

LANGUAGE
LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES

Grundtvig Learning Partnerships project Language Learning Opportunities | LLO | – Ways out of Unemployment Risks

Meeting Report
Vilnius Business College, Lithuania

May 30 - June 2, 2013



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission within Lifelong Learning Programme-Grundtvig. The European Committee and National Agency are not held responsible for the contents of published materials and the use of them.



VoksenUddannelsescenter Frederiksberg
- stribevís af mǫgigheder

The meeting participants at Vilnius Business College, Vilnius, Lithuania



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Content

- 1. Meeting objectives**
- 2. Project overview**
- 3. Meeting programme**
- 4. Meeting and workshops participants**
- 5. Language learning workshops**
- 6. Project product and dissemination**
- 7. Sightseeing and cultural events**
- 8. Meeting summary**

1. Meeting objectives

- Exchange ideas, experience and good practice among participants about different methods of language teaching and learning;
- Present different formal and non-formal, both traditional and innovative language teaching and learning methods and tools applied in Lithuania;
- Organize language workshops and test the innovative language learning tools, motivating learners and providing opportunity to strengthen language skills to be successful in the European labour market;
- Introduce the education system and foreign language teaching, testing and exams in Lithuania;
- Compare various language examination requirements on different levels in the partner countries and describe the experience in the European context;
- Strengthen the network of the local communities and the European education and employment partnerships;
- Present the main Lithuanian historical and cultural sights and introduce Lithuanian language, traditions and cuisine.

2. Project overview

Context	Lifelong learning programme GRUNDTVIG Learning Partnerships 2007-2013: to provide adults with possibility to improve their knowledge and competences; it's a cooperation project between organizations working in the field of non-formal adult learning, who want to work together on a topic of common interest
Project	Exchange of communication methodologies at the European level, in particular to share a new approach for fighting against illiteracy, improving communication skills and to recommend a strategy for social inclusion
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give inspiration and provide input to use the employment crisis as a chance and opportunity to learn and to strengthen the job skills in the European context - Presentation of the applied methods and applied tools by each partner country to show how the learners learn and the teachers teach to communicate - Organizing different language learning workshops between the participants - Information about different language examination standards in the host countries with special reference to requirements for job seekers and people in precarious employment
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation by each partner of its own innovative communication tools - Workshops dedicated to implement these tools with other partners - Check of the European examination standards - Inclusion of local authorities
Dates and places	<p>October 2012 – Berlin, Germany</p> <p>April 2013 – Murska Sobota, Slovenia</p> <p>June 2013 – Riga, Latvia and Vilnius, Lithuania</p> <p>September 2013 – Copenhagen, Denmark</p> <p>June 2014 – Gonen, Turkey</p>
Target groups	Disadvantaged or socially vulnerable group of people, such as unemployed, migrants, seniors, young or adult illiterate people in order to provide training to enter the labour market or just to help improve their communication skills
Product	Creating the Project documentation and define on the basis of results which type of final product will be the best (DVD, leaflet, studies)
Partners	<p>EUROPANORAT GmbH, Germany - Jennifer Schäfer, coordinator</p> <p>Gonen Halk Eğitim Merkezi ve ASO GUNDOĞDU MAHALLESİ, Turkey – Ilker Eren, partner</p> <p>Biznesa Augstskola TURIBA, Latvia – Ineta Luka, partner</p> <p>Ekonomska šola Murska Sobota, Višja strokovna šola, Slovenia – Erna Vöröš, partner</p> <p>Voksenuddannelsescenter Frederiksberg, Denmark – Henning Jensen, partner</p> <p>Vilniaus verslo kolegija, Lithuania – Deimante Vilcinskaite, partner</p>
Contact	<p>Vilnius Business College</p> <p>Kalvariju 125, LT-08221 Vilnius, Lithuania</p> <p>Deimante Vilcinskaite</p> <p>T. +370 5215 4884</p> <p>M. +370 645 01336</p> <p>E. deimante@kolegija.lt</p>

3. Meeting programme

Thursday, May 30, 2013

- 13.45-14.00 The boarder of Latvia / Lithuania
Vilnius Business College participants programme while on the bus:
Introductory Lithuanian lesson
- 14.30-15.30 Visiting the Hill of Crosses
<http://www.kryziukalnas.lt/?id=44>
- 16.00-17.00 Stop at Seduva Windmill/ coffee snack
<http://www.seduvosmalunas.lt/en.html>
- 19.30-20.00 Arriving to Vilnius, Algirdas hotel, Algirdo g. 24
<http://www.algirdashotel.lt/en/>
- 20.00 Dinner at Vilnius downtown (optional)
- 22.00 Return to Algirdas hotel

Friday, May 31, 2013

- 9.00-10.00 Visit at the Ministry of Education (Oval Room, A. Volano g. 2/7, Vilnius)
Introduction to the Lithuanian Education system / Foreign language teaching and exams
Vilma Bačkiūtė, Primary and Secondary School Department
- 10.00-10.30 Arrival to Vilnius Business College (Kalvariju 125, Vilnius)
- 10.30-10.40 Welcome speech
Jolanta Skirgailė / Managing Director / Vilnius Business College
Vytautas Pačiauskas / Head of General Education and Adult Learning Programs Unit / Education Exchanges Support Foundation
- 10.40-10.45 Programme outline / Vilnius overview
Deimantė Vilčinskaitė / Project Coordinator / Vilnius Business College
- 10.45-11.30 Introductory Lithuanian language lesson (partners+learners group)
Inga Paužuolienė / Lithuanian Language Teacher / Lingua Perfecta Language School
- 11.30-11.45 Coffee break
- 11.45-12.30 Adult English language teaching workshop (partners+learners group)
Andrejus Račkovskis / Lecturer / Vilnius Business College
- 12.30-13.00 Haiku, proverbs, idioms in English and other languages (optional for the learners group)
Vakaris Šaulys / Lecturer / Vilnius Business College

- 13.00-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-14.30 English pronunciation lesson
Aldona Rėksnienė / Lecturer / Vilnius Business College
- 14.30-14.45 Demonstration of English translation programme TRADOS. SANAKO laboratory
Gabrielė Šalčiūtė-Čivilienė / Lecturer / Vilnius Business College
- 14.45-15.00 VBC English Club / Translation competition
Alina Andersen / Gabrielė Šalčiūtė-Čivilienė / Lecturer / Vilnius Business College
- 15.00-15.30 English for IT
Vakaris Šaulys / Lecturer / Vilnius Business College
- 15.30-17.00 Spanish and German language teaching workshops
Eglė Girniuvienė / Leonas Kižla / Lecturers / Vilnius Business College
- 17.00-17.15 Coffee Break
- 17.30-19.30 Vilnius sightseeing tour
- 19.30-22.00 Dinner at Žemaičiai restaurant

Saturday, June 1, 2013

- 9.00-11.00 Meeting at Algirdas hotel (Conference hall, Algirdo 24, Vilnius)
Discussion on LLO project product and dissemination
- 11.00-14.00 Vilnius city cultural programme (Vilnius downtown, Gediminas castle)
- 14.00-16.00 Lunch (Lounge Studio 9/Gedimino 9)
- 16.00-18.30 Trip to Trakai (visiting Trakai castle, boat ride optional)
- 18.30-20.30 Dinner at Karališka Senoji kibininė

4. Meeting and workshop participants

No.	Name, surname	Organization	Country
1	Jennifer Schäfer	EUROPANORAT GmbH	Germany
2	Katrin Wildt	EUROPANORAT GmbH	Germany
3	Marianne Emhardt	EUROPANORAT GmbH	Germany
4	Peter Rohde Jensen	Voksenuddannelsescenter Frederiksberg	Denmark
5	Kurt Georg Rasmussen	Voksenuddannelsescenter Frederiksberg	Denmark
6	Anders Daugaard	Voksenuddannelsescenter Frederiksberg	Denmark
7	Henning Engelbrecht Jensen	Voksenuddannelsescenter Frederiksberg	Denmark
8	Deimante Vilcinskaite	Vilnius Business College	Lithuania
9	Ineta Luka	Biznesa augstskola Turība	Latvia
10	Anda Komarovska	Biznesa augstskola Turība	Latvia
11	Anete Veipane	Biznesa augstskola Turība	Latvia
12	Valerija Malavska	Biznesa augstskola Turība	Latvia
13	Erna Vöröš	Ekonomska šola Murska Sobota, Višja strokovna šola	Slovenia
14	Karina Kreslin Petković	Ekonomska šola Murska Sobota, Višja strokovna šola	Slovenia
15	Alenka Kolenko	Ekonomska šola Murska Sobota, Višja strokovna šola	Slovenia
16	Sabri Caner	Balıkesir Milli Eğitim Müdürlüğü	Turkey
17	Mehmet Yasar Tarhan	Gonen Halk Eğitim Merkezi ve ASO GUNDOGDU MAHALLESİ	Turkey
18	Ilker Eren	Gonen Halk Eğitim Merkezi ve ASO GUNDOGDU MAHALLESİ	Turkey
19	Mehmet Yilman	Gonen Halk Eğitim Merkezi ve ASO GUNDOGDU MAHALLESİ	Turkey
20	Dovile Baltutyte	Vilnius Business College	Lithuania

21	Vytautas Pačiauskas	Education Exchange Support Foundation	Lithuania
22	Inga Pauzoliene	Lingua Perfecta language school	Lithuania
23	Andrejus Rackovskis	Vilnius Business College	Lithuania
24	Vakaris Saulys	Vilnius Business College	Lithuania
25	Aldona Reksniene	Vilnius Business College	Lithuania
26	Gabriele Civiliene	Vilnius Business College	Lithuania
27	Alina Andersen	Vilnius Business College	Lithuania
28	Egle Glrniuviene	Vilnius Business College	Lithuania
29	Leonas Kizla	Vilnius Business College	Lithuania
30	Svetlana Baranovskaja	Vilnius Business College	Lithuania
31	Birutė Grobavienė	Vilnius Business College	Lithuania
32	Selcuk Tasgin	Vilnius Business Collge / Akdeniz University	Lithuania /Turkey
33	Darius Baltutis	UAB Arkada	Lithuania
34	Ramunė Vosylienė	Vilnius Business College	Lithuania
35	Rita Heidemann	Self-employed, ESL/French Instructor	USA
36	Ramutė Žemionienė	Vilniaus S. Daukanto gimnazija	Lithuania
37	Jolanta Skirgaile	Vilnius Business College	Lithuania
38	Indrė Baltutienė	UAB Greno Lithuania	Lithuania

5. Language learning workshops

Thursday, May 30, 2013

On the way to Vilnius, the learners from Vilnius Business College organized an interactive Lithuanian language introductory lesson.

Dorota Dovda helps the participants to learn few Lithuanian words.



Friday, May 31, 2013

Morning session - a visit to the **Lithuanian Ministry of Education**, where **Vilma Bačkūtė** from the Ministry Primary and Secondary School department presented Lithuanian education system and foreign language teaching and testing procedures.

In Lithuania, according Language education policy: early language learning is encouraged (English, German, or French are the top 3 foreign language choices), two foreign languages are compulsory at lower secondary school, one foreign language is compulsory at upper secondary school, B1 and higher level of foreign language is required for university entry. The policy in progress: criteria-referenced evaluations - CEFR levels for foreign languages, B1 (B2) level or higher to become compulsory one EU language, language requirements for all teachers - one EU language at B1 level or higher, and Lithuanian language exam to become compulsory for national minority students.



Upon arrival at Vilnius Business College, the Managing Director **Jolanta Skirgailė** greeted the partners and presented a quick overview of the College activities.

The College mainly targets to secondary school graduates and working adults, unemployed, and socially exclusive groups. The College also provides training for people who already have some work experience or acquired certain education or training and decided to either renew their competence and skills, or to acquire knowledge and qualification in new areas. The College exclusively focuses on language teaching and learning and offers to study not only English and Russian languages, but also to learn German, Spanish, French, and planning to introduce to learners Swedish and even Chinese.

National Agency representative, Head of General Education and Adult Learning Programs Unit **Vytautas Pačiauskas** also said his welcome speech and wished the participants to complete the project successfully.



Language workshops

- **An Introductory Lithuanian language lesson** was led by the visiting lecturer **Inga Paužuolienė** from Lingua Perfecta language school. She presented the methods used to teach basic language skills to foreigners, migrants.

Methods used: the first language is applied explaining in English what the lecturer does, the audience is attracted by playing quizzes, using games, songs, interactive way of teaching. Lithuanian language basic words are introduced in short and attractive manner and practiced together with the learners. Pair work and personal teacher's approach to each person in the group is also used. Handouts delivered.

The workshop participants learned and practiced basic Lithuanian words and phrases.





- **Adult English language teaching workshop Using TED.com videos to increase students' motivation** was presented by Vilnius Business College lecturer **Andrejus Račkovskis**. Target audience: adults and young adults (16+). Language level: B1+/B2 and above.

Aims of the workshop: to demonstrate how authentic video clips can be adapted to the needs of adult learners through graded activities and to provide a framework for a video-based lesson.

Methods used: video presentation, discussion, vocabulary development through categorization / classification activities, topic and material personalization. Handouts distributed, used pair-work – brainstorming, group work involved – a discussion on the brainstormed idea.

The lecturer demonstrated the video sample: **David Pogue: 10 top time-saving tech tips**

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3kzweovr08bikgl/szeqkPB0K6#f:DavidPogue_2013U-480p-en.mp4

Using TED.com videos helps to motivate students. Use of videos may request script. The teacher has to exploit the video pre-viewing, viewing, and after-viewing, to prepare materials. Recommended to bring student's reality into the lecture room.



- **Haiku, proverbs, idioms in English and other languages workshop** was demonstrated by Vilnius Business College lecturer **Vakarīs Šaulys**. Target audience: students of any year of study, adults, having some knowledge of English. Language level: B1 or higher.

Aim of the workshop: finding similarities and differences in proverbs; in haikus - seeing differences and similarities in grammar/ vocabulary / word order / sentence structure while expressing deep ideas in several words. Best given for warm-up activities or at the end of a lecture.

Methods: translation, comparison, explanation. A pair / group of students are given the same haikus and translate them on their own as it seems best; later on they compare their translations, discuss the differences found and one of them gives a brief summary of the result.

During the workshop Translating haiku poems into/from English into/from one's native language were demonstrated and discussions of equivalents for English proverbs in one's native language or if there are not, explaining the meaning. Handouts – few samples from *Haiku Vilnius* book were presented.



- **English pronunciation lesson** was demonstrated by Vilnius Business College lecturer **Aldona Rėksnienė**. Target audience: adults and young adults (16+). Language level: B1+/B2 and above.

Aims of the lesson: to demonstrate English pronunciation teaching.

Methods used: presentation of common mistakes learners of English make: 1) *palatalization*, 2) *schwa or neutral vowel [ə]*, 3) *aspiration*, 4) *nasal plosion*, 5) *lateral plosion*, 6) *English rhythm*.

The example of the first sentence from the fairy tale **“Mrs. Tabbywhite and her kitten Sarah”** was phonetically analysed.



- **English translation programme TRADOS. Computational Methods & Tools for Text Analysis & Translation: TRADOS** were demonstrated by Vilnius Business College and lecturer **Gabrielė Šalčiūtė-Čivilienė**.

The lecturer presented translation software programme TRADOS that is accessible to Vilnius Business Students, majoring in English studies and specializing in Translation. She pointed the standards, principles, advantages and disadvantages of using machine translation and translation memories in translation practice and how students are learning to use the tools of automated translation in analysing, translating, editing and submitting translation using machine translation and translation memories.

TRADOS is one of the most popular translation software tools that help a translator:

- To translate files, create and manage translation memories;
- To store approved terminology, build and manage databases with machine-translation tools: text statistics, matches and translation memories;
- To edit translations and track by using various functions of machine translation.



- Vilnius Business College recently launched its English Club that was very well received by the learners. The lecturers **Alina Andersen** and **Gabrielė Šalčiūtė-Čivilienė** presented **English Club and Translation contest**.

English Club aims to bring Vilnius Business College students, graduates, teachers, administrative staff and all adults who are interested to practice English and improve language skills. English Club organizes events to promote English language learning in an informal environment, using non-traditional ways of learning and learning the culture of English-speaking countries. English Club activities provide various competitions, gatherings and translation workshops, discussions of modern English literature, cinema and culture, debates with colleagues about English learning, as well as meetings with a variety of guest lecturers, poets, writers, film directors and critics.

The English Club introductory event - Translation contest raised a high interest of literary translation among learners. Many students participated and presented their literary translations to the committee of professional translators.



- **English for IT programme** was demonstrated by Vilnius Business College lecturer **Vakarīs Šaulys**. Target audience: IT students of any year of study and other adults, having some knowledge of English and IT. Language level: minimum A2.

Aim: to practise IT English topics, terms and general grammar, involving communicative competences 1) reading, 2) listening, 3) speaking, and 4) writing.

Methods: Various types of tasks are designed specifically for IT students that can be performed online, with a possibility of self-check or submission to the teacher.

The project partners at one of the computer labs had the opportunity to practise online EiT online teaching module <http://www.english-it.eu/>, developed by Vilnius Business while implementing the EU project *EIT- E-learning Module - English language for Information Technology Specialists*. The project was completed in 2008, although the online teaching module is still successfully used until now. IT topics involve testing reading, listening, speaking, and writing skills, video clips, various types of tasks (gap filling, wrong or right, odd one out, multiple choice, summary, translation, etc.) and English grammar according to the respective level of the learner.



- **German language workshop** was presented by Vilnius Business College lecturer **Leonas Kižla**. The workshop was demonstrated in German language, and the project coordinator Jennifer Schäfer helped with translations into English.

Target audience: adults and young adults (16+). Language level: Beginner to A2

Aims: German language is taught in two levels and aims for beginners to reach level A2, and for others from A2 to reach B1.

Methods: Teaching is preferred in small groups; tasks are performed individually and in pairs. Practicing all four communicative competences: reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Teaching German as a 2nd foreign language learning starts in the 2nd semester at Vilnius Business College and ends by the 6th semester. Quite a challenge when groups are often mixed of level 0 to A2.



- **Spanish language workshop** was demonstrated by Vilnius Business College lecturer **Eglė Gimiuvienė**. Target audience: adults and young adults (16+). Language level: Beginner to A2

Aims: to teach the learners to communicate in Spanish A2 level according to the Common European Framework for Languages and form intercultural communication and cooperation skills.

Methods: Teaching by small episodes, giving learners one phrase, drilling with each present. Uses target language for teaching. Communication is oriented toward students, working in small groups of learners; tasks are delivered in groups and individually. Vocabulary is formed based on the subject topic. Teaching correct pronunciation and accent of Spanish words.



- Finalizing the day, Turkish partners **Ilker Erren** and **Tarhan Yasar** presented a video, where their students of Gonen Halk Egitim Merkezi ve ASO GUNDOGDU MAHALLESİ - Tourism Vocational High School practiced language while giving a cooking lesson how to prepare a traditional Turkish Style dish *Stuffed Vine Leaves*. The recipe description followed with a handout in English and Turkish.

The Turkish teachers were inspired by the Danish group to use video presentations in classes and/or homework activities. Learners have the opportunity to use mobile devices and practise language skills while making the film.



6. Project product and dissemination

Saturday, June 1, 2013

LLO project participants continued the meeting on the following day and worked at Algirdas hotel conference hall. The key questions were addressed:

- To choose the LLO website address. It was decided on the following one <http://language-learning-opportunities.com/>. The coordinator Jennifer Schäfer will register the name.
- LLO website design and content. All the partners unanimously approved the presented template. It was decided to keep it clear and simple. Minor changes will be done by Katrin Wildt.
Menu will consist of: Project summary, Meetings, Reports, Documents (each countries education system / language exams / partners workshops and teaching methods), Photo gallery (appr. 20 photos per meeting), and Contacts. Partners also agreed by June 15 to provide updated information of their institutions to the coordinator to place on the website.
- LLO final product. The discussion followed about the final product – handbook. Agreed to present at least 2 innovative language teaching/learning methods and tools per country and to illustrate with samples.
- LLO project dissemination. Targeted audience learners and teachers. Preliminary dissemination plan discussed to be registered by each partner:

Event	When / Where	Target audience / who took part	Remarks

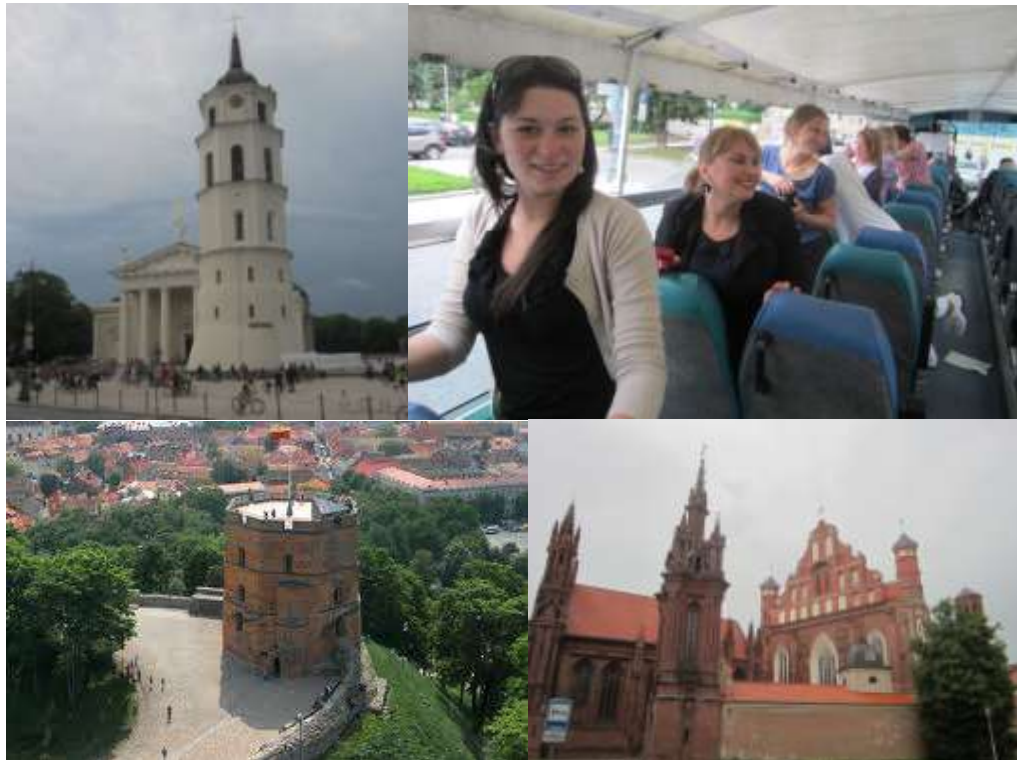


7. Sightseeing and cultural events

Visiting the Hill of Crosses near Šiauliai and a quick stop at Šeduva Windmill.



Sightseeing Vilnius downtown: the Cathedral, St. Ann's Church, Gediminas castle, strolling around the narrow streets of Vilnius.



Trip to Trakai – Trakai castle and relaxing yacht ride in Galvė lake.



Tasting Lithuanian cuisine at **Žemaičiai** restaurant: the national dish Cepelinai, pig’s knuckle, fried black bread, etc. The restaurant menu designed as a newspaper in Lithuanian, English, Russian and Polish - an informal way of language teaching and learning, was collected as a nice souvenir. Also quite a nice surprise was to meet another Grundtvig project participants dining at the same restaurant.



Great lunch and desserts at **Studio 9** lounge.



Farewell dinner at **Senoji karališka kibininė** where *Karaite pastry* - must try dish in Trakai - was savored and saying final goodbye at **La Boheme**.



8. Meeting summary

The meeting in Vilnius Business College (Lithuania) was jointly organized together with a partner institution, Turība University (Latvia). The programme was discussed and prepared on mutual agreement by Ineta Luka (Turība) and Deimante Vīlcinskāite (VBC) to get the best result of this joint meeting: 1) to cover the project language workshops and demonstrate innovative language teaching/learning tools, methods and activities; 2) to introduce education systems and foreign language teaching/learning and examination procedures of both countries; 3) to discuss administrative issues and the project dissemination plan, also 4) to include cultural sightseeing activities visiting several attractive places of Latvia and Lithuania.

The meeting started in Riga, Latvia May 27 through 29, with a transfer Riga-Vilnius May 30, and continued in Vilnius, Lithuania May 31 – June 1, 2013.

Partners worked intensively on May 31st. The morning visit to the Lithuanian Ministry of Education was arranged, where Lithuanian education system and foreign language testing procedures were presented. The work continued at Vilnius Business College, where workshops of innovative language teaching/learning tools, methods and activities were demonstrated not only to the partners, but also to the public, everyone who were interested could participate. There were 9 working sessions organized to demonstrate a variety of traditional and innovative language teaching/learning methods and tools used at VBC.

Cultural programme was also combined in agreement with the Latvian partner. Arrangements were made to use the transfer day and plan the tour: Riga – Rundale Palace – The Hill of Crosses – Seduva Windmill – Vilnius. The meeting was finalized organizing the sightseeing trip to Trakai.

The next LLO meeting will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark September 24-27, 2013. The Danish partners delivered information booklets to study before the meeting.

