

NEWSLETTER

THE BUSTA PROJECT

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WELCOME TO THIS 5TH NEWSLETTER OF THE BUSTA PROJECT !

Altogether let's Build Skills through Training therapy Animals!

The BUSTA project has been all around the world these past few months. From Lithuania to Nepal we will find out more about the festival "I am indifferent, what about You?" as well as the International Democratic Education Conference (IDEC).

In plus, the partners have been busy preparing for their last multiplier events which will take place in Lithuania Belgium and Bulgaria !



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"I AM INDIFFERENT, WHAT ABOUT YOU?" FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 2023



The results created during the BUSTA project were presented at the festival "I am indifferent, what about You?" This successfully implemented project is approaching its conclusion, with dissemination events planned in Lithuania, Belgium, and Bulgaria.

On the 4th of December, Center of Dolphin assisted therapy of the Lithuanian Sea Museum organized this festival in order to spread the positive attitude and representations about people with disabilities and present all three achieved results throughout the BUSTA project. This festival has been organized for more than 10 years in Lithuania and always has very positive impact and draw a lot of attention of schools as far all children with special needs are integrated in the secondary schools in Lithuania. Therefore, presenting project results was so important – BUSTA project was the very first example how animal training programs could be successfully integrated into classroom setting, speaking about the values, empathy, needs, etc. The structure of overall project was designed so that children with fewer opportunities had equity rights to express themselves, participate in all activities, it was organized a lot of small-group and small-scale activities which had long-term effect – children were more open at schools, gained self-awareness and were more willing to collaborate with school friends.

The festival included many different activities and created labs where children could gain knowledge about the disabilities and special needs. Different symbols of disability were presented to help preschool and primary school children learn more about what it means to live with a disability. In the specialized laboratories at Klaipėda University festival participants had possibilities to take part into different activities. Children tried moving with crutches or a wheelchair, learned about the world of people with hearing and visual impairments by trying to write and read Braille, and explored various activities applied to people with physical or intellectual disabilities.

"I AM INDIFFERENT, WHAT ABOUT YOU?" FESTIVAL

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One lab was also created for presenting BUSTA results, children participated in the brief educational section and adult auditorium from different educational and social sectors took part in the detailed discussion and presentation of PR1, PR2 and PR3. Among the guests there were not only Lithuanians, but also a group of researchers and educators who work and study in Ukraine also joined this event. During this event an educational film, a methodological book, and guidelines for schools, organizations working with people with disabilities, and therapeutic process organizing organizations were presented. This festival aims to spread a positive message about people with disabilities, emphasizing that disability is not a barrier to friendship and unity.

The main organizers of this festival were Dolphin Assisted Therapy Center of the Lithuanian Sea Museum together with the Department of Holistic Medicine and Rehabilitation of Klaipėda University.

INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE - NEPAL

2023



QUEST, actively participated in the International Democratic Education Conference (IDEC) held in Kathmandu, Nepal, in October 2023. During the event, QUEST organized a session focused on inclusion, encouraging children to actively contribute to fostering inclusive practices. As an illustrative example of their past initiatives and to initiate dialogue, QUEST presented a sneak peek of the BUSTA project activities spanning all three countries and diverse contexts. The participants comprised children from Santa Fe, Kathmandu, Seoul, Bangalore, and Pondichery. Notably, the theme of training therapy animals emerged as particularly captivating for students, proving to be a highlight for the younger age group at the conference.

INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE - NEPAL

2023



The session progressed into a lively exchange, with participants expressing their reactions to the showcased videos. Engaging questions were posed, such as how the videos made them feel, their interest in acquiring similar skill-building experiences, which activities intrigued them the most, and how such experiences could be integrated into their school and living environments. This discussion prompted animated responses, with each child eagerly sharing personal experiences, memories, comments, and even photos circulated around the room. Although the discussion veered away from traditional notions of inclusion related to disabilities, the exploration of other life forms emerged as a powerful catalyst for engagement. This workshop stood out as the only instance where Nepalese children passionately shared their feelings and convictions, particularly regarding vegetarianism and their strong connection to cows—a perspective that contrasts sharply with the exploitation of cows in many Western countries.

As a conclusion of these exchanges, conference participants were introduced to the BUSTA project and were brought to reflect upon disability.

STAY TUNED
FOR MORE INFO

The BUSTA partnership is now preparing their final multiplier events in Lithuania, Bulgaria and Belgium !



