

## Klaipėda Simon Dach Progimnasium

<b>Name of the organisation :</b>	Klaipėda Simon Dach progimnasium	
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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 progymnasium 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 progymnasium 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 trice (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.