

Introducing project "Foundations of Democracy" for Estonian Compulsory Schools

In the beginning of the project period 2005/2006 in the Sokos Hotel Viru in Tallinn on April 18.-20. 2005 there was held annual conference of the CIVITAS International Baltic and US partners. The international event, which was dedicated to the topic "Mass Media and Civic Education" brought together more than 50 participants. In addition to the Estonian speakers there were guest lectures from United States, Denmark and Sweden.

During the seminar the participants visited schools like Tallinna Reaalkool, Tõnismäe Reaalkool, Saku Gymnasium. Tiger Leap IT Foundation was visited as well.

During the year introducing of the project "Let's Do Something Useful!" (Project "Citizen") was continued. Although the main attention was paid to the introduction of the program "Foundations of Democracy" for primary grades and kindergarten children. The materials of the program - Student Book and Teacher Guide - were translated into Estonia and introduced to the teachers during in-service seminars. Especially important for teaching "Foundations..." is the methodical approach, which enables to speak successfully with small kids about sophisticated issues of Democracy. An outstanding teacher trainer from the United States Ms. Sandra Baker taught in spring 2006 the methods and the content of "Foundations..." to several teacher groups in Tallinn.