



www.light-europe.eu



EU program "Learning throughout Life"

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Newsletter №2

► **European project LIGHT was launched on 1st of December, 2007 in the network of EU program "Learning throughout Life". Its aim is to create a universal model of bilingual kindergarten which will help to make new workplaces for jobless teachers and to open bilingual educational institutions in five countries of European Union: Austria, Germany, Finland, France and Cyprus.**

● **The abbreviation LIGHT** means Language for Integration and Global Human Tolerance (Language as a precondition for integration and general tolerance). The project is timed for 2 years. It intends for supporting of bilingual children and unites 10 partners from the EU countries mentioned above. All participants of the project work in the field of integration Russian speaking migrants and of support the bilingual education.

● **There is some experience** of existing bilingual kindergartens based on the European model in Finland and Germany. When creating new pre-school institutions in European countries which are participants of the project specific conditions of the member states would be revealed and accounted in practice. The leading partner and the coordinator of the project LIGHT is Intercultural educational society of Berlin MITRA.

COURSE OF THE PROJECT

The partners of the project LIGHT met in all the five participant-countries from 6th of January, 2008 to 2nd of July, 2008

HELSINKI, FINLAND (6-9 OF JANUARY, 2008)

There was an introduction of the participants of the project LIGHT in Helsinki. The head of the project Marina Burd and the coordinator of the project Renate Eras informed the participants of LIGHT about the content, the time frame and the logic of project. During the working sessions the state officials and Finnish experts specialized in the field of multicultural development informed about the legislative basis of children bilingualism which in Finland is based on powerful state support. The partners of the project visited Russian-Finnish school and kindergartens "Antoshka", "Idelia" and "Kalinka". The professor of Helsinki University Ekaterina Protasova presented the report "Children Bilingualism: Conceptual Approach and Pragmatics".



BERLIN, GERMANY (9 -12 OF JANUARY, 2008)

PR-campaign of the project was discussed at the first working session in Berlin. In the parliament of Berlin the partners of LIGHT met with the representatives of the group of Christian Social democrats. Parliamentarians informed participants of EU project about legal base of the support of children bilingualism in Germany in whole and in Berlin in particular. In Berlin the partners of LIGHT were guests of the German Charitable Foundation of social organizations. There they were introduced to the variety of the forms of early bilingual training and its financing in Germany. At the final working session the participants of the project planned out their program for 2008 and they approved the tasks and timetable of the implementation of this program.



VIENNA, AUSTRIA (9-12 OF MARCH, 2008)

The presentation of release version of the portal of the project LIGHT (www.light-europe.eu) took place in Vienna. The professor Ekaterina Protasova delivered a report dedicated to the first version of the European model of bilingual kindergarten. Coordinators of five participating countries of the project told about the regional and national conditions (legal, social and educational trends) of the opening of kindergartens in Finland, Germany, Austria, France and in Cyprus. Participants of the project visited the bilingual Czech-Austrian school of Jan Komensky. The partners of the project signed agreements with the leader of the project (MITRA).

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS (4-7 OF MAY, 2008)

In Limassol the participants of the project presented national strategies on the creation of the bilingual institutions for children based on the conditions of the European concept of professor Ekaterina Protasova and on their regional features. Participants of the project LIGHT visited kindergartens “Students of Pythagoras” and “Margarita” and Saint Mary’s School. The partners of LIGHT approved organizational and technical criteria of the admission of members of the working groups and methods of holding of the information meetings with participants of the working groups. In Limassol there was a presentation of the portal of project LIGHT (www.light-europe.eu).



PARIS, FRANCE (28TH OF JUNE – 2ND OF JULY, 2008)

In Paris participants of LIGHT got acquainted with the new members of the project from Finland and Cyprus. An external evaluator was presented as well. The intermediate results of promoting of the project through the mass media were discussed. Professor Katarina Meng presented the theoretical part of the European model of the concept of children bilingual institutions. The coordinators of project of five participant- countries informed the members of the project about national strategies on the creation of children bilingual kindergartens. At the end of discussions the participants formed the European concept of bilingual kindergartens. The members of LIGHT agreed on the content of the organizational work within the framework of working groups in the participant-countries.

