

NEW EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH – NEW SCHOOL CULTURE IN ESTONIA

We established an evidence-based educational environment and pedagogical analysis model (LP model) in Estonia and the know-how for its distribution.

- 19 consultants completed the LP model consultant training and advanced seminars.
- Our Norwegian partner organised 25 training days for LP group leaders and consultants in Estonia, with 2305 participants.
- Our Norwegian partner organised 8 training days with 96 participants in Hamar (Norway).

We applied the LP model at four local public schools and nursery schools.

- During the school year of 2014/2015 one citywide head group worked at the 24 LP groups in three schools in Tartu with 190 participating teachers.
- During the school year of 2015/2016 three citywide head groups worked at the 77 LP groups in ten schools in Tartu, Viljandi, Puhja and Pärnu, and three nursery schools in Tartu, with 610 participating teachers.
- The consultants visited the LP groups approximately 250 times.
- One teacher spent 24 hours during the school year on average at the LP group meetings.
- All the LP group meetings together took 2424 hours over the two school years, all teachers combined spent 19,200 hours.

By applying the LP model we reached the following conclusions:

- Teachers practice more collaboration;
- Teachers are more included in the school's development;
- Relationships between teachers improve;
- Relationships between teachers and students improve;
- More attention is paid to the relationships between the students;
- Teachers are more informed of speciality literature and educational research results.

We established the study of the effects of applying the LP model.

- To carry out the surveys we used the e-environment at www.haridus.tartu.ee
- In February-March 2015 we conducted a survey among students, teachers and parents at seven schools in Tartu. 4226 students, 2268 parents and teachers filled in 4676 questionnaires in total.
- In February-March 2016 we conducted a survey among students, teachers and parents at ten schools in Tartu, Viljandi, Puhja and Pärnu. 6756 students, 1868 parents and teachers filled in 7218 questionnaires in total.

We improved the specialists' professional skills of using the evidence-based involvement programmes.

- 130 educational workers completed the basic training for employees without speciality education.
- 80 educational workers completed the Verge team training.
- 15 educational workers completed the Verge instructor training.
- 135 educational workers completed the motivational interviewing training.

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Along with the Good Deed Foundation and the Ministry of Social Affairs we initiated the process of implementing the ART in Estonian Schools evidence-based involvement programme.

- 23 specialists completed the ART programme leader training.
- The ART programme study book and guide on page 219 have been translated to Estonian.
- Bringing the know-how of ART programme leader training to Estonia and validating the ART programme are currently in the preparatory phase.

We introduced the awareness of organising learning in an open classroom in Estonia.

- In 2014, 52 educational workers visited the UBIKO test school project at the University of Oulu.
- In 2015, 14 educational workers completed the training in Iceland.
- In 2015, two scholars from the University of Iceland visited Tartu and gave open lectures.

We worked with the University of Tartu in implementing the open classroom.

- In 2015, a representative of the University of Tartu organised the initiation of education in the open classroom.
- In 2015–2016, an educational interest study for mathematics and sciences was conducted at Tartu Hansa School and Tartu Variku School.

We gained experience in designing an educational environment that supports a modern approach to education.

- In 2014 we started a project with RTG Projektbüroo, Tartu Hansa School, Tartu Raatuse School and Tartu Variku School.
- In 2014 we consulted with the Hausmann architects from Germany.
- In 2015 we had a procurement for finding a builder, furnishings and technical equipment.
- On 1 September 2015 we started using the open classroom in Tartu Hansa School (350 m² for 100–120 students).

We introduced our experience with creating an open classroom to everyone interested across Estonia.

- Since October 2015 650 people from Tartu, Pärnu, Viljandi, Saare, Lääne, Jõgeva, Ida-Viru and Lääne-Viru Counties have visited the open classroom.
- We also published a compilation of 12 articles to describe our experience with the open classroom.

We learned how to better organise communication between schools and communities.

- In 2014, four schools held idea festivals with more than 200 people;
- In 2015 and 2016 four schools had open classes for everyone interested;
- In 2015–2016 a school video competition was held and 5 introductory videos of the school were made;
- In 2016 we issued information leaflets about four schools;

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- In 2015–2016 we conducted a survey among the parents at 7 schools, 2268 parents answered in the first round and 1868 from 10 schools in the second round.

We worked with the community to improve the position of the parents' interests in schools.

- In 2015–2016 parent boards have been established at four schools, where nearly 200 parents are involved;
- In the 2015/2016 school year one school conducted an e-election for the board of trustees, which is an example for everyone;
- In 2016 we, along with community representatives, have looked through the principles of forming a board of trustees and its activities, and we have prepared draft;
- In 2016 we published a collection of articles about collaboration between school and home, where we combined more than 30 stories about schoolwork and homework from Estonia and elsewhere.

We carried out collective activities with community members.

- In 2015–2016, four schools have participated in community festivals.
- In 2016 the parents' boards carried out the joint projects in four schools.

We spread a contemporary approach to education.

- 19.03.2015 We organised a motivational conference for teachers called Know Your Influence, with 188 participants.
- 25.05.2015 We organised a conference called To Know or to Test – Strategies That Actually Work in a Classroom (keynote speaker David Mitchell from New Zealand) with 224 participants.
- 21.04.2016 We organised the project's final conference called Everyone on Board.
- 2014–2016 We published 23 articles in the Estonian teacher's newspaper *Õpetajate Leht*.

We started the tradition of the educational festival.

- The main programme of the educational festival 2015 had 134 lectures, discussions and events.
- The youth programme included 111 workshops and events.
- The educational festival had 5 foreign speakers.