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COMPLEX AND TESTED WORK PACKAGE OF PIMS

**Development of Parent
Involvement Models
for Bilingual Pre- and
Primary Schools (PIM, CB35)**

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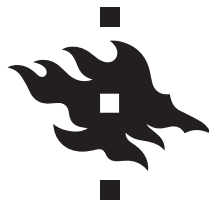
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The given material introduces possibilities of cooperation between multilingual school and parents of the three states located by the Baltic Sea – Estonia, Latvia, and Finland. The cooperation experience that the material describes is based on the experience of preschool children’s institutions and schools where the languages of instruction are the state language and the Russian language. In the above-mentioned countries the Russian language is the largest minority language that is actively used in the education system.

The first subchapter of the material, titled *Parents Need Information and Counseling*, introduces the primary cooperation that parents expect, clear and precise information, as well as counseling possibilities. The second subchapter *Joint Events Unite* tells about joint events for parents, children, and school that allow these three groups to get to know one another. The third subchapter *Involvement of Parents and Other Partners in School Work* introduces concrete formats of events aimed at establishment and maintenance of cooperation. The fourth subchapter *Trainings for Parents and by Parents* offers examples of successful formats of trainings for parents. At the same time there is also a possibility to involve parents themselves in delivering of trainings.

We hope that this material is useful for both parents and schools. We wish you great time studying and using the material!

Parents Need Information and Counseling

Activity	Meeting /talking to parents
Aim	Finding out issues that are topical for parents in relation to their own lives and to peculiarities of the life of their child; exchange of opinions, getting an expert opinion.
Target group	Parents, family members, friends
People involved	Depending on the topic – advisors in the area of multilingual education, teachers, pedagogical staff of the school (social pedagogue, psychologist); representatives of different organisations and institutions (universities, parents’ committees, the Ministry of Education and Research, etc.)
Topics to be discussed	School system; curriculum assessment; second language acquisition in different age groups; supporting the child’s mother tongue development; peculiarities of the target language in comparison to the Russian language; cross-cultural communication; child’s health, his/her hobbies; bilingualism-related challenges and other topics that are currently important for parents
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Repeated information sharing, incl. through posters and Facebook (social media). If possible, contacting parents by phone. Suitable introductory activity to launch parent counseling, finding out about issues that are of interest to parents.

Activity	Individual counseling for parents
Aim	Bringing together interests of parents, children and the school; providing parents with support and encouragement; dealing with sensitive/personal topics that need personal approach and that parents prefer to discuss with the consultant one-to-one
Target group	Parents
People involved	Advisors/consultants in the area of multilingual education
Topics to be discussed	National system of education; the rights and obligations each school has in following the national curriculum. The study process, responsibility of the school and each teacher. Internal regulations of the schools. The languages of instruction in school. Multilingual education, its benefits and challenges. Language teaching and learning, as well as parents' support in this process. Language development of the child and possibilities to support it. Parents' rights and obligations and other questions raised by parents
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	<p>Prior to counseling parents should be informed about the aim of counseling and confidentiality requirements the consultant/advisor has to follow. Parents also need information about the aim of consultant's work and about the tasks she/he has. Parents are interested to know about the educational background and the relevant experience of a certain consultant. It is recommended that parents should have the possibility to choose the consultant.</p> <p>Local government or the state provides training for consultants and also pays their salary. The amount of work the consultant can do with parents from one family depends on the sponsor's capacity. The consultant has to keep track of working hours and provide his/her employer with an overview about questions that parents ask repeatedly. It is recommended that the consultant should give generalized feedback also to the administration of the school where counseling sessions are held. In all of the reporting the consultant has to follow confidentiality regulations.</p> <p>Counseling experience shows that the majority of parents have similar questions, which is why it is reasonable to provide answers in the form of publications, on the home webpage or in social media, see also development of guidelines and support materials.</p>

Activity	Group counseling for parents
Aim	Provide parents with opportunity to discuss their concerns; provide parents with experience of group counseling
Target group	Parents
People involved	The number of group counseling participants can be 2-30 people, the optimal number is thought to be 12 participants. Sometimes the group counseling session is conducted by several consultants/advisors. A session of group counseling usually lasts 1-2 hours.
Topics to be discussed	Concerns parents have in connection with upbringing and education of their children
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	<p>For many people group counseling is easier to accept psychologically than individual counseling, because the attention is divided among several participants. At the same time counseling participants can become a part of each other's experience and learn from it. Group counseling also develops communication, collaboration and self-expression skills of the parents-participants.</p> <p>Group counseling is usually organized in form of sessions, each session dedicated to discussion of one certain topic. The same group gets together to discuss the next topic that was agreed upon during the previous session.</p> <p>Group counseling also allows to clarify parents' individual needs that are consequently responded during specific sessions of individual counseling.</p>

Activity	Open meetings for parents (Parents' Café)
Aim	Parents have improved their competency in the area of children upbringing and they receive professional feedback on the topic on their interest and on their concerns. Parents are provided with information on the topics related to school, curriculum and study process
Target group	Parents
People involved	Specialists (as group leaders and communication moderators), advisors in the area of multilingual education
Topics to be discussed	Upbringing, school, family context, everyday topics, traditions
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Guaranteed childcare (e.g. with the help of people working on civil order); socially favorable atmosphere; possibility to establish new contacts and exchange experience with other parents. Besides, this event is a good opportunity to invite participants to take active part in other events as well.

Activity	Assistance with doing home assignments
Aim	Supporting parents in taking up their biggest challenge: providing help with doing home assignments
Target group	Parents, children
People involved	Advisors/consultants in the area of multilingual education, teachers, incl. language teachers
Topics to be discussed	Parents' help to children in learning to read and write. Help with learning the second and third language as well as with subject learning in the target language. Help with learning one's language and culture and preserving them. Time management and correctness of home assignments
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	The activity is conducted in the form of joint meetings for children and their parents, parents are guided in assisting their children. The activity should have flexible schedule and be convenient for parents. The activity can be offered regularly, e.g. twice a month.

Activity	School development day “United and Together – Parents and School Create the School Life Together” - revision of the school development strategy
Aim	For the sake of children’s wellbeing, parents and the school staff should pay more attention to one another, be informed about each other’s activities, be more integrated in the school life and take more active part in it
Target group	Teachers, parents
People involved	School administration, representatives of parent, competent professional moderator, advisors in the area of multilingual education
Topics to be discussed	Possibilities for parents and children to be more actively involved in everyday school life, increase of mutual acceptance and improvement of the school climate
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	In small groups participants suggest and discuss possibilities for making the school climate more favourable and positive and for better integration of parents in everyday life of school. Parents’ opinions are paid careful attention to, they are motivated to be more active participants in the school life and they are supported accordingly. The school administration directs teachers’ attention to parents’ expectations and needs.

Activity	Parents seminar-training “Child–School–Language Learning”
Aim	Attracting parents’ attention to their responsibilities and possibilities to support the study process. Drawing attention to information covering peculiarities of multilingual education; exchange of information and offers of support.
Target group	Parents
People involved	Consultants/advisors in the area of multilingual education
Topics to be discussed	Children’s reading skills and mathematics skills; parental skills. Mother tongue development in home environment.
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	The seminar is to be conducted in four stages, for two hours each time with the two-week breaks in between. If possible, it is necessary to involve university in the preparing and conducting of the course, as it allows to give parents the course completion certificates. The school can also issue certificate of seminar participation. It is important to be flexible in terms of both the course schedule and, if possible, its length.

Activity	Use of support people for children/parents
Aim	To mediate communication between the child, his/her family and the school, to involve parents in school life
Target group	School staff or local government specialists that are paid correspondingly
People involved	
Topics to be discussed	Efficient support person creates a network and partnership between the school, pupil, family, local government, and the community. If necessary, the support person provides translation service and, if agreed correspondingly, is available via telephone
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	<p>Use of support persons is rather common in Europe (e.g. in Czech Republic, Luxemburg, Slovenia, and Norway). There also exist corresponding regulations: Integrating Immigrant Student into Schools in Europe 2009. European Commission. This document is more often implemented in the case of new immigrant families.</p> <p>Providing the family with a support person can be an obligation or a school's initiative. Support persons need preparatory training and they should have culturally sensitive attitudes. Independence from school and its administration is essential, it creates the feeling of trust both in children and parents.</p>

Activity	Development of guidelines and support materials (e.g. flyers)
Aim	To inform parents about topical issues of the state national educational and language policy, also inform parents on behalf of the school owner (municipality) and the school, to respond to frequently asked questions of parents
Target group	Parents
People involved	Advisors in the area of multilingual education, requestors of the materials (state, local government, school)
Topics to be discussed	Challenges of multilingual education around the world, peculiarity of multilingual education and possibilities in a certain country, success of multilingual education in a certain country, language policy in state universities and other educational institutions providing postgraduate learning. Early learning of second and third language, language development of the child. Parents' possibilities to support language learning and multilingual education and other issues that are of interest to parents
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	<p>Publishing materials on paper is resource-demanding and it leaves little chance to update the material. At the same time brief and review materials that are properly designed are popular. It is recommended that materials should be bilingual. To ensure that content is understandable, it is reasonable to use the target language next to the mother tongue of parents and children.</p> <p>Short videos, e.g. on the youtube platform, that are especially popular are also used to convey information.</p>

Activity	Creation of closed group in social networks (Facebook)
Aim	Establishment of trust-based relationship, information exchange, involvement in local events
Target group	Parents, kindergarten teachers, school teachers, public figures, opinion leaders
People involved	Advisors in the area of multilingual education, teachers, pedagogical staff of the school (social pedagogue, psychologist); representatives of different organisations and institutions (universities, parents' committees, etc.)
Topics to be discussed	Topical issues of upbringing; providing information about events (beginning of the academic year, children's camps, information about hobby clubs); sharing experience of other countries; links to interesting articles and other materials; surveys, etc
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Free and concise opinions exchange; mutual counseling; being interested in communication. The language of communication is chosen depending on language preferences of the group participants.

Joint Events Unite

Activity	Play Day for parents and children
Aim	Creation of possibilities for parents and children to get acquainted (e.g. different teams for games); communication; exchange of opinions; participation in a common activity; involvement of adults and children of different ages, incl. in different roles
Target group	Children of different ages, parents, friends
People involved	Teachers and other members of the school pedagogical staff
Topics to be discussed	Variety of games; games of different focus; particularities of people's behavior while playing a game; formation of teams; ability to be a member of a group of people
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Development of positive attitudes towards school; getting acquainted with one another. Choice of games based on players' age and interests. Distribution of rooms among games with different focus, catering arrangements.

Activity	Preparation for celebration of various remarkable dates and important dates of the folk calendar
	Creation of possibilities for parents and children to get acquainted (e.g. different teams for games); communication; exchange of opinions; participation in a common activity; involvement of adults and children of different ages, incl. in different roles
Aim	Broadening of knowledge of local traditions; getting children and parents acquainted with one another; communication in different languages.
Target group	Parents and children. If possible, involve children and parents from the target language school.
People involved	Handicraft specialists, teachers, including language teachers
Topics to be discussed	Which important dates are celebrated in the country of the target language and how these dates are celebrated; why these dates are important; how to prepare for these celebrations and what to do to celebrate. Seasonal and holiday wishes in the target language. Comparing of various cultures based on the way one or another important date/holiday is celebrated
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Preparation of necessary equipment and materials for the joint activity/collaborative work; arranging furniture; choosing music; relevant decoration of the rooms; arrangements for the joint meal. For instance within the frames of this activity it is possible to introduce the ways Christmas ("The Workshop of Christmas Elves – Santa's Helpers) and Easter are celebrated.

Activity	Concert in the target language
Aim	Getting acquainted with the culture of the country of the target language; involvement of both parents and children in the activity
Target group	Families, children, pedagogical staff, friends – everybody can participate in the concert
People involved	Performing artists who also introduce national instruments, costume, and folk dances to the audience
Topics to be discussed	National traditions; ways to spend leisure time together
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Comfortable room that allows to involve the maximum number of people from the audience in the activity, which is the main idea of holding of the concert. Comfortable room that allows to involve the maximum number of people from the audience in the activity, which is the main idea of holding of the concert. Children’s performances in the target language can also be integrated in the concert. During the concert it is possible to collect contributions for the school.

Activity	Saturday Morning in the school yard
Aim	Involving parents in school activity; providing teachers with a possibility to get to know parents in the informal setting. Providing parents with a possibility to communicate and get to know one another. Proving families with a possibility to spend free time together
Target group	The whole staff of the school, as many parents and children as possible
People involved	If necessary, child minders for small children and/or games organizers for children
Topics to be discussed	Getting acquainted with school life, informal communication
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Work of the varying level of complexity depending on the number of participants and availability of equipment/facilities. Guaranteeing safety at work. Music, catering. Keeping participants in mind.

Activity	Children and Parents' joint excursion in the target-language environment
Aim	Parents and children are introduced the target-language culture and various sights and museums. Strengthening of the child-parent connection
Target group	Parents, children
People involved	Advisers in the area of multilingual education, teachers, museum pedagogue
Topics to be discussed	History and history of culture, joint activity of parents and children
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	<p>Journey together to the destination and back (by public transport or transport specially rented for the group); convenient time (e.g. Saturday so that parents could also participate).</p> <p>Preparing for the excursion in the school lesson (linking the excursion with the school programme) and the follow-up discussion of the excursion with the participants (what they liked about the excursion). Teachers have a possibility to collect ideas for organization of school life and cooperation with parents in the future.</p>

Activity	Festive Evening for parents and teachers
Aim	Spending time together; providing teachers and parents with a possibility to get acquainted with one another; providing parents with a possibility to get acquainted with each other
Target group	Parents, pedagogical staff
People involved	Performing artists (if necessary and possible)
Topics to be discussed	Meeting people, communication, setting of common goals
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Festive decoration of the room, choice of the menu, choice of the programme, catering arrangements. The festive evening can have a theme, for instance it can be dedicated to the beginning or end of the academic year.

Activity	Collaborative planning of the new school building or planning of the Interior design (e.g. designing the target-language learning environment)
Aim	Contribution to shaping of one's future
Target group	Parents, children, teachers
People involved	Architects, designers, specialist in education planning, sociologists, linguists, and specialists in language teaching
Topics to be discussed	Models of modern school; exterior and interior design solutions; school environment as support to the study process; safety; analysis of the wishes of children, teachers, and parents
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Various forms of cooperation; informal relations; convenient organization of discussions; proving everyone with a possibility to voice their opinion; the possibility to collect new ideas and to see the expectations of children and parents.

Activity	Morning for moms/dads/grandparents
Aim	Establishment of trustworthy relations between the family and school
Target group	Parents / grandparents
People involved	Pedagogical staff
Topics to be discussed	Upbringing of children; old and new traditions; the possibilities the family has to support the child in the process of his/her development and learning
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Refreshments, concert, parents' communication with one another and with teachers. E.g. the possibility for parents/grandparents to see the works children made in the handicraft lesson. Possibility to advertise upcoming school events and to find out what parents' expectations are. Such events also serve as a good introduction for involving volunteers from among grandparents.

Activity	Public event for the childrens family aimed at Introducing the school activity (e.g. cake lottery, autumn and spring market, pedagogical ideas fair)
Aim	Collection of contributions for organization of other school events, entertainment for the whole family, involvement of new pupils and teachers
Target group	Everybody interested, including representatives of the local community
People involved	Performing artists, local businesses, friends of parents and children
Topics to be discussed	Providing information about particularities of work, about various upcoming events and projects
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Good marketing for the school, extended coverage in mass media, possibility for finding sponsors for the next event. It is essential to pay attention to advertising of the event (e.g. posters at school, social media). The event organization can be initiated by a parent or the school, conducting of the event is a good possibility to involve volunteers.

Activity	Planning, designing and producing T-shirts and other marketing materials for the school
Aim	Marketing of the school's own activity, creation of the feeling of at-oneness within the school, collection of contributions for organization of other events
Target group	Families with children, pedagogical staff, friends and
People involved	Advisers in the area of multilingual education, teachers, sponsors
Topics to be discussed	Peculiarities of bilingual education, particularities of the given educational institution
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	It is possible to announce a school competition for the design of marketing materials and to invite marketing professionals to be the jury of the competition. The best participants are to be awarded with presents (e.g. the same T-shirt free of charge). Marketing materials, in their turn, can be used for introduction of the school at different events and fairs.

Activity	Open Doors Day for Introducing of the kindergarten/school
Aim	Marketing of the school's own activity, creation of the feeling of at-oneness within the school, collection of contributions for organization of other events
Target group	Parents who are searching for the best education possibilities for their children, children of these parents
People involved	The whole staff of the school, as well as active parents and children who already go to school
Topics to be discussed	Peculiarity of the school curriculum; school values; organization of the study process and school life in general; language use in school; choices the pupils has within the frames of the school curriculum; school's possibilities for supporting parents and school's expectations for parents; parents' possibilities to be involved in school life
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Organization of the events requires consideration and planning of activities planned for both parents and children. The atmosphere of trust is essential. Parents need to be offered a possibility for additional contact with the school, e.g. individual counseling next day.

Involvement of Parents and Other Partners in School Work

Activity	Parents' observation of lessons and activity
Aim	Parents' understanding of peculiarities of the study process
Target group	Parents, teachers
People involved	Teachers, multilingual speech therapists
Topics to be discussed	Any topics of the school curriculum, especially the ones that parents could actively participate in/contribute to
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	It is recommended to involve the parent in the joint activity, give him/her a task; it is compulsory to talk to the parent about his/her impressions after the observation, to explain to him/her the aims of the school curriculum and the means these aims are achieved through.

Activity	Involvement of positive role models in school activity
Aim	To introduce different spheres of life, active lifestyle, positive values
Target group	Pupils, teachers
People involved	Entrepreneurs, sports players, politicians and representatives of different spheres of life
Topics to be discussed	Building one's career; values; knowledge and skills that bring success. The role of education and language learning in building of one's career.
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Representatives of different nationalities, successful people of different mother tongues. Such meetings support early attention and contribution to career planning. It is recommended to structure the meetings in the way that enables the pupils to participate in them actively (sports game with a successful sports player; visit to an enterprise where the pupils meet the entrepreneur, etc.) When inviting guests to the meetings, it is better to prefer parents of pupils or school's alumni.

Activity	School development day “We’re All in This Together”
Aim	Strengthening of cooperation between parents and school for the sake of better education and life of children. Improvement of parents-school communication and information exchange; having a possibility to listen to different opinions; increasing activeness of parents
Target group	Teachers, school administration, parents
People involved	Competent moderator
Topics to be discussed	Possibilities for more intense involvement of parents and pupils in everyday life of school; increase of mutual acceptance and improvement of the school climate. Joint discussion of directions of school’s development and internal regulations, reaching agreement on these issues
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	<p>In small groups participants suggest and discuss possibilities for making the school climate more favourable and positive, for development of the school, and for better integration of parents in everyday life of school.</p> <p>The school administration takes parents’ opinions in consideration in further activity and provides parents with feedback on how their ideas were used. The school administration directs teachers’ attention to parents’ expectations and needs.</p>

Activity	Involvement of grandparents in school life
Aim	Diversification of school life, fostering communication among different generations, involvement of grandparents in active social life
Target group	Grandparents, pupils
People involved	Teachers as grandparents’ supervisors
Topics to be discussed	Maintenance of the school territory. Working as assistant teacher. Help with home assignments. Reading aloud to small children. Development of pupils’ communicative language skills with help from target language-speaking grandparents and other activities that are suitable to the school environment
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Grandparents need to receive training and supervision from teachers. Grandparents’ work is voluntary. School needs to pay attention to acknowledgement of grandparents’ contribution.

Activity	Parents show recognition to teachers
Aim	To give recognition to teachers and school directors who do their work in the best way and show the best results, to improve the teacher's position in the society
Target group	Parents
People involved	School administration as support of the initiative
Topics to be discussed	Characteristics of a good teacher in the 21st century school. Values and teachers as the support of these values. Teacher's implementation of the new approach to learning. Teacher's methodological and subject-related skills. Best practices of teacher's work in communication with teachers and parents, taking parents' opinion into consideration
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Active parents compose the Recognition Statutes. It needs to be decided if parents give recognition to one or several teachers from the school or if they create separate recognition categories, e.g. the best primary school teacher, best subject teacher, best language teacher. It is necessary to get as many parents as possible to vote for teachers (e.g. use social media). The good time for the recognition event is, for example, the international teacher's day. The recognition event should become a tradition and should be held regularly, once a year. The whole of school family and local media have to be informed about the recognition event.

Activity	Recognition of active parents
Aim	To recognize the value of cooperation between school and parents, to draw attention to common values and goals
Target group	Teachers, school administration
People involved	
Topics to be discussed	Parents' expectations for school; involvement of parents. Different forms of cooperation between parents and school and their relevance. Involvement of a larger number of parents
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	The school designs its own Parents' Recognition Statutes, which is discussed with school teachers. It is essential to involve a large number of teachers in both designing of the statutes and the decision-making process. Parents are given the recognition award publically, during a school event with the possibly largest number of participants. The recognition award is given regularly, once a year. The whole of school family and local media have to be informed about the recognition event and the winners of the award.

Activity	Establishment and development of the parents' organization
Aim	Uniting of parents; stronger voicing of parents' opinions on both the school, municipality and state level
Target group	Parents
People involved	Representatives of existing parents' organizations in the role of advisors
Topics to be discussed	The national curriculum, development of the school curriculum and their peculiarity. Languages of instruction in school, the school's language policy. Parents' role in children's development, parents' possibilities to support the study process. Parents' participation in the work of school, school's expectations, voicing of one's expectations. Different formats of activities for participation in the work of school
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	<p>Parents' union can be one school-based, but it can also unite similar schools within in the region or even at the national level (e.g. language immersion schools). The union should be registered as a juridical entity, which enables the union to apply for funding both from the sate and local government.</p> <p>It also allows the union to participate in various networking, collaborate on equal terms with other similar organizations both at home and abroad, initiate projects and participate in them. The union needs to determine its types of activities, e.g. production of union's own newspaper, organization of summer or winter school.</p>

Trainings for Parents and by Parents

Activity	Joint groups of parents and children
Aim	Training on special relations and understanding between parents and children
Target group	Families with children
People involved	Specific areas specialists (psychologist, speech therapist, pedagogue, consultant)
Topics to be discussed	How to read books with children; how to use the computer with children; how to understand emotions; how to raise a child with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder; how to support language development at home; how to do home assignments; how to consider cognitive types of children
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	It is necessary to plan and prepare materials for classes with parents and children together and separately; home assignments; it is necessary to plan for a series of meetings, and to discuss. To discuss with parents separately what their concerns and achievements are in communication with children.

Activity	Parents' Academy
Aim	To offer parents new knowledge and skills on how to support development of their children in the best possible way
Target group	Parents
People involved	University lectures and other experts in their fields, advisors in the area of multilingual education
Topics to be discussed	Child's first days at school. How to notice problems in speech development. Children with behavior disorders and the ways parents support them. Challenges of multilingualism. Second language acquisition. Child's motivation for language learning. Preservation of one's culture and topics of interest for specific stakeholders
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	<p>Parents' Academy is a series of presentations that are held as often as, for example, once a month, last Thursday of the month. The Academy is meant for all schools of the local government. Each presentation is followed by a discussion. At the same time there is a possibility to invite parents for group or individual counseling.</p> <p>Parents can be involved in choosing the topics of lectures; parents' interests are clarified with the help of questionnaire.</p> <p>The event could be held on the school premises or any other rooms the community has to offer; topics should be important and attractive. If possible, free of charge childcare should be provided. The prestige of the Academy can be increased with the certificate that most active participants of the sessions are awarded once a year.</p>

Activity	Parents training to become parents' consultants
Aim	Drawing attention to peculiarities of multilingual education; offering additional knowledge and skills to active parents; involving active parents in counseling. Offering parents the possibility to work voluntarily for the benefit of the community.
Target group	Parents of multilingual school pupils, desired level of parents' education – at least secondary professional education. Parents working as teachers, social pedagogues and psychologists have a certain educational advantage, as they have all or some of the necessary basic knowledge.
People involved	University lectures, experienced advisors in the area of multilingual education
Topics to be discussed	<p>Multilingual education, its aims and values. Cultural diversity. Different approaches to multilingual teaching, the national curriculum and school curriculum. Peculiarity of implementation of the multilingual curriculum.</p> <p>The notion of counseling. The role, tasks and competences of the consultant/advisor. The cross-cultural competence of the consultant/advisor. Peculiarity of counseling for parents of multilingual school pupils.</p> <p>Different forms of cooperation with parents in multilingual education.</p>
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	<p>The preparation takes long. 6-9 seminar days are held during the first year. The participants in the training take part as observers in the group counseling session that is conducted by an experienced consultant/advisor and actively participate in other events that are organized for parents. During the second year the parents who received the training last year are offered additional seminar days and they have their first practical experience of consultants.</p> <p>The training is organized by local government or local higher education institution. The precondition is that the parent who completes the training should then be given a chance to be involved in counseling, either in the form of paid employment or voluntary activity. Parents who complete the course successfully are awarded the in-service training certificate.</p>

Activity	Parents as trainers for teacher training students
Aim	Involvement of teacher training students, emphasizing work with parents in teacher training curricula and in-service training for teachers
Target group	Teacher training students and teachers participating in in-service training
People involved	Active parents who share their parental expectations with teacher training students/specialists
Topics to be discussed	Parents' expectation for multilingual school and supporting pupils. Parents' expectations for cooperation with school, ways to activate parents. Communication between the parent and teacher and their cooperation as seen by the parent; other parent-related topics that are relevant for teacher training
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Parents' involvement is possible in teacher training, e.g. they can be invited to contribute to the process of curriculum development. Active parents who desirably have trainer's experience can be involved as trainers on separate topics or series of topics for teacher training.

Activity	Parents' Language Cafe
Aim	To improve parents' target language skills, to strengthen cooperation between parents, and to provide parents with necessary information
Target group	Parents with insufficient target language skills
People involved	Language club host
Topics to be discussed	Each meeting of the language club (language café) has its own topic, and the topics are selected together with the club participants. Café topics are a good possibility to provide parents with information of their interest and to discuss it, e.g. state education policy and education organization, career planning, further education possibilities for children and adults, different issues related to upbringing.
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	As a rule, language club meetings are held regularly, for instance, once a week. A language club meeting usually lasts up to ninety minutes; the participants are not obliged to take part in every meeting. The language club is not a language learning course, club participants are not expected to have the same proficiency in the target language. The principle of the language club is to support each other, to learn through supporting, and to ensure the safe and friendly atmosphere that supports language learning. The language café primarily focuses on the language of social communication.

It is important to have a comfortable room where people could sit at the tables in groups.

The language club invites people who speak the target language as mother tongue and who are competent in the topic to be discussed at the upcoming club meeting and interested to help the club members to develop their language proficiency.

Activity **Parents’ visit to organisations that offer counseling service and other relevant support**

Aim	To support families in getting to know the counseling service at the national and local level
Target group	Parents
People involved	Advisors/consultants in the area of multilingual education
Topics to be discussed	Parents’ visit to, for example, local government officials that are responsible for educational activity in the municipality as well as centres of psychological counseling, the local career planning centre and the unemployment office
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	Before the visit parents are informed about its goals and are provided with relevant basic information. Following the visit or at the end of the visit the whole of the group holds a discussion when the parents give their feedback about the study visit and have time for self-reflection that reinforces the obtained information and increases the efficiency of the visit.

Activity **Parents conduct in-service training for teachers**

Aim	Involvement of parents, emphasizing the cooperation between teachers and parents
Target group	Teachers
People involved	Organizers of in-service training for teachers, advisors in the area of multilingual education in the role of consultants for parents
Topics to be discussed	Parents’ expectations to the multilingual school, support of teachers and pupils. Parents’ expectations to cooperation with school, ways to activate parents. Communication between the parent and the teacher. Cooperation with the teacher from the parent’s perspective and other topics related to cooperation between teachers and parents
Other information relevant to conducting of the activity	A parent who preferably has previous experience of being a trainer teaches separate topics of the training or the whole of the training on the topic of parents-school cooperation. It is recommended not to choose the parent who works as a teacher in order to avoid the confusion in relation to different roles of the parent.

