



British Council Lithuania **People to People programme** 2016–2024



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Introduction from the Country Director

In a world that often feels fragmented and divided, fostering dialogue and building bridges between communities becomes crucial. For almost 100 years and with a global network spanning more than 100 countries, we, the British Council, are dedicated to promoting intercultural understanding, building connections, and creating positive change through language, arts and education.

We strive to create opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, and learning that transcend geographical boundaries. Through our People to People programme, we have been working towards this goal in the Baltic states for over eight years, implementing a range of projects and initiatives to create an impact and societal change. In order to achieve this, we bring together the best practices from the United Kingdom and partner with local organisations in Lithuania. Through collaborative efforts and diverse methods, including community training, youth activities, and social action, unique initiatives have been implemented. People to People programme nurtured leadership and critical thinking skills, introduced innovative solutions to educational processes, and fostered young people activism and volunteering. By bringing different communities together through common interests and aspirations, these projects contributed to creating a more open and inclusive society.

With every People to People initiative, we aim to emphasize the significance of coming together, standing strong, and supporting one another. As was said by a participant of our People to People summer school, „we all have the power to make a difference.“ Let these words serve as a reminder that even in the face of adversity, we can act and create positive changes, sparking a transformative impact within communities.

Ona Marija Vyšniauskė



About the British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language.

We work in two ways – directly with individuals to transform their lives, and with governments and partners to make a bigger difference for the longer term, creating benefit for millions of people all over the world.

We help young people to gain the skills, confidence and connections they are looking for to realise their potential and to participate in strong and inclusive communities. We support them to learn English, to get a high-quality education and to gain internationally recognised qualifications. Our work in arts and culture stimulates creative expression and exchange and nurtures creative enterprise.

We connect the best of the UK with the world and the best of the world with the UK. These connections lead to an understanding of each other's strengths and of the challenges and values that we share. This builds trust between people in the UK and other nations which endures even when official relations may be strained.

We work on the ground in more than 100 countries. The British Council has been active in the Baltic states since the early 1990s. Over the many years of activity, we have implemented a number of projects and initiatives to improve English language teaching, foster cultural cooperation and develop educational and artistic exchanges between the UK and the Baltic states.





About the People to People programme

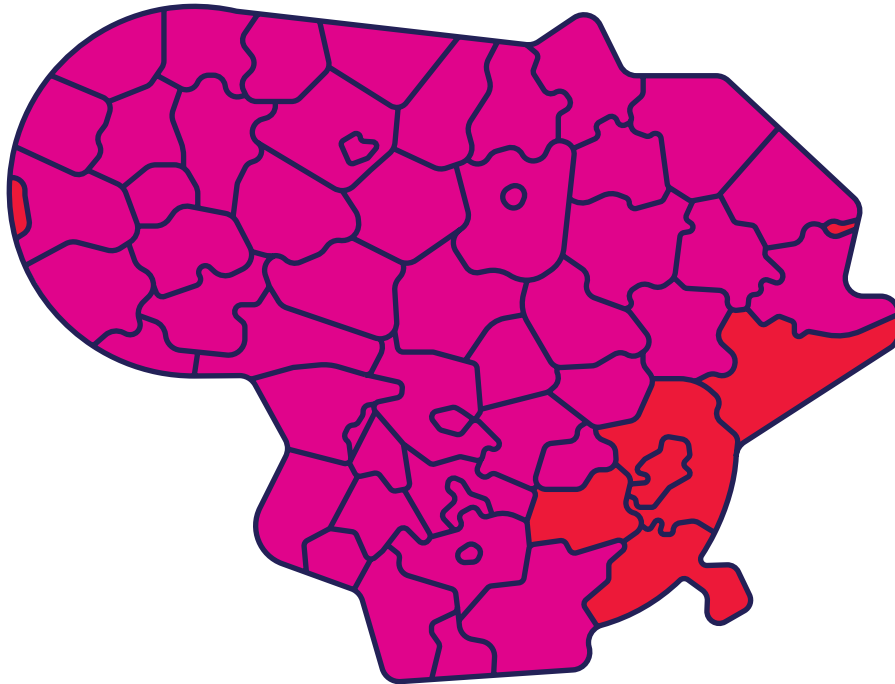
In 2016, the British Council initiated the People to People programme to strengthen social partnerships and cultural ties in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The programme aimed to build cohesion between people from different communities, while enhancing their access to international networks and opportunities.



The programme supported projects that helped to develop 21st century skills, create change through social action and broaden perspectives through the arts. The engaged audience comprised of diverse genders, races, religions, ages, physical abilities and socio-economic backgrounds.

During the 2016–2024 period, the People to People programme delivered around 118 projects in Lithuania, with the focus on providing new skills, experiences and opportunities that empowered people to make a difference in their communities. Some of the projects were implemented on a number of occasions throughout the programme's duration, involving approximately 60 partner organisations.

Key results of the People to People programme in Lithuania 2016-2024

- 230 400 people engaged in project activities both directly and indirectly
- 118 projects implemented



-  Municipalities where most of the project activities took place
-  Municipalities where at least one project activity took place

People to People programme activities covered all Lithuanian municipalities. The majority of activities took place in linguistically diverse municipalities: Klaipėda city, Šalčininkai, Švenčionys, Trakai, Vilnius districts, Vilnius city, and Visaginas.



“The Big Small Screens”

Since 2016
Partner – Meno avilys
Location – Throughout Lithuania

The Big Small Screens project aimed to develop media literacy skills amongst students and teachers at secondary schools in Lithuania, facilitating the discovery and exploration of their community, while nurturing dialogue with others by utilising creative and analytical media literacy activities. Through collaboration with media experts and partners, workshops were organised for the participants who developed skills and awareness in terms of the various media sources and types. The main focus was directed towards audio-visual media such as films, advertisements, computer games, social networks and television.

The students developed their creativity through meetings with industry professionals and engaging in creative workshops to improve technical skills like filming, coding and editing, while enhancing their communication competency through public speaking and discussions. They also learned how various media channels function, improved their critical thinking and analytical skills, and developed their resilience to false narratives and disinformation.

As the outcome, the students created audio-visual media products by engaging with every step of the process, working with inspirational professionals, experimenting with new technologies and developing a deeper understanding of how various media products and outlets operate. After participating in the project, some of the students gave serious consideration to a career in the media sector.

The project was also of particular benefit to the teachers, who acquired the knowledge necessary to deliver media literacy as a field of specialisation. After completion of the training and having gained the skills and tools required for the critical analysis of different media products, the teachers felt well equipped and confident in terms of integrating media literacy teaching and/or introducing diverse forms of media into their lessons.



During the project:

- More than 20 100 teachers, students and school community members from 134 schools participated in the project activities.
- Over 1 500 teachers participated in various training sessions and creative workshops facilitated by media education experts from the United Kingdom and Lithuania.
- Various creative workshops for students (involving over 5 200 participants) were conducted with media industry professionals hailing from throughout Lithuania.
- Over 300 audio-visual media products were created by the students.
- Teaching tools were developed for educators, encompassing 8 forms and domains of audio-visual media, 26 lesson plans and 26 video-based lessons.
- Over 800 media literacy lessons based on these tools were conducted by the teachers.
- Six annual media festivals were held, reaching over 2 200 participants annually.
- Media literacy lessons broadcasted on Lithuania's National TV Youtube channel in 2023 – 2024.



“The Dreams & Teams”

Since 2017

Partner – The National Olympic Committee of Lithuania

Location – Klaipėda, Šalčininkai and Visaginas regions

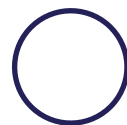
Sport is a unique tool through which to transform and develop personal skills, facilitating the forging of ties between different social and cultural groups, while bringing joy into people’s lives and providing social and cultural value to communities.

The Dreams & Teams project was developed in the United Kingdom by the Youth Sport Trust and the British Council, with the aim of facilitating change and closer cooperation in multicultural community settings by employing sport to develop the essential 21st century skills of critical thinking, problem-solving, communication and collaboration, creativity, leadership, cooperation and teamwork.

In Lithuania, this project brought together teachers and students from different schools. During the training and teamwork activities, the participants were introduced to the contemporary skills necessary for sports leadership. Following the completion of the courses and participation in various sports

activities that encourage teamwork, the students planned and delivered educational workshops for their school communities, covering topics such as diversity and inclusion, Olympic and democratic values, and healthy living. The final Dreams & Teams events were organised by the participants and united the schools, as well as the wider communities of the regions involved.

The project participants reported that the sports-based activities helped to improve their communication skills, value the opinions of others and solve emerging challenges. Most importantly, through the shared activities and experiences, the project drew different school communities closer together and fostered long-term collaborations.



During the project:

- **Over 3 200 school community members engaged in project activities to develop their networks and the cooperation between teachers, young leaders and communities.**
- **More than 520 young leaders (aged 13–16 years) developed their confidence, leadership and creativity skills, and consequently became more active within the school environment.**
- **Over 250 teachers gained new skills in youth empowerment and mentoring.**



“Strong in Diversity”

Since 2019

Partner – Jaunimo asmeninio tobulėjimo centras

Location – Throughout Lithuania

To encourage cooperation among youth from diverse ethnic backgrounds, the British Council and partners organised the Strong in Diversity project – a youth summer training developed and delivered with key governmental partners including ministries and defence agencies, amongst others.

During the project, over 320 young people from different ethnic groups participated in training, through which they developed teamwork, democratic decision-making, reflection and critical information assessment skills. The training particularly contributed to drawing the participants closer together and inspiring them to contribute towards the creation of a modern Lithuanian state.

The project created an impact at several levels. First, the participants considerably increased their intercultural competences, reporting that they had shifted their perceptions and became better acquainted with those from different ethnicities. Second, the participation of the Lithuanian armed forces made a strong impression on the young participants, whereby the close interactions with military officers impacted their perspectives on what it means to serve one’s country, how the Lithuanian Army is organised, and why it represents such

a crucial pillar of the Lithuanian state. Third, the project helped to galvanise the youth’s interest in and willingness to become active citizens and adopt an active role in their community through volunteering and social activism, amongst other activities.

After the project ended, participants were motivated to keep collaborating. They created “Socialinis sufleris” in 2022, a board game promoting community bonds. The board game gained such popularity among Vilnius schools that it was awarded funding from Vilnius City Municipality for wider distribution.

In 2022, 20 young people launched the “Let’s Get to Know Each Other” project, aiming to promote diversity and inclusivity through free lectures and activities in Lithuanian communities, including Ukrainian refugees, seniors, youth center pupils, and members of disabled care centers.

During the project:

- Over 320 young people participated in the summer camp and its activities.
- The summer camp participants organised various community events, photo exhibitions and “Socialinis sufleris” game sessions involving over 600 people from different regions of Lithuania.



- A number of workshops were organised to train young people on topics such as intercultural competences, civic education, resilience to disinformation and leadership.
- The younger generation were empowered to take action utilising tools of social activism, resulting in further social initiatives and projects.

“The Teenagers’ Club”

Since 2019

Partner – Vilnius Social Club

Location – Naujininkai district of Vilnius

The Vilnius Social Club has been active since 2019 in the Naujininkai district of Vilnius, which has a high incidence of social and economic issues including poverty, youth unemployment and social exclusion. In response to these challenges, the Teenagers’ Club project was initiated by a group of volunteers from the Vilnius Social Club team to provide a safe space for young people aged 12 to 15 years who face social exclusion and challenges at school or at home, while lacking basic literacy or social skills.

The Teenagers’ Club meets three times per week for three-hour sessions, where social workers engage with a group of around ten young people. By participating in common activities such as the preparation of meals, organising trips and playing games, the young people have learned to communicate with one another, build relationships, resolve conflicts, respect rules and stay within established boundaries.

Young people were provided with a safe space to spend time together, became acquainted and, since often hailing from different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds, discovered the commonalities they shared rather than focusing on their differences. Moreover, a football club has been established by Vilnius Social Club in Naujininkai district as an additional tool to keep young people from the streets.

To further support socially vulnerable families in the area, the teenagers from Vilnius Social Club have also been participating in food bank activities since 2021, where they pack and deliver items to those in need. The Teenagers’ Club project has received funding from Vilnius City Municipality, thus enabling the project to continue providing essential services for young people.

During the project:

- 6 social workers have been active on the streets of Naujininkai district, aiming to encourage young people’s participation in the club’s activities.
- Over 140 teenagers from socially and economically vulnerable backgrounds have become involved in various project

activities, promoting their confidence and social engagement, as well as the building of relationships and conflict management.

- Over 240 teenagers have participated annually in football activities.





“The Visual Thinking Strategy”

Since 2021
Partner – MO Museum
Location – Throughout Lithuania

The Visual Thinking Strategy project aimed to develop critical thinking skills and promote dialogue through contemporary art in schools and ethnic communities in Lithuania. During the implementation period, museum educators sought to employ artwork from exhibitions in the MO Museum in order to develop the participants’ skills in creativity and intercultural communication.

Through its strong focus on visual thinking, the project furnished participants with the methods and tools necessary to assess information critically and objectively, while empowering those from socially excluded backgrounds with the 21st century skills of critical thinking, creativity and dialogue. Through the educational activities, the educators also encouraged the participants to collaborate on the exhibition narratives and experience different approaches to these themes via the medium of art.

In addition, the Traveling Museum project was implemented in various Lithuanian towns. The MO Museum thus extended its reach by travelling to communities where art is not typically accessible with ease. The museum educators met with the local communities and conducted visual thinking-based experiential sessions, encouraging engagement by posing the question: “What is happening in this picture?”. The residents were

thus able to identify new means of relating to art through viewing works of art from a variety of perspectives, discussing and expressing their opinions, distinguishing facts from the interpretation and constructing their ideas.

In 2021 and 2022 the project commenced with the exhibitions “Why is it hard to love?” and “Meeting that never was” which opened broad opportunities for examining the topic of gender equality, resilience and critical thinking. The project revealed the challenges that some teachers encounter in terms of discussing such topics, whereby although outwardly conveying tolerance, at the deeper subconscious level their actions and decisions are considerably influenced by attitudes formed during childhood, the environment in which they live and the cultural context in which their pedagogical activities take place, thus clearly underscoring the importance of discussing such topics in wider contexts.



During the project:

- More than 370 schools in ethnically diverse regions of Lithuania were engaged in the programme activities.
- Reach-out to 10 different communities in Lithuania occurred through the Travelling Museum initiative.
- Over 520 teachers and 1 600 pupils participated in various educational sessions and training delivered both locally, and at the MO Museum.
- As a result of this programme, MO Museum’s educational programmes have recently been accredited by the Ministry of Education, rendering them accessible to educators across Lithuania.

“Building Resilient and Inclusive Communities Through Participatory Budgeting in Schools”

Since 2021

Partner – Transparency International Lithuanian Chapter

Location – Throughout Lithuania

Participatory budgeting is a process that enables students to actively participate in the decision-making process of allocating public funds. It represents a democratic tool that empowers communities to propose and decide on the public spending priorities. Through participatory budgeting, students have a voice in how public funds are spent, leading to an increase in transparent, inclusive and accountable governance.

In order to build more cohesive societies and communities, there is growing interest in participatory budgeting, due to the pressing need to strengthen citizens’ skills and civic education competences, as well as to develop the ability to recognise disinformation and assess information critically. The project aimed to promote inclusive and transparent democracy from an early age, while strengthening the participatory budgeting community in Lithuania and engaging students in the decision-making processes in their schools and communities.

The project aimed to assist schools and their communities in implementing participatory budgets, involving students through interactive workshops, training teachers and administrators to integrate these activities into learning, and sharing the experiences and findings with national

and municipal decision-makers during advocacy meetings. Through the participatory budgeting activities, the dedicated budget was spent on various initiatives such as building bicycle stands, installing a drinking fountain, and introducing additional benches in a school park, amongst many others.

Through their participation in the participatory budgeting activities, the students increased their civic and financial literacy skills, while the school administrations and teachers enhanced their understanding of how to promote and implement such initiatives. Moreover, the engagement resulted in the fostering of social cohesion and mutual trust within the school communities, enabling them to collaborate on common agendas while developing trust, positive perspectives and inclusive narratives.

During the project:

- Almost 4 000 students and more than 120 teachers and school administration representatives from 22 schools were directly engaged in participatory budgeting events and exercises.
- More than 7 300 students from over 70 different schools participated in participatory budgeting workshops on the topics of public speaking, civic and financial literacy.
- Over 100 teachers and school administration members from more than 80 schools nationwide took part in the practical training for teachers, titled “Participatory budget: experiences and practical tips for school communities”.
- This project was also acknowledged by the Government – the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport of Lithuania has pledged to implement participatory budgeting in all the schools under its direct administration.



“Būtent!”

Since 2017

Partner – Visos idėjos

Location – Birštonas

Būtent (Eng. “Exactly”) is an open, non-political discussion festival that takes place in the town of Birštonas in central Lithuania. It is an annual event that draws thinkers, innovators and leaders from various fields to discuss and debate contemporary social, cultural and political issues. The festival receives around 8,000 visitors from throughout Lithuania each year, and aims to provide a platform for open and constructive dialogue where the participants can exchange ideas, challenge assumptions and explore innovative solutions to contemporary challenges.

Būtent also seeks to foster a culture of intellectual curiosity and critical thinking among the Lithuanian public, thus representing an annual assembly of individuals from the political, business, academic, cultural and non-governmental sectors, among others, where they

discuss the most pertinent topics regarding the development of the state, whilst sharing ideas and forging new collaborations. The initiative to hold a discussion festival in Lithuania was inspired by the examples of Democracy festivals held throughout the Scandinavian countries, as well as in Latvia and Estonia. The Būtent festival’s programme consists of a variety of events that include panel discussions, lectures, workshops and artistic performances.

A broad range of topics are discussed at the festival that range from technology and innovation to social justice and human rights. In addition to the discussions and debates, the festival also features various cultural events such as concerts and exhibitions that showcase Lithuania’s diverse artistic and cultural values.

Overall, the Būtent festival is a unique and exciting event that brings together some of the brightest minds from Lithuania and beyond to engage in meaningful conversations about the most pressing issues of our time, encouraging the participants to meaningfully participate in democratic society, build trust and positive perspectives among diverse communities, and connect institutions with diverse communities to develop social cohesion.



“English Through Media Literacy”

Since 2022

Partner — Lithuanian Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language

Location – Throughout Lithuania

The English Through Media Literacy project aimed to design and present an English language course to high-school subject teachers in vulnerable regions of Lithuania. The goal was to equip the participants not only with English language skills, but also the tools and knowledge to develop media literacy and resilience-to-disinformation skills.

Over 140 subject teachers attended English classes during this project, which covered both general and media literacy-related topics for a total of more than 100 contact hours. The lessons included a number of general topics such as travel, culture and arts; however, the main focus was placed on media literacy themes including the analysis of media messages, recognising fake news, developing critical thinking and resilience to disinformation. These competencies not only rendered the participants more resilient to disinformation and propaganda, which often has a significant presence in non-Lithuanian-speaking regions of the country, but also raised awareness regarding equality, human rights and justice as key issues of modern society, underscoring their potential as positive forces of change in such communities.

This integrated English language course enabled the participants to develop English and media literacy skills, thus facilitating their meaningful participation in democratic society and collaborating on common agendas, while building trust and positive perspectives.



During the project:

- Over 140 teachers participated in the English language classes, which comprised of more than 100 contact hours.
- The participants significantly improved their English language skills and enhanced their confidence in its use for both personal and professional purposes.
- Improved media literacy skills were demonstrated by the participants, with the expressed intention of including these into their curricula and disseminating the new knowledge with their fellow teachers.



“Travelling Architecture Workshops”

Since 2022

Partner – Architektūros fondas

Location – Vilnius, Šalčininkai and Šiauliai regions

The Travelling Architecture Workshops was a project that aimed to encourage young community members to be active in creating their own environment. The goal of the project was to build a high-quality and aesthetic public space that would involve the local community and offer benefits as a communal setting in a particular town or village.

The project aimed to address the lack of quality public spaces in Lithuanian regions, as well as the lack of active participation in one's lived environment. The project sought to demonstrate that taking care of the environment can be interesting,

playful and engaging, and can be achieved through realistic means that do not require extensive materials or human resources. A team of volunteers including architects, creative professionals, youth workers and researchers implemented five-day workshops in various towns for local children and youth in two regions of Lithuania to build public community spaces that featured a wooden lounge platform, a pier and a bridge over the river, a wooden amphitheater for community gatherings, among many.

This project fostered quality time in the communities while encouraging its members to be proactive in creating their own space through utilising modern architectural, management and pedagogical tools. The project enhanced participants' understanding of their environment, encouraged creativity and promoted a sense of personal responsibility, and activated place-based communities through involvement in a common experience.



During the project:

- Over 220 students and 180 adults from local communities participated, as well as more than 80 volunteers from the architecture field.
- The implementation involved 11 towns from Vilnius, Šalčininkai and Šiauliai regions.
- The activities directly involved 9 teachers from local schools, with the aim of passing on the project methods and equipping the participants with the skillset necessary to draw communities together and empower social action.





“Futureheroes”

Since 2021
Partner – WOW University
Location – Throughout Lithuania

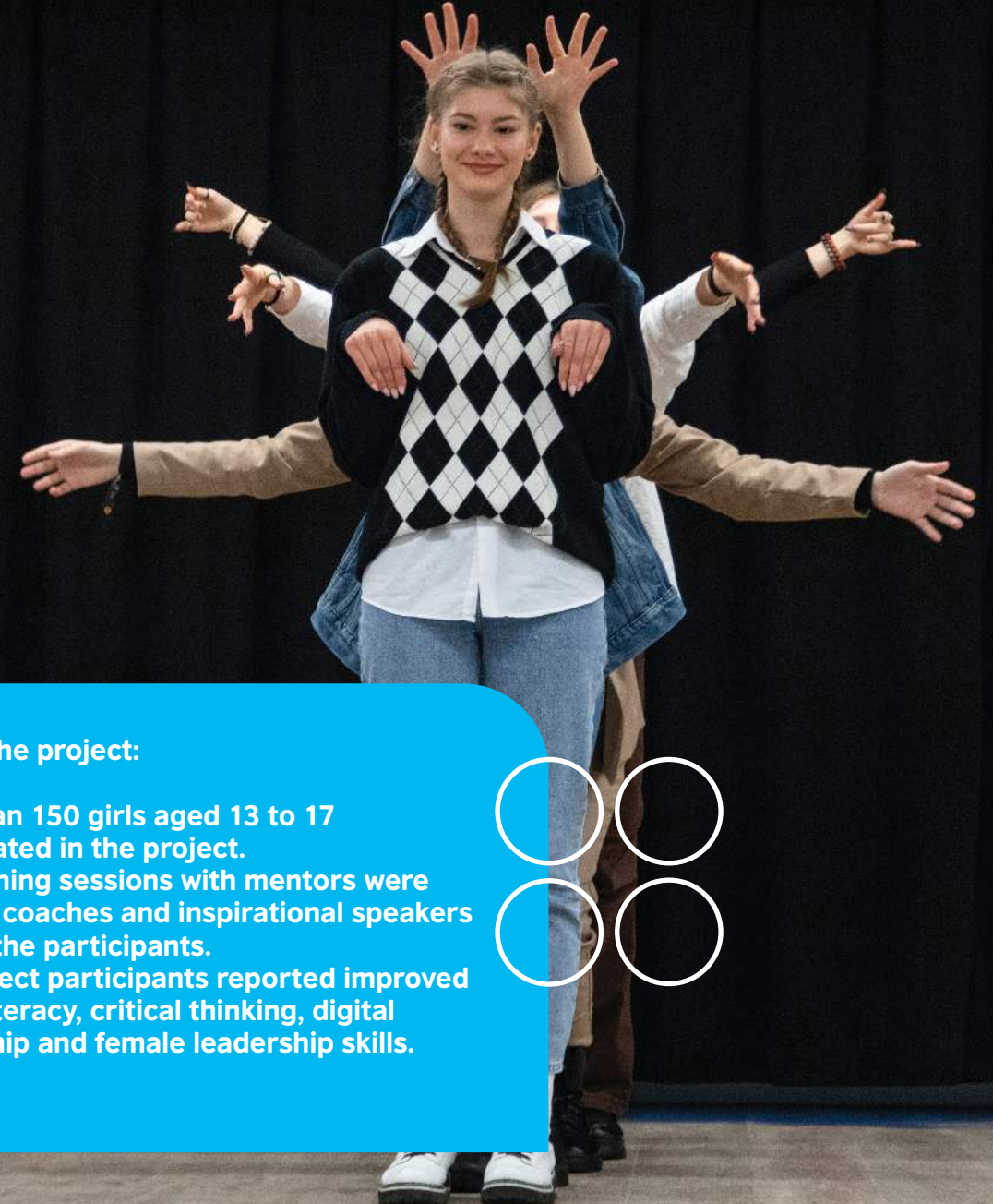
The Future Heroes project was a growth mindset-driven leadership and business accelerator programme for 13–17-year-old girls, designed to help them unlock their potential and create a positive impact.

Over four months, the female teenagers were able to test their strengths and enhance their skills, while engaging in a unique opportunity to develop and present their first business ideas. The project aimed to provide the participants with access to opportunities in leadership and entrepreneurship, as well as to empower self-growth.

the Future Heroes project intended to unlock their potential, and therefore create a positive impact by contributing to gender equality in the professional domain and increase the number of women in decision-making positions, business start-ups and innovations. The project consisted of eight workshops, mentorship sessions and discussions with inspirational leaders on the topics of problem-solving, financial literacy, fundraising, digital impact and media literacy – all focused on providing the girls with an opportunity to experience entrepreneurship and the steps necessary for founding a business with

a strong cause. A mentor was provided for each team of girls in order to help develop a business idea or a social initiative that had a particular emphasis on the UN Sustainability Goals such as well-being, reduced inequalities and climate action, which would then be pitched at the final event.

By training teenage girls, the Future Heroes project made an impact on strengthening social cohesion, reducing gender inequality and empowering young women to take on decision-making roles in the future. This project helped the participants create bonds of sisterhood and experience the power and opportunities that come from developing strong and diverse teams, while providing them with the required tools to pursue a career as a change leader in their chosen fields.



During the project:

- More than 150 girls aged 13 to 17 participated in the project.
- 24 coaching sessions with mentors were held, 50 coaches and inspirational speakers trained the participants.
- The project participants reported improved media literacy, critical thinking, digital citizenship and female leadership skills.



“Innovative Teacher Training for Diverse Communities to Enforce Communication and Media Literacy Competences”

Since 2016

Partner – Public Service Language Centre

Location – Klaipėda, Šalčininkai, Trakai and Vilnius regions

The Innovative Teacher Training for Diverse Communities to Enforce Communication and Media Literacy Competences project aimed to train teachers in the English language, communication and the use of technology and media in the classroom. The project's objective was to teach the subject teachers both the English language and how to use technology tools in the classroom.

The project consisted of two training components: “Development of Communicative Competences in English” delivered over 40 contact hours to develop the teachers' English communicative skills, which then enabled them to participate in “Technologies and the Classroom”, also over 40 contact hours and led by native speakers. The second training equipped the teachers with practical technological skills to improve student collaboration; provide opportunities for independent learning and research; and offer a wealth of ideas for classroom and remote teaching using audio, video and images.

Both teacher trainings were designed to empower educators, especially those who lived

in remote areas and worked with ethnically diverse secondary schools that typically have low training budgets and reduced knowledge of media information literacy. The trainings taught the educators how to ensure more engaging lessons by utilising commonplace devices such as computers, tablets and smartphones for group work; make the classroom practice more entertaining through the use of various applications; and track student performance and evaluation.

At the end of the project, the majority of the teachers demonstrated increased self-confidence, which helped them to make presentations in English and to participate in international conferences where the lingua franca is English. Moreover, the participants demonstrated improved leadership and communication skills, which helped them to initiate further cross-community projects, establish new programmes for their school communities and participate in international Erasmus+ projects.

During the project:

- Over 1 000 teachers from various regions across Lithuania participated in the programme.



- The teachers reported becoming more student-oriented, while engaging with contemporary tools and discovering more interactive and creative opportunities to teach in the classroom.

“More History Diversity in Focus”

Since 2022

Partner – The House of Signatories, National Museum of Lithuania

Location – Šalčininkai, Telšiai and Vilnius regions

The More History Diversity in Focus project aimed to contextualise, interpret and represent the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural history of Lithuania, while promoting a mature and harmonious civil society that is resistant to inter-ethnic strife, political manipulation and propaganda. The project sought to evaluate the notion of “otherness” by rethinking the prevailing narrative of Lithuanian history and incorporating a multi-ethnic perspective.

The project consisted of four parts. The first was a conference dedicated to the 160th anniversary of the birth of Stanislovas Narutavičius, signatory of the Act of Independence signed on the 16th of February 1918. The second part involved research with Lithuanian and non-Lithuanian schools to identify the existing image of multiethnicity and multiculturalism among grade 10–11 students in three participating municipalities. In the next part, an integrational–practical camp was organised for a group of students participating in the project that included a presentation and evaluation of tourist routes prepared by the students, and targeted educational trips to popular sites. As the last part of the project, a seminar was conducted based on the research, which aimed to prepare and present a practical methodology for history teachers and museum educators.

The expected long-term value of the project was to integrate the multifaceted narrative of Lithuanian history into school history lessons and museum educational activities, reduce discrimination, develop mature and open-minded individuals, and promote intercultural dialogue and universal values. The project also aimed to improve the competencies of history teachers and museum educators, as well as the quality of education in history.



During the project:

- More than 2 700 grade 10–11 students from three municipalities participated in different project activities.
- Various trainings for history teachers and museum educators were held in preparation for the methodological materials.
- The research explored the perception of Lithuanian history that prevails in Lithuanian – and non-Lithuanian-speaking schools, and revealed what historical narratives the students recognised, through which historical personalities and events they perceived and how the students viewed themselves in the history of Lithuania.



Summer Camp - Festival “Together”

Since 2020

Partners – Judesio ir minties teatras and actors’ ensemble “Degam”

Location – Šalčininkai region

Judesio ir minties teatras organised a summer camp for young people in Šalčininkai, led by the professional actors’ ensemble “Degam”. The goal of the project was to promote creativity, artistic development and knowledge among the participants; and to encourage youth involvement in public activities; as well as to create a dialogue amongst diverse communities. The project also aimed to increase the accessibility to culture and promote the works of young Lithuanian creators in south-eastern Lithuania.

Students participated in the eight-day summer camp/festival featuring workshops on creativity, acting, and improvisation, culminating in

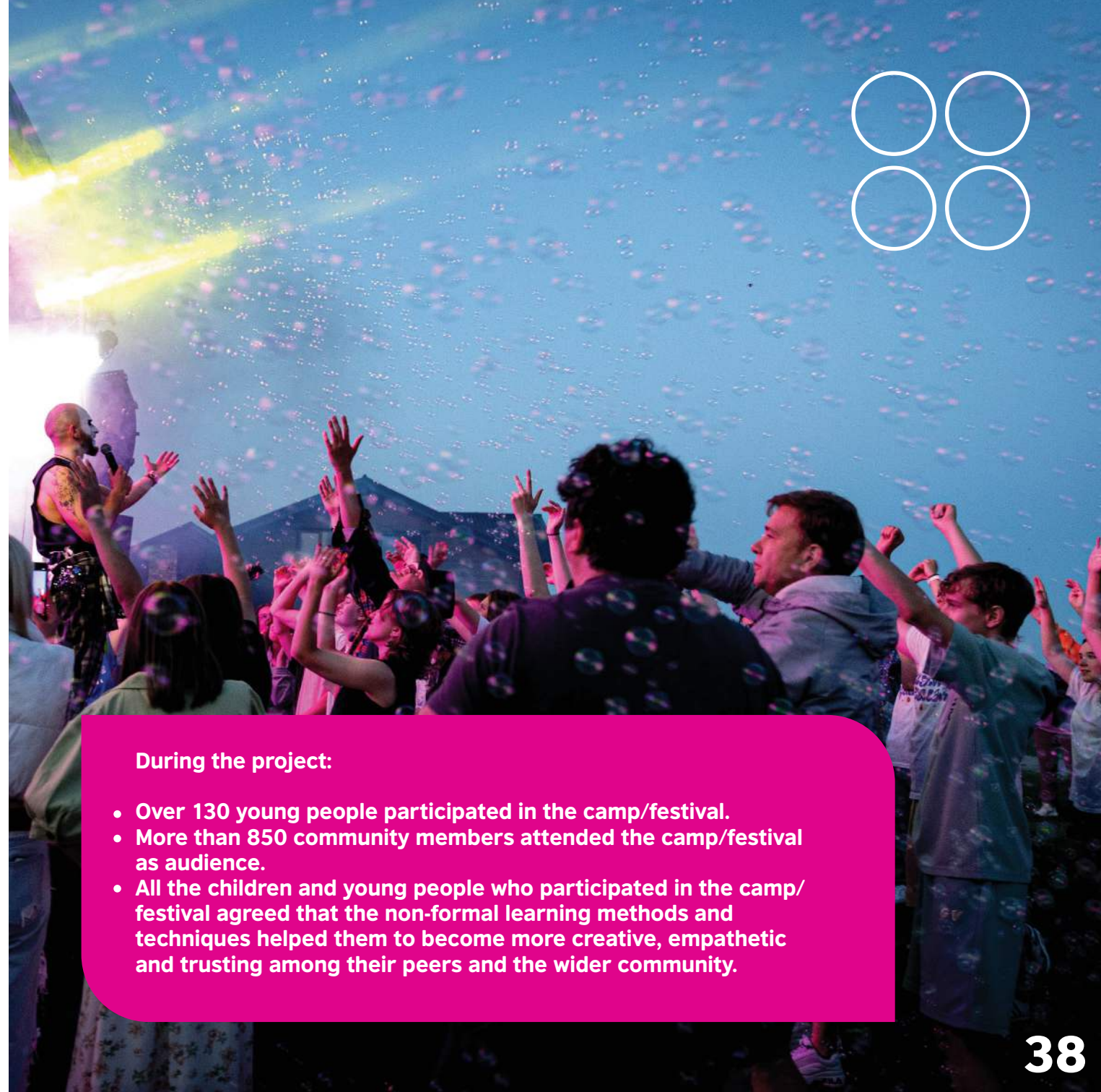
theatrical plays, attended by hundreds of people from the south-eastern region of Lithuania. By uniting youth from diverse regions and engaging the community, the project fostered a sense of togetherness through art.

The summer camp/festival enhanced education by fostering creativity, initiative, practical skills, critical thinking, and cross-community collaboration among youth. Facilitators used a tailored applied theater method for multilingual participants. Creativity was explored in diverse contexts, refining imagination and enhancing participants’ creative choice.

After observing the impact and progress of the theatrical activities, the organisers noticed a significantly positive impact on the educational and artistic competencies of the young participants. Constant reflections encouraged the young people to become more open; extend beyond their comfort zone; take more creative risks and responsibility; develop their confidence, empathy, openness, curiosity, problem-solving and collaboration skills; and nurture a sense of meaning and expectations for the future.

During the project:

- Over 130 young people participated in the camp/festival.
- More than 850 community members attended the camp/festival as audience.
- All the children and young people who participated in the camp/festival agreed that the non-formal learning methods and techniques helped them to become more creative, empathetic and trusting among their peers and the wider community.





“Super Citizen”

Since 2022

Partner – The Three Cubes

Location – Klaipėda, Šalčininkai, Šiauliai, Švenčionys, Vilnius regions

Super Citizen was a civic education and media literacy project that aimed to foster change in the teaching and learning practices prevalent in Lithuanian secondary schools. The project employed technology and computer games to teach students resilience to disinformation, as well as active citizenship. A teacher-led sequence of six lessons was included, where the students connected to the Minecraft computer game platform and performed collaborative activities and tasks on the topics of disinformation resilience and civic action.

Studies have found that the contemporary teenager spends around seven hours each day using computers/mobile phones, which has increased two-fold since 2015. Moreover, concerns are frequently voiced that technology is involving even younger children, and that such extensive screen time is non-productive or even harmful. Therefore, the Super Citizen project aimed to challenge this popular belief and demonstrate that time spent playing computer games may indeed be useful, because it provides students with an opportunity to solve various real-life challenges through play. The major topics covered during the project were civil rights and responsibilities, disinformation, recognising fake news and the investigation of information sources. The project concluded with an event and panel discussion exploring the question, “How do computer games in schools help fight disinformation?”, which was broadcast live on Lithuanian news platforms.

This initiative offered valuable examples of learning and teaching through play. In the growing meta environment, the aim of such projects is to support the implementation of new educational technologies and incorporate them not only into non-formal settings, but also into the formal education environment. Through using computer games to simulate real-world issues covering a range of topics related to disinformation, critical thinking and democratic participation, the students developed essential skills to make informed decisions and advocate their beliefs and opinions in their communities.

During the project:

- **Over 1 500 students aged 13 – 17 years from 35 schools and 80 classes participated in the project.**
- **An 86% approval rate was received by the participating students, who indicated that during the lessons they increased their knowledge about resilience to disinformation and strengthened their collaboration, critical thinking, leadership and problem-solving skills.**
- **A positive impact was reported by the teachers, who all increased their competences in digital literacy and expressed a intention to use these skills in other lessons and/or daily life.**
- **The majority of the students showed strong interest in the lessons and rated the content at an average of 9 out of 10, while 92% of the students indicated an interest in learning through game-based methods in other school subjects.**



“Escape Disinfo!”

Since 2021

Partner – Žinių ekonomikos forumas

Location – Visaginas, Vilnius city and Vilnius region

The Escape Disinfo project aimed to improve media and information literacy among school students in diverse regions of Lithuania, and to equip teachers with the necessary tools and support through engaging youth-oriented formats to strengthen students’ critical thinking and teamworking skills. The project targeted students and teachers from different schools, with half of the students being drawn from ethnically diverse backgrounds.

The Escape Disinfo was an interactive game, organised in different schools for students in grades 6 to 12 and which consisted of ninety-minute sessions. The game included a trainer-led lessons of six inter-related tasks where the students solved various puzzles, riddles and performed collaborative activities and tasks on topics such as resilience to disinformation, media literacy, digital information and recognising fake news, images and propaganda.

This project also had a goal of integrating media literacy and critical thinking-related content into the general school curriculum and providing the students with the necessary skills to identify, analyse and respond to (un) intentionally misleading information. Since teachers in Lithuania currently lack adequate training in media and information literacy, the Escape Disinfo project addressed this issue by providing relevant knowledge, materials and trainings, during which the teachers gained advanced knowledge of media information literacy and developed the necessary skills to effectively teach students about media literacy and resilience to disinformation.

During the project:

- Over 60 Escape Disinfo sessions were organised in various schools across different regions of Lithuania.
- More than 1 300 students (grade 6 – 12) participated in the sessions.
- 130 teachers participated in the trainings, acquiring media literacy and digital information management skills.
- 85% of the students and 98% of the teachers indicated that they had gained new skills and knowledge in media literacy, which they will apply in the future.



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