**Study visit report (SV3) – Latvia, November 2017**

The aim of doing homework is to organize and consolidate the knowledge that students gained during the lesson. Doing homework also develops skills such as: resourcefulness, the ability to organize your own process of learning and regularity.

I am the teacher with long work experience but at every single beginning of the new school year, the issue of homework appears. The question is: to give homework or not to give students homework. If the answer is positive, what should be the form of homework and how often should it be given? The issue of homework is important both to teachers and parents. The teachers want to make pupils and their parents responsible for the learning process of the students. The parents believe that the educational success of their children depends on tons of exercises and activities. That is the reason why they expect the teacher to give pupils a lot of homework.

While preparing for the study visit in Latvia I decided that this is the issue that I want to focus on. I would like to observe how students and teachers in Latvia deal with this problem. I discussed this subject with students and teachers in Latvia. I also observed some classes. When I came back to Cracow I asked pupils and their parents to fill in the prepared earlier questionnaire.

86 pupils from 2nd and 3rd grade took part in the survey.

Erasmus+ Culture of learning – questionnaire for students

1. How much time do you spend doing your homework every day?
	1. 0 – 30 minutes
	2. 30 minutes – 1 hour
	3. 1 – 2 hours
	4. more than 2 hours

50 students marked answer a.

29 students marked answer b.

7 students marked answer c.

0 students marked answer d.

1. Do you get homework every day?
	1. yes
	2. no

5 students marked answer a.

81 students marked answer b.

1. Your homework is:
	1. easy – I can do it by myself
	2. medium – I sometimes need help
	3. hard – I often need help

21 students marked answer a.

62 students marked answer b.

3 students marked answer c.

1. Does anyone help you with your homework?
	1. no
	2. yes
		1. parents
		2. siblings
		3. other (who? …)

23 students marked answer a.

63 students marked answer b – 80 of them pointed parents, 2 siblings and 4 others as those who help them with their homework.

1. Do teachers check if you have done your homework?
	1. yes – always
	2. sometimes
	3. rarely
	4. never

34 students marked answer a.

51 students marked answer b.

1 student marked answer c.

0 students marked answer d.

1. Do you receive information if the homework has been done correctly?
	1. always
	2. often
	3. sometimes
	4. never

41 students marked answer a.

39 students marked answer b.

5 students marked answer c.

1 student marked answer d.

1. Do you think that doing your homework helps you revise and consolidate your knowledge from the lesson?
	1. yes
	2. I suppose it does.
	3. I suppose it does not.
	4. no

48 students marked answer a.

32 students marked answer b.

4 students marked answer c.

2 students marked answer d.

1. Do you think that doing your homework helps you prepare for the next lesson?
	1. yes
	2. I suppose it does.
	3. I suppose it does not.
	4. no

25 students marked answer a.

34 students marked answer b.

17 students marked answer c.

10 students marked answer d.

1. Do you think that homework is unnecessary, it is just a waste of time?
	1. yes
	2. I suppose it is.
	3. I suppose it is not.
	4. no

6 students marked answer a.

6 students marked answer b.

24 students marked answer c.

50 students marked answer d.

1. Do you want to be given homework?
	1. yes – always
	2. yes – sometimes
	3. I suppose I do not.
	4. no

7 students marked answer a.

43 students marked answer b.

11 students marked answer c.

25 students marked answer d.

Erasmus+ Culture of learning – questionnaire for parents

84 parents filled in the questionnaire.

1. How much time does your child spend doing his/her homework every day?
	1. 0 – 30 minutes
	2. 30 minutes – 1 hour
	3. 1 – 2 hours
	4. more than 2 hours

29 parents marked answer a.

44 parents marked answer b.

9 parents marked answer c.

2 parents marked answer d.

1. Does your child get homework every day?
	1. yes
	2. no

27 parents marked answer a.

57 parents marked answer b.

1. Your child’s homework is:
	1. easy – they can do it themselves
	2. medium – they sometimes need help
	3. hard – they often need help

7 parents marked answer a.

74 parents marked answer b.

3 parents marked answer c.

1. Does anyone help your child with his/her homework?
	1. no
	2. yes
		1. parents
		2. siblings
		3. other (who? … )

6 parents marked answer a.

58 parents marked answer b (48 of them pointed parents, 8 siblings and 2 others as those who help their children with their homework)

1. Do teachers check if the students have done their homework?
	1. yes – always
	2. sometimes
	3. rarely
	4. never

58 parents marked answer a.

19 parents marked answer b.

1 parent marked answer c.

0 parents marked answer d.

1. Does your child receive information if he/she has done his/her homework correctly?
	1. always
	2. often
	3. sometimes
	4. never

53 parents marked answer a.

21 parents marked answer b.

9 parents marked answer c.

1 parent marked answer d.

1. Do you think that doing their homework helps your child consolidate their knowledge from the lesson?
	1. yes
	2. I suppose it does.
	3. I suppose it does not.
	4. no

49 parents marked answer a.

29 parents marked answer b.

5 parents marked answer c.

1 parent marked answer d.

1. Do you think that doing their homework helps your child prepare for the next lesson?
	1. yes
	2. I suppose it does.
	3. I suppose it does not.
	4. no

42 parents marked answer a.

29 parents marked answer b.

7 parents marked answer c.

5 parents marked answer d.

1. Do you think that homework is unnecessary, it is just a waste of time?
	1. yes
	2. I suppose it is.
	3. I suppose it is not.
	4. no

4 parents marked answer a.

11 parents marked answer b.

40 parents marked answer c.

29 parents marked answer d.

1. Do you want your child to be given homework?
	1. yes – always
	2. yes – sometimes
	3. I suppose I do not.
	4. no

17 parents marked answer a.

49 parents marked answer b.

3 parents marked answer c.

5 parents marked answer d.

Plans for the future:

The purpose of this survey was to collect younger students’ and their parents’ opinions of homework. After conducting the survey I collected and analyzed the data. I decided to arrange the meeting with other teachers who teach younger students. During this meeting I presented collected data. We discussed the results of the survey.

My personal plans for future work:

* give less homework (2 – 3 times a week),
* do not give homework for the weekend,
* make sure that homework is understood by every pupil,
* encourage children to work individually at home,
* always check and appreciate children’s work,
* use various difficulty levels of exercises.

I would like my students to do their homework with pleasure, not because they have to. The activities should broaden and consolidate students’ knowledge and not be just their sad duty.

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