

## Museum Educational Programmes for Adults

One of the objects of State cultural policy is to give society, every member of it and also older people everything necessary for participating in cultural life, for choosing favourable leisure activities and self-expression possibility.

Lithuanian museums work hard to achieve this object. They prepare educational programmes, many of which are for nursery-school children, infants and pupils.

The idea of lifelong learning is spreading more and more wide. Educational programmes must include different groups of visitors: family, members of community, disabled, national minorities, elderly people. This sphere of educational work of Lithuanian museums evidently lacks attention – specialized educational programmes for adults are being organized only by some museums. Maybe the reason is that preparation of programmes for adults requires andragogic competence and understanding how to communicate effectively with this kind of audience.

In many museums (especially municipal) these programmes are created by people who lack necessary skills. Various specialists (historians, archeologists, ethnographers, philologists, etc.) in museums acquire museologists' qualification in the process of work and improving their professional skills in the Lithuanian Cultural Training Center. But possibilities to acquire competence of working with adults are still limited. There are no textbooks of museum education in Lithuania.

Lithuanian Association of Adult Education (LAAE) finished three-year project "Museum Educational Programmes for Adults". Thus the Association contributed to the improvement of andragogic competence of museum workers. Within this project in cooperation with Lithuanian Association of Museums training programme was prepared and four regional training seminars were organized with 73 participants of municipal museums. The participants of the seminars expressed their wish to see the developed training material published as a textbook accessible to all Lithuanian museums.

Vytautas Magnus University invited LAAE to participate in EU Lifelong Learning Program Leonardo da Vinci Transfer of Innovation project REVIVE - Reviewing and Reviving Existing VET Curriculum. Existing programme developed by earlier project was adapted to distant learning, using Moodle platform. The programme was piloted by workers of Lithuanian museums. They took it positively.

A group of authors was rallied consisting of three museologists and three andragogs. They prepared and published textbook for museologists "Museum Educational Programmes for Adults"<sup>1</sup>. The main idea of the book is to use principles of adult education for preparation of museum educational programmes. Preparation of the book was based on peculiarities of adult learning: experiential learning, cognitive and affective goals of learning, internal motivation of learning and peculiarities of multiple intelligence. In addition to theoretical texts, tasks for independent work, practical advices, examples of the good experience are presented.

Professor Margarita Teresevičienė speaks of the book:

*It is interesting, because I have never had a chance to read such works in which andragogics matches insights of professional museologists, which encourages to change forms and methods of museum education, to direct them at active, not passive, learning and to excite curiosity of visitors.*

For more information about the project and success stories please visit the website of the project: <http://www.reviveproject.eu/> .

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<sup>1</sup> Muziejų edukacinės programos suaugusiesiems [Museum Educational Programmes for Adults]. Compiled by Arūnas Bėkšta. A group of authors. 2010, Vilnius, Gimtasis žodis.