

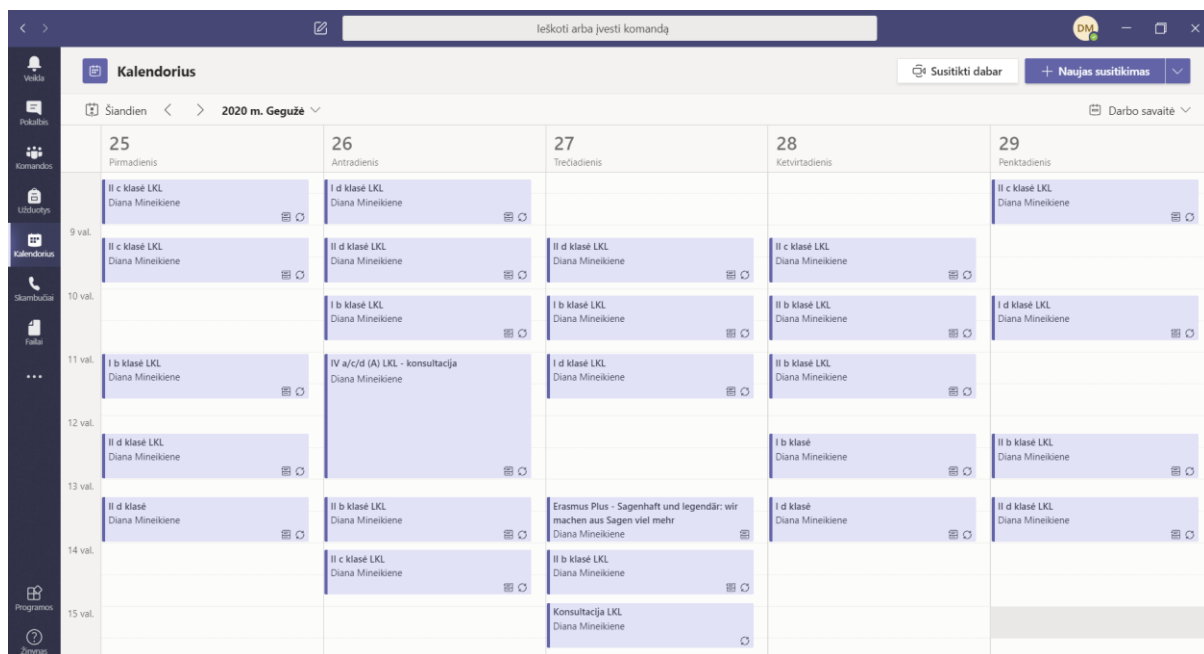
Klaipėdos „Aitvaro“ gimnazija
Natalija Domnenko, German language teacher
Diana Mineikienė, Lithuanian language teacher

STRONG BECAUSE ORGANIZE

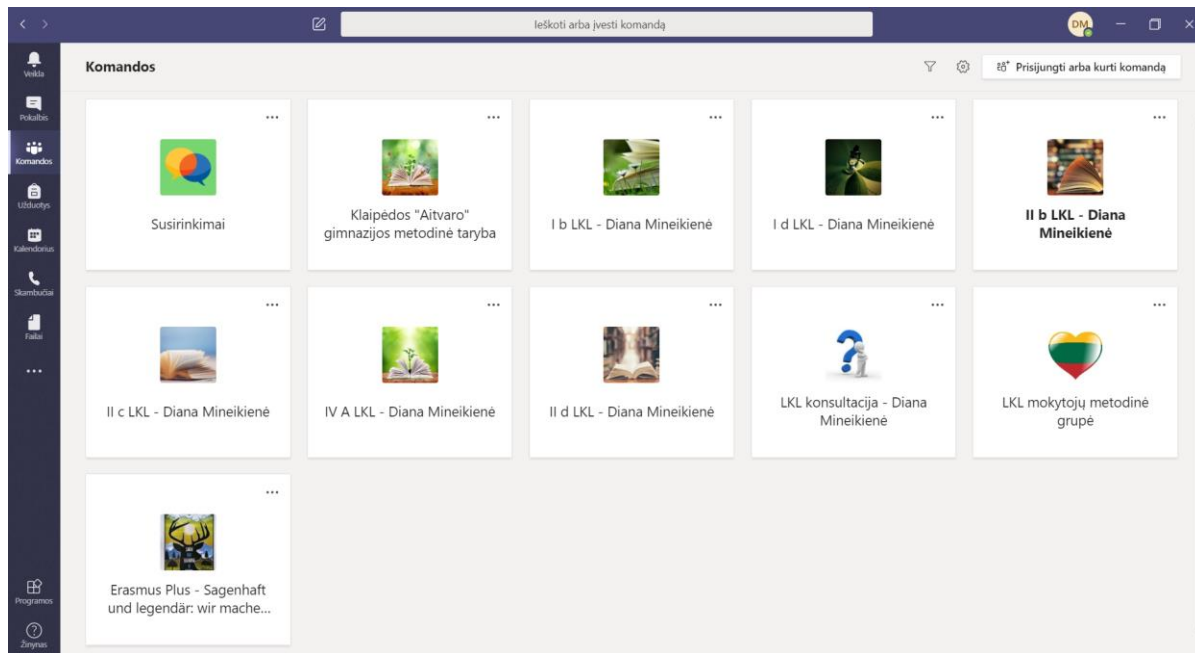
The word "strong" has many meanings: having physical and spiritual strength, persistent, expressive, intense. But there are other values: well-organized, powerful, resistant to external forces, durable, concentrated. The last values are more relevant than ever during this hard time of the global pandemic. After all, instability is the hallmark of modern world, so it is more important than ever to organize, concentrate efforts to ensure that the actions initiated are carried out, that their continuity is ensured. At least at the moment the future is very vague, everyone is tormented by the unknown, everyone is waiting for the end of this period and the revival of the normal rhythm of life. On the other hand, a person constantly faces various obstacles and understands that life is not standing still - it continues and the implementation of cases initiated earlier continues too.

In the event of an emergency, the entire educational community is looking for the best tool for distance learning. Various platforms were tested: Zoom, Dropbox, Discard, Google tools, eTwinning platform and so on. So it happened that our gymnasium had acquired Microsoft Office before the pandemic. It made our lives very much easier during this extraordinary period and became our "B" plan. We were able to concentrate our efforts and master the opportunities offered by the program, especially the Microsoft Teams platform. It is a convenient developer platform for organizing team work: calendar for activity planning, chat rooms, video and audio calls, action notebooks, material bank and software package in common space, cloud, ability to create and delegate tasks, plan actions, reviews. Working in one environment helped us to focus and follow the planned path. There was a lot to learn (sometimes emergencies also bring joy from knowing a new one). But step by step a new project was born - distance learning on the platform Microsoft Teams. What inspires us?

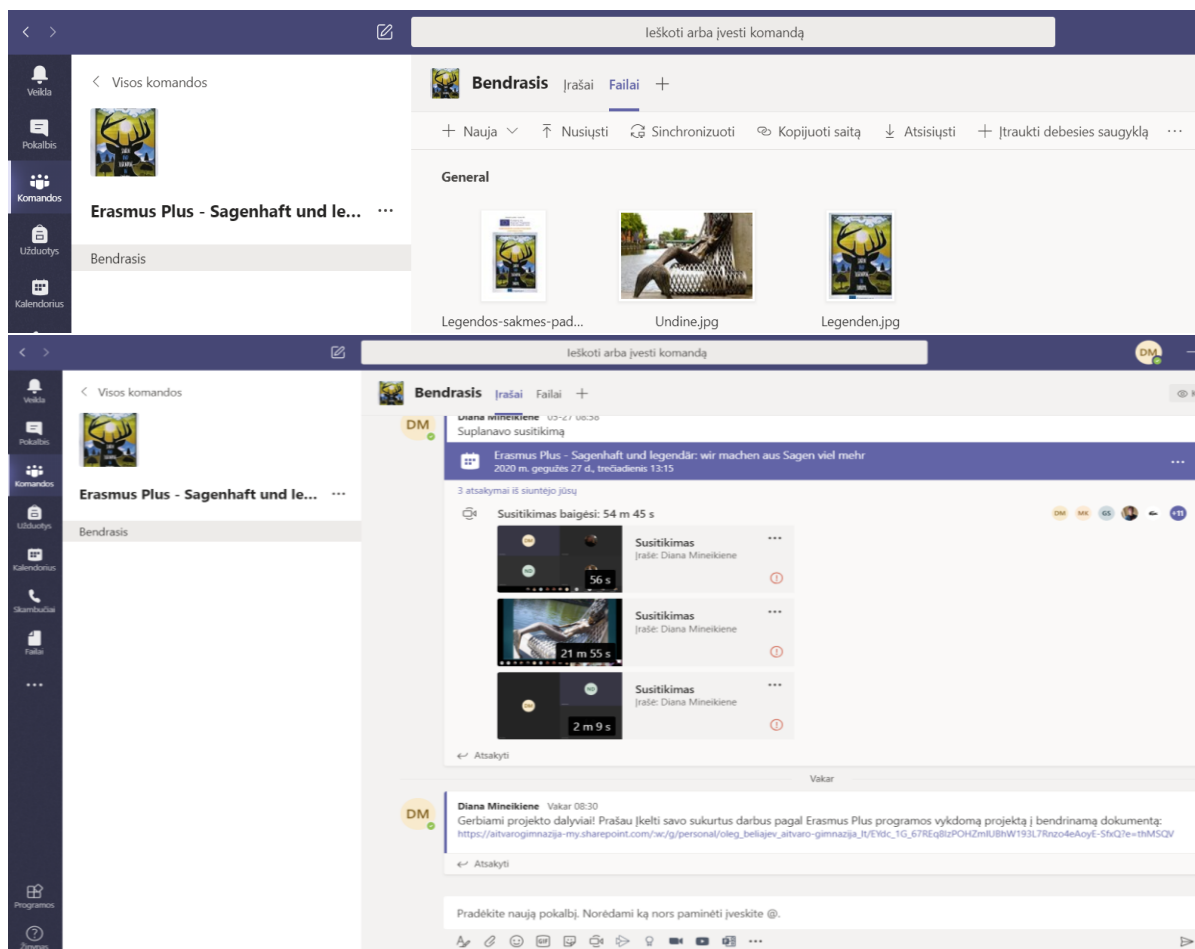
Opportunity to plan lessons and extracurricular activities:



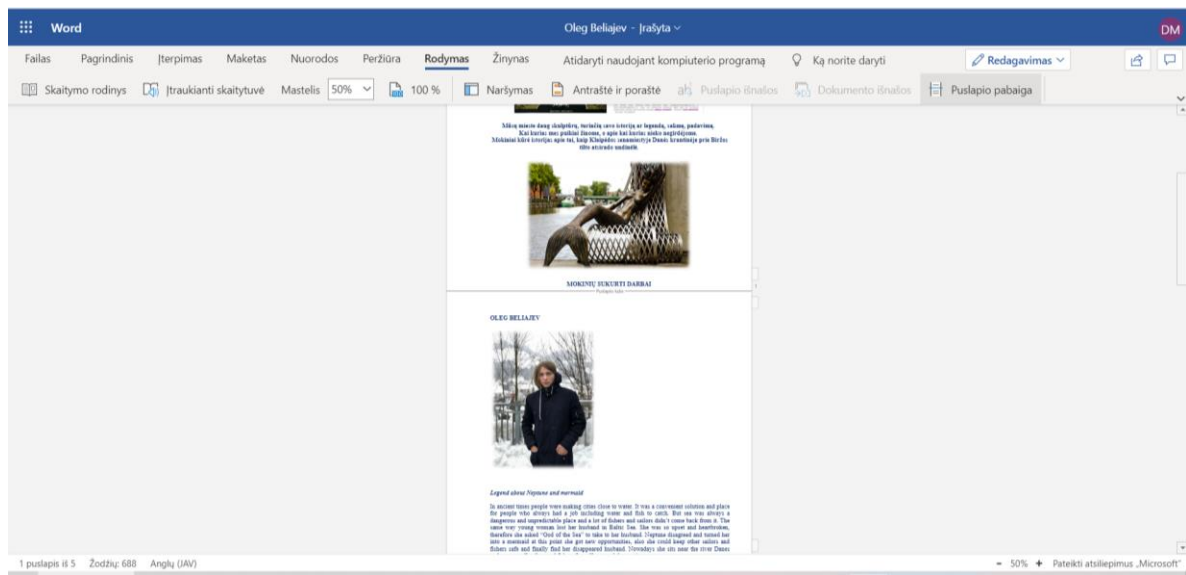
The possibilities of creating different teams in the school community:



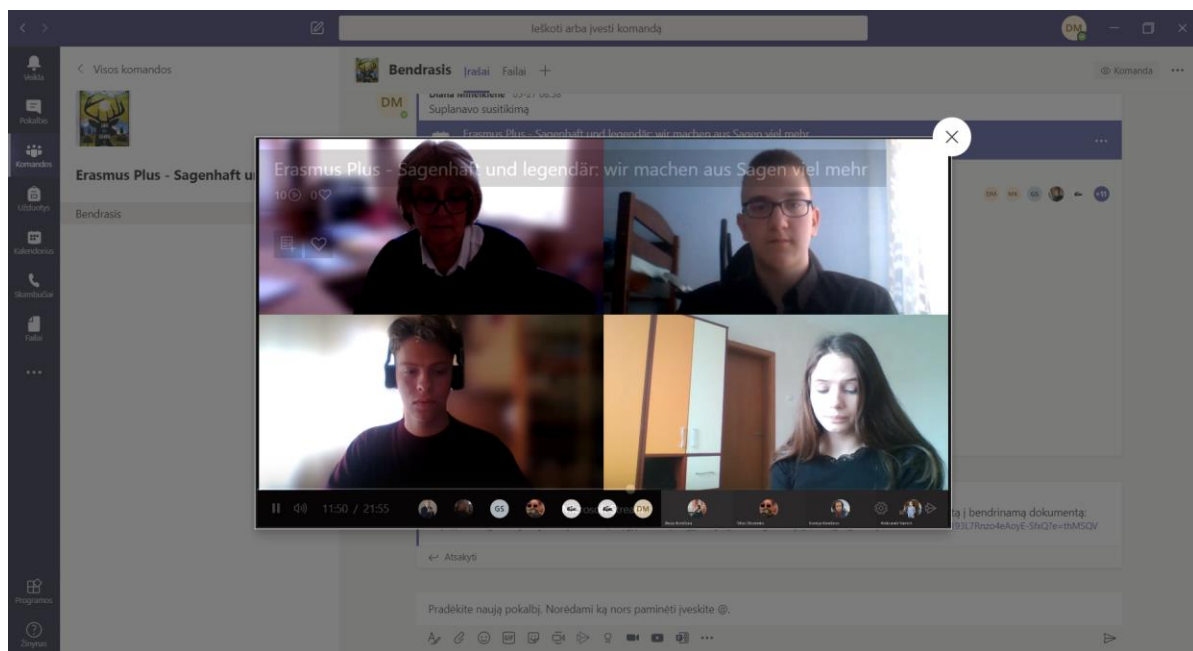
The opportunity to work not only according to the curriculum, but also to organize Erasmus + events.



The ability to work in one space, exchanging documents, where everyone with access can edit information, download necessary materials, make proposals.



The ability to provide audio tasks, to record meetings.



Despite the useful role of IT tools, they will hardly replace "live" communication, which gives everyone more joy. Ultimately, distance communication is tedious: even young people don't want to be completely "digitized," they need more communication without IT technology too.

We feel tired, but at the same time we feel satisfied because we have been able to find the right tools at the right time and the ability to focus on common goals. We hope that international projects will resume their activities in 2020 and continue in the traditional way, although tomorrow will never be the same as it was yesterday: we will have a lot of new experience, we will return to activities in a little bit different way because we have discovered new opportunities. We would like to use IT technologies as a convenient tool but not as the main one.

We have a lot to do. Unfortunately, the first project meeting of the Erasmus + project "European Myths and Legends" / „Sagen und Legenden in Europa” did not take place in Lithuania. During the quarantine,

communication with partners continued with the help of the WhatsApp, the eTwinning platform. Some meetings were arranged through the Google Meet platform. Really different possibilities were used.

Meetings with the project participants of our gymnasium were organized on the platform Microsoft Teams where the distance learning takes place. The project participants presented their composed short stories about one of the last public sculptures in our city. As always, our students did not disappoint us, but surprised us with their creativity and willingness to participate in the project.

The statue of Mermaid

Every city has statues and memorials. And the Klaipėda isn't an exception. At the old town you can find many historical statues and all of them have legends. One them is the mermaid statue which is located near the Biržos Bridge.

So as the legend says, many years ago, when the Klaipėda hasn't been established yet, at the Curonian lagoon have been living mermaids. They were very gorgeous creatures, mixture of a human and a fish. Mermaids have been living in peace, but one day people have arrived to the shore of the Lithuania. They have created here a city called Memel (old name of the Klaipėda). Since all the mermaids were female, their attention was attracted by the fact that there were men among the people. Mermaids wanted to communicate with people, but sun was very dangerous to those creatures. But once, a young unaware mermaid decided to float to the world above the water. She was shocked by the beauty of the Memel, but after a few moments, she was turned to the stone. And since this moment her statue was added to the collection of our city.



VITAS ELISEENKO



Of course, remote working brings its fair share of challenges: interruptions in communication; pupils during the recording of the meeting can walk or lie down, although they are informed that they are being recorded. But this does not prevent the achievement of results. Distance learning is still unusual for both teachers and students.

There is still more than a calendar year left until the end of the current project. We have not had any serious problems yet, and we hope to carry out all planned events. The teacher team has many years of experience, and the project partners are ready to agree on a new plan of meetings, although it is always not easy to do so. We feel strong with Erasmus + and distance learning platforms!

We have learned different educational online platforms and tools in recent months and hope that tested IT tools will facilitate our communication and cooperation after the pandemic, diversify our life, but digitalization should not change natural human relationships.

