



Exchange of cross-border experience to enhance the quality of special education

SPEECH

Priority 3 Promotion from people to people cooperation

Measure 3.2 Cooperation in sphere of culture, sport, education, social and health





Short summary of the project

According to survey data the 30% -40% of pre-school age and younger schoolchildren have problems in development of voice. Most of them need special help in speech therapy. Estonian legislation is intended to cover the educational positions of speech therapists in different educational institutions.

The speech defects of Russian-speaking children have a special nature, which makes it necessary to prepare qualified speech therapists for educational institutions (Russian language based). In Estonia those specialists are not prepared sufficiently enough. At the moment the positions of speech therapists in Russian language schools and pre-schools are often held by the teachers who do not have a professional education.

The main aim of the project is to raise the quality of special education (speech therapy) through planned project activities and exchange of cross-border experience between partner countries. It is planned to organize training to speech therapists working with Russian-speaking children and to university students studying special education for raising the qualification of working speech therapists and supplementing the knowledge and skills of university students studying special education. As a result the conditions of helping the Russian-speaking children with educational needs will be improved and children will cope more efficiently with the learning outcomes set by each school.

Overall objective

To improve quality of special education and speech therapy. The overall objective is closely related to the Programme objective: to promote joint development activities for the improvement of the region's competitiveness by utilizing its potential and beneficial location in the cross roads between the EU and the Russian Federation.

Specific objective

- ✚ The qualification of special education teachers and students has been improved through trainings.
 - The persons passed the training have obtained the knowledge and skills to support the Russian speaking children and students with special needs and speech difficulties in Estonian and Russian language educational institutions;
 - The conditions of helping the Russian-speaking children with special educational needs will be improved;
- ✚ Through cooperation activities new contacts and common cross-border cooperation network in the field of special education between partner countries has been created.

Beneficiary

Integration and Migration Foundation Our People (Estonia)

Partners

University of Tartu (Estonia)

Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia (Russia)





Expected results

- ✚ **Cross-border cooperation network** created between partners, meetings between experts have organized, information channels used etc. Cooperation between Estonia and Russia **in the field of special education** will be improved;
- ✚ **55 teachers and students** participated in **training in Estonia and in practice in Russia**. Through training to speech therapists working with Russian-speaking children and to university students studying special education the qualification of working speech therapists and supplementing the knowledge and skills of university students studying special education will be improved. Exchange of students and teachers will be organized to **strengthen the contacts and cooperation** in university and state level;
- ✚ 3-days **study visit** organized in Tartu and 2-days **seminar** in Tallinn where experience will be exchanged between partner countries;
- ✚ Collection of **articles and presentations** (best practices) created and **distributed** as an outcome of the seminar;
- ✚ During substantive **meetings between curricula experts** from UT, NC, HU and also representatives from Ministry of Education and Research the analysis will be made and developing activities carried out for creating a **new common curriculum of speech therapy**, activity plan for further actions composed by project partners.

Final beneficiaries

- ✚ Russian speaking children and students with educational special needs (speech therapy)
- ✚ Estonian and Russian pre-schools and secondary schools
- ✚ Special education teachers (incl speech therapists) who have obtained a qualification of special education in Estonia and who are working with Russian speaking children and students
- ✚ University students who are obtaining higher education in special education and wishing to start working as speech therapists of Russian speaking children and students at pre-school level and/or secondary school
- ✚ Wider public

Duration

24 months

Budget

Total budget: **197 462,60** EUR

Programme co-financing: 177 716,34 EUR (90%)

Project co-financing: 19 746,26 EUR (10%)

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