

## NEWSLetter, March, 2016.



### LeaCoMM Success in Lithuania

#### LeaCoMM platform - a successful way in encouraging teachers' collaboration, growth and providing daily support

As European societies turn to be more and more culturally and ethnically diverse, schools are becoming more diverse too. But are we ready to face new challenges, new diversities still using old-fashioned teaching materials, resources, tools? How fast will our teachers develop new competencies to work in a diverse environment?

These issues are of key importance nowadays in Lithuania too. Though it has been a multicultural and ethnically diverse country for centuries, still it faces with new challenges how to interact in a diverse environment due to lack of resources and competencies. Current situation forces school authorities to seek out for new methods, tools to help support collaboration and teachers' growth. To develop successful students, generation Z, schools, first of all, should make better use of technology. I think that LeaCoMM platform just fills in the current gap not only in Lithuania.

I was delighted to take part in the LeaCoMM project. Several

teachers got involved with piloting the materials, presented to the platform. They showed interest in piloting the modules and resources. So they kept on working almost for a year. Then Stuttgart's conference followed in February, 2016. I was invited to take part. A seed was planted. I understood that a new step should be undertaken – most of our teachers, not only those involved in the piloting, should be encouraged to join the platform. For the beginning our teachers created on the platform their first discussion group "IT teacher training materials", also started joining the already ongoing discussions.

To increase teacher involvement using the platform materials could be one of my biggest challenges of the year and, who knows, maybe the biggest success of the year in future.

Audronė Būdienė,

Deputy director,

Vilnius Karoliniškių Gymnasium,  
Lithuania



## Irish Teacher's utilize LeaCoMM Tool

During my final year of studies to become a teacher, I was asked to pilot the LeaCoMM project and its products.

At the time I was volunteering as a teacher working with an ethnic minority and was conscious that Ireland as a country had seen vast changes in our demography in recent years. From the onset of the Celtic Tiger floods of migrant workers entered our shores for the first time in our history, with this came challenges in terms of cultural identities, language barriers to name but a few. This situation has been exacerbated in recent years through political, economic and changing human geography across Europe.

As a result our educational institutions are new dilemmas in how best to meet the needs of our new society. Traditional ways of teaching are no longer meeting these needs. This LeaComm project offers invaluable tools for educators to avail of resources and materials along with professional support.

I have since qualified and secured employment as an educational practitioner and I am delighted to have been introduced to LeaCoMM at its very early stage of development. Now it is a vibrant resource which provides me with an excellent tool to enhance my intercultural practice

Lorraine O Connor B.Soc.Sci, H.dip F.ed



## Praise from School Director in Greece

I always wanted a safe environment as starting point for my researches, my contacts and my needs as a teacher and educator in Greece. It isn't easy and especially when you find something it's difficult to manage or to develop your skills in it.

I'm the school director of the primary school of Paralia in Katerini, Greece. The 30% of our pupils are with migrant background or one of their parents are from another country.

Me and my colleagues need all the time sources in our educational procedures as support and guide. Desmos NGO proposed us to be involved in this e-learning adventure by using and piloting the LeaCoMM platform and by giving us the chance to contribute to its development! we created an e-learning group under the name : "English through poetry" and it was the first time for me to deal with a virtual community and to work with other colleagues by using online documents, apps and interesting tools which were implemented to our learning procedure.

I learned that finally technology and learning fit together and give us great results! I recommend LeaCoMM platform and its e-learning communities for all teachers who want to expand their horizons, who care for their students and personal development and are searching for new ideas in class and would like to share their own experiences with colleagues from all over the world.

E. P. School Director of the primary school of Paralia, Katerini, Greece.

## LeaCoMM, a Success for Academics in Turkey

Turkey is hosting more than 2 million refugees from the Syrian conflict that began in 2011. The government adopted an important policy in September 2014 that formally grants Syrian children access to public schools, but key obstacles including a language barrier, social integration issues, economic hardship, and lack of information about the policy, still remain Human Rights Watch found. İzmir is one of the major cities Syrian migrants live and currently in Bornova District of İzmir there are around 35.000 Syrian migrants.

As a Director of Bornova District Directorate of Education it's our job to provide educational opportunities to the Syrian children in Bornova. That's why we started a campaign to enroll as many Syrian children as possible to our schools. Up to now we have 1650 Syrian students enrolled in public schools.

However, their integration into the schools and classroom requires extra effort from teachers. Teachers need to know how to approach immigrant children, how to communicate with them and how to integrate them into the class. Our Branch Manager Dr. Emin Bakay

**Branch Manager, Bornova District Directorate of Education**



introduced us to LeaCoMM Platform and we decided to recommend the LeaCoMM Platform to our teachers. The materials, resources and good practice examples will be a great source for our teachers when working with children with migrant background.

**Ünsal ÇETİN**

**Branch Manager, Bornova District Directorate of Education**





## LeaCoMM: a Tool Collaboration for in Germany

The “State School Board Backnang”, situated near Stuttgart, has the task to support school administration, school counseling and school supervision and counseling center, its core tasks are in the areas of consulting, personnel management, networking activities and staff development.

For years teachers, school administrators, school managers and all other experts who are involved in school, deal with the subject migration, minorities and integration. Various initiatives and working groups have already been created, the dealing with people with an immigrant background and with the needs of people belonging to minorities, in the various aspects of daily life. All these have the aim to support teachers’ work.

LeaCoMM provides an outstanding alternative to address these issues in their daily work.

By creating a separate group of “State Schoolboard Backnang” all interested colleagues now can be immediately notified of new events, materials can be processed and exchanged,

the networking between the experts from the county is promoted.

The creation of such a group requires only a few mouse clicks and is very user friendly. To protect the data and information in the group twice, it is a closed group: the members must first be unlocked. This is done by the administrator of the group. The users of the platform from the school district are therefore requested to register their names at LeaCoMM so that the administration can assign them.

Users of the group gave so far very positive feedback and keep the group on a principal relief because LeaCoMM offers many opportunities to use, to discuss and to create on one platform and with focus Migration and Minorities.

It is also important for us, to encourage the involved teachers, teacher educators and school managers in this way to get engaged in other LeaCoMM-Groups to cooperate internationally, may also initiate a group itself. In this way LeaCoMM also helps to strengthen the digital skills of teachers.

Sara Swistun

Teacher and consultant The „State School Board Backnang

## Success Stories from the LeaCoMM Project