

WELCOME TO OUR

The Nordic-Baltic Region Newsletter



HEY, HOW ARE YOU?

NBR President's Notes

Dear colleagues,

At the beginning of December, I stopped to think about how little time we have to really meet and see each other as we are as people – not just as colleagues and experts, guardians and pupils, students, customers. In our everyday life, we are in a constant rush, breathless to get things "to the finish line": keep the set deadlines and evaluate the result goals; to update materials and skills, lesson plans and teaching diaries, communication and various documents.

Community spirit can be a driving force if there is time and resources to nurture and maintain it. The first step towards enabling community spirit is truly seeing another person. That's where understanding and respect for the other begins. When you see another, he is not a threat but an opportunity that can change you for the better. Humanity grows from social relationships and the ability to maintain them.

Shall we make it a goal this year to see each other – for real? Happy new year 2024 of enriching encounters to everyone!

Outi Vilkuna

puheenjohtaja / ordförande / Chair

Suomen kielenopettajien liitto SUKOL ry

The Federation of Foreign Language Teachers in Finland SUKOL

Greetings from Lithuania

Prepared by **Almantė Meškauskienė**
President of Language Teachers' Association
of Lithuania



Lietuvos kalbų pedagogų
asociacija - LKPA

Spanish Language Forum at VMU receives attention from the Spanish Ministry of Education

On Saturday, 2 December, the 7th Spanish Language Forum of Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) took place. With the growing popularity of Spanish in Lithuania and the increasing demand for Spanish both in universities and schools, the international event, now in its seventh year, aims to bring together Spanish language teachers, lecturers, translators and other professionals to share news, research results, and discuss the latest language teaching methods.

“Spanish is currently facing various challenges in Lithuania, and while we are waiting for major decisions and actions to be taken regarding the teaching of the language in the country’s schools, we can be pleased that an event such as the Spanish Language Forum is being organised for the seventh consecutive year. Every year we have more and more participants, both from Lithuania and from neighbouring countries. This year, we were able to count on the support of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. The Ministry’s representative, Joana Lloret, was presenting professional development opportunities for Spanish language professionals.” – Vigilija Žiūraitė, Spanish lecturer at the Institute of Foreign Languages, the organiser of the Forum.



Greetings from Lithuania

Prepared by **Almantė Meškauskienė**
President of Language Teachers' Association
of Lithuania



Lietuvos kalbų pedagogų
asociacija - LKPA

Spanish Language Forum at VMU receives attention from the Spanish Ministry of Education

The programme of the 7th Spanish Language Forum included presentations by professionals from the Baltic States, Spain and Mexico, as well as scientific presentations and practical workshops. José Hernández Ortega, Associate Professor at the Complutense University of Madrid, gave a plenary lecture on "Challenges of Teaching in a Changing Society". The Baltic countries were represented by Spanish language specialists Jorge López Parreño (Vilnius University), José María Rico Mateos (University of Burgos) and Noa Philippon Salinas (University of Latvia). The forum also featured a presentation on the influence of Spanish on contemporary art by journalist and cultural manager Liudvikas Jakavičius, who is a native speaker of both Spanish and Lithuanian. He will discuss the situation of the Spanish language in a global context.

The Forum was concluded with a roundtable discussion on the challenges of teaching Spanish as a foreign language in a global context, with the participation of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain in Lithuania, Nieves Blanco Díaz. Spanish is rapidly gaining popularity worldwide and is an official language in 21 countries, with as many as 580 million people fluent in Spanish. Meanwhile, there is a shortage of Spanish language specialists and formal education programmes in Lithuania. In 2017, VMU was the first to draw attention to the training and development of Spanish-speaking professionals by organising the 1st Spanish Language Forum in Kaunas. The Spanish Language Forum is not only for professionals, but also for those who are still thinking about making their career in the language.



Greetings from Lithuania

Prepared by **Almantė Meškauskienė**
President of Language Teachers' Association
of Lithuania



Lietuvos kalbų pedagogų
asociacija - LKPA

Erasmus+ project APATCHE took place at the Catholic Del Sacro Cuore University in Milan

On 23-24 November, the last dissemination event of Erasmus+ project APATCHE took place at the Catholic Del Sacro Cuore University in Milan, Italy, which was attended by the project coordinator VMU IFL professor Mačianskienė, VMU Vice-rector for Communication Vilma Bijeikienė, VMU IFL lecturers Vaida Misevičiūtė, Lina Abraitienė and Daiva Pundziuvienė.



Greetings from Lithuania

Prepared by **Almantė Meškauskienė**
President of Language Teachers' Association
of Lithuania



Lietuvos kalbų pedagogų
asociacija - LKPA

Erasmus+ project APATCHE took place at the Catholic Del Sacro Cuore University in Milan

The results of the project were presented to the university community and the participants of the annual conference “Languages at Higher Education: plurilingual approaches and competences enhancement at AI time”, organized by the European Language Council. The research carried out during the project revealed that although the added value of plurilingual methods is unquestionable, a number of language teachers do not know how to apply these methods during their lectures. We hope that the interactive APATCHE course will improve language teachers’ plurilingual competence and enable them to apply a variety of methods that develop multilingualism and contribute to the implementation of language-sensitive teaching.



Greetings from Lithuania

Prepared by **Danute Belazariene and Jurate**

Patackaite

VIKO Foreign Languages' Centre teachers, LKPA members



**Lietuvos kalbų pedagogų
asociacija - LKPA**

Linguists of the Foreign Language Centre at Vilniaus Kolegija / Higher Education find the activities interesting and diverse

If one were to describe the activities accomplished in 2023 by the linguists of the Foreign Language Centre at Vilniaus Kolegija / Higher Education Institution (hereinafter VIKO), the most fitting words would be interesting and diverse. The last few months of the year have been full of particularly significant events and projects.

On 7 December, the VIKO Faculty of Business Management hosted the 12th International Student Scientific-Practical Conference "Youth in a Changing Society". The aim of this conference is to promote youth research initiatives related to entrepreneurship, creativity, citizenship, social responsibility, and sustainable development. The Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania, headquartered in the faculty, has been supporting and encouraging scientific initiatives in young people for many years. This year's conference was attended by more than 150 students from Lithuanian and foreign higher education institutions. Young scientists delivered 80 presentations on a wide range of issues relevant to them, and their curators-lecturers, had the opportunity to admire maturity and originality of topics. The most compelling and effective presentations were given prizes in the form of books and board games by the Language Teachers' Association of Lithuania (hereinafter LKPA) and the "Vaga" bookstore chain in Lithuania.

The project "Generation Z is Studying: Challenges and Solutions in Lithuanian Higher Education Institutions" was implemented in June - November of 2023 at VIKO. The coordinator of this project was the Faculty of Business Management (hereinafter VVF), with the project partners - VIKO VVF Student Representation and Student Science Society and Šiaulių valstybinė kolegija / Higher Education Institution, Lithuanian Business College, and Lithuanian Audiosensory Library, which organized and participated in various project trainings.

Greetings from Lithuania

Prepared by **Halina Klupšienė ir Violeta Žemaitienė**
VIKO Foreign Languages' Centre teachers, LKPA
members



Lietuvos kalbų pedagogų
asociacija - LKPA

Linguists of the Foreign Language Centre at Vilniaus Kolegija / Higher Education find the activities interesting and diverse

Since one of the main activities of the project was "the study of factors determining the psychological learning environment of Generation Z" in Lithuanian and English, the training for the first-year students was related to the topics of stress management, suicide prevention, dyslexia and other reading disorders, tolerance, and pastoral care. Another important activity of the project was devoted to debate training. After attending the debate training, the student teams debated on the topics of their studies and citizenship. The research of the project revealed the influence of the learning environment on the studies of Generation Z students, identified the measures that are applied in higher education institutions which would help to properly manage the challenges, as well as students' attitudes towards organizations and their role.

The authors' photos



Greetings from Lithuania

Prepared by **Audronė Auškelienė**
Director of Public Service Language Centre



Lietuvos kalbų pedagogų
asociacija - LKPA

Opening doors to the world: 30 years of Public Service Language Centre (Lithuania)



On 8 December 2023 the Public Service Language Centre (PSLC) celebrated its 30 years anniversary that took place at the Visitors' Centre of the Lithuanian Parliament and was hosted by the MP Algirdas Stončaitis.

30 years' time span is both short and long. For a person 30 years is youth, for organization 30 years is history. And this history started in 1993 when the Lithuanian Government decided that the state officials and the public servants of the Independent Republic of Lithuania really needed to learn foreign languages, and this learning process had to be organized as in-service training alongside with their work with participation in international meetings and negotiations. Later, it was crucial for the Lithuanian State to prepare for the integration into international organizations such as NATO and European Union.

Therefore, in 1993, together with the United Nations Development Programme and the British Council, The Lithuania Government established a public institution under the title Public Service Language Centre.

Greetings from Lithuania

Prepared by **Audronė Auškelienė**
Director of Public Service Language Centre



Lietuvos kalbų pedagogų
asociacija - LKPA



The first PSLC Director was Eglė Šleimotienė who together with professional language teaching experts prepared the first coursebooks – Tactical English for Land Forces in Peace Support Operations and Integration into International Organizations. The coursebooks were extremely successful and followed by in-service training to the Lithuanian officials and the military officers in the Baltic countries and East Europe. The PSLC has reached international recognition with numerous international projects that were implemented and coordinated by the professional team of the PSLC, one of such projects was Eurolanguages Net (with 24 partner countries participating) which in 2008 received a European Language Label Award.



The above are just a few examples of successful activities of the PSLC and its international significance.

Greetings from Lithuania

Prepared by **Audronė Auškelienė**
Director of Public Service Language Centre



Lietuvos kalbų pedagogų
asociacija - LKPA

PSLC proficiency and pedagogic achievements of the language teaching experts were recognized by the Committee of Education and Science of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania. Also, the Minister of Education and Science congratulated the PSLC team emphasizing the high language teaching standards the PSLC team is pursuing as well as dedicated and professional language teachers who constantly upgrade their qualifications in different teacher training programmes and international conferences.

We were really pleased to welcome dr. Silvija Karklina, the director of the Public Service Language Centre Latvia – organization “twin sister” that opened very soon after the opening of the PSLC Vilnius, in 1993 too. On behalf of the Latvian Association of Language Schools and PSLC Language Latvia dr. Silvija Karklina congratulated PSLC Lithuania on the occasion of the anniversary – 30 years of diverse language teaching specifically to adults and mainly – civil servants.

During the event the presenters and the guests recollected the outstanding 30 years history of the PSLC and significant contribution of professional language teaching experts helping promote multilingualism and encouraging language learning at schools, universities and lifelong as well as the students who have upgraded their communication competences of different languages at the PSLC.

The photos under the link below are from the archives of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/97441645@N08/albums/72177720313237855/wit_h/5338395116

Congratulations





Greetings from Estonia



Prepared by **Ene Peterson,**

Chair of the Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers

KEEPING FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS INFORMED

Three years ago ...

on 1 March the first newsletter of the Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers (EVÕL) was issued. The editor of the newsletter is a member of the Board Ingrid Prees. From 2021 up to 2023 we have had all together 12 issues. Newsletter No 12 was issued on December 20 and presents our plans for 2024, news about EVÕL and our member associations, past events (summer schools, seminars, conferences), upcoming events, and the list of EVÕL representatives in different organisations.

EVÕL Newsletters can be found here: <https://www.voorkeelteliit.eu/uudiskirjad/>

Five years ago...

the Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers prepared a video-clip to address all language teachers with the following call "The Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers brings together the teachers' associations of different languages. A long-term practice and exchange of experiences both with colleagues from Estonia and abroad have created a widespread network and a strong foundation for modern language education in Estonia. Our mission is multilingualism and support students' language learning which opens doors in different fields of life. Dear language teacher, join your language association and contribute to the future of language education."

During five years great changes have taken place as concerns the increase in the membership step by step. Last year the Estonian Association of Teachers of French joined our association. Teachers of Spanish are preparing to re-establish their association. As of 1 December 2023 our Association has 782 members.

Video-clip with subtitles in English can be watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzuJeGj8PNM>



Greetings from Estonia



Prepared by **Ene Peterson,**

Chair of the Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On September 30 a language fair- conference "Multilingualism Enriches!" dedicated to the European Day of Languages took place at Jõhvi Basic School.

The celebration of the European Day was full of different activities. Apart from listening to the plenary session and talks, a round-table discussion, participation in workshops, teachers had the chance to test their knowledge of the European Union and about the languages of our continent. Moreover, during the whole day teachers could explore book sales with the latest teaching materials, learn about the activities of our partners, such as Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps Agency, the Estonian Language Institute, Multilingua Language Center, Goethe Institute, the Finnish Institute of Estonia, Spanish House, and the French Institute of Estonia.

On top of everything, participants could visit a roll-up exhibition of success stories "Eine Sprache- Viele Geschichte". In this exhibition, 15 Estonians talk about the personal experiences that bind them to German. The easiest way to change your world is to learn a foreign language.

Exhibition link (in German): <https://tallinn.diplo.de/ee-de/themen/kultur/-/2598110>

Success stories can be listened to here:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLidJ-1wyiYHo0QreEduM26QDm_OEvx9Eq



Greetings from Estonia



Prepared by **Ene Peterson,**

Chair of the Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

The plenary session **“Multilingualism: why, to whom and how”** was presented by Pille Põiklik, the head expert of the Language Policy Department of the Ministry of Education and Research. She provided foreign language teachers with a wealth of food for thought, comparing the latest data on language learning in the European Union with that of Estonia. Multilingualism encompasses all languages included in the learner's language repertoire. Language teaching itself could be viewed in a broader context, as learning to communicate with people, getting to know oneself and others.

Workshops started after lunch on a wide range of topics, such as cross-cultural differences, the challenges and successes of communicative language teaching, multilingualism in the project “Exploration of the Language World of Baltic Sea Countries”, an integrated language learning lesson in Estonian, English, and Russian using proverbs as examples, flipped classrooms, language teaching enriched with robots, online tools for pronunciation training, project-based learning using Padlet in English lessons, language coaching, media literacy, a nationwide literary translation competition as an active method.

At the end of the day, summaries were made of the quiz and the winners were drawn. The organization of the Language Day event was supported by the Ministry of Education and Research. During the long conference day, there was a lot to see, hear, and take note of.

An article and presentations can be found here:

<https://www.voorkeelteliit.eu/euroopa-keeltepaeva-laad-konverents-johvis/>



Greetings from Estonia



Prepared by **Ene Peterson,**

Chair of the Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers

THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY YEAR IN ESTONIA

In 2024, we are celebrating the Cultural Diversity Year in Estonia. We understand, value and cherish the richness of cultures which we are creating together with all the communities and people of our country. This is the common value that unites us – how we carry Estonia in our hearts. Read more here: <https://integratsioon.ee/en/node/4431>

The language fair – conference dedicated to multilingualism was an excellent introduction to the Cultural Diversity Year.

European Language Day (Photos taken by Ene Peterson)
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QInMKmNv-qblpr4lfonjT-C-4hWBqvRi>





Greetings from Estonia



Prepared by **Ene Peterson,**

Chair of the Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers

TWO IN ONE: THE AUTUMN CONFERENCE COMBINED WITH THE VISIT TO THE STATE UPPER- SECONDARY SCHOOL

While the tradition of the autumn conferences began in 2015, then in 2020 we started to organise study visits to the state upper-secondary schools (in Estonian *gümnaasium*).

From 2022 onwards we have combined the conduct of autumn conferences with visiting upper-secondary state schools and organising seminars there. A state upper secondary school is a gymnasium within the area of administration of the Ministry of Education and Research which is maintained by the state. Since 2012, 26 state upper-secondary schools have been established in Estonia.

EVÕL 2023 autumn conference "Back to Roots!" and the regional training day took place on 17- 18 November in Tartu, in the town where the foundation meeting of EVÕL was held in 2009.

Liina Põld, Deputy Secretary General (General Education and Youth Affairs) of the Ministry of Education and Research, gave her opening presentation on the directions of teacher policy. According to Liina Põld, high-quality foreign language education must ensure that every Estonian is proficient in at least two other languages besides his or her mother tongue. At the same time, Estonia stands out in comparison with OECD countries with a very high percentage of teachers over the age of 50. There are only 9% of teachers under the age of 30 in the Estonian education system.

Marika Peekmann, Chief Expert in Foreign Languages and International Education of the Ministry of Education and Research, introduced the Ministry's view of the new foreign language syllabus.



Greetings from Estonia



Prepared by **Ene Peterson,**

Chair of the Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers

TWO IN ONE: THE AUTUMN CONFERENCE COMBINED WITH THE VISIT TO THE STATE UPPER- SECONDARY SCHOOL

The conference continued with the talks on the role of the text in teaching languages, the importance of teachers' wellbeing, mental health and ways of recognition, links between asking and thinking.

After that the Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers Language Recognition Letters were awarded in six categories.

The first conference day was concluded with the discussion and exchange of ideas on the future of language teaching and the importance of supporting teachers during their teacher's career.

On 18 November, the conference continued with the training day "Let's start from the beginning" at the new modern state upper-secondary school Tartu Tamme Gymnasium. On the training day the presentations on the formation of language teachers' associations, from the Soviet period to the present day, mentoring system, discussion on the transition to new syllabuses, diverse workshops in French, Russian, English and Estonian took place.

The greatest strength of EVÕL is its members - foreign language teachers in Estonia. Such conferences prove that we all have much to learn from each other and give teachers the opportunity to share their knowledge and skills with others. **Experience sharing enriches!**

An article, programme, thesis and presentations can be found here:

<https://www.voorkeelteliit.eu/sugiskonverents-juurte-juures-ja-koolituspaev-alustame-algusest-tartus/> Photos on Facebook (taken by Karola Velberg, posted on November 17, 18 and 19): <https://www.facebook.com/voorkeelteliit/>

Greetings from Estonia



Prepared by **Elen Laanemaa, Triin Kibar**

Language Centre at the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences, Estonia

FROM A LANGUAGE TEACHER TO A LANGUAGE COACH

The language teachers of the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences participated in a language coaching training that taught us to manage ourselves better, how to be a more effective guide, supporter and companion for our students. Evelyn Soidla, a coach, supervisor, team developer, was our development guide/supporter, trainer on this journey.

During coaching the focus is on the person, the team and the goal. Coaching is future oriented, looking for opportunities, setting the goals, creating an action plan and focusing on the vision. Language coaching means that the language learning process is integrated into the process of self-development (setting goals, activities and strategies, assessing and reviewing objectives, guiding the learner towards personal development and achievement).

Why did we need such training? We had been searching for something to get out of our comfort zone and would inspire us. That is how we found language coaching, which means that using elements of coaching, the learner takes the responsibility, develops his/her language skills, chooses his/her path and sets goals.

As teachers, we are always thinking about how to teach better, how to make the learner improve their language skills. We constantly focus on how the learner is doing and take responsibility for his or her development. But language coaching is the opposite: the learner takes responsibility for his/her progress, with a clear goal and motivation. But how do we get there as a teacher? According to coaching principles you have to start with yourself, because you can change yourself but not others.

Greetings from Estonia



Prepared by **Elen Laanemaa, Triin Kibar**

Language Centre at the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences, Estonia

FROM A LANGUAGE TEACHER TO A LANGUAGE COACH

During the training we learnt to define our own teaching and ourselves as teachers, to ask the right questions, offer fewer answers, and to listen more. We became more aware of how to foster motivation in the learner and make them notice their needs and hurdles by asking the right questions. We discussed how to make the learner feel appreciated as a person and that his/her development and the learning path are important. As a teacher, it is our task to create the space for the learner to set his/her own goals and determines his/her own path. To support this, we acquired different techniques and useful tips.

What did we learn about ourselves? By taking the role of both a coach and coachee, it became clearer to us what coaching is all about. Apart from the Aha! moment and new insights, there were questions, hesitations, misunderstandings and the feeling 'it is not possible'. But something did change in each of us. During the training there were plenty of opportunities to explore ourselves further. We learned to pay attention to ourselves, our internal and external speech, our influence, etc. Coaching techniques need to be applied not only in our work, but also in life outside, e.g. self-coaching can also be useful.

What next? Have we become language coaches? Yes, we have. Moreover, we would like to see this approach spread more widely among the teaching staff in our academy. This way, there is a much greater chance that learners will really develop the independence that every lecturer dreams of. While this approach requires more than a few good tips, perhaps a small change in teaching causes a bigger change in the learner.

All in all, we have found our inspiration and we will apply it to our teaching. We encourage to study and explore this approach for better and meaningful language learning and teaching.

Greetings from Estonia

**EVÕL**
Eesti Võõrkeeleeõpetajate Liit

Prepared by **Elen Laanemaa, Triin Kibar**

Language Centre at the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences, Estonia

SOME TIPS FROM THE TRAINING:

1. Make agreements at the beginning of the course.
2. Let the learner formulate objectives.
3. Get the learner think about his/her learning path.
4. Follow the idea that there is a resource in every learner.
5. Try to take a solution-focused approach: 1) What is already good? (Always start with something positive); 2) What could be better?; 3) What should be changed; 4) What do I do next?
6. Explain what might be a 'trigger' (obstacle) for the learner.
7. Motivate and inspire.
8. Energy goes where the attention goes.
9. Break down the bigger parts.
10. Link - "As long as you are giving examples, you are learning. When you stop giving examples, the learners will learn".

Greetings from Finland



Prepared by SUKOL Executive Director Anna Halme

Suomen kieltenopettajien liitto ry

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LANGUAGE TEACHING

In November 2023, more than 200 interested language teachers participated in artificial intelligence training organized by SUKOL, the Finnish language teachers' association. The use of artificial intelligence in language teaching has also been written about in SUKOL's Tempus magazine. The training was given by Petteri Hyvönen from Naantali high school, and the magazine article was written by Antti Rinne from Nummi primary and middle school in Hämeenlinna. Both work as language teachers themselves.

Artificial intelligence has quickly become part of the language teacher's toolbox as well. Advanced language models are capable of many things, but the final output still requires a human handprint. For example, when creating or checking various tasks, artificial intelligence is an excellent tool. Copyright must be kept in mind, as the teacher does not have the right to feed the text of a student or textbook to an artificial intelligence without permission. A teacher cannot tell learners to log into ChatGPT, for example, but if he knows that students are already using it, he can give tips for self-study and achieving learning goals.

It is important to think about what artificial intelligence is used for in studies and what it is not suitable for. If the purpose is to assess the student's own skill as a language user, artificial intelligence should not be used as an aid, but it is suitable for many other learning situations. For a language student, artificial intelligence can act as a peer – a sparring partner who can give some feedback and help overcome small challenges.

The rapidly developing artificial intelligence causes many changes in society, including in teaching and evaluation. Making learning processes visible and creating motivation is even more important than before. "If there is no motivation, high school students will not go over where the fence is lowest, but where there is no fence at all," language teacher Petteri Hyvönen characterized at a training event organized by SUKOL. Motivation can be influenced by encouragement, splitting goals into parts and creating meaning. Hyvönen's dream is that artificial intelligence would actually force an encounter between people.

Greetings from Finland



Suomen kielenopettajien liitto ry

Prepared by SUKOL Executive Director Anna Halme

The Current Situation about Languages

In SUKOL's high school survey in November 2023, teachers were asked to evaluate whether more, less or the same amount of languages is taught in their own high school as before. Another broader entity concerned the effects of the reform of matriculation certificate selection and matriculation essays on language learning and the work of a language teacher; 40.5% of respondents said that there are as many groups of advanced (long) languages other than English in their high schools as before. 17% of upper secondary schools have fewer groups of advanced languages and 3% of upper secondary schools have more than before. Almost a third (28.5%) answered that their high schools do not teach advanced languages other than English.

There are fewer groups of intermediate / short languages than before in almost half of the respondents' high schools (46.3%). Just over a third (36%) answered that there are as many groups of intermediate / short languages as before. In a small number of upper secondary schools (3.4%), there are more groups than before; the same number answered that short languages are not taught at all.

In SUKOL's previous high school survey from the fall of 2019, the respondents (235 high school teachers) said that the student groups with advanced (long) languages other than English had decreased in their high schools. In some high schools, A languages (other than English) were no longer taught, because there were only a few choices. The A language students were then directed to B2 groups.

However, in the 2019 high school survey, almost 30% of the respondents said that there are no intermediate / short language groups at the educational institution. In the educational institutions where there were groups, the groups were often smaller than a year earlier. This was the opinion of 30% of respondents.

Greetings from Finland

Prepared by SUKOL Executive Director Anna Halme



Suomen kielenopettajien liitto ry

Respondents were asked whether students would be directed to complete their studies elsewhere if there are no language groups at the educational institution. Almost half answered that students can be directed to online or distance education. The city's other upper secondary schools and completely independent study received fewer mentions.

Upper secondary schools are very unequal among themselves, and principals and education organisers have a lot of power. In some upper secondary schools, language groups are invested in and established even with a smaller number of students. On the other hand, the courses are halved, for example, according to the model of this answer:

"If a group is so-called too little, 60% teaching is given, i.e. 40% independent work and study. However, the student gets the score for the entire course, the teacher 60% of the salary."

The new point models for university certificate selection will be introduced in 2026. It is hoped that the new point models will increase and diversify the study of short languages in particular. However, many teachers take care of the second domestic language:

"De flesta studerar A-finska, men eställt lönar det sig att skriva medellång finska för t.ex. tvåspråkiga studerande zandot ett L ger mera pogån än ett E i A-Finska."

"At least it doesn't have a positive effect. You still get more points for short maths in many areas of study than, for example, a B in Swedish."

The changes in the matriculation exam have slightly increased the workload of the high school language teacher. This has especially been affected by the repeaters of the matriculation exam: 59.1% have increased the number of thier supervision tasks, and 37.4% say that the number of evaluation tasks has increased.

Greetings from Finland



Suomen kieltenopettajien liitto ry

Prepared by SUKOL Executive Director Anna Halme

In the fall of 2023, the evaluation of the long language essay of the matriculation exams also changed; these changes have not affected the workload of 39.1 percent of the respondents. 25.7% say that work has become easier or faster. However, almost a fifth (18.3%) are of the opinion that the change in the evaluation of the essay has made it difficult or slower to do the work.

The survey was sent in November 2023 through SUKOL's member register to those members who have declared that they teach at a high school. 205 responses were received, i.e. the response rate is slightly less than 13. Of the respondents, 54.6% work in a municipality, city or joint municipal high school in a municipality with less than 50,000 inhabitants. 28.8% work in a municipal, city or municipal union high school in a municipality with more than 50,000 inhabitants. 13.2% work in a high school run by a foundation, association or university in a municipality with more than 50,000 inhabitants.





Greetings from Sweden



The Language Teachers' Association of Sweden

Prepared by **Mia Smith**

President of the Language Teachers' Association of Sweden

Creating change

This autumn our association has focused on trying to impact those who can make change happen in our society. We have sent a request to the Swedish National Agency for Education regarding updating and expanding national assessment for English and modern languages. We have also been asked to provide our perspective on new suggestions for curricula for the Sami language. The proposed changes open up for more students to study the Sami language, an indigenous language of Sweden, Norway, and Finland, which we greatly appreciate.



A debate article was published in a leading newspaper in cooperation with other associations for teachers of certain subjects, such as the Association of Teachers of Music and the Biology Teachers' Association. The article focused on the very problematic situation of textbook usage in Swedish schools. Lack of

funding has led to a textbook shortage in many schools, where teachers are required to create their own teaching materials, use outdated textbooks, use digital materials, or make copies of materials, where not enough books are available. The article has led to further discussions in social media, on Swedish radio, and in union media. On December 27th the government presented that an investigation on the topic is to be conducted by the Swedish School Inspectorate.



Greetings from Sweden



The Language Teachers' Association of Sweden

Prepared by **Mia Smith**

President of the Language Teachers' Association of Sweden

Meeting the Officials

In October our president, Mia Smith, had the opportunity to meet with our Minister of Education, Lotta Edholm. During the meeting, we presented, together with the Association of Teachers of French and the Association of Teachers of Spanish, a list of propositions regarding language education in Sweden. We hope that our propositions will have an impact on future decision-making in our field of interest.



From the left: **Mia Smith**, president of the Language Teachers' Association of Sweden, **Lotta Edholm**, Minister of Education, **Camilla Rosengart**, vice president of the Association of Teachers of French, and **Emmeli Beveridge**, representative from the Association of Teachers of Spanish.





Greetings from Sweden

Prepared by **Mia Smith**

President of the Language Teachers' Association of Sweden



The Language Teachers' Association of Sweden

Online inspiration, education, and cooperation

Our members have been able to take part in various online activities this autumn. Our magazine *Lingua* is published online four times a year, and our podcast *Linguapodden* is available on several podcast platforms and has presented four more interviews with researchers sharing their findings. We have also had the pleasure of inviting our members to two webinars in cooperation with Göteborg University, gifted to our members to celebrate our 85th anniversary. The topics have been motivation among young learners and assessment. A third webinar, focusing on vocabulary, will be held in February.



Our regional branches have also offered webinars, book seminars, informal meetings among members, and lectures. We are also glad to share that 290 teachers of Spanish from 30 countries signed up for Spanish Teachmeet online in October. The majority were either members or interested in becoming members of our association afterward. The teachmeet currently has more than one thousand views.



Greetings from Sweden



The Language Teachers' Association of Sweden

Prepared by **Mia Smith**

President of the Language Teachers' Association of Sweden

Música, Musik, Music, Musique!

After the success of Torneo de Música, we added Der Superhit last year, and in January 2024 we will offer our members participation in music contests in the four major languages taught in Swedish schools by adding The Great Music Showdown and La coupe des chansons. 16 songs in each language have been selected and a group of teachers are creating teaching materials for each song. Starting in mid-January, two songs will face each other in a duel each week for eight weeks. Teachers present the songs to their students and the students get to vote for the song they prefer. The winner of each week will reach the quarterfinals, then hopefully the semifinals, and in the final round in April we will celebrate the winning song in each contest. We hope that our students will find more joy and motivation for language learning through music.





Greetings from **Latvia**

Prepared by **Inga Linde**

the president of Latvian Association of Teachers of English



LATE's 31st Annual Conference 2023 "Empowerment through Teaching and Learning"

The beginning of the new school year has been very busy for the Latvian Association of Teachers of English (LATE). As always, it started with LATE's Annual Conference 2023 "Empowerment through Teaching and Learning" which was held on 24th-25th August at Riga State Classical Gymnasium and was attended by more than 200 EFL professionals and LATE members.



The conference was a two-day teacher professional development event and it was opened by Mr. Paul Brummel CMG, British Ambassador to Latvia and Mr. Cale Wagner – Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy in Latvia.





Greetings from **Latvia**

Prepared by **Inga Linde**

the president of Latvian Association of Teachers of English



Paul Brummel CMG, British Ambassador, Inga Linde, LATE President and Zane Matesoviča,
Director British Council Latvia

The conference had a very rich programme with more than 30 outstanding guest and local speakers. LATE would like to say thank you to our guest speakers Elizabeth Beer (Pearson) and George Kokolas (Express Publishing), the U.S. Embassy in Latvia and particularly Noora Mahmassani and Jennifer Uhler (Regional English Language Officer). We would also like to thank all our excellent local speakers – Robert Buckmaster, Tatjana Kunda, Dace Miška, Inta Augustāne, Rita Skara-Mincāne, Beāte Kaupasa, Daiga Brasliņa, Anita Auziņa, Ingunā Melne, Andrew Doxsey, Diāna Bolgare, Ivars Dominiks Zeps, Laima Takere, Sandra Kalniņa, Inga Linde, Madara Vīre, Emīlija Jaunbirze, Elizabete Oldermane, Gabriela Ozoliņa and Yulia Horbachova (Ukraine), as well as all the publishers – Oxford University Press, and particularly Dace Miška, Krisostomus Bookshop and Zane Šķiņķe and Maarja Paakspuu (Estonia), Pearson and Express Publishing for their support and helping to make it an inspiring teacher professional development event.

Greetings from **Latvia**

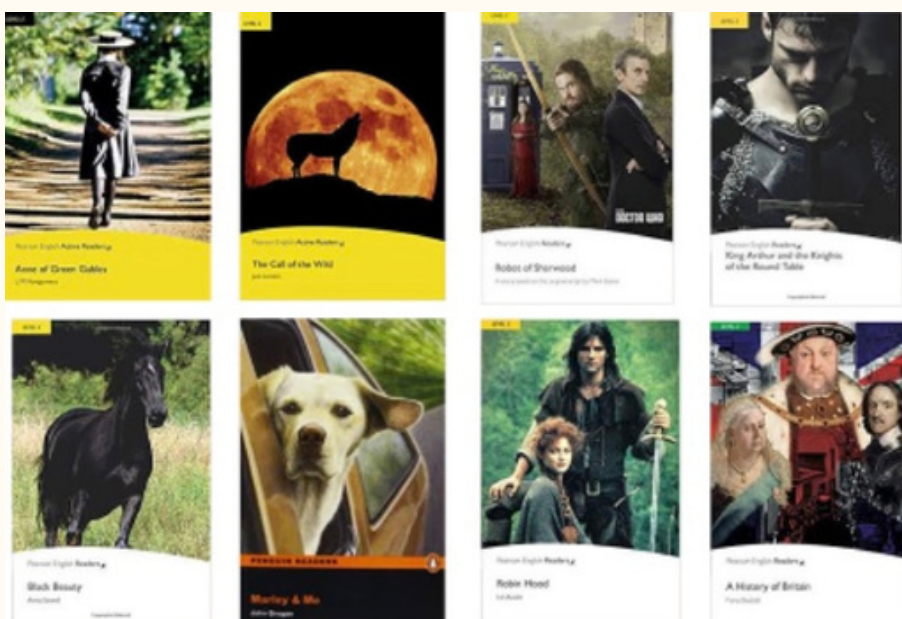
Prepared by **Inga Linde**

the president of Latvian Association of Teachers of English



“Reading Circle” project

For the 5th year, LATE supports English language teachers by offering participation in the Reading Circle project, where reading circles are organised for grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11. The teachers and students can read and work with 5–8 literature books during the school year. The books have been chosen to suit the age level of the students and the CEFR scales. Here is the set of books read by Grade 6.



The main aim is to motivate and encourage students to read and foster their reading skills. This year 44 teachers and more than 1000 students are taking part in the project.



Greetings from **Latvia**

Prepared by **Inga Linde**

the president of Latvian Association of Teachers of English



The ECML RELANG project “Literature and creative texts: how to practise and test literature in line with the CEFR and its Companion Volume”

The European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) RELANG workshop “Literature and creative texts: how to practise and test literature in line with the CEFR and its Companion Volume”, with the support of the European Commission, was held in cooperation with LATE from 25–27th October, 2023 in Latvia.

The workshop was conducted by the ECML experts, Rita Juknevičienė (Lithuania) and Gábor Szábo (Hungary), and 22 project participants, almost half of whom were teacher trainers and EFL methodological board leaders from all over Latvia, actively participated in the event.





Greetings from Latvia

Prepared by **Inga Linde**

the president of Latvian Association of Teachers of English



This RELANG workshop was immensely important for foreign language teachers, as the new competence-based curriculum is being introduced in Latvia, with a strong focus on integrating literature into language lessons. The workshop helped to create a deeper understanding on how to work with literature and creative texts by designing tasks and performance level descriptions according to the CEFR scales on general reading comprehension, reading as a leisure activity, analysing literature and creative texts and expressing personal attitudes.

During the course, teachers had the opportunity not only to deepen their understanding, but also to practically develop tasks and assessment scales related to literature and creative texts according to a certain level of the CEFR and the outcomes defined in the Latvian national standards for primary and general secondary education.



Participants highly evaluated the professionalism of the ECML experts, the positive environment and the course content and tasks that prepared the ground for numerous opportunities of group discussions and experts' suggestions and recommendations helped the teachers develop a better understanding on developing appropriate tasks and assessment scales.



reviews



Literature offers enormous field of sources and opportunities to serve our students intellectual, psychological and emotional needs and I was happy to meet colleagues that share the same views and attitude. Thank you to consultants who kept reminding us about importance of assessment in every step we make. (Inguna Kalniņa)

I have received meaningful information about CEFR levels and their practical application in the classroom. I had various opportunities to work with colleagues from Latvian schools, valuable discussions, and a lot of support from the experts/ consultants. I appreciate this experience. Thank you! (Veronika Skripačova)

Greetings from **Latvia**

Prepared by **Inga Linde**

the president of Latvian Association of Teachers of English



“Excellence Award”

Thanks to the University of Latvia Faculty of Pedagogy, Psychology and Arts, on the 8th November 2023, the “Excellence Award” event for the English Language teachers was organised for the first time in history.

A total of 104 recommendations were received and 64 English language teachers from all over Latvia were nominated for the Excellence Award by students, graduates, parents and colleagues.



LATE is proud that all five finalists – Agnese Gromova-Ķūrena, Rita Murāne-Rutka, Vintra, Daina Spilberga are LATE members and proved themselves as high-level professionals.

The “Excellence Award” was supported by the British Council Latvia, British Embassy Riga and the U.S. Embassy in Latvia and the “Excellence Award” and a scholarship was awarded to Agnese Gromova-Kurena by the British Council Latvia and Rita Murāne-Rutka received a special award for the contribution in promoting English language learning in the regions of Latvia.

Greetings from **Latvia**

Prepared by **Inga Linde**

the president of Latvian Association of Teachers of English



"Debut of an Excellent Young Teacher"

LATE would also like to congratulate the new teacher and LATE member Ivars Dominiks Zeps with receiving the **"Debut of an Excellent Young Teacher"** award.





Greetings from **Latvia**

Prepared by by **Robert Buckmaster**

the vice-president of **Latvian Association of Teachers of English**



“LATE British Culture and Teaching Roadshow” project

Another project started on the 23rd October is LATE's “British Culture and Teaching Roadshow”, where a team of 3 lecturers Robert Buckmaster, Andrew Doxsey and Craig Rose travelled to 4 main cities in Latgale region spending a day in Daugavpils, Rzekne, Ludza and Balvi, and conducting an 8-hour training to the teachers living in the area.



During the Roadshow events, 132 teachers learnt how to develop their students' understanding of media and their abilities to think critically about the media they are exposed to. They considered how to make their classrooms more inclusive and welcoming through adaptive teaching, using tools such as de Bono's thinking hats, choice boards and Bloom's taxonomy. Teachers also learnt some new facts about British culture and were given ideas of projects to run to incorporate culture into the curriculum, and ideas such as how to use 'Research and Write' tasks. Participants received lesson plans and materials which they can use in the classroom and frameworks such as 650 Texts and Total Text Comprehension approaches.

Greetings from **Latvia**

Prepared by by **Robert Buckmaster**
the vice-president of **Latvian Association of Teachers of English**



Andrew, Craig and Rob were very pleased with the warm welcome they received from all the teachers, and impressed with their dedication to improving their skills and their teaching. All participants were offered the chance to join a Telegram Community of Practice, which will support them through to March 2024 in the second stage of the project.

LATE is very thankful for all the support it has received from the local organisers and schools hosting the event, the local education authorities, and the British Council Latvia, our partner in the project

Immediate future plans:

LATE's **Winter teacher professional development course (TPDC) "Enhancing Teachers' Professional Competence"**. The sessions are planned to take place online via Zoom platform on 4-5 Saturdays from 9:00-12:00 from the end of January till the beginning of March. **MORE INFORMATION HERE**
<https://late.lv/2024/01/20/winter-teacher-professional-development-course-tpdc-2024-enhancing-teachers-professional-competence/>

Please sign up for the event using this form: https://ej.uz/LATE_WINTER_2024

Greetings from **Latvia**

Prepared by **Inga Linde**

the president of Latvian Association of Teachers of English



LATE's 7th Winter TPDD 2023 "Advancing Teachers' Professional Competence and Self-Efficacy"

Despite the fact that it is during the festive season and winter holidays, on 29th December, 2023, 189 teachers were ready to join the LATE's 7th Winter TPDD 2023 "Advancing Teachers' Professional Competence and Self-Efficacy" online via Zoom platform.

During the teacher professional development day the ECML RELANG 2023 project "Literature and creative texts: how to practise and test literature in line with the CEFR and its Companion Volume" participants Laima Takere and Marija Griņeviča shared their experience gained during the course and disseminated the RELANG project materials, describing the event from the participants' perspective, sharing key insights into the importance of understanding the CEFR level descriptors in order to prepare appropriate tasks for students and introduced with the tasks and assessment scales produced during the project.

The Oxford University Press Representative Dace Miška spoke about developing useful strategies and "Applying Critical Thinking to Reading". In her presentation, "Integrated skills activities for the primary classroom", Betti Sewell (International House Riga-Satva) focused on practical activities developing integrated skills for primary learners.

During the presentation "Exam preparation: What does it mean?", Tatjana Kunda (National Centre for Education) considered a number of issues related to preparing learners for the exam and elaborated on how to ensure that language learning is not lost in pursuit of higher exam grades. Inguna Melne (Riga State Gymnasium No 1) provided some practical tips and tricks to improve students' writing skills and Andrew Doxsey (Limbaži State Gymnasium) introduced teachers with the use of AI in the language classroom and demonstrated his experience how ChatGPT could be used to reduce teachers workload.

LATE would like to thank all LATE members and cooperation partners for supporting LATE's events and for the productive and eventful year.

Greetings from Iceland

STÍL – SAMTÖK
TUNGUMÁLAKENNARA
Á ÍSLANDI

Prepared by **Þorbjörg Halldórsdóttir**

the president of the Association of Language Teachers in
Iceland (STÍL)

Here is a quick overview of what has taken place within the Association of Language Teachers in Iceland (STÍL) since September 2023.

We celebrated The Day of European Languages on the 26th of September by distributing to our teachers the lovely posters from the ECML in Graz which had, to my surprise and pleasure, been translated to Icelandic! The posters were received with smiles and gratitude and are still hanging on the walls in many schools. We also had a seminar in co-operation with the Vigdis International Centre where four speakers gave lectures on four different topics: Study materials in Danish (Þórhildur Oddsdóttir); Positive Psychology and Language learning (Anna Pála Stefánsdóttir), Preschool as an Inclusive Learning Space for Communication and Understanding (Fríða Bjarney Jónsdóttir) and findings of a new comparative Eurydice Network report that contributes to the monitoring of the policy developments in the field of (foreign) language teaching in schools in Europe (Hulda Herjólfsdóttir Skogland). More information on the last topic is given below.1

In October STÍL offered language teachers a training session in the use of AI in language teaching. The teachers who showed us the ropes in this controversial topic were Guðný Laxdal and Geir Finnsson, both teachers in English in Iceland. The workshop proved very popular since 30 people showed up on a Friday afternoon just at the beginning of the winter break. About 200 people had also responded as „interested“ in the event on Facebook beforehand.

In November we had a workshop in The Flying Carpet – Intercultural Encounters under the leadership of Kristín Vilhjálmisdóttir. Kristín has offered this project to schools in Iceland since 2008. By implementing The Flying Carpet in schools and kindergardens children and youngsters get an opportunity to work on and mediate their culture, languages, strengths and interests in a fun and lively way.

Greetings from Iceland

STÍL – SAMTÖK
TUNGUMÁLAKENNARA
Á ÍSLANDI

Prepared by **Þorbjörg Halldórsdóttir**
the president of the Association of Language Teachers in
Iceland (STÍL)

In December the president of STÍL (the author of this article), Þorbjörg Halldórsdóttir, was invited by the ECML to attend the conference Inspiring innovation in language education: changing contexts, evolving competences”: It was the Final Conference of the 6th medium-term programme 2020–2023 of the ECML and was held on 13–14 December 2023 in Graz, Austria & online. It was a very fruitful trip to Graz where there was not only an opportunity to dig into the new materials that have been produced in the ECML programme for the last four years but also to meet new people and do some networking. The plan is to give a presentation on the visit to Graz, both to STÍL members and the Directorate of Education in Iceland.

This overview only covers a fraction of what has taken place within STÍL since all of the organisations that are a part of the association all have their own agenda as well with interesting workshops, seminars, webinars, lectures, newsletters etc. I believe it is worth mentioning that Ísbrú, the organization of teachers who teach Icelandic as a second language were invited to Bessastaðir where the President of Iceland rewarded the teachers for their contribution to the Icelandic Language. This happened on the 16th of November which marks The Day of Icelandic Language. The photo below was taken on this beautiful day. There you can see The president, Guðni Th. Jóhannesson surrounded by the members of Ísbrú, who are all teachers in Icelandic as a second language. The president was given a new Icelandic Picture Dictionary (Orð eru ævintýri) that was recently published by The Directorate of Education in Iceland.

Greetings from Iceland

Prepared by **Þorbjörg Halldórsdóttir**

the president of the Association of Language Teachers in
Iceland (STÍL)



STÍL – SAMTÖK
TUNGUMÁLAKENNARA
Á ÍSLANDI

Ísbrú and Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, the president of Iceland



The new picture dictionary *Orð eru ævintýri*
(English translation: *Words are Adventures*):



The dictionary has drawings of about a 1000 basic vocabulary words in Icelandic. All children aged three, four and five in Iceland also received the book as a gift from the state and municipalities in Iceland. The dictionary will also be useful for those who wish to study Icelandic as a second language.

Greetings from Iceland



STÍL – SAMTÖK
TUNGUMÁLAKENNARA
Á ÍSLANDI

Prepared by **Þorbjörg Halldórsdóttir**

the president of the Association of Language Teachers in
Iceland (STÍL)

For those interested in more information on the Eurydice report – here is a small summary that Hulda Herjólfsdóttir Skogland wrote for the newsletter.

A short review of Hulda Herjólfsdóttir Skogland's presentation on the Eurydice report:



One of the conferences' presentations on the Day of European Languages was provided by a representative from the Directorate of Education Hulda Herjólfsdóttir Skogland. Hulda gave an overview of the most important findings of a new comparative Eurydice Network report that contributes to the monitoring of the policy developments in the field of (foreign) language teaching in schools in Europe. The report: The 2023 edition of Key data on teaching languages at school in Europe, includes 51 indicators covering a wide range of topics relevant to foreign language policy at national

and EU levels, including topics such as; starting age of and participation rate in foreign language learning; instruction time; support measures for newly arrived migrant students; expected level of attainment; the study of English as a foreign language and the state of play of language teachers' transnational mobility.

The full report can be found on:

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/e0f69418-d915-11ed-a05c-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-283957218>

Greetings from Iceland



STÍL – SAMTÖK
TUNGUMÁLAKENNARA
Á ÍSLANDI

Prepared by **Þorbjörg Halldórsdóttir**

the president of the Association of Language Teachers in
Iceland (STÍL)

If needed, below are also some links for infographics:

[https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/styles/yw_large_2x/public/2023-03/Infographics Key data Teaching Infographic1.jpg?
itok=ATkFTXCz](https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/styles/yw_large_2x/public/2023-03/Infographics%20Key%20data%20Teaching%20Infographic1.jpg?itok=ATkFTXCz)

[https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/styles/yw_large_2x/public/2023-03/Infographics Key data Teaching Infographic2_0.jpg?
itok=p9qcplRd](https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/styles/yw_large_2x/public/2023-03/Infographics%20Key%20data%20Teaching%20Infographic2_0.jpg?itok=p9qcplRd)

[https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/styles/yw_large_2x/public/2023-03/Infographics Key data Teaching Infographic3_0.jpg?
itok=54o0or_f](https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/styles/yw_large_2x/public/2023-03/Infographics%20Key%20data%20Teaching%20Infographic3_0.jpg?itok=54o0or_f)

[https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/styles/yw_large_2x/public/2023-03/Infographics Key data Teaching Infographic4.jpg?
itok=Xdr5WOWq](https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/styles/yw_large_2x/public/2023-03/Infographics%20Key%20data%20Teaching%20Infographic4.jpg?itok=Xdr5WOWq)

[https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/styles/yw_large_2x/public/2023-03/Infographics Key data Teaching Infographic5.jpg?
itok=YplpDe-g](https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/styles/yw_large_2x/public/2023-03/Infographics%20Key%20data%20Teaching%20Infographic5.jpg?itok=YplpDe-g)

The board of STÍL has many interesting events lined up for the coming months and we will report on those in the next newsletter.

I wish you all a happy new year 2024!

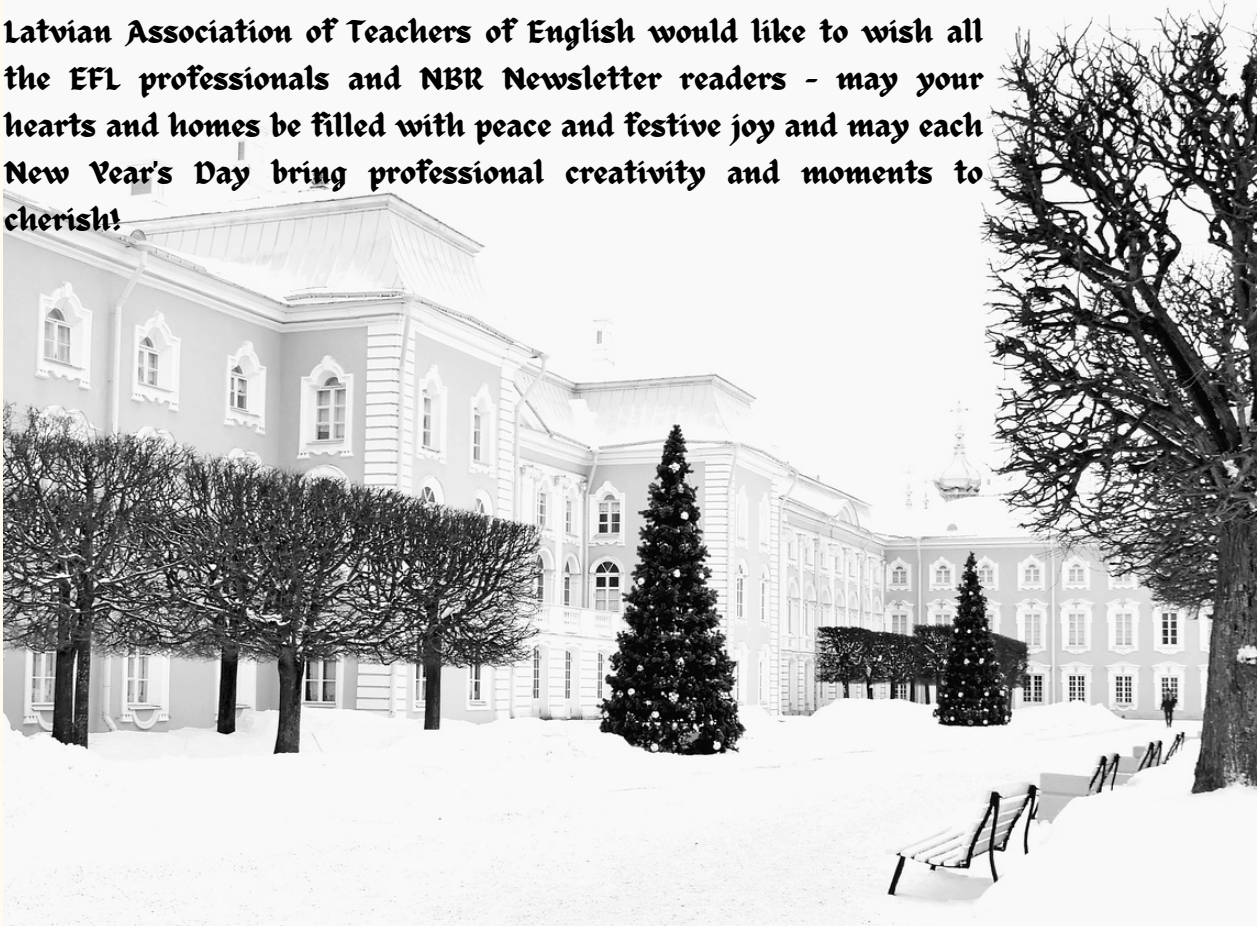
Þorbjörg Halldórsdóttir, president of STÍL.



Making a wish
just especially for you
and hoping sincerely
the wish will come true:
May your Christmas be merry
and happy and bright
and all through the New Year
things turn out right.

The Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers

Latvian Association of Teachers of English would like to wish all the EFL professionals and NBR Newsletter readers - may your hearts and homes be filled with peace and festive joy and may each New Year's Day bring professional creativity and moments to cherish!



Online sources for learning languages

<https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/europeandayoflanguages>

https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/departments-and-executive-agencies/translation/european-day-languages-events-2023_en

<https://edl.ecml.at/>

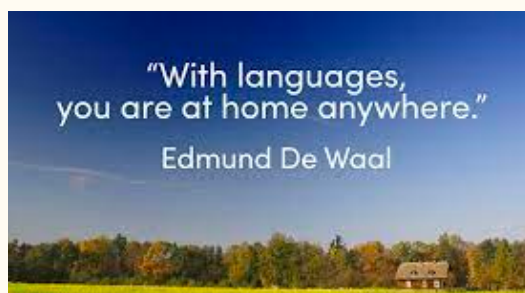
<https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanDayofLanguages/>

<https://www.facebook.com/translationeuropa/>

<https://ihworld.com/news-blog/ih-blog/our-favourite-idioms-from-across-europe/>

<https://europeisnotdead.com/european-nationality-related-idioms/>

<https://www.omniglot.com/language/idioms/index.php>





Language teachers' associations in the Nordic-Baltic region

FINLAND Suomen kielenopettajien liitto SUKOL RY (SUKOL) www.sukol.fi

ICELAND Association of Foreign Language Teachers in Iceland (STIL) FIPLV
<http://stil-is.weebly.com>

SWEDEN The Language Teachers' Organization of Sweden
<https://spraklararna.se/>

ESTONIA Eesti Võõrkeeleeõpetajate Liit (EVOL) (Estonian Association of Foreign
Language Teachers) www.voorkeelteliit.eu

LITHUANIA Language Teachers Association of Lithuania/Lietuvos kalbų
pedagogų asociacija (LTAL/LKPA) <http://www.lkpa.vdu.lt>

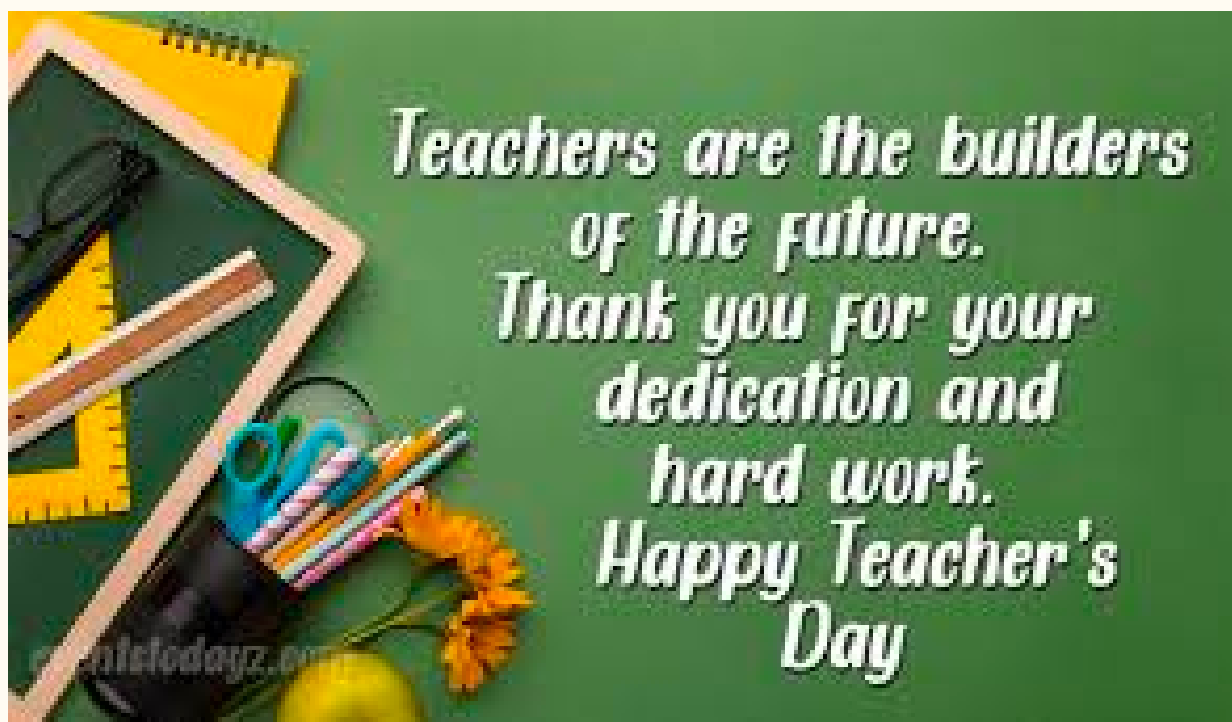
LATVIA The Latvian Association of Language Teachers (LALT/LVASA)
www.lvasa.lv
the Latvian Association of Teachers of English (LATE) is: <https://late.lv/>

*Knowledge of languages is the
doorway to wisdom.*

Roger Bacon



“Teaching is more than imparting knowledge;
it is inspiring change. Learning is more than
absorbing facts; it is acquiring
understanding.” - William Arthur Ward



The Newsletter #4 December 2023 is issued by:
Outi Vilkuna, NBR President, Finland
NBR Secretary Asterija Rudienė, Lithuania

Photographs used are from the Associations' archives and free on-line resources.

 **Follow**

and

 **join us**

on



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/677820838960243>