European Expert Group Meeting
“Confronting family poverty and social exclusion; ensuring work-family balance; advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity in Europe”

Convened as part of preparations for the Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014 (Cfr. Report of the Secretary-General, Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014, A/67/61-E/2012/3)

6-8 June 2011
8. IFFD Courses

Official name of the Organization
Šeimų Universitetas (Families University).

Website of the Organization
http://www.seimu.lt/.

Name of the practice
IFFD Programmes.

Aim of the practice
IFFD courses for parents are designed to suit the different stages of child development. All courses are structured on the participant-based case study method and use cases involving real situations. Cases are first analyzed by small teams formed by few couples, and then discussed in larger groups at general sessions moderated by experts in Family Development.

Target group of the practice
Our mission is to help families around the world to build stronger and happier relationships, through strengthening the role of faters and mothers when they attend our courses.

Name of the person who will make the presentation
Paulius Gebrauskas.

Position in the Organization
Director.
Family university

Paulius Gebrauskas, Director

June 7, 2012
Reality – not happy children

Big divorce rate
Low communication
Busy

Physical punishment
Adolescence violence
Population decrease
We believe....

• New generation must grow creative and self confident. Strong and happy families can give CREATIVE and SELF CONFIDENCE persons.

• Happy and educated persons are FUTURE OF LITHUANIA.
Family is the most important place for child education
“Family university” is a national self educating program: started in 2010!
“Family university” success – in the hands of parents.
What is “Family university”? 
Essence -

children upbringing via intensive relations between wife and husband
40 years of experience, in 5 continents of the world
Participants – 100% volunteers!

Speacially trained leaders of “Family university”

Most active participating families

Families participating in “Family university” programs

COORDINATORS

MODERATORS

FAMILIES

ŠEIMŲ UNIVERSITETAS
Currently 5 programs:

- “First steps” (up to 4 years)
- “First letters” (4-8 years)
- “First decisions” (8-10 years)
- “Pre-adolescence” (10-13 years)
- “Adolescence” (13-16 years)
“Here everybody is **DOING THERE OWN CONCLUSIONS**, learning from other experiences and can decide what to take to their family.”

“Family enrichment course was unbelievable. Like many years ago we **RE-DISCOVERED THE FUN OF FAMILY LIFE** and we enjoy it now every single day. It is something indescribable, as nobody teaches us, but family life is improving.”

”From each meeting I leave with a list of **SMALL, BUT VERY PRECISE POINTS**, which I want to implement in my family.”
Why are parents relations so important?
Research

• Ankstesni tyrimai buvo orientuoti į moterų padėtį šeimoje, šeimų ekonominę padėtį bei poros tarpusavio santykius, tačiau į tyrimus nebuvo įtraukiami vaikai.

• Poros tarpusavio santykių ir palyginamasis Europos vertybių tyrimai atskleidė poros tarpusavio bendravimo svarbą ir stoką.

Tėvų ir vaikų santykių tyrome anoniminės apklausos metu buvo apklaussta 500 Lietuvos gyventojų (iš jų 57% moterų ir 43% vyrų), kurie turi vaikų iki 16 metų amžiaus.
Low communication culture between husband and wife decreases relations between children and parents.
Man and woman do not participate in family life equally.

Women take too much responsibility in family life, which de-motivates men to participate more.
Why “Family university”? 
• 100 % based on motivation of society members – participants and moderators.

• Learning process is very natural.

• It fosters to develop equal and intensive relations in family life.

• No “golden pills” – method encourages families to discuss, learn from each other, develop.

• Parents get pedagogical skills in children education.
Let’s inspire parents to inspire children!

Web page:  www.seimu.lt