



The project financially supported by Nordplus

“Promoting environmental awareness of youth by traveling and exploring natural, cultural and socio-economic processes in the Northern European region”

GOAL

To facilitate an understanding among the youth about environmentally friendly behaviour through improving knowledge, skills and attitude in the environmental education resolving issues of the versatile real-life situations which would be aimed at achievements in live and career, promoting development of quality, creativity and innovations in the education, using latest technological accomplishments, strengthening and developing collaboration among the educational establishments.

EXECUTION

The set objective and tasks, planned events, activities within the scope of the project were implemented thanks to effective communication and collaboration ensuring understanding of stakeholders about achievement of the goal of the project and execution of the following activities:

1. Programmes of complex educational training have been development by pedagogues in cooperation with the adolescents and educational trips have been organized - to Greenland and Latvia during which:
 - **25 youths and 9 pedagogues** from the Distance Learning High School of Latvia “Rīgas Komerckolas” (Riga Commercial School), **10 youths and 3 pedagogues** from Greenland Niuernermik Ilinniarfik School explored and got acquainted with natural environment, history, culture, and traditions of the countries, along with their social and economic processes for the purpose to facilitate environmentally friendly mindset, positive attitude towards environment and capacity to act in the right way while living in the environment, to create an understanding of current environmental processes on the global, regional, national and local scale, for instance, by visiting both environmentally friendly solid waste landfill sites - “Getliņi” (Latvia), “ESANI” (Greenland) - and companies and farms, such as “Sassuma” (Greenland), biological farm “Lielmestri” (Latvia) which are engaged in environmentally friendly economic operations;
 - Young students acquired knowledge-based understanding by doing research and observations in the climate change area and meeting professor **Emma Kristensen** at the Greenland Natural Resources Institute, deliberating, sharing their opinion on what each of us can do, currently and in future, in order to limit the climate change and prevent serious disasters and their impact on the economics, improved their deliberation skills, seeking the truth, and ability to apply the knowledge and skill in real life situations, changing live environment, unusual circumstances, making the education engaging and useful for life activities.
2. International seminar “**Education for A Future Human Being**” for improvement of professional competences of pedagogues has been organized and 4 presentations have been prepared at the Distance Learning High School “Riga Commercial School” at Alberta iela 13, Riga, Latvia, on 28 April 2022, as well as at the partner school - **Niuernermik Ilinniarfik**, Aqqusinersuaq 18 1038 3900 Nuuk, Greenland where 3 pedagogues from Niuernermik Ilinniarfik, and 9 pedagogues and 5 parents, 25 young students from the Distance Learning High School “Riga Commercial School” took part exchanging their experience, exploring, analysing experience of other countries, which would facilitate, develop and improve abilities of the youth to apply their knowledge and skills in a complex way and formulate their attitude upon resolving issues in changing real-life situations, and which **motivate young adolescents to acquire an environmentally friendly mindset, positive attitude towards the environment, and an ability to act accordingly while living in the environment.**
3. Research conferences “**Learn while travelling and exploring**” at the class (April-May), school - 25.05.2021., and 31.05.2021 - and international - 11 June 2021 level on the online Zoom platform where youngsters presented their observations and research papers have been organized.
4. 7 young students from the Distance Learning High School “Riga Commercial School” took part with the research conducted, observations and conclusions drawn regarding the climate change, possibilities of mitigation thereof and adaptation on the global, regional, national, and local scale. They participated in the scientific research conferences for high school students organized by the University of Latvia in the environmental sector, on the regional level - on 4 March 2022, and 2 students took part in the conference on national level - on 25 March 2022, receiving awards.
5. Agnese Gromova-Kūrena, teacher of English at the Distance Learning High School “Riga Commercial School”, shared her experience on applying the project methodology, conclusions drawn from the project, organizing a modern educational process, at the seminar for acquisition of programme A for improvement of professional competence of pedagogues “**Alternative, continuous evaluation methods in line with the Common European Framework of Reference and accompanying volumes for acquiring a language**” (approval - 25.05.2022, No RIMC-22-116) from 13.06 to 15.06. 2022., which was organized by the Association of English Teachers of Latvia (RELANG), run by EMVC experts - Jose Noijon (the Netherlands), Gabor Szabo (Hungary), where 25 pedagogues of the schools of general education of Latvia, teaching staff of the University of Latvia, and the chief expert of the State Centre for Education and Contents.
6. Young students shared their experiences with peers, for example, at the event “**Learning while doing**” about personal benefits, skills and abilities acquired, attitudes though involvement in project activities - exploring expeditions, educational trips - complex educational training in Latvia and Greenland, collective clean-up of the environment and landscaping thereof, for example, “Green Labours” at the biological farm “Lielmestri”.
7. A creative workshop - exhibition - “**Second Breath**” has been organized at the premises of the Distance Learning High School “Riga Commercial School” at Alberta iela 13, Riga, Latvia.
8. Electronic educational materials available in the virtual educational environment Moodle of the Distance Learning High School “Riga Commercial School” have been improved and updated in cooperation with the experts of the University of Latvia for the beginning of the academic year 2022/2023 along with educational tools, evaluation criteria for the purpose to use a modern meaningful interactive approach and methods aimed at applying such form of collaboration in the **interdisciplinary** educational process in order to introduce contents based on the competence approach which ensures **self-directed learning** - improvement of individual competences of students - application of knowledge and skills, development of attitudes in extraordinary situations, and promoting environmental mindset among the students, as well as an understanding about the environmentally friendly behaviour and aimed at achievements in life activities in the changing world.
9. The Distance Learning High School “Riga Commercial School” and the partners school Niuernermik Ilinniarfik, in continuing development the cooperation between the schools, will incorporate the experience exchanged and the conclusions drawn upon implementing the project in the educational process of the schools upon beginning of the academic year 2022/2023 making the learning exciting and useful for the life activities in order to promote and facilitate the following:
 - The youth to acquire an environmentally friendly mindset, positive attitude towards the environment, and ability to act accordingly while living in the environment;
 - An understanding of the young people about environmentally friendly behaviour, improving knowledge, skills, and attitudes in the environmental education area, about the processes occurring in the nature and economics concerning the climate change, that would allow to understand and analyse the environmental issues on the local, national, regional and global scale, state their position on them and raise awareness of the significance of collaboration on the local, national, and international level, resolving issues in changing real-life situations, as well as developing critical thinking among the young people along with decision-making skills and problem-solving skills;
 - Development of quality of the education, creativity and novelty of education using the latest accomplishments of the information technologies in a meaningful and purposeful way, along with modern approaches, environment, forms of cooperation, taking into account age, intellectual needs, wishes, and values of students.



We, teachers, youths and parents of the Distance Learning High School “Riga Commercial School” and partner school - **Niuernermik Ilinniarfik** - are enormously grateful for the Nordplus educational project, for the financial support in implementation of project “**Promoting environmental awareness of youth by traveling and exploring natural, cultural and socio-economic processes in the Northern European region**” because the partners involved in the project - both we, the teachers, and the youths from Niuernermik Ilinniarfik and the Distance Learning High School “Riga Commercial School” gained a new experience, analysed and evaluated possibilities of take over the experience, and conditions for implementation thereof in order to integrate modern interactive learning tools, approaches and methods in the educational process in order to raise interest among the youths about the contents of the lessons to be learned and prepare the adolescents for the live in the ever-changing world and create an unprecedented economic, political, social and cultural environment, taking into account **global climate change**, anticipating actions to mitigate its impact.

We extend our gratitude to teachers of the partner school involved in the project - Niuernermik Ilinniarfik - and especially the project manager - English teacher **Elena Vitalievnai Koehler** - for the support and active involvement in preparation of the project and its implementation and evaluation!

We are thankful to all cooperation partners involved in the project for the support and active engagement for the purpose to make the learning process more meaningful and useful for the life activities!



INSIGHTS FROM PROJECT ACTIVITIES

CONCLUSIONS DRAWN

Through participation in educational trips - complex educational training outside their countries **young students were more successful in forming their environmental awareness**, because in the unusual environment young students are more successful in becoming aware of the course of action that would be environmentally friendly, they become aware of success-oriented personal life values, principles of action, acquire knowledge along with understanding of real-life situations, changing live environment, unusual circumstances, conducting research and observations, thinking, discussing, searching for essence of environmentally friendly behaviour, principles of environmental ethics, interrelation of nature and humans.

The objective set in the project, tasks, planned events, activities ensure **productive learning, immersive learning** - proficiency, self-directed learning, building an understanding of the connection between the local and the global, as well as between history, present and future.

A modern educational process must be based on the development of personal skills and competences using **various contexts, situations, environment, cooperation forms**, which would be based on a deep understanding of the contents of the lessons to be learned that would allow to understand and analyse the environmental problems on the local, national, regional and global scale, and would promote acquisition of personal skills, social skills and attitudes among the youth towards the natural environment, oneself and cultural environment, acquiring an environmentally friendly mindset, positive attitude towards the environment and the skills to act accordingly while living in the environment.

Effective communication ensures understanding of the stakeholders about achievement of the objectives of the project and implementation of the activities.

Kindest regards,

Personal benefits for young students - they acquired **the skills of learning purposefully and independently** along with universal skills of life activity, improved skills and abilities of deliberation, persuasion, collaboration, searching for essence, apply the knowledge and skills in real-life situations, unusual circumstances, adopt decisions, take responsibility, as well as accept the differences, for example, group work of students ensured within projects learning about experience in the life activities of young people of other schools and countries, for example, by sharing their experience about the circular economy concept where the emphasis is placed on wasteless approach in the consumption of resources.

The **cooperation of pedagogues of subjects** encourages young people to use the knowledge and skills learned in one subject in other subjects, bringing them closer to real life, implementing an integral approach - **interdisciplinarity** in the learning process, **purposefully** encouraging young people to delve into learning about the diversity of nature, promoting understanding of the effects and consequences of climate change, of the surrounding preservation of the environment, meaningful use of resources, developing and creating an understanding of the laws of nature, the processes taking place in nature today on a global, regional, national and local scale, the complexity and dialectical unity of human activity.

“It is not enough to teach a man to think, one must be taught to act.” /K.Ušinskis/

“Everything that I know theoretically must be implemented in practice - then a new world will open up for you.” /O.M.Aivanhovs/

Simplicity is a tool that helps to find joy and perceive the true essence of life events, true colours of one's sensations, allowing them to be themselves.

Ilze Bejinska
Headmaster of the Distance Learning School “Riga Commercial School”