



## **REPORT ON MULTIPLIER EVENT (E7) IN RIGA, TURIBA UNIVERSITY**

### **The Aim of the Multiplier Event E7**

The joint multiplier event of Latvia and Lithuania “Transnational Exploitation seminar in Latvia: the course “Unity in Diversity” for enhancement of VET learners’ employability” was held in Riga, Turiba University on May 11-12, 2018.

The aim of the seminar was to present to VET language teachers the project, methodology and materials produced for all 3 courses as well as exchange experience regarding practice in VET and create possible collaboration links between different VET institutions in partner countries (Latvia, Lithuania) in applying the project outputs thus securing the project sustainability.

Prior the seminar both institutions sent out invitations to the seminar via their institutional webpage and links as well as the information was also published on the project webpage and on the project FB page. (the prints screens uploaded on the Google drive).

It was planned that 10 language teachers from Lithuania and 15 from Latvia will participate at the event. It was planned that the event will be run as a two-day event. Participants would arrive by noon and have an afternoon and evening sessions and then a morning session on the next day so that the seminar is a full day event.

The seminar was run as a two-day event as planned. 10 language teachers from Lithuania attended the event and 28 language teachers from Latvia attended the seminar on May 11, 2018 and 26 – on May 12, 2018. Apart from this, two language teachers - project staff from Lithuania accompanied the Lithuanian participants – Irena Seniut and Vakaris Šaulys. They took active participation in the seminar activities. Their costs were covered from the LT administrative budget (coach, hotel) and meals and local public transport from the LV administrative budget. Four staff members of Turiba University, project staff – Ineta Luka, Evita Vecvagare, Sundars Vaidesvarans and Anda Komarovska, participated in all the events as well. (all the signature lists available on the Google drive).



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Thus, the Multiplier Event caused great interest among the language teachers and instead of 15 external language teachers from Latvia planned for the event, we had 28 (on the first day) and 26 (on the second day) language teachers from Latvia. And 10 language teachers, as planned, were present from Lithuania for both days. In total, 37 external participants visited the event.

### **Agenda for the Multiplier Event E7**

**Time:** May 11-12, 2018

**Participants:** Language educators from Latvia and Lithuania

**May 11, 2018**

#### **WELCOMING LITHUANIAN GUESTS**

**11.30** Arrival of two language teachers from Kaunas at Riga International Coach Station  
(Sundars will meet both ladies by the coach and take them to the hotel)

**12.40** Arrival of ten language teachers from Vilnius at Riga International Coach Station  
(Sundars will meet everyone by the coach and take them to the hotel)

Baggage drop at the hotel

#### **SEMINAR PROGRAM**

**Venue:** Turība University, Graudu 68, Riga, Latvia

**13:30** Registration (Building A, Room A203)

**14:00 – 14:20** Welcome speeches, getting acquainted (Building A, Room A207)  
[Each participant is expected to present themselves in 3-4 sentences]

**14:20 – 15:00** Presentation of the Project Outcomes I (Building A, Room A207):  
➤ Information on the project (Prof. Ineta Luka, Turība University, Latvia)





- The learning platform, methodologies and the curricula (Prof. Ineta Luka, Turība University, Latvia)
- The interactive A1 language learning course in 16 languages (Irena Seniut, VBC, Lithuania)

**15:00 – 15:30** Coffee break, informal discussions (Building A, Room A204/1)

**15:30 – 16:30** Presentation of the Project Outcomes II (Building A, Room A207):

- The A2/B1 language learning course in 16 languages, smartphone applications, interactive maps (Irena Seniut, VBC, Lithuania)
- The blended-learning B2/C1 English course – online tasks, case studies, problem solving tasks, webquests, etc. (Prof. Ineta Luka, Turība University, Latvia)
- The intercultural C1 level English course (Prof. Ineta Luka, Turība University, Latvia)

**16:30 – 16:40** Break

**16:40 – 18:00** Workshop – hands-on-experience in a computer lab (Building A, Room A410)

- An opportunity to learn the use of the platform, various tasks of all the courses created under the guidance of Vakarīs Šaulys (VBC, Lithuania) and Sundars Vaidesvarans (Turība University, Latvia)
- Pedagogical and technological guidelines Sundars Vaidesvarans (Turība University, Latvia)

**18:00 – 20:00** Social networking – buffet table, informal discussions, experience exchange (Building A, Room A204/1)

**May 12, 2018**

**Venue:** Turība University, Graudu 68, Riga, Latvia

**9:00 – 10:00** Workshop – hands-on-experience in a computer lab (Building A, Room A410) by Vakarīs Šaulys (VBC, Lithuania) and Sundars Vaidesvarans (Turība University, Latvia)



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- A1 language course in 16 languages, including games and videos
- A2/B1 language course in 16 languages, including interactive maps

**10:00 – 10:20** Coffee break, socializing (Building A, Room A204/1)

**10:20 – 11:20** Workshop – hands-on-experience in a computer lab (Building A, Room A410) by [Vakarīs Šaulys \(VBC, Lithuania\)](#) and [Sundars Vaidesvarans \(Turība University, Latvia\)](#)

- B2/C1 English course, including case studies
- C1 intercultural English course

**11:20 – 11:30** Conclusion – certificates, feedback (Building A, Room A207)

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**11:30** For LT guests free time in Riga ([we will provide a sightseeing excursion for those who want](#))

**15.30** Departure to Kaunas from Riga International Coach Station

**15.30** Departure to Vilnius from Riga International Coach Station ([Linas Selmistraitis](#))

**17.30** Departure to Vilnius from Riga International Coach Station

### Participants

10 LT+27 LV (on the first day) and 10 LT+26 LV (on the second day) external participants attended the Multiplier event. On the first day we had one language teacher from Turība University, but she was not the project staff member.

Ten language educators from Lithuania participated in the international seminar. They represented the following education institutions - University of Applied Social Sciences in Vilnius, Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences in Vilnius, Adult Education Centre of Vilnius AMES Language Academy, Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas as well as two language educators Irena Seniūtė and Vakarīs Šaulys from Vilnius Business College, the project participants.



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Many language educators from various education institutions from all over Latvia attended the event – from vocational education colleges (Bulduri Gardening College, Ogre College, Kuldīga Technological and Tourism College, Riga Hotel Management College), tertiary education institutions providing vocationally oriented higher education and teacher education (Daugavpils University, Ventspils University College, the University of Economics and Culture, the Language Centre of Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, Rezekne Academy of Technologies, University of Latvia, Latvian Academy of Sport Education), adult education centres (Language centre *Valodu kursi TEV*, Language centre *SIA KANGA*), Riga Secondary School No.64, a certified tour guide from LiveRiga – a Danish and English language specialist, as well as language educators from Turība University.

All the seminar participants were directly involved in teaching languages to students studying Languages for Special Purposes (for tourism, services, catering, business, entrepreneurship, gastronomy, etc.), also involved in teacher education of the future language teachers, as well as working in adult education institutions and all level VET institutions.

After the Multiplier event, the participants filled in a specially created evaluation form. The evaluation form is similar for all the partners for the Consortium concerning the project evaluation, and it is supplemented with some additional questions concerning the specific sub-aim of each multiplier event. In this case – questions on collaboration possibilities among Latvian and Lithuanian VETs in language teaching/learning.

### **Feedback on the Seminar**

The subsequent part provides the summary of the participants' answers (37 questionnaires by external participants filled in) concerning the Multiplier Event and the project outputs presented.

All participants admitted having received useful information on the basic principles of the project.



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**Table 1. Evaluation of the project basic principles**

<b>Participants</b>	<b>very useful</b>	<b>useful</b>	<b>50/50</b>	<b>useless</b>	<b>absolutely useless</b>
LV teachers (n=27)	15	11	1	0	0
LT teachers (n=10)	6	3	1	0	0
<b>Total (n=37)</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>56.76</b>	<b>37.84</b>	<b>5.40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

36 participants admitted having received useful information on language teaching/learning practice in Latvia and Lithuania in general. One participant from Lithuania has not answered this question.

**Table 2. Evaluation of the collaboration possibilities between Latvian and Lithuanian VET institutions in the field of language teaching/learning**

<b>Participants</b>	<b>very useful</b>	<b>useful</b>	<b>50/50</b>	<b>useless</b>	<b>absolutely useless</b>
LV teachers (n=27)	15	11	1	0	0
LT teachers (n=10)	7	2	0	0	0
<b>Total (n=37)</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>59.46</b>	<b>35.14</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

All participants found the information presented on blended-learning useful.

**Table 3. Evaluation of the blended-learning presentation**

<b>Participants</b>	<b>very useful</b>	<b>useful</b>	<b>50/50</b>	<b>useless</b>	<b>absolutely useless</b>
LV teachers (n=27)	14	13	0	0	0
LT teachers (n=10)	8	1	1	0	0
<b>Total (n=37)</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>59.46</b>	<b>37.84</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

All participants have marked that they have got useful information on ICT and interactivity in language learning.



**Table 4. Evaluation of ICT and interactivity in language learning**

<b>Participants</b>	<b>very useful</b>	<b>useful</b>	<b>50/50</b>	<b>useless</b>	<b>absolutely useless</b>
LV teachers (n=27)	15	11	1	0	0
LT teachers (n=10)	7	3	0	0	0
<b>Total (n=37)</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>59.46</b>	<b>37.84</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

According to the evaluation form, all the participants found the information on the Learning platform, curricula and technical guidelines useful.

**Table 5. Evaluation of the Learning platform, curricula and technical guidelines**

<b>Participants</b>	<b>very useful</b>	<b>useful</b>	<b>50/50</b>	<b>useless</b>	<b>absolutely useless</b>
LV teachers (n=27)	18	9	0	0	0
LT teachers (n=10)	9	1	0	0	0
<b>Total (n=37)</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>72.97</b>	<b>27.03</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

All the participants admitted having received useful information on the A2/B1 course.

**Table 6. Evaluation of the A2/B1 language course**

<b>Participants</b>	<b>very useful</b>	<b>useful</b>	<b>50/50</b>	<b>useless</b>	<b>absolutely useless</b>
LV teachers (n=27)	18	9	0	0	0
LT teachers (n=10)	9	1	0	0	0
<b>Total (n=37)</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>72.97</b>	<b>27.03</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Similarly, all the participants admitted having received useful information on the B2/C1 course, including case studies.



**Table 7. Evaluation of the B2/C1 English course and the case studies**

<b>Participants</b>	<b>very useful</b>	<b>useful</b>	<b>50/50</b>	<b>useless</b>	<b>absolutely useless</b>
LV teachers (n=27)	17	10	0	0	0
LT teachers (n=10)	8	1	1	0	0
<b>Total (n=37)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>67.57</b>	<b>29.73</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

And, all the participants admitted having received useful information on the A1 course.

**Table 8. Evaluation of the A1 language course**

<b>Participants</b>	<b>very useful</b>	<b>useful</b>	<b>50/50</b>	<b>useless</b>	<b>absolutely useless</b>
LV teachers (n=27)	16	11	0	0	0
LT teachers (n=10)	9	1	0	0	0
<b>Total (n=37)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>67.57</b>	<b>32.43</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Finally, everyone acknowledged having received useful information during the workshops.

**Table 9. Evaluation of the workshops**

<b>Participants</b>	<b>very useful</b>	<b>useful</b>	<b>50/50</b>	<b>useless</b>	<b>absolutely useless</b>
LV teachers (n=27)	18	9	0	0	0
LT teachers (n=10)	8	2	0	0	0
<b>Total (n=37)</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>70.27</b>	<b>29.73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

In order to see the differences between the answers of Latvian and Lithuanian participants, comparative diagrams in % are made (*Figure 1* and *Figure 2*). But as the number of participants differs, for a comparative diagram the mean values of the results are compared in *Figure 3*.





Figure 1. Evaluation by Latvian participants, %

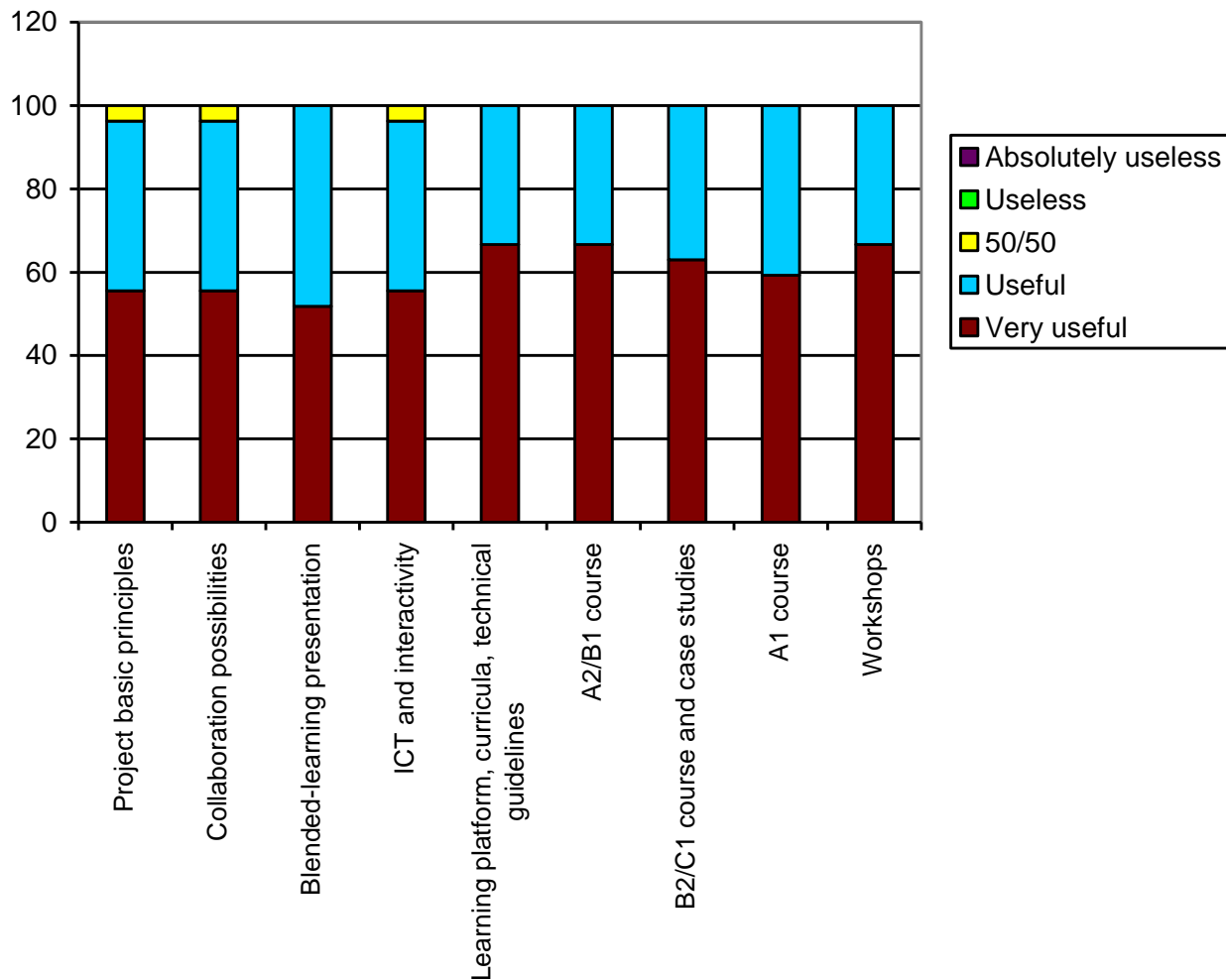
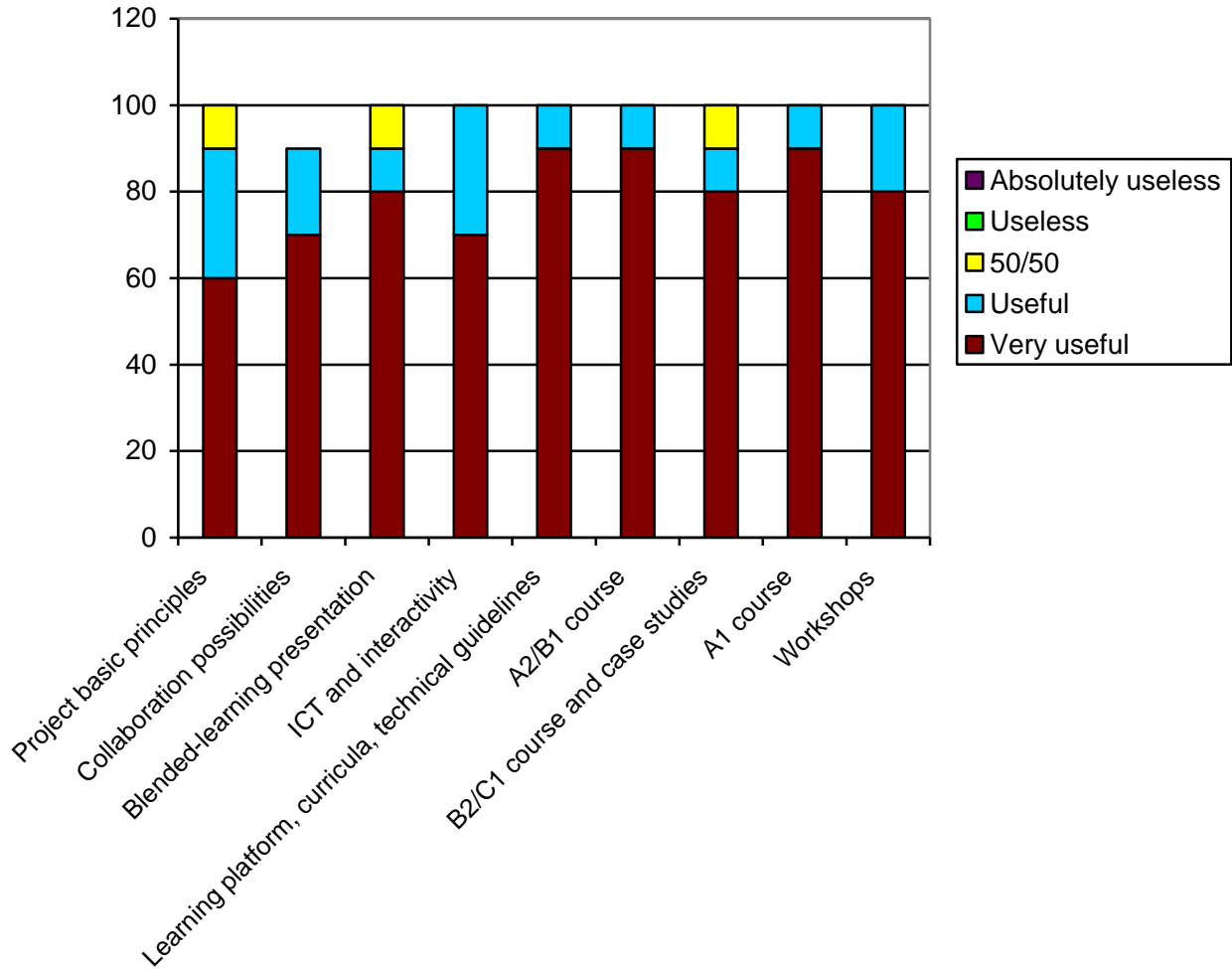
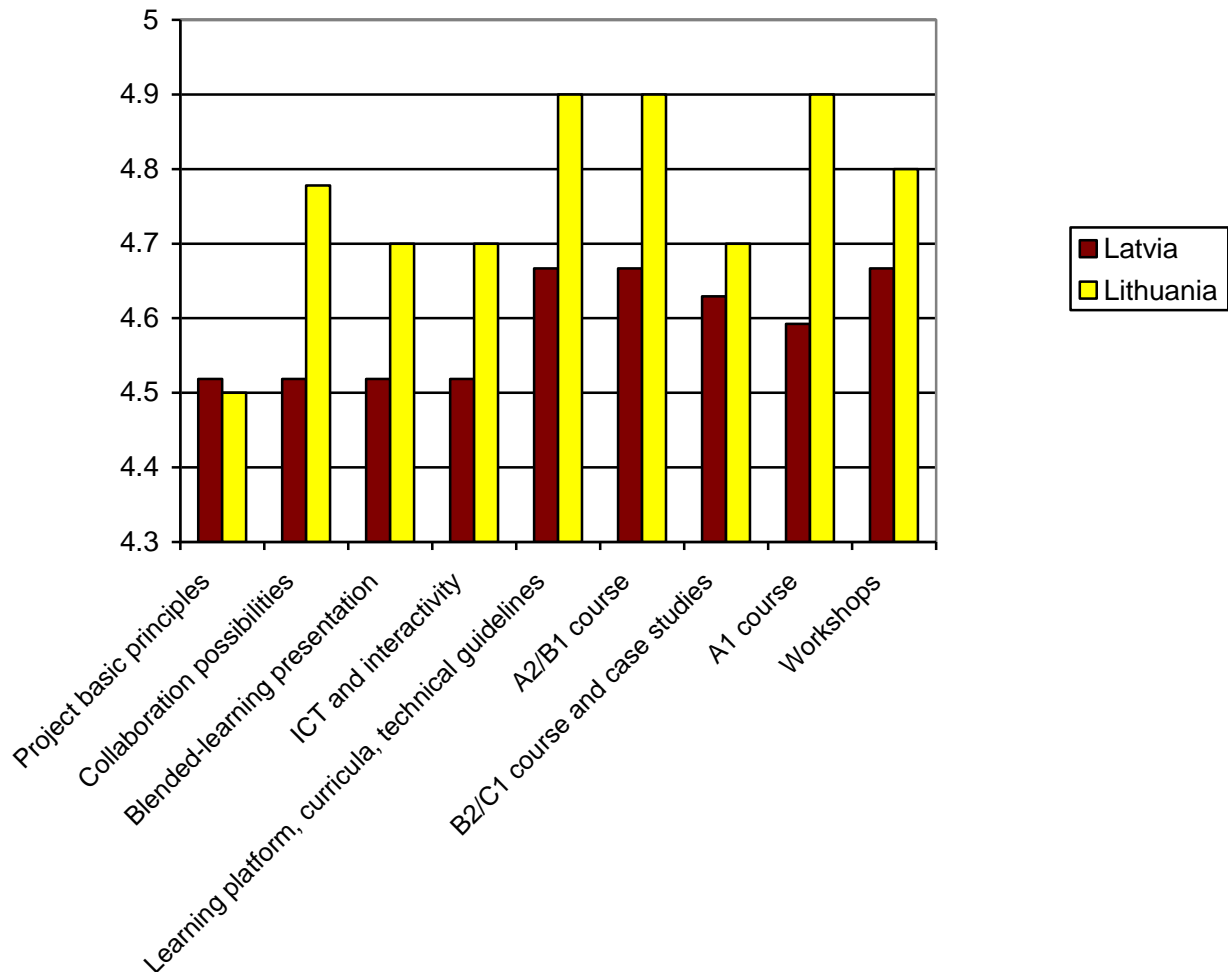


Figure 2. Evaluation by Lithuanian participants, %



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Figure 3. A comparative analysis of Latvian and Lithuanian participants, means  
(max=5.0000)



As it can be seen from *Figure 3*, Lithuanian participants have provided a slightly higher evaluation of the project outcomes than the Latvian ones, but the difference is not significant, on average 0.2 points higher.

We also received written feedback on the open question from the seminar participants, which is summarized below:



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- Thank you for the opportunity to learn the project results. It is good also that we will get access to the materials. Wish you all the success in the future! (a teacher of English for Specific Purposes from the University of Latvia)
- Great job! Go on! (a senior lecturer of English from Daugavpils University, Latvia)
- It would be also nice to meet some students who used the course platform and share their experience. (a teacher of French and English from Daugavpils University, Latvia)
- Thank you, a great job is done! (a language teacher from Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technology)
- Thanks for the seminar! I will try to implement some things in my practice! (an English language teacher from Bulduri Gardening College, Latvia)
- This has been a very serious input, the materials developed with care tailoring to the needs of different students. Very good advice provided on the potential pitfalls when doing a project, when designing tasks. The platform can be used nicely in translator education, which I represent as well. You can be really proud of the project results. (a lecturer of the English language from Ventspils University College, Latvia)
- Thank you! (a language teacher from Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences)
- In my opinion, this wonderful project should expand, i.e., it should be transmitted to more countries and not only to students, but also to ordinary people who often travel. (an English language lecturer from the University of Applied Social Sciences, Lithuania)

We also received two suggestions – one from a teacher from Latvia and the other one from Lithuania on organising multiplier events in the future, which may be considered for the future projects. Both participants suggested starting the event with a workshop and then continuing with the seminar. This might be useful in certain cases as well.

## Conclusion

As seen from the information above, the seminar participants highly evaluated the project and its outcomes and they found them very useful and applicable. The seminar participants were satisfied



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with the information gained. We especially liked that all participants are ready to use the product outputs.

The discussions between Latvian and Lithuanian colleagues were fruitful as well. We discussed possible forms of collaboration between several VET institutions. For example, Ventspils University College demonstrated an interest in collaborating with several VET institutions of Latvia and also with the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences in Vilnius and Vilnius Business College. Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas invited Turība University to visit them in order to continue collaboration in methodology issues. Daugavpils University, Latvia invited all the tertiary level VET institutions to attend their teacher training sessions and conference in January 2019.

The seminar participants were encouraged to use their seminar password for learning the platform and preparing for the new study year. After finalizing the project outputs, the learning platform will be available to everyone, willing to use it, via free-of-charge registration.

Overall, the seminar was very fruitful and we got lots of positive feedback and we see that we have done huge work that will be used not only by the project partner institutions but also by the institutions external to the direct beneficiaries, which is positive as it is the project added value and it increases the project scope. New collaboration links between language teachers of various education institutions of Latvia have been developed and similarly collaboration links between the language teachers from Lithuania have been developed. The aim of the joint seminar was to create also international collaboration links between language teachers of the two countries. It was agreed among the Department of Languages of Turība University, Latvia and Vytautas Magnus University of Kaunas, Lithuania on collaboration in future projects. Also the language teachers of Vilnius Business College, Lithuania and Ventspils University College, Latvia agreed on mutual collaboration in developing language materials for IT professionals. Moreover, the language teachers of adult education centres of both countries discussed similarities and differences in organising language classes to adult learners, as well as VET teachers from initial and medium VET education institutions of Latvia and Lithuania discussed possibilities of teacher and student exchange. The informal discussions were very fruitful and they contributed to the overall positive atmosphere of the Multiplier Event and everyone felt satisfied.



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After the event, its participants will be sent a link with additional information on the project outputs and their use in language classes.

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Manager of Turiba University project team

May 22, 2018



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