



iRead Newsletter

December 2022

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A NEW PARTNER!

Before the start of the new period we got bad news from Ireland... Conlan School was forced to close its doors and couldn't be a partner in our KA2-project anymore. We really regret this, as it was very nice to work with Leonardo and Claudia...

The partnership decided to look for a new partner and finally we found another one in Ireland. In January we will continue the project with them. You will read all about them in our next newsletter!



THE IREAD-SURVEY

During our project meeting in Estonia we finalized our survey on reading behavior. This survey will be presented in 3 European countries: Belgium, Estonia and Ireland. Our goal is to reach 100 students each partner aged between 10 and 18. We will take the survey one time before the game is developed, and once after the students used the game. Our aim is to figure out whether the students reading behavior has changed after using the game. That is our purpose, to motivate VET students to read more, to have fun while reading, to understand better what they are reading. Questions in the survey will therefore be concentrated on several aspects connected to reading. E.g. did your parents read bedtime stories to you? What genre do you like mostly? Another exciting step in our iRead project!

An excerpt from the survey

5. WHICH ADJECTIVES COME TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT READING? *

- BORING
- COOL
- EDUCATING
- HARD
- EASY
- FUN
- CHILL

The iRead team wishes you all a Merry Christmas. The old year is gradually writing its last pages. We hope that January 2023 may be the beginning of a story full of prosperity, love, happiness, satisfaction and successes. Happy new year!

Mariliis, Reelika, Kaidi, Laurien, Vicky,
Inge, Mario en Koen

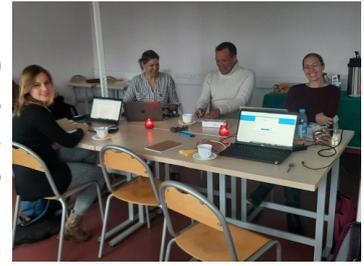
REPORT OF THE 2ND TPM

It had already been 6 months since our iRead team gathered in Belgium. Although we have had online meetings, it was about time to meet again in person. This time, the partners met in cold, wintry Estonia at Kehtna Vocational Education Centre. The atmosphere was very industrious, and within three days we managed to accomplish all the outcomes we wanted!

Already on the first day we had many important decisions to make, one related to partnership. A second very important outcome of this TPM was to finalize the survey of iRead. Through discussion we managed to create a full online version of the survey, agree on the timing and content. Now each partner can start sharing the survey with the students and we will have the first result by the next TPM in April.

The second day was all about the iRead game and website. Through brainstorming, we managed to put together a lot of content for the game. The ideas are very vivid, and our team cannot wait to see how the game turns out. After very interesting brainstorming, we had lunch at Kehtna VEC restaurant called "Neljapäev" where students are in chef shoes. Afterwards another meeting was arranged to discuss iRead website. We managed to agree on the template, structure and content. So, it won't be long till our website is launched! By the end of the day, we managed to complete all the tasks we wanted to, so we deserved some free time. Estonian team organized a tour in local Gin distillery.

The third and last day started off in Mukri swamp to show what is a typical free time activity for Estonians. Walking in the wintry swamp with a nice morning coffee was such an energy boost and a great way to start the morning. Considering the work, last day was mostly about summarizing. Another input for the project was also made as we looked at the close reading lesson template and decided how to work with it in future. After discussing all the practical arrangements and tasks, the content of the newsletter and evaluation, it was time to say goodbyes! Well, till next time, hopefully in April 2023 in Ireland.



BRAINSTORM OF THE GAME

It was very important to discuss the design of the game during this meeting. The partnership has a lot of ideas. This mass of ideas will be discussed with the development company Play-it. We keep it as a surprise for you, but for sure you will know all about it in our next newsletter! One thing we can assure you: it will be exciting, surprising, challenging and...

As the involvement of students is important to get an image of their ideal reading-environment, we also had lot's of input from the students from PISO Tienen (BE).



CHRISTMAS IN TALLINN

In Estonia, it was believed that what a person did at Christmas depended on the good fortune of him and his household in the following year. All borrowed items were brought home for Christmas, and nothing was borrowed during Christmas. In many families with children, in the evening before Christmas, a slipper is placed on the windowsill, where an elf brings sweets - Santa's helper, who checks and reports to him whether the children have behaved well.

In Estonia it was believed that in a family where Christmas dishes are not prepared, there is no hope for anything good in the coming year. Blood sausages, roast pork, baked potatoes, sauerkraut, and Christmas beer have remained the traditional Christmas foods. Every family had to have its own beer and it had to last until the end of Christmas. The floor could not be swept until after Christmas - otherwise it was feared that luck would also be swept out of the house. It was recommended to stay up on Christmas Eve, especially on New Year's Eve - if you can't do it otherwise, at least in shifts. When going to sleep, preferably on straw on the floor and fully clothed.

Christmas bread, beer and meat had to be on the table for the whole Christmas season and everyone had to eat as much as they wanted. If you had to eat 7, 9 or 12 times on Christmas Eve, then a person will have strength, stamina and health in the new year, his work will be blessed, and he will not lack bread. If a piece of food fell under the table, it was not allowed to be picked up, and at Christmas time it was not allowed to point a light under the table or the bed or look there. In Estonian history, there were many beliefs, you could write a book about it! Today is mostly about spending time with family and friends, sharing gifts and eating together.

Estonia claimed the honor that the world's first Christmas tree belonged to its capital city Tallinn. That's where in 1441 the world's first Christmas tree had been installed by their city's Brotherhood of the Blackheads in Raekoja plats, its medieval Town Hall Square since 1322.

In 2018, Forbes named it as one of the ten most beautiful ones in Europe. In 2019, travelers from all over the world chose Tallinn Christmas market as the most beautiful one in Europe, and this year The Times recommends visiting it as well. Pity that the TPM in Estonia ended just before the start of the Christmas period, but... the Belgians were witness that the Christmas tree was there...

