



ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2019

Year 2019 in review

Number of beneficiaries in 2019:

- 28 children (25 families) in a kindergarten group;
- 26 children (18 families) in a day center group for school-children.

The year 2019 has been a historic year for Nendre that brought many changes and created a framework for new beginnings. In April 2019, a 20-year anniversary celebration was organized, including a conference at Vilnius City Municipality and the presentation of the anniversary report by dr. Jolanta Blazaitė. The report, published in Lithuanian and translated into English, summarizes the development of Nendre and the results of its activities, based on the personal stories of children and parents who have previously been a part of the Nendre community.

In connection to the 20-year anniversary, shareholders and supporters of Nendre, Emmaus Åland, launched an annual 500 euro award for people with connection to Nendre or project activities that follow the main principles of the Emmaus movement - respect for people and environment, sharing, openness, solidarity and welcoming. The first recipients of the award were announced in December 2019.

After two decades, the long-term cooperation partner and shareholder, the Åland Islands Peace Institute, which has provided Nendre with knowledge and inspiration for the development of its unique approach to social and pedagogical work, has been replaced by the Women's Issues Information Center. The mission of finding a local shareholder has therefore been accomplished after many years of discussing and searching. The Women's Issues Information Center is one of the leading organisations in promoting gender equality and preventing violence in Lithuania, which gives an opportunity for gaining new insights and discovering new opportunities for further development of Nendre's activities and services.

The year has also been marked by changes in the staff. Day center pedagogue Milda Zilikiene who has been one of the pillars of the staff team, retired in February after 14 years at Nendre. It has been a big challenge to find a replacement for her and for the speech therapist - the recruitment process has showed that these specialists are highly sought after.

In September 2019, Danute Mituziene, the soul and heart of Nendre since its establishment in 1998, handed over the leadership of organisation to Edita Koliataite, who has previously been working as a teacher and Deputy for Education at Nendre. Earlier in 2019, Edita gained a Master's Degree in Management of Education Technology at Mykolas Romeris University.

As a lead in the reorganisation processes, the bookkeeping services have been outsourced since autumn 2019 with the goal of making the financial management more efficient and up to date.

The changes in the administration and transition of leadership has not been an easy process in terms of finding a functional system and a new structure for the administrative routines and providing accurate reporting to different institutions. One example of administrative innovations is an introduction of a digital invoicing system for kindergarten services, which allows to keep a better track of debtors and to collect the fees more effectively.

Reconstruction of Giedraiciu street started in spring 2019 and continued throughout the year, causing some difficulties regarding the access to Nendre and delivery of food products, but providing an improved infrastructure and safety for children in the long-term.

Nendre was selected as one of the beneficiaries of the International Christmas Charity Bazaar 2018, organized by the International Women's Association of Vilnius in cooperation with the international community in Lithuania. Thanks to this support Nendre has been able to renew its heating system and install an air-to-water pump, which is a huge improvement in terms of working environment and air quality for everyone at Nendre.

One of the highlights in 2019 was a summer camp in Akmeniskes for 19 kindergarten and younger school-age kids. The week was filled with outdoor activities, hikes in the surroundings and evenings by the fire.

A number of Nendre community activities has helped to keep an open and inclusive spirit of Nendre that has stayed strong throughout the changes and challenges of the year.

Kindergarten activities & pre-primary education

Kindergarten activities in 2019:

5 children successfully completed pre-primary education at Nendre and entered primary school in autumn 2019. Two new groups were formed for the school year 2019-2020 – a pre-primary group consisting 6 children and a kindergarten group consisting of 16 children.

In 2019, kindergarten services were provided to families of Lithuanian, Russian, Polish and Kurdish background.

Experiential learning techniques have been applied in the education of kindergarteners. Children have been encouraged to explore the environment and develop their skills through different experiences, such as cooking, creating, cleaning, doing gardening etc.

Gender equality approach remained an integral part of all the activities for children and families. One of the most successful examples of challenging gender norms was an exhibition of norm-breaking photos of people, which children were reflecting on by themselves and with their teachers.

In September 2019, a short-term day care for children was introduced. Two families have taken use of this service, one family of Russian citizens temporary residing in Lithuania and a foster family that needs short-term kindergarten services.

Speech therapy consultations have been provided for 15 children. A speech therapist evaluated the language of all new kindergarteners in autumn 2019 and provided free-of-charge

consultations for children with speech disorders. Various visual and technological educational tools were used for engaging the children in the process and developing their active and passive vocabulary as well as improving their narrative language.

Day center for school children

Day center activities in 2019:

The day center activities have been marked by the change of staff. In January 2019, Milda Zilikiene retired from her position as a day center pedagogue. Since then, two people have been employed at the day center, but from October 2019 until the end of the year the day center was without a leader again.

The solution has been to provide assistance to school children in doing their homework and to include them in joint activities together with the children at kindergarten. It has proven to be a successful approach since smaller children were eager to learn new things together with the older ones and school children could boost their self-esteem while demonstrating their talents and teaching the younger ones.

Integrated activities also took place outdoors; the children went on roundtours in town, tried out yoga and took part in the summer camp in Akmeniskes together.

During the school holidays, the school children participated in a project “Feed me better!”, funded by Humana People to People Baltic, and had an opportunity to prepare healthy food using the ingredients provided by the Lithuanian farmers.

The children at the day center also received individual and group counselling by a psychologist.

Activities of the Nendre community

Community activities in 2019:

The Nendre community, including international volunteers working at Nendre, has participated in a number of community events, social campaigns, sightseeing tours and excursions throughout the year.

The community members took part in the spring and autumn Food bank campaign and collected food products donated by people at the local supermarket – a part of the groceries was kept at Nendre for preparing meals for children and the rest was distributed to families in need according to the name lists provided by the municipality. Every week on Tuesdays Nendre also received food products that expired the same day and were distributed to the families when they came to pick their children at the kindergarten.

In spring the Nendre community joined the annual spring clean-up campaign Darom in Snipiskes, and in autumn a garden-cleaning picknick was organized for families who helped to collect fallen autumn leaves and enjoyed an outdoor dinner afterwards.

Traditionally, parents and children were making cold soup “šaltibarščiai” in spring and grilling potatoes in Nendre’s yard during the harvest festival in autumn.

The Christmas celebration was built around the Advent Circle and focused on the common values that unite the Nendre community – a place and space for everyone and the richness of different personalities and experiences.

In December Nendre received a visit by the PR Agency "Socialiniai partneriai", which organizes exciting activities for children at Nendre every year before Christmas. This year children had an opportunity to make candle holders together with the ceramics artist Gintare Miskinyte.

Nendre also received a traditional visit from the Finnish Embassy in Vilnius. The ambassador of Finland to Lithuania Christer Michelsson and his wife brought Finnish delights and joined for an afternoon tea with children. They were also accompanied by a special guest from Finland, Julia Kuokkanen from the Central Union for Child Welfare, who discussed social innovations together with a director of Nendre Edita Koliataite.

The supporters of Nendre, Emmaus Åland, launched an annual 500 euro award in connection to Nendre’s 20-year anniversary. In 2019 the Ruksteliai family was awarded 100 euro for their active engagement in and contribution to the activities involving the whole Nendre community. 100 euro award went to Kipras Radvilavicius who joined the day center for school-children this year and has provided the kids with motivation of gaining new knowledge in inspiring and creative ways. The rest of the award will be used for a joint excursion with the aim of strengthening a sense of community and solidarity among families at Nendre.

Summer camp activities

Two summer camps were organized in 2019:

In August a family camp was organized in Akmeniskes. 19 children, 1 father, 1 pedagogue and 1 volunteer took part in the camp. Children went on daily hikes in the surroundings and made day-trips to the lake Vajuonis, Plains observation tower, traditional crafts center in Rieskutenai and birds observation tower in Zemaitiskes.

During the summer vacations 16 school-age children took part in a two-week camp organized in cooperation with the Lithuanian Scouting Kernave unit. The children had an opportunity to spend time outdoors, to explore the nature, to take part in various sports educational activities as well as to develop their social competences and discover their abilities through interaction and cooperation with other camp participants.

Nutrition of children

Nendre is a part of the Humana People to People Baltic Program "Eat wisely" with the focus on healthy nutrition and cooking skills of children and youth. At least ¾ of the food products are purchased from the local farmers, with the aim to address the challenges of fast food culture and growth of cheap and low-quality food consumption. Children at Nendre enjoy fresh dairy and meat products and the menu is planned in a way that minimizes food waste. In 2019, new cooperation agreements were signed with two poultry farms (chicken and turkey), one milk farm and one vegetable farm, which deliver their products to Nendre in the frame of the Humana project.

Every Tuesday the food products that expire the same day are collected from the Food bank and distributed to the families. The leftovers are given to the farmers for feeding their livestock.

In autumn 2019 the Nendre staff started making their own jams and canned stews using the fruit and vegetables collected from the Food bank.

Project activities

In 2019 Nendre was participating in the following programmes:

- A National Day Center Programme, funded by the Ministry for Social Affairs and Labour (quarterly reports and application for the programme period 2020-2021 were submitted).
- A Social Partnership Programme „Feed me better!”, funded by Humana People to People Baltic. The project enabled Nendre to purchase milk, poultry, fruit and vegetables from the local farmers for preparing meals for children.
- A summer camp project for children at the day center „I am a friend of nature“, funded by Vilnius Municipality.
- Nendre continued hosting European Solidarity Corps volunteers in cooperation with the Social Educational Initiatives Center PLUS and submitted documents for a renewed accreditation were submitted. During the period January-September, Nendre hosted one volunteer from Turkey and one from Bulgaria. Since October 2019, Nendre hosts one volunteer from Spain and one from Turkey.

Infrastructure of Nendre

Improvement of infrastructure in 2019:

- Minor maintenance and repair works have been carried out at Nendres premises and in Akmeniskes.
- An architect prepared all documentation for putting up a new fence around the territory of Nendre. The funding for the fence project was approved by the International Women's Association of Vilnius. However, one of the neighbors did not give her consent for the project. In stead, the funding was used for installing an air-to-water heating pump at Nendre.

- A new kitchen stove with oven and a kitchen hood have been purchased.
- A fridge, a washing machine, a freezer, various kitchenware and several pieces of furniture have been donated to Nendre.
- Water taps and toilets have been replaced with new ones.
- Reconstruction of the Giedraiciu str. was ongoing until the end of the year.
- An inspection of the state of Nendre's building was carried out in autumn 2019 by a professional property inspection company. The results of the inspection show that the building is in a critical condition since a number of damaged building components and safety issues have been identified.

Information and visibility

Activities for increasing visibility in 2019:

In February 2019, Nendre convoked a clients' survey in order to assess the impact of the Nendres' services since its establishment in 1998. The survey was conducted by a sociologist Ina Ronkaite who held deep interviews with former clients of Nendre and presented the results during during the 20-year anniversary conference at Vilnius municipality on April 25th. The survey results were also included in the anniversary publication by Dr. Jolanta Blazaite. The publication in Lithuanian was distributed to the conference participants and is available for downloading on Nendre's homepage www.nendre.org. The English version has been sent out electronically to Nendre's sponsors abroad.

A web-portal „Švietimo naujienos“ (*Education news*) published an article in connection to the 20-year anniversary of Nendre (<http://www.svietimonaujienos.lt/kelione-per-desimtmecius/>).

In May 2019 Nendre took part in an exhibition for social and educational organizations at Vilnius municipality and presented its activities.

In August 2019 a video with interviews of children at Nendre was produced in connection to the seminar „Happy Childhood in Nordic countries – when in Lithuania?“, arranged by the Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Lithuania during the discussion Festival BŪTENT! in Birštonas.

Director of Nendre Edita Koliataite shared the experiences of working with families at Nendre in the pannel of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Diversity Europe Group on the topic "New Role Models for Societies in Europe", organized by the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels on November 12, 2019.

Two articles were prepared for publication in a Lithuanian daily newspaper Lietuvos rytas in cooperation with the „Children's Fund“.

The number of FB followers has grown from 206 to 286 and the number of FB page likes increased from 205 to 283.

Management of organisation

Shareholders of Nendre in 2019:

Shareholders in the beginning of the year: Emmaus Åland (Finland) and the Åland Islands Peace Institute (Finland)

Shareholders at the end of the year: Emmaus Åland (Finland) and the Women's Issues Information Center (Lithuania)

The General Meeting of Stakeholders was organized on April 26th 2019.

Organisation management activities in 2019:

- 4 meetings of the Nendre community;
- 2 meetings of the Board of Nendre;
- 4 meetings of the Board of Teachers of Nendre;
- 2 meetings of the Childre Welfare Commission at Nendre.

Human resources

Human Resources in 2019:

Number of employees in the beginning of the year: 10

Number of employees at the end of the year: 7

- In January 2019, a day center pedagogue Milda Zilikiene retired after many years of working at Nendre.
- In the end of August 2019, Danute Mituziene left her position as a director of Nendre at her own request together with Danute Sakalauskiene who decided to quit as a bookkeeper at Nendre.
- On the 2nd of September Edita Koliataite was appointed as a new director by the shareholders of Nendre.
- The bookeeping services have been outsourced to the bookeeping company „Finansu biuras” since September 2019.
- In September 2019, the working time of kindergarten pedagogues at Nendre was reduced from 2 to 1,5 full time positions and a position as a Deputy for Education was temporarily suspended. Since October 2019 a position of day center pedagogue was not filled until the end of the year and the director Edita Koliataite was in charge of the day center activities during the recruitment period.
- Since September 2019, a new speech therapist Zita Levin has joined the Nendre team.

- 4 European Solidarity Corps volunteers were working at Nendre in 2019: 2 volunteers during the period January-August (from Bulgaria and Turkey) and 2 volunteers during the period October-December (from Turkey and Spain).
- On January 22nd Edita Koliataite took part in an introductory training „Life-long learning in the processes of refugee and migrant integration“.
- On February 19th Edita Koliataite took part in the training „Definition of a migrant and a refugee. Similarities and differences“.
- On March 7th Ausra Mituziene took part in a seminar „Identifying and educating children with special needs“.
- On March 18th Ausra Mituziene took part in a seminar „Helping shy, anxious and sad children“ .
- On March 28th Ausra Mituziene took part in a seminar „Outdoor spring activities for pre-school children“.
- On May 2-3 Edita Koliataite took part in the training on the Sustainable Development Goals, organized in Kaunas.
- On May 21st Edita Koliataite participated in a seminar „Creating a space free of stereotypes in education and professional orientation“.
- During the period 2019-01-04 until 2019-11-07, Edita Koliataite participated in a series of trainings for Family conference coordinators and received a certification of a coordinator.
- On November 25th Ausra Mituziene took part in an international conference „Inclusive education – the missing link“.

Cooperation with partners and sponsors

Cooperation with partners and sponsors in 2019:

- Cooperation with the Adam Mickiewicz’s Library continues in the framework of the project „Family days. Let’s spend time together at the library“.
- Cooperation agreement with Vilnius City Municipality remained in force throughout 2019. Nendre received a monthly fee refund (100 euro/month/child) for the education and care of kindergarten and pre-primary school children in non-governmental institutions in the city of Vilnius.
- Cooperation with private companies „Vaisiai Jums“ and „Zemaitijos Pienas“ continued in the

framework of the European Fruit and Milk consumption scheme for kindergartens and schools. Nendre received fruits and dairy products free of charge.

- In cooperation with Vilnius City Social Support Center, Nendre offered work to 2 workers in the employment programme that involves activities for public benefit.
- In December all children received skates donated by Humana.
- Cooperation possibilities were discussed with the traditional arts center in Rieskutenai and with the Open Lithuania Foundation's Children's Fund.
- The cooperation agreement with the Social Educational Initiatives Centre PLUS regarding hosting services of European Solidarity Corps Volunteers was renewed.
- A cooperation agreement was signed with the local branch of AIESEC in Vilnius for hosting two volunteers in March 2020.
- A cooperation agreement was signed with „Maisons familiales rurales federation regionale nouvelle-aquitaine“ (France), for hosting two volunteers-interns from France in spring 2020.
- New cooperation agreements were signed with two poultry farms (turkey and chicken), a dairy farm and a vegetable farm.
- Nendre has continued an active participation in the inter-institutional network of organisations in Snipiskes, NGO Confederation for Children, Association of Non-governmental Pre-school Education Institutions, Association of Day Centers, European Anti-Poverty Network Lithuania and Association for NGOs in the field of Education.
- Nendre has kept a close cooperation with Vilnius municipality, Ministry for Social Security and Labour, Child Rights Protection Service of Vilnius, Snipiskes district administration, International Women's Association of Vilnius, Vilnius 1st Police Station, Public Institution „Social partners“ and the Center for Equality Advancement.