

MULTILINGUAL TOURNAMENT “I SPEAK, YOU SPEAK – WE COMMUNICATE“ *EUROPEAN LANGUAGE LABEL: LANGUAGE AMBASSADOR OF YEAR 2012*



This was the first multilingual tournament organised in Lithuania that had gathered students of Grades 9-11 from all over Lithuania (Vilnius, Avižieniai, Trakai, Kaunas, Jonava, Klaipėda, Utena, Anykščiai, Telšiai, Druskininkai, Alytus, Marijampolė, Šeduva, Pasvalys and Šilalė) speaking no less than two non-native (foreign) languages and forming teams from 33 secondary schools or gymnasiums (56 have had registered in fall) speaking no less than three non-native (foreign) languages. The main languages of competition were English, Russian, German and French, however there were such languages as the Italian, Spanish, Ukrainian, Swedish, Chinese, Polish, Japanese, and Armenian used in the main four tasks of the tournament: impromptu speaking, running dictation, jokes (Chinese whispers) and dubbing of an animation film. The fifth task was Knowledge Bowl in English on general knowledge of the countries where the four main contest languages are spoken.



Dubbing of an Animation Film



Impromptu Speaking



Retelling Jokes



Knowledge Bowl



Running Dictation

The tasks were based on the main goals of the tournament that included the following:

- To encourage students and teachers to learn different languages.
- To develop individual plurilingualism of students by promoting multilingual environment.
- To develop different language learning possibilities and motivation to learn languages by raising awareness of benefits of plurilingualism.
- To encourage cultural and sociocultural awareness by learning different languages.
- To encourage students' creativity, personal flexibility, ability to communicate in different situations by using different communication skills and different language.

All the participating student teams including a teacher had to prepare a 1-minute presentation on a language which is not the main language of the competition. This activity has even more broadened the diversity of languages used at the tournament and included Latin, Belorussian, Hindi, Latvian, Japanese, Ukrainian, Spanish, Bavarian, Turkish, Italian, Dutch, Armenian, and Finnish. All the teams proved to be not only creative but very talented with a good sense of humour and great presentation skills. This was the only task which was not judged by the professional language specialists, but chosen by the participants themselves. As the tournament was held in three rounds, there were three teams that received most of the audience votes in each round, and they were **Vilnius Jesuit Gymnasium, Kaunas KTU Gymnasium and Alytus Dzūkija Basic School.**



Student performances in different tasks and languages were evaluated by a group of professional language specialists from secondary schools/gymnasiums and language institutions of Lithuania. After counting all the points teams had received, the winners of the tournament were announced at the award ceremony which took place at ISM University of Management and Economics in the evening followed by a special cake reception.



Congratulations to the winners of the first multilingual tournament: **Vilnius Simonas Daukantas Gymnasium won the 1st place (87.42 points)**. They were also elected as **Language Ambassadors of Year 2012**. A special award for this nomination was presented by the Education Exchanges Support Foundation. **Vilnius Lyceum were the 2nd (79.55 points)**, and **Vilnius „Santara“ Secondary School came to be the 3rd (78.49 points)**. All the winners were awarded medals and trophies sponsored by AISV. In addition, the three winning teams were granted the opportunity to spend one week at the American International School of Vilnius (AISV).



We are very proud of our AISV students Simonas, Ligita, Gabrielė, Titas, Karolina and Elisabeth for scored the 5th (76.28 points) and the 7th (74.73 points) among 34 teams, especially that they used the languages of Russian, German and French which are the 3rd and 4th languages used by the students. As English is the language of instruction at AISV, the students were not eligible to take part in the tasks performed in English, except for Knowledge Bowl which checked general knowledge on history, geography, art, music, etc of the countries where the four contest languages are spoken at.

The tournament was initiated by the Ministry of Education and Science, the British Council and the American International School of Vilnius. After the initial talks among these three institutions, more partners were invited on board, and the organising committee of 14 members was formed.



The Organising Committee

After a numerous meetings and discussions, the concept, goals and objectives, and the format of the event were developed, and the first ever multilingual tournament “I Speak, Your Speak - We Communicate!” was organised on April 21st, Saturday. Before that, a group of language specialists from different secondary schools/gymnasiums and language institutions was invited to serve as jury members during the tournament. Two training sessions lead by the organising committee members were held at AISV to train evaluators on the tournament tasks and evaluation criteria. All professional evaluators volunteered to work on Saturday, and we are very grateful to them for their valuable service.



We are also very grateful to the sponsors of the event as mentioned above and others including **Goethe Institut in Litauen, L’Institut français de Lituanie, Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania, the Embassy of Sweden in Lithuania, the language school LINGUA PERFECTA, the bookstores of Rotas, Humanitas, Litterula, and PearsonLongman** for their generous donations.

The multilingual tournament proved to be a successful event and was enjoyed by the participants, their teachers, evaluators and everybody who helped it run smoothly. We are planning to organise this event next year hosted by AISV as well.

By Jolita Norkūnaitė

AISV Activities Coordinator

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