


Kauno mokykla-darželis “Šviesa”

Name of the organisation :	Kauno mokykla-darželis “Šviesa”	
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Type of organisation:

SME ☐ School ☐ ☒ NGO University ☐ Public Authority ☐
 Training ☐ No Profit ☐

Other (Specify)

Fields of action :

SMEs ☐ Youth ☐ Universities ☐ Public Authorities ☐
 Equal opportunities ☐ Schools ☒ Unemployed ☐

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

Kaunas School-Kindergarten "Šviesa" (Šviesa in English means the Light) is a general education state school providing pre-school, pre-school and primary education, as well as a wide and high-quality selection of non-formal education programs.

The activities of the school "Šviesa" are organized on the model of the Šviesa community cooperation (we name it Šviesa little town). At school (as we call Šviesa little town) we have 13 classes so called homesteads (groups and classes) and they are located in the Šviesa little town, they are: experiential education centers, connecting squares, alleys, squares and paths (office corridors, staircases and other spaces) with valuable names ("The Entrance of Wellbeing", "The Path of Creativity", "The Area of Generosity", "Stairs of Respect", "The Path of Faith") which are important for the overall education of children.

The community of the Šviesa little town consists of: children, families with children, teachers, workers, administration, social partners. The school has 300 children and 35 teachers.

School "Šviesa" is an experiential center. In Šviesa little town there is an Academy "Šviesuolis" which organizes different activities (clubs for children): "Champions Breakfast" (in-depth subject teaching), "Afternoon Tea" (assistance for students with learning difficulties), which promotes a system for evaluating a child's efforts and work in educational activities.

Activities integrated into the educational process are:

- theater - for the formation and development of public speaking skills, development of social and personal competencies, development of emotional intelligence;
- chess - for the development of higher thinking, problem-solving strategies, emotional intelligence;
- informatics - for the development of the basics of informative thinking, programming, digital literacy skills;
- career education program - for self-knowledge, career, work world opportunities, diversity and change;
- Gustav Academy - for the development of scientific and social competencies;
- robotics - for the development of engineering, programming, technological literacy, critical thinking, social skills.

The school conducts research on emotional intelligence, the use of research data to improve educational achievements. Identification and education of talented children is organized.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

The school participates in the project "Informatics in primary education" where school's teachers create and test the content of informatics lessons.

With the start of quarantine related to covid-19 when all teaching/learning process was immediately moved online, and we started distance education, teachers successfully transferred teaching to the digital space, enabling children to use high-quality digital content and tools that enabled students to be active in creating, creating and completing assigned tasks.

From the first grade onwards, we use electronic textbooks, assignments, and various presentations. 2nd grade students improve their digital skills in "Robotics" classes, 3rd and 4th grades students improve their digital skills in computer science classes.

During distance education, we noticed that students in 3rd and 4th grades did not have much difficulty connecting to the educational platform, performing tasks, taking photos and uploading creative and independent work, as children constantly strengthen digital literacy skills in formal education and extracurricular activities.

The school community is involved in various national and international projects:

- Active school - to strengthen physical, psychological and social competencies;
- Health-friendly project - to develop students' health-friendly diet and lifestyle literacy by raising their awareness of choosing health-friendly foods and lifestyles.
- In national and international eTwinning projects. We are an eTwinning school. (recent eTwinning projects

"We really love Lithuania, do you love it?"; "I grow up with a book"; "My dream job"; "We will open the door of the fairy tale"; "Little scientists"; "Blue Teddy Bear Safe Internet Campaign" and others

- I Can.

As well as associated partner school is involved into content piloting, testing activities and participates in Erasmus+ projects:

- CodeYourFuture (which helps to improve teachers' IT skills and teaches creative programming (<https://codeyourfuture.eu>))
- PSsmile (which fosters socio-emotional capacity development in primary education institutions by in the activities the whole community (<http://smile.emundus.lt>))
- CLIL4STEAM (<https://clil4steam.pixel-online.org>)

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

- Developed competences and gained experience in "Blue Teddy Bear Safe Internet Campaign" project;
- Participation in the project "Informatics in Primary Education";
- Participation in CodeYourFuture project and strengthen ICT knowledge and skills during international training;
- informatics lessons - for the development of the basics of informative thinking, programming, digital literacy skills;
- career education program - for self-knowledge, career, work world opportunities, diversity and change;
- Involved teachers has knowledge in creative programming programmes, such as Scratch and use
- Their knowledge working with pupils;
- Good knowledge using online communication programmes, as well working/learning environments such as MS Teams, Zoom and experience in online teaching (as during lock-down for almost a year teaching process was organized only online).

Contributions that can be provided to the project

- Participation in research in the project and developing intellectual outputs
- Administration of the project activities and finances ensuring correct management, as well fluent collaboration with project coordinating and managing institutions.
- Involvement of associated partners/beneficiaries and other needed institutions of the project and ensuring collaboration with them
- Producing needed reports
- Participating in project dissemination, evaluation, quality ensuring activities
- Developing project results and other needed activities

Reasons of involvement in the project

We seek to achieve the aim and objectives related to the project and to develop activities together:

- Gain basic and transversal digital skills for a transformation of teaching methodologies by emphasizing the opportunities for relationship and participation that online platforms offer.
- Work on the innovation of sharing strategies of teaching materials in social platforms close to the daily online relational experience of young people, as well as on better communicability of teaching materials

through the adoption of visual languages and storytelling as narration methods of more engaging content.

- Improve transversal digital skills (e.g. critical analysis, user awareness, creative content production) for greater autonomy and behavioural online responsibility online.
- Identify and implement strategies for active participation, relationship and exchange of students in the “distance learning” in order to overcome social isolation and motivate pupils to participate in the proposed educational activities, against the risk of school dropout;
- Strengthen pupils’ critical, digital and creative production skills, with particular reference to social media, so that they can develop responsible and aware behaviours during media use and critical attitudes concerning the multiple information conveyed online.

We also seek to get and to share our practise and experience with other European institutions; to create transnational network of secondary schools that will be directly involved in the project activities as associated partners.

As well for teachers, researchers, pupils’ the benefit will feel on rising their knowledge, experience and qualification developing activities together.

Contact Person’s Experience and Expertise

Edita Šežikaitė – she has been working as a primary school teacher for 6 years. She is very receptive, curious, courageous, creative teacher. She is not afraid to take on new challenges and achieve the very best results. She has a view that lifelong learning is needed. She is participating in the project "Informatics in primary education". She seeks to create a space where children’s curiosity and technology meet. As a result, she often integrates informatics content into other subjects. With students of 3-4th grades, she tested the possibilities of Scratch (creative programming tool), developed various mobile apps, got acquainted with virtual reality (Co Spaces Edu program), artificial intelligence, participated in the international European programming week "Code Week". We also participated in Design for Change (DFC), DFC movement I Can with students of 3-4th grades we were invited to the world-class congress of this project in Italy. She shares her good practice by attending various conferences, reading presentations. 2019 she read two papers at republican conferences: “ICT Opportunities in Primary Education”, “Development of Informatics Skills in Primary Schools”.

Vida Drąsutė is Project manager since 2006. So far she was involved into more than 40 International projects in different areas, 3 of them National projects, and in 7 of the projects as coordinator. She is an initiator and coordinator of Erasmus+ KA2 Strategical partnership projects PSsmile (which fosters socio-emotional capacity development in primary education institutions by in the activities the whole community;) HealthEDU (which is developed by 7 EU partners), were more than 160 EU educational institutions, such as kindergartens and primary schools, kids’ educational centers are involved as beneficiaries). She is experienced in projects management, formal and non-formal education improvement and development analysis of educational possibilities, quality, adaptation of different methodologies in various education levels, development of STEAM, critical thinking, e-learning and tools for e-learning encouragement in educational institutions, organization of courses, collaboration with different educational institutions.

She also works in the development of new learning approaches based on the use of innovations and creativity in a wide range of educational and training contexts, including pre-primary, primary, secondary and higher education, and vocational and continuous training.

Vida Karčiauskienė - She is a primary school teacher methodologist. She has been working as a primary school teacher for over twenty years. She is happy to be able to contribute to the creation of a modern school that meets the needs of today’s child. She gains various competencies and experience by participating in city, republican or international events and projects. It is open to change and innovation.

Creativity is understood as the original thinking that may be needed in any life situation. She enjoys creative freedom - when I can generate ideas, share them with others, create with children or colleagues, lead non-traditional or integrated lessons. She would like to meet and gain new experiences about developing children's creativity in other parts of the world. New ideas and experiences would make the educational process even more interesting and attractive.

Aušra Jankauskienė – she has been working as a primary school teacher for 30 years. “The students are very surprised to learn that when I was in school, there were no computers yet, and I only started using it while studying for a master’s degree” and they ask me if. “at that time there was electricity?” – Aušra shares her fun experience. In order not to think children that I am from the Stone Age she attends various courses that expand her digital literacy competence, enable me to prepare attractive learning materials for children, present it more interesting, provide knowledge on how to use technology meaningfully as a learning tool. She also participates in the project "Informatics in Primary Education". She has also been working at the Delta Mathematics School for 5 years, where individual thinking models are encouraged, in the search for her own solution. Inspired by this work, mathematics tasks for 1st-4th grades have emerged for additional learning, “Step into Mathematics”. We created them together with a colleague from Delta School.

Kristina Grybienė – she is a primary school teacher. She has been working at the Šviesa school for 25 years. She is open to educational innovation, easily accepting challenges. She participates in local, national, international projects. She gains new experience in various trainings. She likes working in a team - collaborating and sharing good practices and she shares that with children too. She has collaborated with volunteers from Italy and Germany who participated in the volunteer program at our school. This has led to further improvements of her English.