



Name of project: THE SCHOOL WITH CHARACTER

Cities for Children contact person:

Name: Mrs. Dalia Gurskienė
Function: Chief Expert of Foreign Relations
Street address: Laisvės a.20
Postal code: LT- 352 00
Town/City: Panevėžys
Country: Lithuania
E-mail: d.gurskiene@panevezys.lt
Telephone: + 370 45 501 200

Executive organisation:

Name of organisation: *Panevėžys Secondary School Nr. 5*
Type of organisation: Educational Institution
Website: www.5vid.lt
Additional information: *800 pupils, additional English classes, active school community in international project activities.*

Project description

The project provides a solution to the following question/problem: the project covers the whole organisation, its activities, and all members of the organisation. *By attractive ways the members of the organisation try to develop such character features which become uncommon nowadays, the public thinks it to be less important and thus, become great value: HONOUR, HONESTY, PAGARBA, SAŽININGUMAS, and CITIZENSHIP SPIRIT. The activities of the organisation are connected with the development of these features: lessons, topics of classes after lessons, after school activities.*

Project idea conceived by: *One teacher visited USA and brought the project idea and methods of implementation. These were used at the above mentioned Panevėžys School (in USA similar projects are implemented in some private schools).*

Date started: 2005

Date of completion: Continuing

Aims: the up bringing of honest, having citizenship spirit, respecting each other inhabitants of Panevėžys City.

Target group: the whole school community- school administration, teachers, pupils, serving staff, parents.

The project reaches approximately 800 young people each year

Working method: the project is aimed at young people. *They themselves organise and take part that is why choose the most attractive methods for project implementation: plan activities, discuss in working groups, the proposals can be provided by all members of the community (administration, parents, children, serving staff), they also foresee the means and implement them.*

E.g.: this year the Conference organised by the Parliament of Pupils took place. Bad things at school were discussed the ways of solutions were foreseen. The Shelter for Homeless Children was visited with a special programme and presents, donor actions were also taken into consideration, film evenings on Fridays are being held (the topics of films is connected with the development of foreseen character features). Exchange of pupils of other schools is also a reality. The school has created its own hymn and marketing means. The Clean Days, the elections of the most citizenship spirit pupil are being organised. By the initiative of pupils the Internet page was renewed, the school paper is being published, the meetings with those who have already finished the school and by their own example add to the implementation of the project are being held. Participation is taken in various Citizenship Actions.

How are young people involved? Pupils voluntarily take part in the proposed activities. The organisers try to find attractive forms for various age groups and thus, the whole school community is involved.

What is the role of young people? *Young people coordinate the project (the project is coordinated by the Council of Honour which is comprised by 3 pupils from the 12th class and three teachers), the Parliament of Pupils is of great importance. As the aim is reached by the attractive means for pupils, by actions, festivities, events, etc. thus, the pupils themselves propose, organise and implement the foreseen events*

How many young people participated? In 3 years over 1 000 young people (not only school pupils take part in the project but also the communities of other schools are involved, e.g. exchange of pupils, the people are invited to various events).

How many young people were involved in the organisation of the project? Approximately 50

What other organisations were involved? In accordance to the needs various city organisations are involved e.g.: *Blood Centre (Donor Action), Bus Company (Action A GREETING TO THE INHABITANT OF PANEVĖŽYS CITY when Christmas Greetings and Christmas Gifts CHRISTMAS STAR were put), the Company LINAS AGRO established 3 monetary prizes for the most citizenship spirit pupils-leaders, the Shelter for Homeless Children (pupils have visited children there), other schools.*

Finance

What is the budget? Small budget

Who provided the finances? The school allocates money for separate actions or the pupils themselves try to find sponsors, earn by organising concerts, etc. The project applications are filled in and provided the Municipality, Ministries, and Funds for finance.

Outcome

Have the aims been achieved? As the project results cannot be easily measured it is hard to tell if the aims have been achieved. The organisers think that their work is meaningful, each member of the community get something useful from each other.

What were the success factors? The whole community are aware of the aims and objectives raised (the rules in the lobby of the school) and try to achieve them together. The common aim unites people of different age groups and education for common work, each feel useful as can take part, propose, help...

What were the pitfalls?

- *It is very difficult to measure the results as the aim is hardly groped*
- *Indifference of the surrounding environment and part of the community to the implemented activities.*
- *It is hard to behave rightly when other examples are seen outside the school (little respect to each other in the society, little activeness in citizenship activities, unfair grown-ups).*

Future plans: continuation of achievement of the raised aims and objectives (perhaps one more character feature to be developed could be involved), implementation of planned activities each year, to look for new, attractive for youth forms.

Quotes and opinions of young people: pupils like the project as they can be active; their opinion is important, serious aim is connected with the interesting activities.

Photographs:



One of Project Teams



A Joint Conference with the Pupils of J. Balčikonis Gymnasium



Exchange of Pupils. The Pupils of *Juozas Balčikonis Gymnasium* are the Guests



The Guests at the Shelter for Homeless Children