



Activity Report 2019

EPA's events

GA and conference in Kolding in May 2019

The spring conference introduced EPA members to "the home of the brick", Denmark and actually rather close to the place of the creation of Lego, the city of Billund. Lego was present in the schools we visited – a room full of Lego education toys at the primary school but also in one of the workshops in the afternoon when the motto of our conference "Playful learning for mental health and well-being" could be experienced by all the participants. Interesting keynote speeches also dealt with the topic as well as with the challenges and possibilities of smartphones and other screens. There is a more detailed report on our website: <https://euparents.eu/parenting-for-a-healthy-life-playful-learning-for-well-being-and-mental-health/>

GA and conference in Vienna in November 2019

The conference in Vienna was dedicated to "The role of education in adopting a healthy lifestyle" and was carried out in cooperation with UNICEF, the Viennese Parents' Association for Upper and Lower Secondary Schools and the Platform Parents' Health. Two schools were visited that are part of the Viennese Health Network and who were proud to show what they are doing in this field. The presentations at the conference dealt with healthy nutrition, prevention of disease and drug abuse and also included an inspiring session on the possibilities for exercising in class to improve concentration, focus and well-being. Please read the full report on our website: <https://euparents.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/conference-report-GA-VIE-2019-1.pdf>

Representation of parents on European level

The year started with the **Forum on the Future of Learning** organized on January 24th by DG EAC presenting six issue papers for discussion on Demographic challenges, Inclusion and citizenship, Technological change and the future of work, Digitalisation of society, Environmental challenges and Investment, reforms and governance. Participants were able to choose three of the workshops held on these topics and comment on the findings putting forward suggestions, worries and/or critical remarks to influence the drawing up of the post-2020 program. The forum was followed by a **Civil Society Day** called for by LLLPlatform to further discuss the outcomes of the forum and formulate concrete proposals and demands to

the Commission. <http://lllplatform.eu/news/civil-society-day-outcomes-of-the-consultation-with-ngos/>

At the **EIGE (European Institute for Gender Equality) consultation meeting** in Vilnius on January 31st and February 1st EPA was represented by Josep Manuel Prats highlighting the role of parents as primary educators and the great need for parent training to overcome gender bias and to promote gender equality in the different social, political, economical, educational and family spheres.

The **14th Network meeting of FEAD** (Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived) took place in Brussels on 20th February and was dedicated to “**Tackling poverty among children with FEAD**” presenting various initiatives from different countries on how the funds have been used to establish services for the benefit of children and their families.

European Sectoral Social Partners in Education held a training seminar in Copenhagen on March 14-15 promoting effective integration of migrants and refugees in education where EPA was invited to present the projects in this field and used the opportunity to promote IntegratED, as well as OpenSchoolDoors and ParentHelp.

Asked to name participants from specific countries for the **Civil society review on youth challenges** taking place on March 12th EPA got in touch with its respective members and Aivar Haller went to represent the Estonian Parents’ Association and speak about the challenges faced by young people in his country regarding the educational system but also in society in general.

On March 20-21 the **European Agency for Safety and Health at the workplace** held an event in Bilbao on **musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)** on young people looking at how to integrate knowledge of MSD prevention into the education curricula, at the impact of MSDs at work and their prevention, at the broader MSD risk factors to young people (e.g. sedentary lifestyle, technology), and at how young people perceive body form and how positive messages can be communicated. The meeting was attended by Victor Petuya.

At the **Joint European Parliament and European Commission Conference on Mobility of Apprentices in Europe** – A contribution to youth employment and competitiveness of businesses – on March 21-22 EPA had been invited to participate in the panel discussion on long-term mobility strongly advocated for by MEP Jean Arthuis. In her statement Arja Krauchenberg pleaded for a three stage system consisting of a first experience abroad together with the class and one or more (depending on the size of the group) accompanying teachers/trainers, to familiarize youngsters with travelling and living conditions in a foreign country, a second stage comprising a short-term work experience (two to eight weeks) to get a “taste” and finally a long-term placement abroad (between 3 months and a year).

Due to a change in the Belgian law on AISBL (international non-profit associations) the **LLL** held an **eo. GA** on March 25th to bring their statutes in line with the new regulations and clarify



some other incoherencies in their internal rules. The new set can be found on their website: http://illplatform.eu/ill/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Statutes-LLLPlatform_2015_EN.pdf EPA was represented by the Arja Krauchenberg and Boštjan Bobič, who also took part in the *Digital Skills Talk* the following day.

On 1-3 April the **LEGO idea conference** took place in Billund and was attended by Mette With Hagensen. The topic **Unlocking the Power of Parenting** fits extremely well with EPA's core beliefs and activities and their dedication to building a future where learning through play empowers children to become creative, engaged, lifelong learners falls very much in line with what we are promoting. Inspiring speakers like Malala's father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, or Pasi Sahlberg and interesting workshops made this an exciting event. You can watch some of them here: <https://www.legoideaconference.com/en/>

The **European Forum on the Rights of the Child** on April 2-3 was attended by Josep Manuel Prats on behalf of EPA and gave insight to a number of unsolved legal issues regarding the respect of children's rights in cross-border situations highlighted by Europol and the children's ombudsman. Three different workshops took place on *The protection of children in migration*, *Children's rights in the ever-changing digital world* and *Children and young people's participation in the EU political and democratic life*.

EPA has been invited to join a new movement initiated by the **Foundation L4WB (Learning for Well-Being)** called **Act2gether** which had a first meeting "Community Day" in Brussels on 3rd April where the different strands of the movement were presented (Learn2gether, Link2gether, 2getherLand) and challenges and strategies were discussed. EPA was not only present through its president but also Ljiljana Vasić from our Serbian member Pomoć Deci attended. You received an invitation to their meeting in July which will be held online:

On April 4th the **Social Platform** held its **annual GA** where a new board of directors was elected. Piotr Sadowski from Volunteer Europe is the new president. During the following meeting the future strategies of the platform were discussed especially with regard to the upcoming elections to the European Parliament.

Cedefop, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training based in Thessaloniki, Greece invited EPA again to take part in one of its policy forums on April 9-10 on "**Unlocking the potential of learning at the workplace by, and for, teachers and trainers in VET**". The forum is very much organized as an Open Space learning event where participants are invited to share their ideas and challenges and contribute to resolving the latter by putting forward good practices and/or achievements but also to discuss failures.

Right after our GA in Kolding, the Sirius Network held its GA and annual conference in co-operation with NEPC in Zagreb, Croatia on May 7-8 on "**Inclusive Education for all: from ideas to action**" with presentations and discussion rounds on the integration of migrants in different parts in Europe, recent initiatives to explore and analyze policies and practices supporting disadvantage learners from low SES in active participation in school life and in achieving better



learning outcomes. One of the sessions also dealt with multilingual and multicultural challenges in the classroom and the importance of a whole school approach. The policy conference was followed by a **peer-learning activity** showing participants a school outside of Zagreb in Ogulin and the work of an NGO dealing with refugees and their struggle with the authorities. See below at Sirius 2.0 for further information.

ESF Transnational Platform held its final conference on May 21-22 in Brussels whose objective was twofold: on the one hand to disseminate to a wide audience the lessons learnt from ESF transnationality, in particular from the work of the Thematic Networks, as well as from transnational projects and on the other to exchange on how the ESF and transnationality can concretely support the experimentation of approaches to tackle unmet social and labour market needs, as well as pressing societal challenges.

During the event, users, project promoters, managing authorities and relevant stakeholders “told the story” of the ESF Transnational Platform. Testimonials from selected ESF funded projects, including transnational ones, illustrated how the ESF has improved people’s living and/ or working conditions. The meeting was attended by Valérie Gardette.

EPA has been invited by the European Commission to take part in a series of seminars dealing with **quality assurance in educational systems**. The first one took place in Brussels on May 23-24 and focused on the following questions:

- I. What policies at the system level can **raise awareness of the role of school self-evaluation** and of the importance of using a range of quantitative and qualitative data for improvement? How can this be best achieved?
- II. What policies at the system level can **strengthen the capacity of school leaders, teachers and other school staff, school boards and local authorities to gather, analyse, interpret and use evidence**?
- III. What **approaches and tools may support school self-evaluation** while allowing sufficient flexibility for taking into account local contexts?

A second seminar took place on October 3-4 and dealt with the question of how external evaluation can support school self-evaluation and development.

There were very fruitful discussions with representatives of the DG EAC expert working group on schools, the school students union (OBESSU), the teachers union (ETUC), the school leaders (ESHA) and various experts from universities, ministries of education, inspectorates and international organizations like UNESCO and the OECD.

The **Wider benefits of learning** working group of LLLP met on May 28th in Brussels and discussed their next activities to build evidence for advocacy and capacity-building on how lifelong learning can contribute to healthier and happier individuals and societies. In turn, better learning environments will contribute to improve educational attainments and thus the capacity of Europe to reach its targets for 2020.



This meeting was followed by the **LLL and Cedefop joint Policy Forum on Early School Leaving** presenting the toolkit <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/toolkits/vet-toolkit-tackling-early-leaving> established by Cedefop and concentrating on the establishment of easy to access community learning centres to give especially young people (but not only) the possibility to return or turn to (formal) education in a more meaningful way especially using VET and work based learning. You can find more information here: <http://lllplatform.eu/tag/early-leaving/> <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/sv/events-and-projects/events/international-conference-school-success-school-failure-and-early-school>

In June a combination of events took place in Ireland starting with the **World Anti-Bullying Forum** on June 4-6 where researchers and anti-bullying experts presented their findings and and practitioners the results of projects in the field. There are many successful tools to combat bullying but the knowledge about the phenomena is still not widely spread and the responsibilities are not clearly defined. More information can be found at: <https://wabf2019.com/> The event overlapped with the Sirius PLA described below (see: projects)and at the end of the week offered the possibility to attend our member NPCp's annual conference (see members' events).

On June 19-20 LLLP's annual conference took place in Brussels under the heading of **Learning democracy, values and participation** which is also their topic of the year that will be further elaborated during the Lifelong Learning Week in December. Participants discussed how common values of prosperous, cohesive and democratic societies are indeed the way forward for our continent, the whole world and how education and lifelong learning could foster citizens' participation in democratic processes. During the following GA and thanks to Claudio Masotti's lobbying Arja Krauchenberg has been elected member of the Steering Committee. More information about the event can be found on LLLPs website: <http://lllplatform.eu/events/annual-conferences/annual-conference-2019/> Their next conference planned for **27-28 May 2020 in Zagreb, Croatia** on the topic of **Lifelong Learning for a Sustainable Society** had to be postponed due to COVID-19 and will now probably take place in December during the Lifelong Learning Week.

On June 24-27, Valerie attended the meeting of the **Conference of INGOs of the CoE** (Council of Europe).

July offered a very short noticed participation in a project workshop on **The Future of informal and non-formal learning** in Brussels on July 8th where participants discussed various scenarios which had been elaborated by the Danube Universität Krems and the Austrian Institute for Technology and their likelihood to become reality:

- *Diverse and hybrid learning*
- *Digitalisation takes over*
- *Status-quo*
- *Privatisation of learning*

Very interesting discussions especially on the role that digitalization plays in the process.



On July 30-31 a scientific conference “**Parenting adolescents and educational programs in the digital age**” organized by the Belarusian Academy of Sciences and UNICEF took place in Minsk, Belarus. Aivar gave a [welcome speech](#) from the side of EPA and moderated two workshops

September started with a **Partner’s Day of the Alliance for Childhood** in Brussels which was attended by Valérie Gardette and brought a fruitful exchange among many of the members and partners of the alliance with some of whom EPA also collaborates. Valérie used the possibility to present the association and our work and established a number of new and interesting contacts.

A week later, on Sept 9-10, Aivar Haller took part in a **Seminar on School Leadership** organized by DG EAC whose representatives were very interested in the project on training school boards that is being organized in Estonia by EstPa (the Estonian Parents’ association) and in which EPA is a partner.

At the same time during the meeting of the Steering committee of LLLP the members of the new European Commission were announced and Arja Krauchenberg discovered together with her colleagues that there was no specific mentioning of “education” or “lifelong learning” in the title of any of the new commissioner’s portfolio which provoked disappointment and dismay after the rather positive previous announcements. The mission letter to Ms Gabriel is however a source of hope that these items won’t be totally forgotten. Several letters of protest have in the meantime resulted in a change so that the portfolio is now called: Innovation, Research, Culture, **Education** and Youth.

The Global Vaccination Summit on Sept 12th brought together experts and fighters for the cause from all over the world and should make Europeans appreciate much more their access to good and affordable healthcare including vaccines which is not the case all over the world and makes you wonder about vaccination hesitancy in many countries that can afford to offer their citizens this kind of service saving hundreds and thousands of lives whereas other countries struggle to protect their children and parents in this way.

The following weekend saw the board gather in Lyon for our autumn **Board Meeting** hosted by Valérie Gardette, working hard at 32° on 14-15 Sept in preparation for the GA and the events in the fall.

From there two board members immediately took off for EPA representation: Víctor Petuya to Brussels for a meeting of the STOP (Science and Technology in childhood Obesity Policy) project (2018-2021) which is to generate scientifically sound, novel and policy-relevant evidence on the factors that have contributed to the spread of childhood obesity in European countries and on the effects of alternative technological and organizational solutions and policy options available to address the problem. More information can be found here: www.stopchildobesity.eu.



Arja's way led directly to the **OECD stakeholder dialogue forum** in Stockholm where EPA had been invited to give "provocative food for thought" to the participants, mainly senior officials from the ministries of education of 24 countries trying to improve their respective systems and make them fit for the 21st century. They wanted inspiring examples of stakeholder involvement from teachers, students and parents and even though all representatives of these relevant groups could offer one or two good practices you could see that this is still far from being mainstreamed and her call for cooperation amongst all - mentioning the benefits that could have - met with huge approval.

Two days later EPA contributed to the opening and the closing panel of the 12th biannual ERNAPE (European Research Network About Parents in Education) conference in Gdansk in Poland on the topic of **Parent Engagement as Power: Empowering Children, Schools and Societies** with highly interesting speakers among them Joyce Epstein from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Sept 25th saw Valérie Gardette again in Brussels at the presentation of the policy briefs on **Enabling young carers to pursue their goals in life and reach their full potential – converting research findings into policy actions** held at the European Parliament which gave insight into the challenges young carers face and the different solutions and support systems that the participating countries have in place.

The next day she took part in the **Second European Education Summit** hosted by Commissioner Tibor Navracsics bringing together representatives of all the stakeholders to talk about the important role of teachers in the education system: '**Teachers first: excellence and prestige for the European Education Area**'. Topics were among others: training and continuous professional development, the use of digital technology in the classroom, Neurosciences brain based learning, but also an aspect very much related to our conference in November, namely *A healthy lifestyle given or something to be taught?* The event has been web-streamed and you can find the recordings here: https://ec.europa.eu/education/summit_en

At the same dates, Arja Krauchenberg attended the 4th **EAfA regional seminar for candidate countries** in Skopje/North Macedonia which was dedicated to the involvement of SMEs in apprenticeship schemes and the support they need but also the possibilities they may offer. The site visits on Thursday gave insight to the newest developments in the country and our group went to see EVN – an electricity net provider – where the focus in the first year of training is on safety in the field, learning how to put on protective clothing, security measures when climbing a pylon and how to handle the tools. During the visit to the school where the theoretical part of the training takes place EVN handed over to the principal the first prototype of a tablet that contains all the theoretical knowledge that the youngsters need to master and of which each of them will get an example – 10 kg of books condensed in an 800g tablet with lots of illustrative videos and interactive exercises. More information is available here:



<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1147&furtherNews=yes&newsId=9470>

On Oct 10-11, an expert workshop was held in Malmö discussing the **Child Guarantee Scheme** planned by the European commission. The workshop is part of a series looking at four different groups of children that have been identified by a feasibility study as the ones which could profit most from such a guarantee namely: Children with disabilities, Children in institutions, **Children with a migrant background** and Children in precarious families. The workshop in Malmö focused on the third group. The meeting was attended by Arja Krauchenberg.

The next **EIGE Meeting on gender equality** took place in Brussels on October 15th. Valerie attended this meeting.

Two board members (Aivar Haller and Arja Krauchenberg) attended various events of the **Vocational Skills Week in Helsinki** from 14-18 October, among them a “Dialogue with Finnish Parents on the possibilities of VET” with Mette With Hagensen (former board member and president of our Danish member SoF) as a keynote speaker and Arja as the moderator. Maja Kovče from our Slovenian member ZASSS and Aivar participated from the beginning to the end and together with Arja and Mette took part in previously shared workshops.

That meeting was followed by the final conference of the **EPOPS project (Empowering Parents’ Organizations to Prevent Substance use)** in Palma which was also presented by Miquel Àngel Guerrero from the Mallorcan parents’ association at our GA in Vienna in November.

In the last week of October Aivar Haller attended a one-day **training session on impact assessment** organized by LLLP in Brussels.

On November 5th and 6th, the first transnational meeting of the Erasmus+ project **“Empowering school boards”** organized by EstPA was held on the island of Saaremaa (see project section) as well as a **QoC talk** in the European Parliament organized by the Alliance for Childhood and the celebration of the **100th anniversary of the Waldorf Schools** in Brussels on 7th of November where Aivar as one of the Waldorf parents was representing EPA.

Mid-November brought the **conference on Supporting the key-competences development** organized by the European Commission in Brussels – more info can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/education/events/supporting-key-competence-development-learning-approaches-and-environments-in-school-education_en as well as the final conference of LLLP’s **COMANITY project on skills for youth workers** but also a session of the **Working Group on the Wider Benefits of Learning** (attended by Arja Krauchenberg).

18th of November Aivar Haller participated in the annual conference of the **European Education Policy Network on Teachers and School Leaders** which is a Europe-wide network of



relevant organizations (policymakers, practitioners, researchers and stakeholders) to promote co-operation, policy development and implementation at different governance levels, and to support the European Commission's policy work on teachers and school leaders. The conference took place at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland

On 5th to 13th of December three members of the EPA Board (Boštjan Bobič Zatreščak, Valerie Gardett, Aivar Haller) plus Mette Hagensen (Denmark) and Arvydas Augustaitis (Lithuania) as EPA consultants, participated in the **First Week Long-Training module** of the Erasmus + project "Empowering of School Boards" in Saaremaa, Estonia. This module was the first of four one-week training sessions by Harald Jäckel and Anja Köstler from the Trigon Institute. The goal during the first year of the project is to train up to 20 international school board educators and set up a training program that will then help the School Boards get ready to make more decisions and take more responsibility.

On November 26th Valérie Gardette represented EPA in Naples/Italy at the Liceo Quinto Orazio Flacco in Portici for their final presentation to all the educative and executive team of the «**Bilanciamo le difference**» program based on educative co-responsability. She did a presentation about the key opportunities and challenges in establishing parent/teacher relationship as mutually supportive.

Beginning of December LLLP organized their traditional **Lifelong Learning Week** dedicated to their topic of the year *Learning Democracy, Values and Participation*. It kicked off with the LLL Civil Society Forum followed by a reception on the first evening with representatives from DG EAC and other EU institutions including the LLL Awards ceremony. During the week a number of events took place including several presentations from its members hosted in the European Parliament. Arja Krauchenberg presented the IntegratED project during a meeting focusing on *Inclusion in school - from policy to practice*. You can find the full program at the LLLP website together with a more detailed description of the events: <http://lllplatform.eu/events/lll-week/2019-programme/>

EPA at members' events

In April our Slovak member SRRZ organized a final conference in Bratislava of their project **Romani language instruction using foreign language instruction methodology** where the outcomes of the project were presented to a wider public. Interesting practices as well as scientific advice were brought to the participants' attention introduced by an inspiring keynote by Prof. David Little. Representatives of the Roma community explained the difficulties and challenges that they are faced with towards the majority language community but also within their own community to find agreements on the language use and description.

The PLA in the framework of the New Sirius project (Sirius 2.0) which took place in Ireland also offered the possibility to attend the annual conference of our Irish member NPC on 8 June **Tomorrow's World: Parents supporting Children's Futures** where the first results of a study on parental involvement were presented by the research team from Marino Institute of



Education. There was also an interesting presentation on *Homework, The why and the why not, the how and the how not* which you can all find here: <http://www.npc.ie/news-events/npc-education-conference-2019>

SRRZ also organized a **European Festival of Artistic Schools** on June 13-14 as part of their project of the European Day of Parents and School in Prievidza/Slovakia with several concerts as part of the two day program and presentations on the importance of arts and music for the development of creativity. Former president Johannes Theiner attended the event on behalf of EPA.

Update on projects

Finished projects: Erasmus+

SEQUENCES: The toolkit has been finalized and presented at an event in Brussels as foreseen in the project planning. It was met with great praise by the representatives of LLLP, the Foundation L4WB and Make Mothers Matter who had been asked to revise and comment on it but also by the representative of the Commission, Géraldine Libreau from DG EAC. The guidelines for internal and external quality assessment in Early Childhood Education and Care have been finalized and are available together with the Training Curriculum on the website of the project for further dissemination as the project has ended on April 30th and was rewarded by the Agency with 100/100 points. The final version of the toolkit can be found here: <https://sequences-project.eu>

ELITE (*Enhancing Learning In Teaching via e-inquiries*) A project that aims at supporting teachers' professional learning for competence development, targeting specifically in-service educators in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) domain has ended in October 2019 and the outcomes are available on their website www.learning-in-teaching.eu Josep Manuel Prats has attended various meetings of the project.

ELPIDA: An E-learning platform has been developed containing six modules aiming at providing training, awareness raising and/or attitude change for parents of persons with intellectual disabilities (PWID). The modules cover areas such as early intervention, improving communication, abuse awareness, stress management, transition to adulthood, sexuality and ageing and are organized in form of an e-learning course enabling participants to choose the time and the duration they can dedicate to the completion of each module.

This project has been presented to EPA members in a workshop at the GA in Milan as well as in a plenary session at the GA in Bilbao and met with great interest. There has been a presentation at the European Parliament on March 19th, 2019 hosted by MEP Martina Weber and EPA has also provided the French translation. It has been awarded the Zero Project Award 2020 for **Innovative Practice 2020 on Inclusive Education and ICT**. The course can be found here: <http://elpida-project.eu/index.php/en/e-course> It's for free but registration is necessary.



The coordinator of the **Open School Doors (OSD)** project aiming at a better inclusion of third national children in education has decided to change partners. The financial issues have been settled, we're expecting to receive the final payment in June.

Ongoing projects

IntegratED: The project which started at the end of 2017 aims at *Promoting Meaningful Integration of 3rd Country National Children to Education* and focuses on strengthening the successful participation of newly arrived third-country national children in education. In the framework of the project a peer-mentoring program and an online homework club for TCN children as well as information material about the school systems and access to basic provisions have been developed in different languages for migrant families in Greece, Italy and Spain. EPA has contributed guidelines for schools to implement the project outcomes and a policy brief to promote the dissemination of the project. The project which was scheduled to end in December 2019 has been extended to June 2020 to be able to hold a multistakeholder presentation in Brussels in March and the final partner meeting in Greece in April. Some partners still need to implement the piloting in the school. As not all of these activities could take place due to COVID-19 the consortium is discussing a further extension. <https://www.integrated-project.eu>

Sirius 2.0 Policy Network on Migrant Education: aims to promote co-operation between different stakeholders, support inclusive policy development and implementation at different governance levels and facilitate the integration of children and young people with a migrant background in education. Among others through peer-learning activities and national and regional workshops for inclusive policy making. The first PLA in 2019 took place in Croatia along with the Sirius GA and annual conference for which EPA had recommended speakers from the field of multilingualism, one of the main topics. During the PLA the host, the Forum for Freedom in Education, took the participants (delegations from Greece and Portugal together with international representatives) to the help center of an NGO for refugees, "Are you Syriouse", and to a school in Ogulin, about a 100km from Zagreb that had both been part of the "Start the change" project which aims at developing and nurturing the following values and capacities: psychological thriving, emotional development and self-regulation, civic competences, connectedness, positive attitudes towards differences as well as multi-perspective and deeper understanding of the world against radicalization which most often happens in a context of deprivation (whether economic or psychological) within search for meaning and identity but is also fueled by personal issues and/or need for revenge.

The second PLA was held in Dublin, Ireland and the host, New Communities Partnership, introduced the participants from Sweden and Lithuania as well as the international partners to the DEIS program (a special support mechanism scheme to help schools with specific challenges e.g. children from a migrant background, refugees, etc.) and more specifically to the Home School Liaison Officers' scheme which was then shown in practice during a visit to a primary school with a high percentage of immigrant pupils as well as to CDET Youth and



Education Service for Refugees and Migrants. The reports will be published on the Sirius website: <http://www.sirius-migrationeducation.org/news/sirius-2-0-policy-network-on-migrant-education/>

New projects:

Media Literacy for Parents: An Erasmus+ project that has started with its kick-off meeting in November and aims at developing media literacy skills and competences of parents, so that they can safeguard and support their children in the new digital world. The specific objectives of the project are:

- To develop a training programme, using a progression model for beneficiaries with different levels of competences.
- To develop a guide for media literacy for parents
- To organise workshops for parents
- To disseminate the project results and create an on-line network of parents to promote media literacy.

If you are interested in hosting a workshop or co-operating in the project, please let us know.

The project kicked off with a meeting in Krakow, home to the coordinator MaPaPa where all the partners met in person for the first time and the foreseen structure of the outputs was presented. In addition to the objectives above one of the outputs will also be an App which should help to reach out to parents and make their learning as easy and accessible as possible.

Empowering the School Boards and Management: An Erasmus+ project developed by our member EstPA.

In order to participate in developing the school environment, the parent must take responsibility by participating in decision-making processes. Parents as decision makers must be educated and competent. Society needs national and international education programs for parents, the keywords of which are communication skills (management of development and conflicts, building up and holding relationships) and cooperation (collegial management).

Estonian Parents' Association (EstPA) has been actively and systematically trained school boards since 2006 and practically all Estonian schools have been visited and altogether about 10 000 school community members have been trained. There have been met many school boards who are ready to take on more responsibility, as well as heads of schools and members of the local governments who would be willing to grant more rights to school boards if they only knew how to do it correctly in terms of the laws and sustainability. Impact foreseen:

1. project will give the active parents and students an entirely new potential to be involved in the management of an educational institution and systematically improve their competence;



2. project involves more than thousand families and creates the prerequisites for the rapid growth of their communication skills and ability to cooperate - it will benefit the improvement of relations between two or even three generations;
3. collegial management enables the inclusion of a larger number of competent people in the school life cycle; instead of power struggle, energy will go towards cooperation;
4. school board will become a trusted partner for local government; entrepreneurial parents make financial contributions of significant amounts to their children's learning environment, without there being any obligations for the local government;
5. at the national level, we dare to predict that the described process will create the necessary prerequisites for a formation of new generation of politicians who have contributed voluntarily to the community for many years and who understand local and educational life and are therefore able to establish and maintain productive relationships in a community-based way.

Redesign and modernize EBBD portfolio and curriculum organized in modular learning units based on the new frameworks and designed according to ECVET criteria. This will make the diploma more easily transferable to other institutions and European countries. The European Business Baccalaureate Diploma (EBBD) is an educational pathway that offers a wide range of nowadays-crucial competences in a sophisticated package deal. The studies focus on soft skills, life-long learning and other transversal skills, foreign language and intercultural competences as well as work-based learning in a digitalized business world. It strives to equip students in upper secondary education with competences crucial for their employability in the future.

To adjust EBBD to recent developments in the world of work and the competences required for future employability the new Erasmus+ Key Action 2 project will in particular incorporate the recently published European Frameworks on competences into the qualification, i.e. The Digital Competence Framework for Citizens, The Digital Competence Framework for Consumers, The Entrepreneurship Competence Framework and The Council Recommendations for Lifelong Learning.

However, we also want to crosscheck these recommendations with competence requirements of the world-of work on a local, regional and wherever possible national level, by creating links to companies and chambers.

