

Klaipėda Puppet Theatre (LT)

Name of the organisation :	Klaipėda Puppet Theatre	 KLAIPĖDOS LĒLIŲ TEATRAS
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Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
 Training No Profit NGO

Other (Specify)

Fields of action :

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
 Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

Klaipėda Puppet Theatre is one of the youngest up-and-coming puppet theatres in Lithuania, constantly in search of new means of theatrical expression in the language of puppetry. It is a contemporary, refined, representative theatre that is interesting for both children and the adult viewers. Klaipėda Puppet Theatre's mission is to introduce the conventional and unconventional art of puppetry to the children and youth from Klaipėda and Klaipėda Region; to educate them intellectually and culturally; to shape the value system of children and youth. Public institution Klaipėda Puppet Theatre is the only professional, repertoire puppet theatre in Western

Lithuania which carries out its activities in the framework of the annual programme and the strategic Klaipeda Puppet Theatre plan.

'If one had to choose a cultural institution that puts the most work into educating the youngest generation, Klaipeda Puppet Theatre would be at the top of the list, with its increasing offer of plays and initiatives aimed at the youngest audiences', writes theatrologist Gitana Gugeviciute.

Theatre experts name Klaipeda Puppet Theatre as one of the strongest, most ambitious puppet theaters in our country. By performing regularly for children, organising various educational projects, our theatre fills an important niche in Klaipeda – it brings theatre to the young, as well as adult, audiences.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

Latvia - Lithuania Cross Border Cooperation Programme under European Territorial Cooperation Objective 2007-2013. Project "Art Bridge" nr. LLI-041

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

Klaipėda Puppet Theatre was one of the first in Klaipėda city to start professional educational programs for children. Currently, educational activities in the theatre are one of the most important, highly developed and adapted to the audience of different age groups. The theatre operates educational programs for preschool children, performances for groups with a sightseeing tour after the performance; children are included in the creative educational program "The Puppet Theatre Magic", which introduce the story of the puppet theatre. There are also workshops for school children, seminars for teachers and educators, creative camps for teenagers. The theater is constantly looking for opportunities for children to solve their problems creatively.

Contributions that can be provided to the project

Experience in educational work with children. Creatively.

Reasons of involvement in the project

Our team wants to learn, to improve. To customize new educational methods to our activities. Other important reason is cooperation with European Union organizations, establishment of new contacts.


Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Aušra Juknevičienė 2004 graduated Puppet Theatre studies in Klaipėda University. 2006 received a Master's degree of Cultural Management at Vytautas Magnus University. Aušra Juknevičienė since 2004 Head of Klaipėda Puppet Theatre.

She is the head of projects:

- International puppet theatre festival Materia Magica since 2003.
- Coordinating the international street theatre festival "Šermukšnis" 2005 - 2009.
- Social project for deaf people "Silence of Theatre". 2007
- Social project for the disabled people "I am you". 2008
- Since 2009 Educational activities for children from 1 year.
- President of National centre UNIMA of puppeteers since 2010

Klaipėda Simon Dach Progimnasium (LT)

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Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
 Training No Profit NGO

Other (Specify)

Fields of action :

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
 Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

Simonas Dachas progimnasium is a non-profit public organisation. It is one of the biggest and oldest schools in Klaipėda city. There are more than 1000 pupils from 1st to 8th grade studying here. Since 1991, after Lithuania regained its independence, the progimnasium saw an implementation of a unique theatre education programme; each year approximately 220 students take part in these studies. Theatre lessons give the pupils a chance not only to experience the process of creativity and/or to express them through drama, but also to know and understand themselves as individuals. Our school participates in various projects and tries to improve the quality of education.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

The Olweus programme is applied in our school; seminars, based on this programme's theories, are held periodically to expand teachers' knowledge in order to deal with bullying more effectively. In addition to this, the administration forms the questionnaire for the children from the 3-8 grades annually; after summing up all the data, the conference for the parents, all the staff is arranged. To boost the tolerance and deal with the problem of bullying, such projects as "Bullying-Free Week", "The Tolerance Day" are held.

In addition, theatre classes are really popular and inviting for our pupils, as the official programme is expanded by adding real-life situations, problematic questions and social dilemmas. Because of this, pupils gain more experience which could be used in future lives. In order to cope with these complex problems more effectively, we realise that various school subjects and all the teachers need to take action too; as a result, we analyse this issue together with entire school society — parents, pupils, teachers, and staff; lessons are not only for teaching specific subjects but also for showing that everything in life is related and significant and that there is no place of intolerance and bullying.

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

Olweus Bullying Prevention Programme

Our school has already been certified in Olweus Bullying Prevention Programme three times (in years of 2012, 2014, 2016). The Bullying Prevention Group has been arranging various seminars and questionnaires for our pupils; the study shows that the percentage of bullying cases has dropped by 26 percent. The overall result — cases of bullying at school have dropped by 57,6 percent.

Erasmus + Project

This is the last year of our participation in two-year international programme. The purpose of this is to apply the theatrical issues in general school curriculum. Simon Dach progymnasium has had the membership in addition to British, Spain and the Aland Islands.

eTwinning

In addition, the progymnasium is a part of current eTwinning project. During forthcoming month some of our English Language teachers are going to participate in various seminars and project works organised in Britain.

Contributions that can be provided to the project

As the theatre programme is applied in our curriculum and, as well as, the experience in the Olweus Bullying Prevention Programme has been gathered for five years, we would like to share our knowledge and to gain modern views applicable to current education system.

Reasons of involvement in the project

Simon Dach progymnasium is open to innovative teaching and studying methods, the specialists working here are willing to make their teaching process as modern and involving as possible. We believe that combining our current experience and knowledge with the new ideas which will be gained during this project, will help to seed the tolerance and open-mindedness amongst the pupils.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Even though Algimanta Liudaitė is working as a teacher only for least than two years, she has graduated English Philology at Klaipeda University and completed the Pedagogical Studies.

She is the head of Simon Dach's Student Council, which gives opportunity to contact with pupils and find out their views from learners' perspective.

Ms. Liudaitė applies, modern theories and methods to her teaching, involves pupils in various discussions on problematic topics, relates the study programme to significant topics, which include tolerance, open-mindedness, and creativity.