

Culture of Learning

ACTION RESEARCH – LATVIA (November 2017)

Introduction / Context

The aims of the Study Visit in Latvia were:

1. Showcase best practices.
2. Develop knowledge, understanding and skills within the community and engage with schools at local and global level.
3. Understand the main factors that contribute to supporting schools to develop capability to work with local and global partners.
4. Develop a global approach to education provision to meet the needs of students to understand the challenges of living in an increasingly globalised world.

During the visit we observed how the school and teachers were engaged in collaboration with the community. We had opportunity to talk with teachers and students and I was particularly interested in parents involvement within their community and school.

1. How parents cooperate with each other?
2. How parents cooperate and or are involved with their school?
3. How parents are engaged in school programs and community?

Research Rationale / Question

1. Do parents organize school events?
2. Do parents participate in school events?
3. Do parents volunteer for charity work?

Research Design / Plan

- Observing school events in my school and how parents are involved in them

Data Collection Method/s

Observing school events and parents engagement in:

- Kindergarten
- Primary School grades 1 - 3
- Primary School grades 4 - 8

Findings / Analysis

I can conclude based on my observations parents engaged in Kindergarten and Primary School (parents of kids who are in 1 to 3 grade) took active interest in all classroom and school activities. Parents are very interested in their kids development and were actively involved in school events. They are very eager to participate in school activities and all kinds of volunteering work. They are always helpful with different events that are organized by the school.

- Every year children and their parents take part in the Carnival Party
- Preparing kids for school events such as concerts and plays.
- Taking part in school performances e.g. Cinderella

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UktVnW0pg6Q>

I found parents of children who are in grade 4 to 8 to be far less engaging with their children's school events. Therefore, I can conclude that parents of older kids are much less involved with their school and community. However, some parents do actively get involved in their school activities for example one of the parents created promotional video for the school <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZCOz7c-nxs>

In general, many parents support and encourage their children to take part in charitable events and voluntary work. Some parents e.g. bake cakes for school events like Day Of The School, Christmas celebrations (around December 21) and participating in planting of trees.

In ZSOI 7 we have the following management structure: Parents' Council and School Board. All parents who are members are very much involved and participate in all the meetings and are actively engaged in the running of the school.

Next Steps / Points for Action in your Setting (bullet points)

- In big cities it is harder do encourage parents in school life
- Parents of older kids are less involved in school life
- Organize workshops for parents who are less involved
- Organize workshops for parents and children in which they could participate together, spend more time with each other and learn cooperation



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

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