



Activity Report for 2020

Year 2020 in review

Number of beneficiaries in 2020:

- 26 children (23 families) in a kindergarten group
- 20 children (16 families) in a day center group for school-children

The year has been full of challenges. We started the year with limited human resources, but we proved that even in difficult circumstances we can work together as one team. In the spring, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a closure of the kindergarten and the day center. In this situation, we had to find new ways of continuing our activities – partly by transferring education to the virtual space and partly by preparing different tasks and exercises and delivering them home to children. Many parents lost their jobs or a part of their income. Opportunity to get food supplies from Nendre, provided by the Food Bank, has been a significant support to the families during this difficult period. In March, a Deputy for Education, Alina, joined the team and helped to make sure that educational and social services to families were provided smoothly throughout the quarantine period.

Vilnius City Municipality, Ministry of Social Security and Labour and Confederation of NGOs for Children are just a few institutions, which have contributed to the continuity of services during the quarantine. Their financial support and supply of disinfection materials have allowed us to continue providing safe and quality services.

One of the most important projects of the year has been the implementation of a quality standard at Nendre. This project is coordinated by Nendre's long-term partners – the National Poverty Reduction Network, which has developed a methodology for implementing the standard. In connection to the implementation of the standard, Nendre has updated institution's documentation, its operating principles and impact assessment methodology for the provided services. Without Alina and Justina it would not have happened, so I say a big THANK YOU!

As the pandemic goes on, we continue facing challenges of working in a hybrid – direct and remote – mode. We say that we have become stronger despite that and learned to react and take over the functions of a colleague in a speed of light in critical situations.

My thanks go to Alina, Justina, Agnė, Aušra, Renata, Marina, Zita, Dalia, Teresa and Viktorija.

Edita, director of Nendre

2021-03-27

Kindergarten activities & pre-primary education

6 children successfully completed pre-primary education at Nendre and entered primary schools in autumn 2020. Two new groups were formed for the school year 2020-2021 – a pre-primary group consisting of 3 children and a kindergarten group consisting of 17 children.

In 2020, kindergarten services were provided to families of Lithuanian, Russian, Polish and Kurdish background.

Due to the pandemic, the kindergarten was closed between March 13 and May 18. A part of the education activities were then transferred to online communication and learning platforms. Consultations to parents regarding children's education and other relevant issues were provided remotely on a daily basis.

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 has remained an integral part of all the activities for children and families.

In 2020, short-term day care was provided to two families, one family on a visit to Lithuania from the USA and one family from Brussels who needed day care during the summer period.

Speech therapy consultations were provided for 12 children. A speech therapist evaluated the language of all new kindergarteners in autumn 2020 and provided free-of-charge consultations for children with speech disorders. Various visual and technological tools were used for engaging the children and developing their active and passive vocabulary as well as improving their narrative language.

Day center for school children

Since the breakout of Covid-19, communication with families and day center children took place remotely, with exception for the summer camps. During regular Zoom meetings we shared activity ideas for families and sent them relevant links. Parents were also given the opportunity to borrow board games and books from Nendre. We also provided stationery and other supplies needed for children to do their homework and printed the materials for remote schooling. Regular surveys were conducted in order to identify the main needs of families regarding their demand of services and support.

Activities of the Nendre community

In September, we participated in the community event "Autumn in Snipiskes", where we baked potatoes for the participants of the event and presented the activities of Nendre.

Traditional community events took place during the year as well as a barbecue evening in the summer together with DHL Express Lietuva, which organized a barbecue afternoon and prepared burgers, vegetables and desserts on the grill for the Nendre community.

Summer camp activities

3 summer camps were organized in 2020:

In July a two-week summer camp „Thunder of Nendre“ was organized in cooperation with the Lithuanian army. The programme included sightseeing tours in Vilnius and visits to museums and other places of interest. 25 children participated in the camp.

In August a joint camp for kindergarten and school children was organized in Akmeniskes. 19 children and 3 pedagogues took part in the camp. Children went on daily hikes in the surroundings and made daytrips to the lake Vajuonis, Plains' observation tower and took part in 4 educational workshops at the traditional crafts center in Rieskutenai.

In October an autumn camp "Traveler's Valley" took place and was attended by 18 children (duration 2 weeks). During the camp, children and their families visited different educational trails and took part in other outdoor activities.

Nutrition of children

Since September 2020 all children of pre-primary group receive free-of-charge lunch. Food expenses for this group are compensated to Nendre by Vilnius municipality.

In 2020, much attention was paid to supporting families with food. Regular surveys were made to assess the need for food packages, which were distributed to families on a weekly basis. The leftovers of Food bank were given to farmers for feeding their livestock.

Nendre continued taking part in the national fruit programme for kindergartens.

Project activities

In 2020 Nendre took part in the following programmes:

National Day Center Programme, funded by the Ministry for Social Affairs and Labour (Application was submitted and funding was granted for the period 2020-2021.

Nendre has continued hosting European Solidarity Corps volunteers in cooperation with the Social Educational Initiatives Center PLUS and submitted documents for the European Solidarity Corps Quality Label, which certifies that an organization taking part in the Corps is able to provide the necessary conditions for young people to take part in solidarity activities. The Quality Label was granted to Nendre in autumn 2020.

Application for funding within the Social Partnership Programme „Feed me better!“, coordinated by Humana People to People Baltic, was submitted. The project could not be implemented due to the pandemic.

In 2020 Nendre joined the project PARENT, implemented by the Center for Gender Equality Advancement in cooperation with the partners from Portugal, Italy and Austria. The project was aimed at engaging men in co-responsible parenting and caregiving and at preventing domestic and intra-family gender-based violence. In March, one workshop was organized for parents and educators at Nendre on the topic of the impact of gender stereotypes on the development of children. Due to the quarantine, the series of workshops could not continue, but Nendre has been involved in an awareness-raising campaign and posting information leaflets on Facebook covering such topics as recognizing and managing emotions, the connection between men's involvement in the parental role and partner relationship quality and the effects of building a strong bond between fathers and children.

Infrastructure of Nendre

Improvement of infrastructure in 2020:

- Water taps and toilets have been replaced with new ones.
- Reconstruction of Giedraiciu street has been completed and a sign to „Kindergarten and day center Nendre“ has been set up.

Information and visibility

- European Solidarity Corps volunteers have written a blog about their volunteering experiences https://seievs.wordpress.com/2020/06/08/merhaba-yeni-normal-umay/?fbclid=IwAR2MPJ1IFFPyOIYHPj_R88qcDG5rkc1_BoONFQ_eR7BDm8-0Uk8qPils4hU.
- Nendre has participated in the social initiative „I have been good this year“, run by the online news portal www.15min.lt, which presented Nendre's activities.
- In June a newsletter in English was sent out to Nendre's community members and supporters abroad <https://preview.mailerlite.com/v2b9g8>
- The number of followers of Nendre's Facebook page has increased from 288 to 372.

Management of organization

Shareholders of Nendre in the beginning and in the end of 2020:

Emmaus Åland (Finland) and the Women's Issues Information Center (Lithuania)

The General Meeting of Shareholders was organized on April 30, 2020.

The main achievement in the area of organization management was the implementation of the quality standard in cooperation with the National Poverty Reduction Network. The standard will ensure a continuous culture of development of the organization.

Human resources

Number of employees in the beginning of the year: 4

Number of employees in the end of the year: 8

In March, social worker Alina Juralovič joined the Nendre team.

In August, a new kindergarten teacher Renata started joined the team. Renata is a last year student of choral conducting and pedagogy at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. Before joining Nendre, Renata has been working as a Music and Lithuanian language teacher at the Lithuanian School in Alicante (Spain).

In September a day center leader Viktorija started working at the day center. She also is conducting arts workshops for kindergarten children.

2 European Solidarity Corps volunteers have been working at Nendre, one from Hungary and one from Ukraine.

Cooperation with partners and sponsors

- Support with Covid-19 protection material and supplies was provided by Vilnius City Municipality and Confederation of NGOs for Children.
- Cooperation agreement was signed with the National Network of Educational NGOs and Nendre joined as a member. The Network is an umbrella bringing together a number of NGOs working in the area of education ranging from non-formal children and adult education to general and higher education. Their aim is to empower member organizations to become stronger civil society actors by offering training, advisory services and opportunities for networking and cooperation.
- New hallway closets for kindergarten children were purchased and set up with support from the donations of 1,2% of income tax.
- DHL Express Lithuania provided sponsorship for the community excursion to the „Birds’ village“.
- Company „Arbora“ donated 8 fruit trees to Nendre. 7 of them were planted in Akmeniskes and 1 at Nendre.
- An agreement was signed with the legal services company Fondia Lithuania, which has selected Nendre as its pro bono partner in the framework of Fondia’s corporate social responsibility actions and pro bono program. Fondia undertakes to conduct 20 hours of legal consulting without compensation during 2021 according to the needs and request of Nendre.
- Possible cooperation has been discussed with GO Vilnius regarding education and social services to to Belarusian families coming to Lithuania via the „humanitarian corridor“.

- Cooperation agreement with Vilnius City Municipality remained in force throughout 2020. Nendre received a monthly fee refund (100 euro/month/child), provided for 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“ in the framework of the European Fruit consumption scheme for kindergartens and schools. Nendre received fruits products free of charge.

- Nendre has continued an active participation in the inter-institutional network of organizations in Snipiskes, NGO Confederation for Children, Association of Non-governmental Pre-school Education Institutions and the National Poverty Reduction Network.

- Nendre has continued 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.

- An application was submitted to the State Enterprise Turto bankas for a temporary reduction of the rental fee due to the pandemic. The application was approved.

- Two applications were submitted to the Department of Supervision of Social Services under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. One of them was been approved and Nendre could buy necessary disinfection supplies and pay additional salary to three employees exposed to higher risk working conditions due to Covid-19. This support also enabled the purchase of ICT tools to ensure a smooth distance education for both kindergarten and day center children.

- Two employees have completed a training on occupational safety and fire safety.

- Cooperation agreement with „Save the Children Aland“ (Finland) was signed regarding provision of training services for girl and boy group leaders in Kelme as well as coordination of group activities.

- An agreement was signed regarding emergency response and localization services with the municipal company Grinda, which provides infrastructure maintenance services.

- Emmaus Åland scholarship was paid to the following recipients:

Kipras Radvilavičius (9 years) – 100 EUR for organizing activities for kindergarten group and creation of educational short films

Family of Vytautas ir Justina Rukštelės – 100 EUR for active participation in community events and organizing of educational activities for children

Pijus Mituzas (13 years) – 100 EUR for assistance in connection to summer camp activities

Rusnė Kaminskaitė (15 years) – 100 EUR for assistance in connection to summer camp activities

Kamilė Pakutinskaitė (15 years) – 100 EUR for assistance in connection to summer camp activities