



# Democratic schools project

Donata NORKIENE, School of Success  
14th October 2013

School...





...of Success



# Happy lifelong learners



- **Unique personality**
- **Social competences**
- **Learning skills**
- ***Hands on Democracy***



# How do we do that?



**Žilvinas Šilėnas**

LIETUVOS LAISVOSIOS RINKOS INSTITUTO  
PREZIDENTAS



**Emilijus Gricius**

LCC TARPTAUTINIO UNIVERSITETO LEKTORIUS



**Nerijus Brazdžiūnas**

SVEIKATOS PROGRAMŲ AUTORIUS IR  
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**Ben Harvey**

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PROFESIONALI LEKTORĖ



**Vytautas Kontrimas**

AKTORIUS



**Žanas Gongapšėvas**

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**Giedrius Dranevičius**

KARATE MEISTRAS, MOKYMŲ TRENERIS



**Kęstutis Vingilis**

PROFESIONALUS LEKTORIUS



**Aurelija Prašmuntaitė**

SEKMĖS MOKYKLOS MOKYMŲ  
KOORDINATORĖ

Back to the Subject...



# Democratic schools project

everything is  
two stories



## **No.1** Official story



Research shows that civil power of Lithuanian society has not been growing in recent years and remained relatively low.

**The objective of this pilot project is to contribute to building active civil society in Lithuania.**



## No.2 *"Not for the record"* story



The project will specifically focus on applying and fostering a model of **democratic schooling** that allows students and teachers practise democracy on a daily basis and thrive through active participation in vibrant learning communities.

# Why democratic schooling?



Problem - illusion of democracy.

## **We promote democratic education as learning that**

- **equips** every human being to participate fully in a healthy democracy;
- **empowers** young people to be autonomous, responsible members of their community and the larger world;
- **transforms** schools into vibrant learning communities.

# Basis of democratic education



## **Self-directed learning:**

Student's right to make their own choices regarding learning and all other areas of everyday life. In particular, they may individually determine what to do, when, where, how and with whom, so long as their decisions do not infringe on the liberty of others to do the same.

## **Learning community based on equality and mutual respect**

Students' right to have an equal share in decision making as to how their organisations – in particular their schools – are run, and which rules and sanctions, if any, are necessary.

**Adventure of learning + personal and social responsibility**



# Principles

- The value of the **student voice** in the management of school life.
- The value of **social equality** between students and staff.
- The **right to choose** what to study.
- The **right to challenge** the relevance of what you are studying.
- The ability to go **at your own pace** and **not be compared** with others.
- The use of **common sense** to ensure that the school runs safely and smoothly, thus avoiding the need for petty rules.
- The right to a rich and attractive **educational environment**.
- Shared responsibility** for the upkeep of that environment.
- Equal esteem** for all school activities.

YOU HAVE  
NOTHING  
TO PROVE

3 min. in...



# Sands school, UK



# European Democratic Education Community



[www.eudec.org](http://www.eudec.org)

# What's the plan?

Pilot project  
October 2013 - September 2014



- **5 schools** will be guided to and will implement individual **democratic schooling projects**;
- **6 events** will be organized to build competences, inform and share experiences of the project;
- **5 experts** will consult on quality of the project;
- **400 people** will be involved in the project activities directly, even more – indirectly during the projects at schools.
- Democratic schooling **methodology** will be created to ensure the continuity of the project.
- **School of Success** will expand its scope of activities, increase the number of employees and improve the knowledge on democratic schooling.



It's more  
ABOUT SCHOOL  
than civic education

# Schools as democratic learning communities



**Well-educated, active citizens  
for a modern  
democratic society**



What if it doesn't work?



**SURPRISE  
PEOPLE  
AND  
PROVE THEM  
WRONG**

**OPEN A  
DEMOCRATIC  
SCHOOL!**



Let's make this Program  
A story of Success!

