WORKSHOPS: THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN CLASSES
26/29 October 2014
Radviliškis, Lithiania
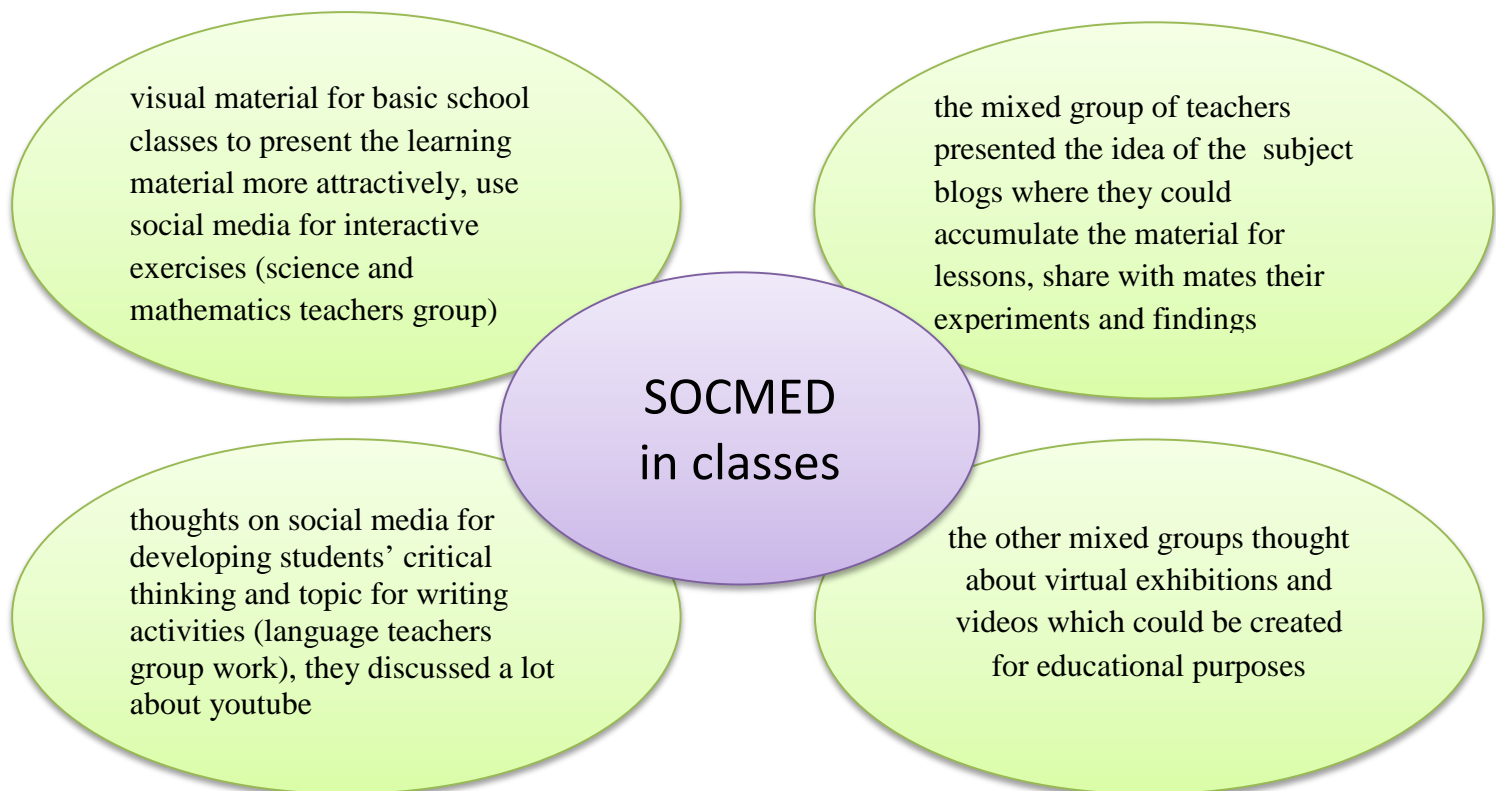
TRAINER
Egidijus Dailidonis

PARTICIPANTS
Radviliškis district basic and secondary education teachers

1. Oksana Virbukienė, teacher of English;
2. Audronė Dailidonienė, teacher of English;
3. Jūratė Norkienė, teacher of English;
4. Laimutė Indilienė, teacher of Mathematics;
5. Aldona Mickūvienė, teacher of English;
6. Rasa Remeikienė, teacher of English;
7. Židrūna Onaitienė, teacher of Mathematics;
8. Aldona Daukšienė, teacher of Information technologies;
9. Silva Morkūnienė, teacher of Biology;
10. Svetlana Sluckienė, teacher of Lithuanian;
11. Arvydas Kavaliauskas, teacher of Physics
12. Daiva Kavaliauskienė, Speech therapist (teacher working with the children who have speech problems);
13. Ingrida Kasperavičiūtė, primary school teacher;
14. Inga Hokušienė, teacher of technologies;
15. Sandra Karenauskienė, teacher of Lithuania;
16. Ilma Andriušaitienė, teacher of Arts;
17. Jurgita Caporkienė, teacher of Mathematics.

The aim of the trainings was to encourage teachers to use SOCMED (smart ICT 3.0) in the classes, to organize lessons in new learning spaces applying social media and its tools. In addition the teachers have learnt how to practise social media and its tools for teaching their subjects.
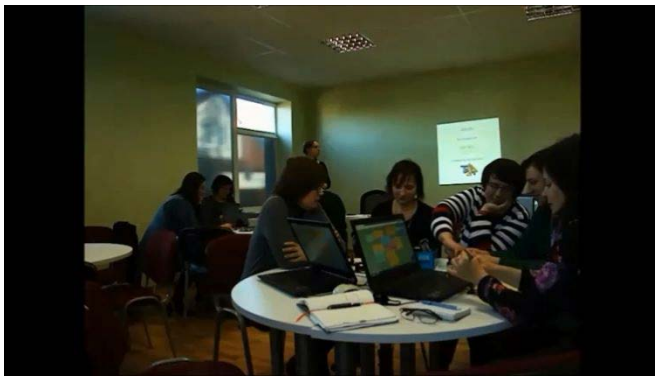
The workshops started with the warm-up activity (introducing each other), the participants got a piece of paper with some questions and they had to ask each other these questions and find the person with the same answers. The questions were related with routine activities. Thus, they learnt a little about each other's routine and free time activities. The participants were in a good mood and energetic.

During the following activity they tried to imagine and create a model of Lego how they could use SOCMED in their classes teaching their subjects. The teachers were quite passive in this activity. They found it difficult to model the application of SOCMED in their lessons but working in groups they modelled interesting ideas and presented them to the other participants

visual material for basic school classes to present the learning material more attractively, use social media for interactive exercises (science and mathematics teachers group)

the mixed group of teachers presented the idea of the subject blogs where they could accumulate the material for lessons, share with mates their experiments and findings

SOCMED
in classes

thoughts on social media for developing students' critical thinking and topic for writing activities (language teachers group work), they discussed a lot about youtube

the other mixed groups thought about virtual exhibitions and videos which could be created for educational purposes

In the following phase of the trainings the trainer presented SOCMED pluses, the participants learnt about the social media platforms and their tools:

After that, the learners were planning how can they use social media material for teaching their subjects as well as they were sharing good practice examples as some participants had basic knowledge of the use of Social media in their classes. The trainer showed a wider range of SOCMED tools and how they could be applied for educational purposes.

Then the participants were given two hours to accumulate some material which they could use for creating various items for their lessons. Some of the participants went outside to take some photos or make videos, some searched material on the internet and others went to the library to find for useful teaching things.

Before leaving they saw a motivating video (on youtube) to be more inspired.

When they returned to the classroom, the learners tried to use the most suitable SOCMED tool to publicize these things and organize them for teaching/learning in their classes. They created their accounts Pinterest, Animoto, Flicker, etc. The participants were practising the tools (uploading, creating designs, texts, etc.) and of course, they were inspired with this task. They claimed they liked learning how to work on SOCMED, how to use its tools, how to apply it to their classes.

At the end of the first training day the participants had some tasks for their homework, the task was:

- to upload the material, which is useful for their classes on **Flicker** and **Pinterest**.

During the second training day the teachers presented their homework and explained how they use the material in their classes, they also discussed benefits such as more attractive and effective form of learning as well as obstacles such as lack of IT equipment in the classrooms, moreover, preparing material with SOCMED consumes a lot of time especially when you lack some skills and competences.

Next step was devoted to questions for technical details of SOCMED, (questions, clarification and explanation for designing, capacity of information, etc.)

Later the participants were presented Edmodo and Lineo Board online. Edmodo is created for the education and its community all around the world. Three groups, students, teachers and parents communicate on it, they can upload different material. The participants claim that Edmodo is easier to use than Moodle. And Lineo board online might be used as a whiteboard online for organizing classes. The participants practised with their tools, tried their possibilities. The trainer presented their possibilities and benefits and the participants tried to practice with them, found things which they could apply in their lessons individually. They presented their results of Edmono and Lineo to their partners, shared good practice ideas. Another tool is Prezi, which is considered to be a much better presentation tool than Powerpoint. This tool has lots of advantages such as prepared material can't be published or published only to a specific group, more information can be uploaded, several users can work on the same platform from different places or mobile tools.

Using SOCMED tools they practised and gained skills how to work on the tools, how to use SOCMED for teaching/learning. After the participants (teachers) experienced SOCMED tools they've understood the benefits of SOCMED and how it can help to organize more effective and attractive lessons.
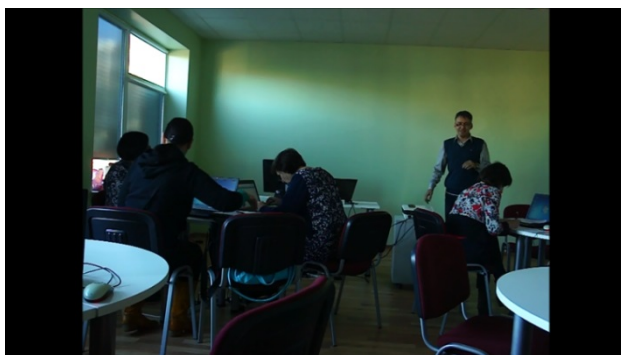
The participants claimed that SOCMED requires a little more knowledge and skills than they had already gained at the beginning but later they understood that it is not very complicated and you can learn everything easily, you don't need special IT skills and competences. They learnt that they can find any material and modify it to use in their classes. So they claimed that it was very useful not only to learn how to work on SOCMED but to know platforms which includes prepared material and you can use it legally. The teachers can accumulate the information and material, and use it for future lessons. In addition the information which we can find on social media channels make students discuss and develop their critical thinking, we can find current affair information on if we want to discuss with students about the events taking place in the world which is different from textbooks where you can't find current affairs.

All participants like working on Animoto, which seemed to be very attractive and all teachers wanted to try it and learn.

REFLECTIONS BY THE PARTICIPANTS

All participants claimed the trainings were very useful as they understand, teachers should change forms and methods of teaching/learning because another generation (Z or Google generation) comes to schools (Silva). It was very useful to broaden our outlooks about the possibilities of SOCMED for education. It will help to involve more students into interactive learning activities (Svetlana). The trainings were very useful as I created two virtual classes on Edmodo (Audronė). I learnt how to use SOCMED tools such as Prezi, Animoto in my Maths classes. SOCMED was very new to me, during the trainings I understood its benefits (Jurgita). I have learnt on which platforms I could search for material for my lessons (Rasa). I use SOCMED such as Facebook, but during the trainings I learnt more about other tools and how it can be applied in the classes (Jūratė). SOCMED and its tools make the learning more effective and attractive (Daiva, Ingrida, Aldona, Oksana). It consumes some time to prepare material on SOCMED or search for it but you can accumulate it and use for other groups (Laimutė, Ilma, Sandra). Most participants claimed that they improved their smart ICT 3.0 skills.

PARTICIPANTS CREATED DURING THE TRAININGS
https://animoto.com/play/S9Q6ioPSotsr1f1tSaiAEQ?autostart=1
https://animoto.com/play/HOnPWKv688DYEoayzxVtCg?autostart=1
https://animoto.com/play/476HdPZ3h0FAxIytCoBSmQ

IMAGES FROM THE SEMINAR
https://vimeo.com/149625208
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https://vimeo.com/152163669