



Nordplus Adult Learning Programme project “New and Old Democracies”

“New and Old Democracies” (NODE) AD-2012_1a-28661

In 2012 – 2014 Jaan Tõnisson Institute participated in the international cooperation project “New and Old Democracies” (NODE) financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The applicant partner of the project was a Danish NGO “Folkevirke”. The partners in the project were besides Estonia from Norway, Latvia and Lithuania. The aim of the project was to learn about the democracy around the Baltic Sea introduced by the old and new democracies in the region. During the period from November 2012 to May 2014 five international meetings were arranged by each project partner in their respective countries for investigating more thoroughly about one specific field in democratic society. Also new andragogical skills to be used in teaching about democracy for different audience were mutually learned.

The first introductory seminar on the topic “Old and New Democracies” was held on November 22. – 23. 2012 in Copenhagen. During the seminar wide range of issues about democracy in the Nordic countries was discussed, together with practical workshops and site visits to different places characteristic to Danish democracy like Folketing and Christiania.



In March 2013 was held a three-day seminar in Tallinn, discussing the problems of equality. Participants of the event met the advisor of the Chancellor of Justice of Estonia (also Ombudsman) Ms Kristiina Albi and with the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner Ms Mari-Liis Sepper, and visited also the members of Estonian Parliament (Riigikogu) who are dealing in the parliamentary commissions with the issues of equality and representatives of the people with disabilities.



On May 15. – 16. 2013 the project meeting was held in Haugesund (Sveio kommun, Norway) on the topic of youth and school democracy. Project partners met with the Sveio commune leaders and participated in the local youth parliament session.



Seminar in Riga on October 03. – 04. 2013 was dedicated to the problems of family in the democratic society. The participants met the Parliament members of the Latvian Saeima and the Riga City Council, where the information concerning family issues was shared. Practical workshop of handicraft and design skills was arranged by the Latvian partner.



The last seminar of the project was held on May 15. – 18. 2014 in Vilnius and Druskinikai in Lithuania, where the issues of minorities were learned. Site visit to Lithuanian parliament Seimas was arranged for meeting there MP-s and discussing the issues concerning national minorities in the country with them. In Druskininkai the participants observed a lesson about Holocaust at the local school and visited the Polish cultural society.



In conclusion, the two-years project was very fruitful for all the partners. The aim to learn about democracy in the old and new countries around the Baltic sea was accomplished. Democracy in the Nordic and Baltic countries was studied in many different ways and new practical skills for adult education were obtained.

