

Meeting hosted by Viva Sol, Lithuania.

Viva Sol. Association of producers aiming to develop direct sales, to strengthen the links city-campaigns and to enable local agriculture in addition to it's commitment to the training

- Motto: Long Life to Countryside.
- Mission: Formal/informal education initiatives for adults and youth in association with different social partners.

Local organizers: Viva Sol <http://vivasol.lt/>

Arunas Degutis,
Dalia Beigiene,
Valdas Kavaliauskas

Other people involved from Lithuania

Rasa Varanauskaite dept manager from Varena district municipality

Sigita Svede director

Dalia Beigiene partner of Viva Sol director of Rudiskes, Vocational Center – Sodziaus Meistrai.

Aldute Jankauskiene.

Alvydas Verbickas Director of the administration of the region.

Sunday November 4th 2018

Arriving at Holyday Inn Hotel Vilnius

Participants

MFR – France <https://www.mfr.asso.fr/>

Olivier Gineste, (Brigit Gehin did not attend)

MFR – Reunion <http://mfrpdp974.re/>

did not attend

MFR Richerenches

Jocya Bade

Jean-Charle Dorelon

IFOCAP – France <http://www.ifocap.fr/>

Cyrcee Millan

Olivia Morel

OFFA – Belgium <http://www.offa-oip.be/>

Michel Urbain

Helene Dirix

Sol et Civilization – France <https://www.soletcivilisation.fr/>
Rene Caspar

Gal Napoca – Romania <https://napocaporolissum.ro/>
Adina Pascoiu
Anca Precup

Slovenia – BSC <http://www.bsc-kranj.si/>
Franja Gabrovsek Schmidt
Helena Cvenkel

Bosnia MFR
Jasmina Maslic
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Udruzenje-Porodica-PREC-Zivinice/1334995053288151>

Iceland – VMA <https://www.vma.is/>
Hildur Friðriksdóttir
Jóhannes Árnason

People arriving at different times during Sunday.
Dinner at a restaurant in Vilnius Center.

Monday November 5th 2018

Breakfast at hotel at 8.00
Departure at 9.00 in a bus from hotel.

Lithuania, Varėna district. Village of Darguziai.

At 10.00 Darguziai Crafts Centre, Centre for promoting crafts activities.

Valdas introducing the Centre and the people we see in Darguziai.

People attending.

Rasa Varanauskaite dept manager from Varena district municipality

Sigita Svede director

Dalia Beigiene partner of Viva Sol director of Rudiskes, Vocational Center – Sodziaus Meistrai.

Alduté Jankauskienė.

Alvydas Verbickas Director of the administration of the region.

Aldute Jankauskiene.

From the crafts centre.

We sat down in a hall she explained was used for festivities for the village.

Town started in 16th century.

Local community combines their celebration to their religion with the celebration of harvest.

Two main programs, role of females in society. Representation of the characteristics/speciality of the town. Every year they organize a festival for the community.

They have participated in EU projects.

In addition to EU grants they have money from the region and the ministry of agriculture.

Among other things money for preserving traditional methods.

Also to keep villages and rural areas alive, and protect culture. Lithuanians used to live in the villages and farms but in the cities they had Russians, Jews and Polish people but now this is changing, more Lithuanian people are moving to the cities.

Now the ministry is funding simple things, only the markets the people from cities can attend for a few days.

Money was dedicated for reconstruction, to maintain local traditions.

Other funds were available for buying tools and furniture, they try to collect funds from many sources.

10 years ago this was a school but it was closed. They took over the building and have been developing the use of the facilities. Not only money for the development of the building but also for preservation of the traditions.

Alvydas Verbickas

Director of the administration of the region also met the group.

Pleased to see you here in this region, welcome to our region. (The country has dialects even if they only are 3 million people.)

Pleased that Viva Sol is taking part in the project, partly representing the region.

He wishes the best for our project and wants this to continue in future and hopes he will meet the group in future many times.

The big role of the region is to support the local initiative and small businesses.

The municipality is funding the building of the street and parking facilities, supporting the functions of the centre.

The main change three years ago when the local community was supposed to elect their own leaders, this moved the power to make some decisions into the communities. If he does a bad job he will not meet us again.

Rene asked?

How is the community independent or linked to the centre?

By law they are independent running the centre. Nobody on the board is from local politics.

Three different sources for money. Membership fee. Gifts/presents from individuals.

Funds from different programs/projects.

Totally voluntary work, money goes in to funding the centre, the work is voluntary.

This is open for influence from politics, politicians can influence work done in the area. Politicians are members of their community. They want to take part in their community.

Dependency is in the law, to be totally independent from politics we need to change the rules completely.

220 people live in the town, 160 houses.

Sigita Svede director.

Director of the craftsmen centre. Founded 2014. <http://www.darguziuamatucentras.lt/>

The municipality is funding the craftsman centre.

Covering also the cost of maintenance and housing.

They organize conferences, the most important is educational workshops for maintaining the traditions.

Different workshops for young and adults.

Both peer teaching and workshops from experts.

Schools come here for workshops. Teachers come here with groups of students.

Artists are coming for short or longer stay to work from Vilnius.

Food processing facility.

Old traditions of food processing. Even moonshine production for educational purposes.

Traditional cheesemaking has some facilities in the building

Olivier reviewed the project for newcomers.

This session is very important in testing the model we use.

We also need to think what we do after this project.

Some things about the website.

www.innovet-project.eu/login

Then the username is the firstname for people in the project

e.g. Olivier and the password is erasmusKA2

Valdas from Viva Sol.

Introducing the program.

The idea is to have the group meet as many stakeholders as possible so we get different perspectives.

They are in a very liberal environment, no official institution is available for support to non governmental organizations.

He would like all stakeholders to work together in an horizontal way. Now we are just surviving, getting money to keep us alive but we should be able to do more.

We met people from the community and after lunch we go somewhere else. The afternoon we go visit a farm not only to see farming. Also to hear and feel the relation to surrounding area. The activity we do has to be in good relation with everything around it, environment. After the visit to the farm we come back to the village and visit a cheesemaker, one of the founders of Viva Sol.

They wanted to create this show to promote cheesemaking. It is like a restaurant but also a link between the farm and the customer.

The most important thing is to taste different types of cheese. Also to talk to us and have feedback.

It is difficult for them to show all the stakeholders, nursery for small plants etc.

We could define the joined effort from many different directions. Perhaps answer the question, how can we do this on a wider basis. In Figeac the cooperative is a good thing. René adds. The ferme de Figeac is not only an association, it was important to go through the action plan, the process was important.

Viva Sol started from the bottom. Valdas a farmer created the concept of family farming in piece with everything around it.

It seems we have two types of initiatives, from the people up and from a governmental view and funds. This visit may mostly visualize the building but the ideas and discussion is more important.

Dalia Beigiene introduced Tuesday's program.

Dalia was with us Monday because she wanted to extend her view from only the school to a wider perspective. She works with young people who have not been successful in school. She uses traditional trades for this in her school. Short training and therefore an introduction to formal training if they find their interest. Woodcraft, carpentry, roofers, landscapers, cheesemaking, traditional bakery and more. They want to establish a formal trade from some of these which are not already established as formal trades.

The school can also train teachers for using these methods in their teaching.

Any director of a school has questions for the future programs and they can come and explore.

Two ideas. Any country with former communism, it is difficult to have new ideas and think this way.

This school is the only private vocational school in Lithuania, funding is a problem.

There is a common thing among Valdas and Dalia. They are both crazy in doing the things they do. They still are doing the "stupid" things they started.

They both did this without funding. They hope they can go on into another step/level.

They want to include computer skills program.

Helena asked if young people are moving into the cities.

Dalia: Yes, young people are moving to the cities. We need more jobs in the countryside.

Helena asks if they are doing something innovative in the rural areas?

Lunch.

After lunch made from soup and from potatoe based food, yoghurt from Valdas.

At 14.30 20 km from Draguziai

Viva Sol. Valdas Kavaliauskas and Rasa L. Following the Sun and Goats

<http://www.vivasol.lt>

Viva Sol is an initiative to engage and support local rural activity.

Local economic, culture and environment protection perspectives.

A trip in the bus to the home of Valdas and Rasa.

They bought a farm and tore down the buildings and built new buildings, a house to live in, a fromagerie/chessemaking facility and stall for goats. They have 60 goats, around 200 liters per day for 8 months of the year.

They bring their cheese into Vilnius to a market of local producers. Rasa says they need to develop the idea for the market.

Teatime at Surininku namai – House of Cheesemakers <http://www.surininkunamai.lt>
A marketing initiative and salespoint of local cheese.

Roberta , one of the owners answered questions.

A couple moved from Vilnius and bought the former facility Valdas and Rasa had in Darguziai. They do not make the chees but they sell it and other products for the local producers. They take in quite a lot of visitors from Lithuania and from abroad.

There is quite a lot of regulation but they have not been having a bad experience with this. Is the same situation here as was in the Balkans?

People in central government under communism kept on thinking that free thinking was not so good under the regime.

Now the people that want to have initiative are free now but quite many people in the society are not aware of how important entrepreneurs are for the development of society. In former times it was bad to think independently and many think it still is not so good.

Therefore initiative is not appreciated.

In Slovenia the same things were happening.

We have to be aware that in order for the local produce to be OK we need to follow security regulation so we have good product and the quality is ok.

Valdas reviewed the day.

Viva Sol wants to further the work by forming a group. The idea for the group ended in a very different product than they started with.

They have looked at the people in Darguziai and in other places.

Rationalist activists. Valdas and Raasa

Traditionalist activists. The people working with the crafts centre.

Third group are passive. These are people that will not do anything.

The most powerful group are those drinking alcohol on the porch and doing nothing. They are the biggest group and therefore powerful. (relates to politics and they elect politicians that will not change things)

A map of the village.

In Soviet times the river was dug out to be straight but he research group suggested that the river would be changed and it would have many bends on it's way along the village.

The group had experts from many directions, economy, environment and other areas.

Why did we do nothing since 2014 with the river or anything else?

It is because the suggestions are about general interests, you need to feel that the suggestions will help you.

René says that recommendation about the river is expert thinking but not the public. It is about symbolism about ruining soviet times about identity.

Were the youngsters asked what they wanted to do and be able to do. Probably not, the answers came from experts and the public did not have anything to say.

Ok with the river etc. Some ideas of experts. It is a way to have people express themselves and perhaps people need some suggestions to think about, perhaps some radical ones. Perhaps it is good to have big ideas put forward so that smaller ideas will find their way to reality.

In a public meeting people do not say what they are really thinking and what they are doing. They need a medium to express themselves.

Community does not build something even if they are involved if their interest is not on the table. To make people act you have to begin with primary need. An apple grower needs a way to make juice out of the apples. The community has to help with something like that to work.

You need money. It is a sort of French way. You said the same, Valdas and Raasa did the same, they will later find out when they need someone else.

Territory is not the beginning of the project, it is the end of the project. You begin to work on a specific thing. Then some development happens and then you need some identity, the territory to name the product, relate the product to.

Question, the passives were the biggest group, can we get them to do things?

Very good question because this is the same everywhere.

It's the justification of assessment rebound, assessment going further. You can not bring this group ahead in big steps but small steps.

This kind of change from level to level is what for example politics are about, showing something being done. In politics time is short between elections. The politicians can be afraid of a long process because this can make the politicians obsolete.

The passive group is two groups, the dirty bastards that will never do anything, the other group is waiting. They want to do things but do not have the guts to do it. They need examples.

Helena says the village proposals must be about the values. Why should they want change, why not to ask them to consider to become the first ecological billage in Lithuania? Everyone is stuck if they do not know each other. Forget the big changes and go forward with small changes. You need twenty years.

In this kind of work the small group must be responsible because the whole village is not doing the things.

Arunas + - 0 groups.

+ group are for changes.

- group 10% are problematic people
0 group is the biggest group 80 % of people.
We need to work with this group and get some of them opt with the change.

A new project for Viva Sol. A pilot project in small communities to have small communities elect their leaders as a pilot project.

Michel and Olivier. As a synthesis of the day. First thing is that there has been good involvement from the community. Second begin small. Third idea think in long term.

Meeting over at 18.00
Bus drive to Vilnius

Dinner in Vilnius. Some of the group went for dinner or drinks.

Tuesday November 6th 2018

Breakfast at hotel at 8.00
Departure at 9.00

At 10.00 Rudiskes, Vocational Center – Sodziaus Meistrai.
<http://www.sodziausmeisterai.lt> privately operating licensed vocational education centre.

Dalia Beigiene director.

The facilities are buildings that originate from Soviet times. In 2002 this organization started with food processing. This was successful so in 2003 they bought the buildings and they have been renovating them since.

Zydrune Ziliukaite project manager presented the school.

1996. A group of St John Brothers (Catholic) came to Vilnius to care for homeless children.

The brothers were playing basketball and became friends with the children.

They established homes for the children.

When the children had become grown up they needed education and the St John Brothers established a vocational school. The children they had saved did not want and were not interested in academic education which was the only education available so the Brothers searched in France for a method and established an Apprenticeship based training.

They began with carpentry as the only program. Some of the teachers came from France and some of them stayed. The leader of the roofing training has finished the program in France and has lived in Lithuania for 10 years.

One of the teachers of carpentry was originally a student in one of the first groups.

What they do differently?

Applying apprenticeship teaching methods.

Practical learning is around 70% of the learning time.

Two weeks in school, two weeks in companies.

They seek quality, not quantity. 64 students learning in small groups. Teachers can adjust to individual needs and strengthen individual progress.

Actively collaborating with businesses.

The businesses give practice places for students and are involved in developing the programs.

Appreciating the eco friendly environment.

Sport is important.

Creating sincere and creative atmosphere.

Seeking respect for every young person and that everyone is a part of the community.

They believe in dreams, enthusiasm and opportunities for self expression.

We do not have a call for lessons.

Teachers and students decide time for learning and breaks.

Six vocations
Carpenters
Roofers
Cooking
Conditors
Joiners
Landscape worker

Non formal education.
Ceramics studio and other things.
The youngsters like to do creative things.
They have sport, doing marshall arts.
Cheese making with Surininky Namai. 8 hours.

64 students from all over Lithuania.
From disadvantaged 14% from orphanages 17%, from families 28%, grown ups 41%
The grown ups sometimes become like big brothers of the younger ones.
The grown ups are seing a family in the school.

Together we are making super powers to make great things.
Some of the students become leaders of groups in projects.
Construction of a bell tower for a church in Baltriskes 2010.

Solidarity Project, students from France came to work with them to reconstruct a youth house in nearby village, for the orphanage.

Benefactors were invited for Thanksgiving dinner. A french chef made the dinner with students.

Erasmus project in Burgundy restoring a building in a traditional way. Some of the students were flying in a plane for the first time.

Dalia director :
Synergy between different social partners fo formal and non formal training.
Traditional local food production workshop.

We walked around and had a look at the facilities, it is evident that in the school they teach the basics and the way to do things but the more complicated machines in industry the students will experience in the workplaces.

A workshop for roofing, carpentry and joinery (now the new curriculum from the ministry says that the first two years will be the same program for both carpentry and joinery).
Kitchen and we did a part of the preparation of Kibinai a traditional dish from Trakai.
Conditory/bakery workshop, also a greenhouse for the gardening program.

We met students in the kitchen. Talking to some of them they seemed to have been not successful in school. One of them said he was 17 years old, doing the program in cooking

and also finishing topics in 9th and 10th grade. He was fluent in English and translated for some of the other students.

Lunch at Vocational school

We had beetroot soup and kibinai and condiments with coffee.

After lunch and some introduction to the chapel at the school the bus took us to Trakai.

<http://trakai-visit.lt/en/>

Trakai is a former capital of Lithuania.

We stopped very close to the bridge to the Trakai Castle.

After a walk to the castle we got into the Trakai Handicraft Centre

At 15.00 Association of Culture and Crafts of Trakai district

<http://www.trakukrastas.lt>

<https://asarka.com/lt> Is the handicraft shop

Organization for supporting, publicity and marketing of local crafts tradition, meeting with craftsmen and educational program

Dalia Ališauskien,

A former math teacher and now a woodworking expert had us do our own candle holder.

We inserted pieces of straw into a piece of wood using her instructions so all participants left with a piece made by themselves.

Dalia and her husband both are keen in preserving and teaching the old handicraft.

After an hour of handicraft in real world we had a presentation about traditional handicraft.

Dominyka Seminove.

Trakai traditional handicraft is something that is by definition more than 100 years old using special tools, methods and needs special knowledge and skills.

The handicraft has different origins, for the village, it is for urban houses, from pagan religion and other origins.

Balt tradition is the oldest

The handicraft at the village level / for the village is about making things to use in the home/ village. The handicraft from cities is more likely to relate to manufacture, for sale.

(Least developed was the tradition from monasteries.)

In Lithuania they have 20 regional centers/traditions.

In order to be recognized they have a special commission/institution that will certify that you follow traditions.

Regulation from ministry of agriculture on:

Craftsmen, education / training programs, methods and tools.

Important traditions:

Culinary tradition is important. Environment, kitchen must be traditional.
Strawgarden tradition related to marriages. A bouquet of straw with flowers on the outside, children are taught to do this.
Basket making using different woods and bark.
Ornaments, easter eggs, using paper, cutting patterns.
Soap was made, in monasteries.
Candle making from bee wax originally.
Pottery and brick making from clay.
Timberwork cutting patterns, making spoons etc.
Pickled cucumbers, sheesemaking, cabbage soup, beetroot soup.
Blacksmith, ornaments from metal.
Knitting weaving, textiles.
Costumes related to music and dance.
Collecting herbs for food and medicine.
Symbols for regions and general symbolism in crafts.
Embroidery
Honeymaking with traditional methods.
Traditional events, celebrations in family (religious and other).

Challenges: not competitive in the market, ageing knowledge, single craftsmen are isolated, therefore centers are important. Young people are not interested.

Back to Vilnius

Wednesday November 7th 2018

Breakfast at hotel at 8.00

Meeting at hotel at 9.00.

At 09.30 – 11.30 Workshop.

Presentation of co-development workshop and first step of workshop

Using the method of codevelopment workshop.

Lithuania wants to.

Look at the influence of money from above.

Who are the leaders? How can we be more efficient?

It is important that the local people work and realize their problems and what they want to do, after this outside cooperation is useful, not before.

Brigite says thank you. This episode focuses our attention to what we want to work on. It is important to realize that we are working for the local interests.

Michel. Values and traditions are important. They help to rebuild regional and individual security.

Rene reminds that it is important not to mix identity and traditions. Traditions can be the

past/negative but Identity is important for evveryone.
Michel: Reminds of basic needs like defined in a Maslov pyramid.

Postit

one for each:

What is for you stable on the project, what is no need to change?

Start from values. Respect values and differences between territories, we work in different environments, we can use similar methods but we can not transfer values or situations.

What is floating, what do we know that it is but we are not sure how we do it?

What is blurry, either on the concepts or how we do it?

Thought from the work on territories.

Should find a small group of people to be confidants/work towards the same things, able to talk to about the ideas, problems and solutions. Begin with the small group and have them support you in your plan.

After lunch at hotel.

Olivier took the postit pieces and we tried to find out which were the common ideas and what the common future work is.

The things identified were the things everyone agreed are part of the project.

The things identified as floating may be taken into this project or not.

Keep in project

Models and methods for working on VET in territories.

Concrete examples, success and failures.

Put in practice in my context.

Territorial needs. Must always be taken into consideration.

Not keep in project and work on later.

Collaboration between stakeholders.

(Suggestion for a project on future jobs and new professions to answer the needs of the territories.)

The things identified as blurry may be considered for further project work

Each parnter worked on a bridge assignment. The bridge is the project, On one end is where we were at the beginning, other end where we

Bofre / now:

VMA is a public college, formal VET institution.

Provides many different programs.

Almost systematically disconnected from workplaces, not in much cooperation with workplaces in the training, (students at school – students at workplace, little connection) Undefined role in territorial development/discussion.

Territory has some organization for discussions on territorial development but VMA is not connected to these platforms.

We know we meet some of the territorial needs, both the needs companies have for qualified labor and the personal needs and aspirations of students. We however are not systematically collecting info or have access to info on territorial changes and needs.

We hope we will be able to:

Develop new programs to meet specific groups of students that now do not seem to find their way through our school.

Base new things on information from many directions. (teachers in VET, Students, Public organizations in territorial development, other VET institutions)

We want to be able to spread the idea that we need to work in VMA towards better understanding of our role for the territory and how we need to change the way we work.

Lithuanian experience, the story for this territory, territorial profile.

Arunas talked about their bridge.

Wanted to see what is different and what is the same in different countries.

Wanted to see the links between different stakeholders in the territory.

Want to be able to help people to improve their life. Approach local government to convey information about territorial development.

They want to be able to do an experiment where there will be elections at the lowest level.

Website:

Should we have on the website some suggestions for the Lithuanian partners in addition to the story?

Rene: We have seen examples of activities but not much about territorial development. Starting with Viva Sol (center of attention in this visit), based on local initiative.

Around this we need certain principles, values: respect freedom, neighborhood cooperation, optimize activity.

Territorial development comes around all this. How to attract attention to the most important things. Example: If we want tourism we need to have clean spaces.

René points out that the authorities are not very interested in the things needed for development. We need to involve individuals in the dialogue about the territory and this way they will influence the society and policy. (Arunas talked about electing local people.)

Useful to have a spark, initial suggestion. Example was an event that was revitalized and used for showing off the potential of the territory.

Michel: The first step and until the final step, you have worked on how to do things, we might need to find out what we want.

How to bring local democracy to work? Perhaps you need to look at what you mean and what you want to achieve by local democracy.

Suggestion for a new project on local democracy?

Bosnian and Slovenian codevelopment workshop.

Slovenia:

BSC is a regional development agency. They are within the system of government, prepare the regional development plan. They are starting on the next plan 2021 – 2027. One of the topics is human development.

Tourism, national park, ICT Robotics, Forests, many startups.

Want to bring in the VET system and the needs of companies.

Ageing society, companies need more skilled people.

How to prepare future skills and trades. How can the VET system deliver skilled people.

Someone questioned if this is really territorial development.

We always work bottom up, the people and institutions give info and this is sent up to the government.

Bosnia. PREC

The organization. They are in a small town in Bosnia. Family run. They want to build up a dual system of VET. Rural problems in rural setting. Many people are not active (communism was not in favor of this). Want people to look at their problems and how to solve them.

Many young people do not want to stay. They move away.

People want a comfortable state or run away.

They have started an agrotourism program.

Started 2014, Jasmina started 2016.

They need another person to work in the center. This person would be responsible for contact to stakeholders.

They need connection between the organization and the possible practice places.

Mentions networks, how to connect and how to seek support from the territory.

During the Bosnia meeting perhaps have the group meet stakeholders perhaps use the group as a pushing effort to strengthen the center.

Next meeting

Slovenia Monday – Wednesday

6 hours travel to Bosnia Wed afternoon or Thursday to Bosnia.

Sunday March 17th flight Ljubliana.
Monday March 18th meeting Slovenia
Tuesday March 19th meeting Slovenia
Wednesday March 20th
Thursday March 21st meeting Bosnia
Friday March 22th meeting bosnia

Saturday March 23rd travel from Bosnia. Sarajevo two hours from Zvince.

Distance meeting.
November 30th at 10 CET
Feedback on the Lithuanian reports
January 11
February 8

Dates for Reunion visit 2019

May 20 – 24.

Saturday May 18th Iceland – Paris – Reunion
Sunday May 19th
Monday May 20th

Friday May 24th

Saturday May 25th - Paris - Brussels

From the foggy items

Perhaps a new project.

How to assess social changes. How to implement the things we have been developing?

How do we use the training systems, how to implement alternance??

Then we heard about a few possible topics.

Method used in co-development workshop:

The questioning person – someone with a problem in need for a solution/solutions – presents the situation / problem. How to??

Describing the question / problem that needs to be resolved, Why is this important to this person. Where does this difficulty come from, in his/her opinion.

Talks about what has already been done to do to solve the issue.

Other participants lead the investigation: factual round of questions for a better understanding of the situation.

Digging into the context, seeking to understand more precisely what are the obstacles and what has already been done to solve it. No solutions or suggestions, no judgment, only questions.

Participants propose solutions, ideas o answer the question / solve the problem. Using their own perspectives they try to come up with solutions. The questioning person just listens and takes notes, not interfering.

The whole group. The organization concerned proposes a feedback, 3 or 4 elements they keep in order to try to apply these to the problem.

Explain the difficulties frankly.
There are no bad questions,
There are no bad proposals.

Thursday November 8th 2018.

Meeting with some of the partners to prepare and write more into the website and final report.