

- TEACHERS
- INTERCULTURAL
- COMPETENCES as
- KEYSTONES to
- LEARNING in
- EUROPE

European Coordination:  
Staatliches Seminar für  
Didaktik und  
Lehrerbildung – GHS-  
Offenburg  
[http://www.tickle-  
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Tel.0049 781 92389-34



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

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# Multicultural Learning Environment in Estonia

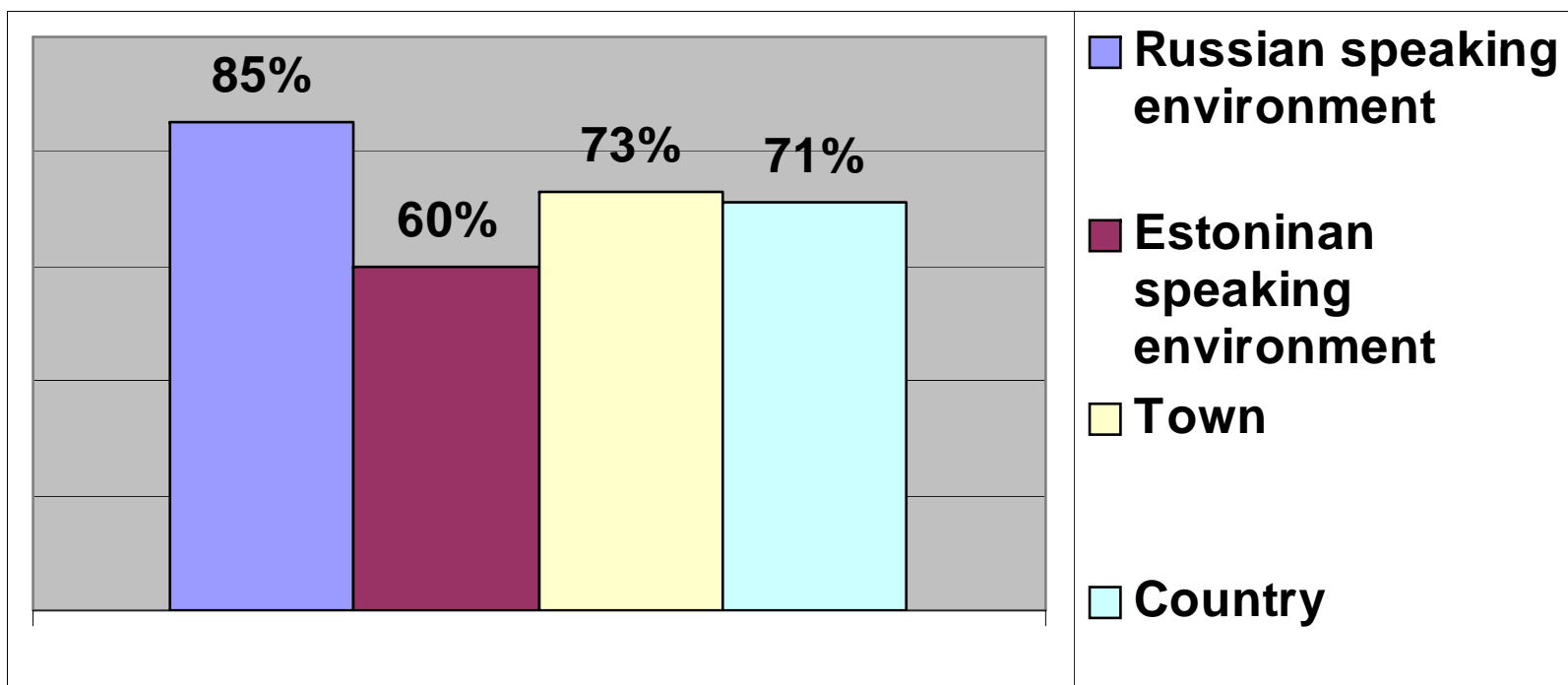
Inge Timoštšuk  
Anne Uusen  
Tallinn University



## Description of situation (by research done in 2005)

- 26% teachers had 1-3 Russian speaking students
- 40% teachers had 4-6 Russian speaking students
- 34% teachers had more than 7 Russian speaking students

# Teachers doing extra work with non-Estonian speaking students





# What kind of extra work?

- Both areas teachers named translation, individualized work and explanation of terms.
- Teachers of Russian speaking areas explain mathematical text exercises and constantly repeat and speak over and over.
- Country teachers consider the most important extra work translation.
- Town teachers named mostly constant repeating and individualization.



# Teaching problems

- Teachers of 1<sup>st</sup> stage students named the most problematic teaching areas science and mathematical text exercises.
- Teachers of 2<sup>nd</sup> stage students see as the most difficult teaching aspect, that non-Estonian speaking students are not able to do independent work (it leads to constant lack of time).



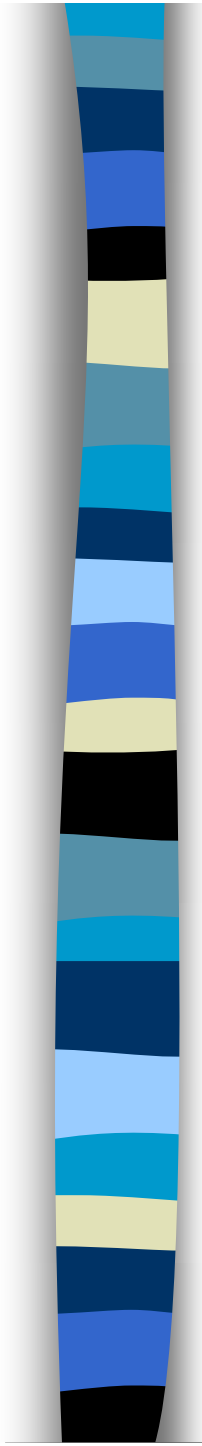
# Solutions of teaching problems

- Cooperation with parents, individualized work (so called long day groups, pre- and post-teaching) and suggestion for parents to contact with specialist or to hire private teacher for extra lessons.

# More solutions ...

- Simplification of teaching:
  - Peer learning
  - Using play elements
  - Group work
  - Exemplifying (visual materials – often made by teachers themselves)
  - Project work





# To what to pay attention while communicating with/teaching non-Estonian speaking students

- Use synonyms
- Say word by syllables
- Write basic vocabulary to the blackboard
- Give less homework
- Use body language
- Correct spelling mistakes
- Let Estonian speaking students, who know (a little) Russian, translate





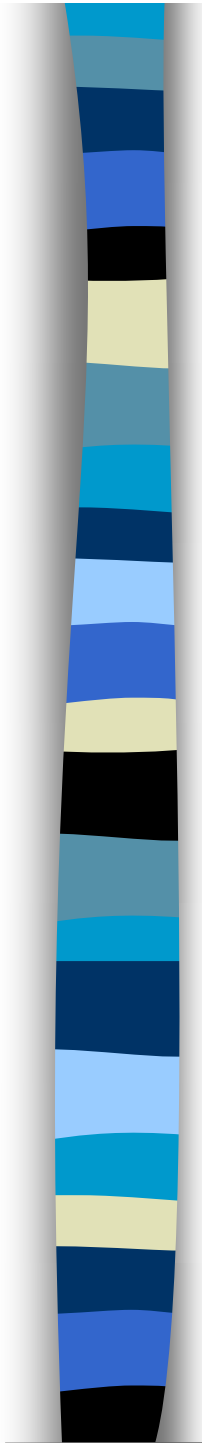
# Teachers opinions about teaching in multi-cultural classroom

- Extra work for teacher
- Teaching is more difficult as expected
- Teacher has to work as in multi-age classroom
- Demands lots of knowledge's, self-development and wills´
- If this work were more valuated, why not



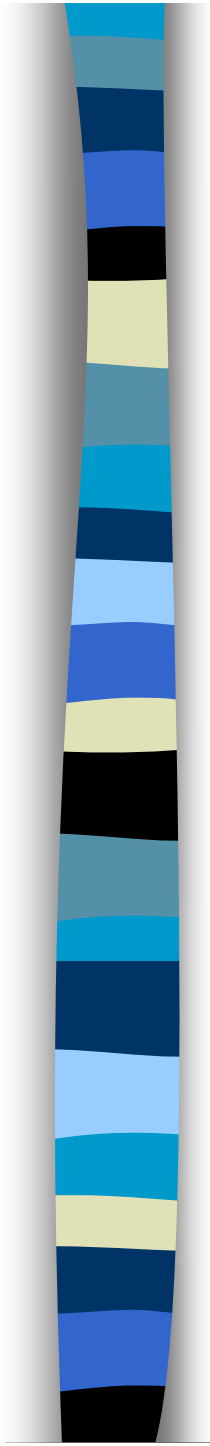
# Negative opinions of teachers

- Prefer to teach in 100% Estonian speaking classroom.
- Non-Estonian speaking student can learn in Estonian speaking school, but in separate classroom.
- If communication language at home is Russian and parents are not able to help child, it's more reasonable to learn in Russian school.



# Positive aspects about teaching in multicultural classroom (teachers` opinions)

- If non-Estonian speaking student is talented and hard-working, he/she can get even better results than Estonian speaking student.
- If there is small amount of non-Estonian students, then language development of both kind of students is even more successful in multicultural classroom.

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- Doesn't matter, which language is students' native language, important is how he/she can manage at school.
  - Multiculturalism is very welcome, if only curriculum of Estonian language were not so complicated.
  - No problems, when student has good language skills and supportive parents.

**Thank you for attention!**

