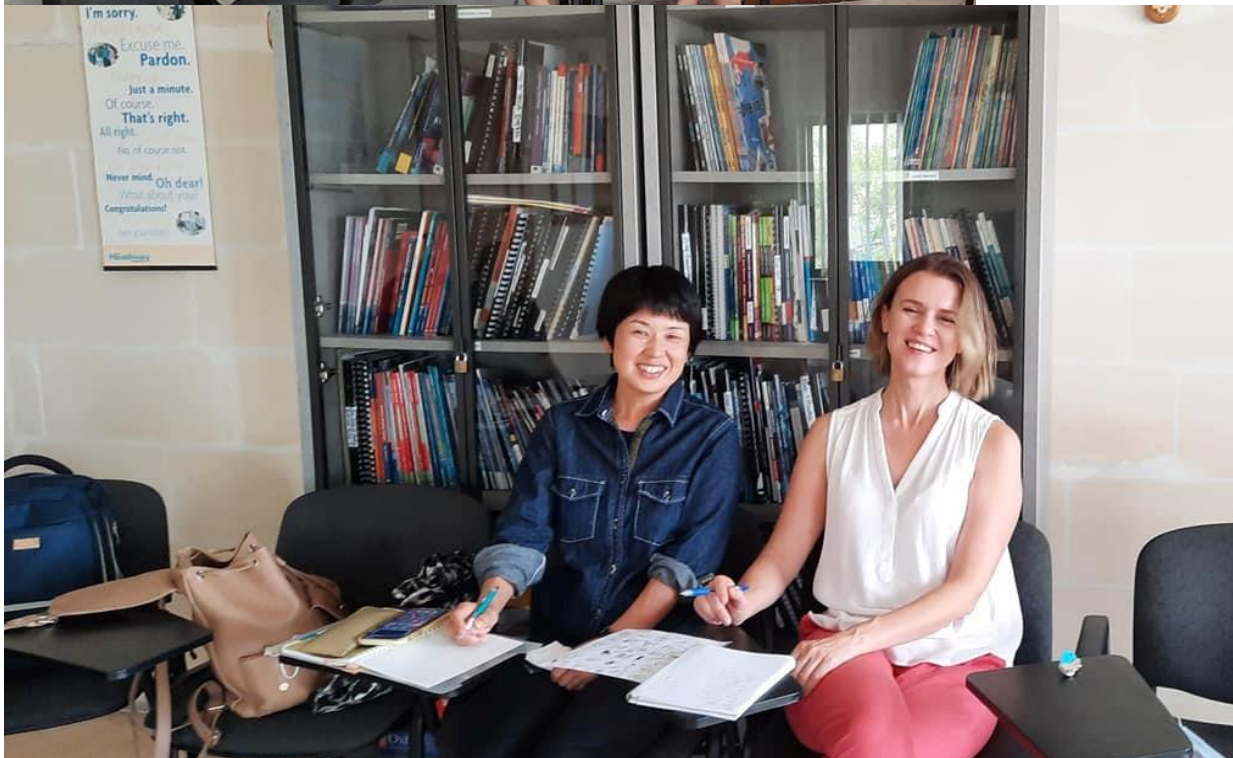
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Asterija: I chose the course „STIMULATING CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION/FUTURE CLASSROOM METHODOLOGY OF TEACHING“ at the CREF - Educational Resources and Training Centre in Portugal which is one of the most important establishments of the region of Setúbal. I had 6 workshops about digital tools, future methodologies, 2 visits to 2 schools with Future Classroom Labs which are developing methodologies according to the use of the "Future Classroom Lab", including mobile devices in education as for me international experience is highly important. During the course I attended in Portugal I had the opportunity to learn from good practice abroad, to experiment and develop new learning practices and teaching methods carried in at the international level, to gain practical skills relevant for my current job and professional development, to extend my professional network with teachers from Croatia, Portugal, Poland, Germany, Italy and Macedonia. In addition, I could share my own knowledge and skills with the course participants, reinforce professional cooperation with the Portuguese teacher training institution and build cooperation with players in the labor market. Also, in this course I could create spin-off effects for the development of new educational activities such as workshops, training, seminars for teachers in Lithuania. Finally, I increased my job satisfaction, made new contacts, and expanded my career opportunities.

The most interesting experience was a visit to the school, working with project-based methodology where a teacher works as a consultant. I acquired new technological tools and developed my ICT skills which are of the highest importance in hybrid teaching at present as well as I got new ideas for future classroom in order to foster students' creativity and innovation.

The ICT tools I learned during the course will help improve self – esteem of the students through encouraging their creative thinking and fostering their imagination, get higher motivation to remain on task by working in small groups, develop actively and constructively students' involvement in the work at class, encourage students to take the ownership of their own learning, improve teamwork skills, put into practice the principal that “teachers become learners at times, and learners sometimes teach”, develop students' lateral thinking skills. My mobility will impact on the introduction of new curricula at the Public Service Language Centre, improving its organization and management as well as internationalise its activities.



Asta: I chose this *Intensive General English* courses at Gateway School of English in Malta because it was a great opportunity to learn English in an English-speaking environment: all teachers were native speakers, about 90 percent of Maltese are able to speak English. The best way to learn a language is to take it naturally, unconsciously from the language environment - it is the so-called "immersion" method.

Proficiency in English is a necessary tool these days, so improving it was definitely necessary for me in my work environment, communicating with partners, clients, improving other English language skills.

It was a very interesting and effective two-week English language courses for adults in a multicultural environment. In addition to the training, an extensive cultural program was organized. These courses have significantly improved my current knowledge and motivated me to further my independent learning.

The acquired knowledge undoubtedly improved communication with foreign clients, partners, participation in international projects and facilitated the reading, viewing of English content. My improved knowledge of English will definitely contribute to smoother communication and image enhancement of PSLC.



Rita: I chose this training course *Teaching languages in the digital era: the best apps, web platforms and ICT resources for learning languages* in Bologna Erasmus Learning Academy because of the content it offered, i.e. it focused on ICT tools and their practical application. I would say this course had a bigger value than a national in-service training course, first because it provided an opportunity to connect with other professionals and immerse in international context of teaching and it is a good opportunity for both a professional and personal growth. 7 days in English speaking environment was a great opportunity to merge totally in English way of thinking, meet like-minded people and exchange ideas and have interesting discussions. I am also more confident in using ICT in my classes, and I learnt some ICT tools that were completely new to me. The knowledge gained will help me make the teaching more effective, motivating, and interactive. Also, I have shared my experience with the colleagues in the Language Centre and I am preparing to hold a practical seminar for the teachers of all disciplines in Lithuania.