



International Federation of Language Teacher Associations  
Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes

## The Nordic-Baltic Region

### Electronic Newsletter No.3 ( May 2015)

#### **PRESIDENT's Note**



**Sigurborg Jónsdóttir**

President's Note

Spring has arrived and school holidays are waiting, just around the corner.

This is the time of exams, reviewing and evaluating how our students are doing in the different languages. But it's also a time to think about our teaching methods and working conditions. Why do we teach what we are teaching, why are we teaching this way and under what conditions, from working conditions to curriculum and beyond?

A recent headline in the English newspaper "The Guardian" caught my attention: "Schools that ban mobile phones see better academic results". A bold statement. When discussing this with colleagues, they agreed that mobile phones cause too much distraction. On the other hand we all consider technology such a welcome addition to our work.

School policy is different from one country to another. In some countries mobile phones are banned at certain school levels, in others it is up to schools to decide. The use of tablets is being promoted in more and more countries, at least at primary level. There are many advantages, user friendliness, promotion of literacy, access to an enormous wealth of material, possibilities for learners to make their own "learning material" like vocabulary through different programmes like Quizlet and so many more. Technology and new media is, not just important for countries with sparsely populated areas as was clearly shown at the World Congress in Canada, but also a facilitator in our work. Projects across borders are a lot easier and exciting. The world moves at a fast pace and we need to go with it and make the most of the possibilities.



## Congress in Niagara Falls Canada 26 - 28 March



Petrina Ros Karlsdottir, President of STIL in Iceland.

It was very interesting and pleasant to participate in the congress in Niagara Falls. The organization was very good and a lot of choice of workshops. Of course it was impossible to participate in everything. I missed as coming from Iceland and participating for the first time that there were no common platforms for direct presentation of the Associations and the Canadian organizations to get to know each other better. It was interesting to realize how language teaching is well presented in Canada, in Ontario and see all the Canadian teachers; I understood it was a very important congress for them.

Getting to know the situation of language teaching and learning in various countries was very interesting. For me in particular and my Icelandic colleagues, we tried to divide us to get the most out of it

I chose to explore mostly, how to manage new technologies in the classroom and how to make students speak in the classroom and so I would like to mention these two workshops.

Sylvia Duckworth "Social Media and Web 2.00 tools in the FSL (French as Second Language) in the classroom. Technologies in the classroom. It was a very interesting workshop and since then I follow Ms Sylvia Duckworth on Twitter and she is really doing amazing projects in language teaching. I'm including her homepage here, which has lots of interesting tips and information: <https://about.me/sylviaduckworth>

Workshop" Getting REAL and AUTHENTIC in the French Classroom by Etienne dj delf, which is the stage name of Steven Langlois, a teacher from Greater Essex County District School Board. He composes songs designed to help children learn English, French and Spanish using popular styles of music. Étienne writes and composes for several widely used international school programmes. His music is distributed in most major music stores in Canada. It was really by coincidence I discovered his workshop and for me as a French teacher here in Iceland it gave me a lot of good ideas for my classroom. <http://www.educorock.com/>

I think I would have appreciated to get to know the head of the Canadian Association, also the one from the United States as they are hosting the next Congress of FIPVL. It would have been nice to have more time to discuss with all that good people. I am excited to participate in the next congress of FIPVL.

## **2015 World Congress of Modern Languages: My Impressions**



Ene Peterson, Chair of Estonian Association of Foreign Language Teachers, lecturer of Virumaa College of Tallinn University of Technology

I feel fortunate to have been given the opportunity to attend the 2015 World Congress of Modern Languages in Niagara Falls on March 26-28. The Congress

exceeded my expectations for many reasons: the choice of the venue- just a short transfer from Toronto to the heart of Niagara Falls, a wide choice of themes to be explored during the congress, events planned to tour the city as well opportunities to socialize with other participants from around the world and enjoy cultural performances.

I tried to make the most of the congress. I was able to attend the pre-conference round table discussion, two plenary talks made by Brian North and Heidi Byrnes and ten workshops. Professionally I was interested in both practical and research-focused sessions. My favourite topics included promoting student motivation and learner autonomy, inspiring students with storytelling, drama and poetry, implementing CEFR and the use of European Language Portfolio (ELP), teaching and learning with digital tools and social media. I would like to share my impressions of quite different sessions.

The most exciting experience at the congress was that I met my Canadian colleague from the University of New Brunswick (UNB) - Paula Kristmanson- who I collaborated with in the framework of international development project called the Estonian Language Training Project twenty years ago in Fredericton, at UNB. Paula Kristmanson conducted at the World Congress two sessions (one of them together with her colleague Chantal Lafargue) introducing the results of action-research project and a resource for language teachers aimed at incorporating the language portfolio and its principles into their contexts. It was interesting to get to know that Canadian colleagues have worked out the "Autonomy in Action Toolkit", a document that includes sample adaptable teaching modules as well as conceptual background to make links between theory and practice. Paula agreed to be one of the presenters at the FIPLV Nordic-Baltic Region conference in Tallinn (Estonia) in June 2016 ( Website: [www.voorkeelteliit.eu](http://www.voorkeelteliit.eu) ).

I was amazed by Angelica Galante from University of Toronto who focused on a self-exploration of her experience as a user of plurality of languages. Her plurilingual story gave her the chance to find out more about her linguistic repertoire and encouraged her to learn more languages. The participants were engaged in plurilingual activities that can be used in language classrooms, e.g. A plurilingual story. A language portrait. Some useful links:

Story of a Plurilingual by Angelica Galante

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EfvwZ\\_bOcY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EfvwZ_bOcY)

Etnologue: Languages of the World <https://www.ethnologue.com/>

I was also intrigued by a workshop conducted by Ellen Dougherty, Daniela Coelho and Nery Alvarado (teachers from Higher Colleges of Technology, United Arab Emirates) who shared their insight into using digital tools for teaching and learning. The title of the workshop was quite intriguing, too- A Portuguese, a Mexican and a Canadian Walk into a Class...and Create a Learning Community across Borders with Digital Tools. During the sessions they dealt with a lot of questions: What you as a teacher want in your classroom? What do the students want? Is the use of mobile devices in education the future?

They introduced some digital tools teachers can use in their classroom:

Web 2.0 tools:

<http://digitaltoolsacrossborders.pbworks.com/w/page/88750391/Web%20%20tools>

Apps: <http://digitaltoolsacrossborders.pbworks.com/w/page/88750400/Apps>

Besides enjoying plenary sessions, presentations and talks, friendly atmosphere, visiting a variety of publisher displays, I was delighted to have exciting discussions with teachers all over the world. It was an amazing experience!

## **2015 FIPLV INTERNATIONAL AWARD**

### **Call For Nominations**

#### **About the FIPLV International Award**

The FIPLV International Award is FIPLV's highest distinction - in addition to the title of Honorary FIPLV Counsellor, which is reserved for (former) members of the FIPLV Executive - and can be awarded to FIPLV members who distinguish or have distinguished themselves by being exceptionally active, innovative, valuable, talented, in one or more fields of language learning and language teaching (as detailed in the FIPLV documents). The FIPLV International Award consists of a Certificate of Honour, a File containing FIPLV documentation, and publication on the FIPLV website of the candidate's citation with a picture and congratulations by the FIPLV Executive Committee.

## **Applications for the FIPLV International Award**

Member associations of FIPLV, who have paid their FIPLV membership fee for (2014 or) the current year, may recommend one candidate per year for the FIPLV International Award. Candidates must be members of the nominating FIPLV member association. Applications for the Award of no more than two pages can be sent by ordinary mail or in an attachment by email to FIPLV Secretary General, Denis Cunningham. Applications should contain a description of the candidate (personal data, affiliation, education, field, etc), reasons for recommendation, a list of main publications by the candidate, if applicable, and an excellent quality electronic picture in .jpg format. Two members of the FIPLV member association must sign the application, one of these being the President.

## **The FIPLV International Award Ceremony**

During the annual meeting of the FIPLV World Council, applications will be discussed and upon endorsement by the Executive Committee and members of the World Council, the distinction will be awarded to candidates. If possible, a member of the Executive Committee or World Council will present the FIPLV International Award during a ceremony. Applications are invited for consideration by the Executive Committee (and the FIPLV World Council by email) later in 2015.

Member associations are kindly requested to nominate candidates for the FIPLV International Award and must ensure that the full documentation reaches the Secretary General by 30 September 2015, so that the list of nominations can be sent to all members of the FIPLV Executive Committee and World Council in October. Receipt of nominations will be acknowledged.



Denis Cunningham, Australia FACE, Secretary General Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes (FIPLV)

# NEWS from ASSOCIATIONS- the NORDIC-BALTIC REGION MEMBERS

Language Teachers Association of Lithuania

Lietuvos kalbų pedagogų asociacija

[www.lkpa.vdu.lt](http://www.lkpa.vdu.lt)



Eglė Šleimotienė, president

The Association of Language Teachers of Lithuania was established 12 December 2006. The founders of the association are: Kaunas Technological University, Klaipeda University, Association of the Lithuanian Language Teachers, the Public Service Language Centre, Vilniaus kolegija/University of Applied Sciences, Vytautas Magnus University and Foreign Languages Institute, Vilnius University. Recently the LKPA was joined by the Lithuanian Klaipeda State University of Applied Sciences, University of Educational Sciences and European Humanities University. LKPA represents all languages taught in partner institutions.

The mission of LKPA is to protect and promote the Lithuanian language and multilingualism in Lithuania, to improve quality of teacher training and teacher development, to unify efforts and activities of language teaching institutions and language teacher's associations and to help teachers improve their professional competence and qualification.

LKPA is a founder member of REAL, the Réseau Européen des Associations de Professeurs de Langues and an active member of the Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes (FIPLV).

LKPA traditionally arranges an international conference in 3-4 languages, offers for its members national in-service training seminars and round table discussions with policy makers and experts, organizes the European Language Day event in the capital of the country every year.

LKPA has its own award. Active members both member institutions and individuals who achieve good results in language teaching and/or research are nominated and awarded „The Coffret of the White Philologist“( „Balto filologo skrynelė“).

Photo: the members of LKPA with the guests during the award ceremony in 2013.



## The Latvian Association of Teachers of English

LATVIJAS ANĢĻU VALODAS SKOLOTĀJU ASOCIĀCIJA

The Latvian Association of Teachers of English

**LAVSA**  
**LATE**



Beāte Kaupasa, the President of LATE.

LATE is an Associate member of IATEFL - the International Association of Teachers of English, which is based in the UK. Membership of IATEFL is particularly useful for those teachers/academics who intend to attend and present at a number of IATEFL conferences in Europe.

The Resource Centre at Kurbada iela 2 is the largest public resource centre of its kind in the Baltic. It has over 10,000 books, tapes, videos and magazines for you to read and borrow.

We have an extensive collection of resource books for reading, speaking, listening and writing skills. There are complete sets of readers and other materials for young learners; course book sets; examination materials and years and years of English Teaching Professional and Modern English Teacher magazines.

We are happy to announce the 23rd LATE Annual Conference: ELT from 5 to 99.

The LATE conference has always given a positive start to the beginning of the new academic year: interesting presentations, new ideas, forgotten ideas revived and of course, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. Not to mention the opportunity to get a lot of practical information and advice from the publishers and bookstores!

The good news - the conference fee has not been changed this year!

We look forward to seeing you in August - 20/21 - at the LATE annual conference. Please pass this message onto your colleagues who might not be LATE members.

We urge you to register early in order to guarantee a place at the conference. Every 23rd person to register will qualify for a pleasant surprise (a prize from the organizers) at the conference!

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The Electronic Newspaper is issued by:

Sigurborg Jónsdóttir, Iceland; Eglė Šleinotienė, Lithuania;