



In Madona region will be explored the traditional games

Yesterday began "Outdoor sports and recreation education summer school 2010", which will last until Thursday. The summer school is attended by academic staff from higher education institutions and students from Latvia and Poland. Their main task is through interviewing elder people, find out about the games that have ever been played in Madona region.

— Today begins our summer school. Two states - Latvia and Poland – are involved in it. Our goal is to prepare the questionnaires, questions to begin on Tuesday our journey in Madona surroundings and interview elderly people about what games they have played in their childhood and youth.

The final result is going to be publishing a book, meant for physical education teachers, coaches, classroom teachers, and it will be issued in three languages - Latvian, Polish and English. We are going to record also DVD with interviews. On Thursday afternoon the participants will have to show previously prepared game, which they have learnt during this week- yesterday told Juris Grants, vice-rector of Research of the Latvian Academy of Sport Education (LASE).

The project is organized by LASE, Latvian Recreation Education association in cooperation with Joseph Pilsudski University of Physical Education and State College of Computer Science and Business Administration in Lomza. At school works teaching staff both from Poland and Latvia, and participate students from both countries. Participating in school is part of study Program, and the students will receive credit points for this activity.

In Latvija – for the first time

Participants of Summer School have planned to go to Cesvaine, Kusa, hill Gaiziņkalns, etc. taking into consideration that some of the participants - Edgars Bernāns, Arnis Šmugais un Juris Grants - come from this region, they already know some families, which could be addressed with these questions.

Kalvis Ciekurs, MPaed of Latvian Academy of Sport Education commented: - In other countries such schools are organized rather often and a lot. I have been in Czech Republic, where these games are very topical. They already have been collected in a thick book; people use them in real life – both teachers and simple inhabitants, who are interested in doing something. Therefore I wanted to engage in getting to know Latvian games. In every hamlet, every civil parish games are a lot, and they have different features. This time we have begun with Vidzeme, but further we could try interviewing people also in other districts of Latvia. This stage is sort of beginning, in which we learn, how to do something like that, because in Latvia we have not had similar activities before. This is completely new experience both for participants and teaching staff – learning games from local people. Moreover, these are not only games, but historical heritage, which, I guess, every nation should treat as important. Young people nowadays are sitting at home, immersed in computers, TV sets, but we in our adolescence were chasing through forests and fields, and these games will disappear over time if they are not shown to people. This

is also one of the aims of Summer School - re-raise them. Having been asked why exactly Madona district has been chosen as place for interviewing people, Kalvis Ciekurs praised the region as very creative:

- There take place topical sports activities, from these surroundings come many talented and prominent personalities. Here we feel also people responsiveness, so there is a hope for good result.

National traditions should be appreciated

With his experience in collecting games can help associated professor Christoph Piech from Josef Pilsudski University of Physical Education in Poland, because in Poland he has travelled a lot, and talked with locals and residents in nursing homes, collecting traditional polish games.

— I have written several articles about the theme. I also enjoy giving my students homework: talk to your grandparents, interview them at first. Thus we obtain information, which is even broader; we could write about our games, showing that they are similar to games in other countries. In Africa, for example, there exists a game with the same regulations as in Poland, only the equipment is different, and, of course, the title. I am interested in this aspect, therefore during my visit in Latvia I hope to get to know something new. Later on I would like to organize festival, in which these games can be organized. Similar experience is abroad, where in many places festival is organized in such a way, that participants should cycle on their bikes, and along the route there are places, where these games are held. It is interesting to make a remark that in Poland and Russia very popular was a game, which has been taken to America, where, having changed some of the rules, it has turned into baseball. This is only a theory, which is not confirmed, but it shows how interesting can be the exploration of games and their origins,- emphasized Christoph Piech.

Ivars Kravalis, LASE associated professor added: - I would compare the ongoing with the collecting of folk songs, because games also are cultural heritage, but in this case, they will be collected by the group of summer school participants. Nowadays, when we live in a multicultural society, it is however, important to maintain individuality, one's own values. Each country should appreciate its national traditions, take care about them and keep to them.

New impressions

The other summer school participants did not hide that one of the main reasons for the participation was a chance to see a new city, for the visitors from Poland - another country and culture. For example, Pavel and Monika from Poland beforehand have heard good news about Latvia, which raised their interest: - We had heard that Latvia is a beautiful country, so couldn't miss the opportunity to look at it with our own eyes. We are not disappointed. We enjoyed Riga, and Madona seems to be a very beautiful city. Monika in Poland works with young children, trying to engage them in all kinds of activities, so new experience about games and sportive activities outdoors will be extremely useful for her.

Mētra, RTU student, in her turn, was eager to learn about other cities and get engaged in an activity, which is not part of daily routine. Dagnija agreed: - Summer school attracted me with its originality, as previously nothing similar has been heard about. I am very glad that it is held not in Riga, but in Madona, because it has a beautiful and rich neighborhood. I come from Lubāna. I am a student of Latvian Academy of Sport Education, this year I will launch my postgraduate studies.

It seems that already at present creative and attractive spark of Summer School yields results – thinks LASE pedagogue, MPaed Inta Bula-Biteniece: - at Latvian Academy of Sport Education I conduct study course "Games", meant for physical education teachers to be played in the classes, but unfortunately they are very traditional. But I believe that students should be given a chance to list through old books, they should be advised to speak about the games with their grandparents, thus making learning process in the Academy more interesting. In Summer School very soon I was struck by an idea, what creative sparkle can be lit in my classes. I've asked about childhood games also my grandmother, but she, unfortunately, all the time had to work. Therefore I was also interested to go to Madona district, get to know local people, especially because I myself come from another part of Latvia: Kurzeme.

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