### CHALLENGES IN TEACHERS' WORK IN FACILITATING THE LEARNING OF THE LATVIAN LANGUAGE DURING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

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NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM "LETONIKA LATVISKAS UN EIROPEISKAS SABIEDRĪBAS ATTĪSTĪBAI" PROJECT NR. VPP-LETONIKA-2022/1-0001 MŪSDIENU LATVIEŠU VALODAS EIETOJUMS UN ATTĪSTĪBA

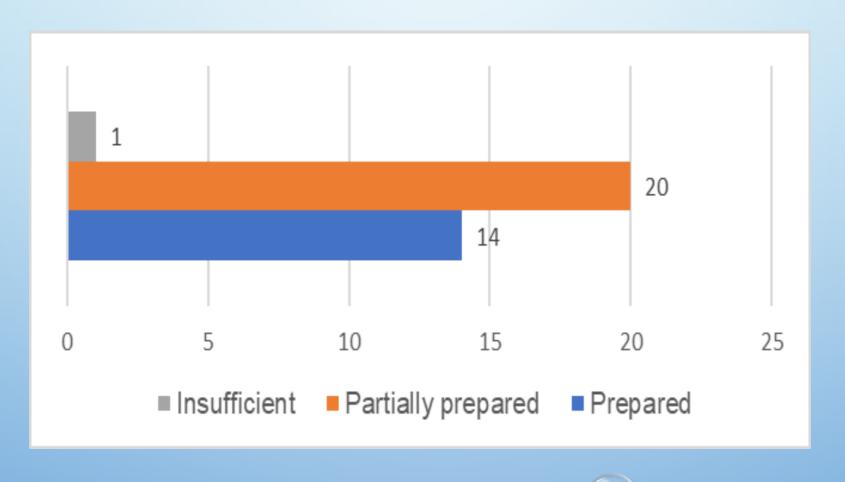
AIM: TO INVESTIGATE THE FORMS OF TEACHERS' WORK IN FACILITATING THE LEARNING OF THE LATVIAN LANGUAGE BY PRE-SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN DURING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**: THEORETICAL ANALYSIS. EMPIRICAL STUDY METHODS: PARENTS' AND TEACHERS' SURVEYS, INTERVIEWS WITH TEACHERS-SPEECH THERAPIST

**TEACHERS**: 35 TEACHERS TOOK PART, WHO WORK BOTH IN THE LATVIAN-LANGUAGE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME AND IN THE MINORITY PROGRAMME GROUPS. THE MOST REPRESENTED GROUP WAS TEACHERS AGED 50+ (34% OF ALL RESPONDENTS), FOLLOWED BY RESPONDENTS AGED 41-50 AT 26% AND PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS AGED 31-40 AT 23%. THE SMALLEST GROUP OF RESPONDENTS WAS AGED 20-30 (17%).

THIS DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS IS IN LINE WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION IN PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION IN LATVIA, WHERE YOUNGER PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE UNDER-REPRESENTED, ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF JOB VACANCIES IS INCREASING EVERY YEAR AND THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES IN ENSURING THE CONTINUITY OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION, BUT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED IN TEACHING DUE TO THE LOW PAY AND COMPLEXITY OF THE TEACHING JOB

### CHILDREN READINESS FOR PRIMARY EDUCATION IN LATVIAN LANGUAGE





#### **PARENTS SURVEY:**

THE STUDY INVOLVED 111 PARENTS WHO RESPONDED ABOUT THEIR DISTANCE LEARNING EXPERIENCE AND COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

### "WHICH ISSUES SHOULD BE URGENTLY ADDRESSED IN THIS PARTICULAR PRE-SCHOOL IN ORDER TO CONTINUE WORKING IN A PANDEMIC?"

 IT IS NECESSARY TO PAY EXTRA FOR THE WORK OF TEACHERS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING, BECAUSE THERE ARE CHILDREN IN THE GROUP WHO ATTEND IN PERSON AND THERE ARE CHILDREN WHO DO NOT ATTEND DUE TO QUARANTINE OR AN EMERGENCY SITUATION

TEACHERS HAVE DOUBLE THE WORKLOAD. SALARY INCREASE IS NEEDED.
 MANY PEOPLE ARE PREPARING TO QUIT THIS JOB BECAUSE THEY CANNOT SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES

# "HOW TO GET NEW TEACHERS TO APPLY FOR VACANT POSTS? HOW TO PREVENT TEACHER BURNOUT BY REPLACING VACANT TEACHING POSTS FOR LONG PERIODS?"

 GOOD ORGANISATION OF WORK IS NECESSARY IN ADAPTING TO PANDEMIC CONDITIONS

## "HOW OFTEN DO YOU RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING ACHIEVEMENTS?"

 WE TALK TO EDUCATORS ALMOST EVERY DAY ABOUT HOW THE CHILD IS DOING

WHEN I INQUIRE WITH THE EDUCATOR, I GET AN ANSWER

 WHENEVER I ASK, THERE IS ALWAYS AN ANSWER. THERE IS CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE TEACHERS

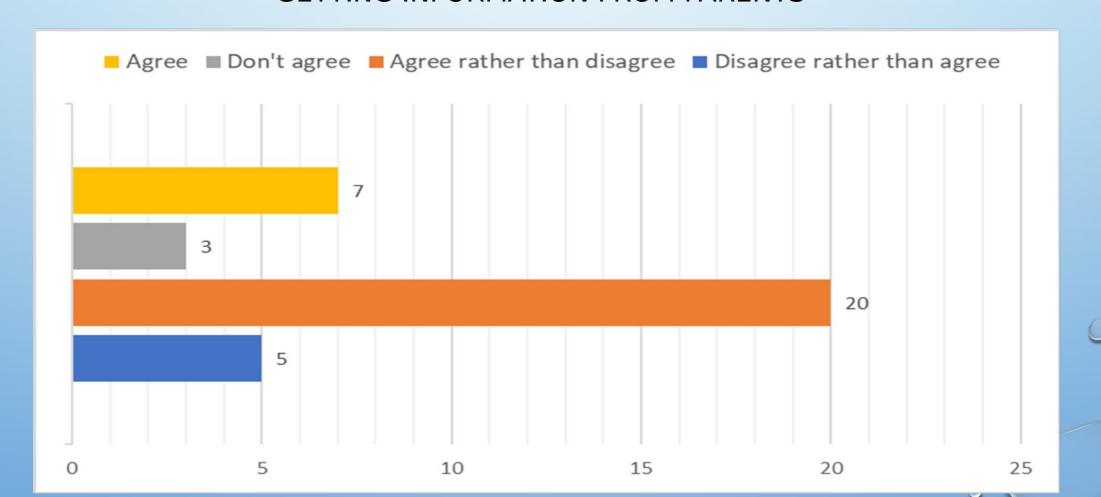
# "HOW OFTEN DO YOU RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION WITHIN THE FAMILY?"

 ALMOST EVERY EVENING, WHEN WE COME TO PICK UP OUR CHILD, WE DISCUSS HOW THINGS ARE GOING AND WHAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED

 NOTHING MUCH HAS BEEN DISCUSSED YET, BECAUSE WHEN THE CHILD STARTED KINDERGARTEN, THERE WAS NO PERMANENT TEACHER, SO THE TEACHERS CHANGED, AND THE CHILD WAS PERIODICALLY ILL

### TEACHER'S SURVEY ( N=35) REFLECTS CHALLENGES IN DISTANCE LEARNING

#### **GETTING INFORMATION FROM PARENTS**



### CHALLENGES IN DISTANCE LEARNING

 STRESS THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

 DURING THE HOME QUARANTINE THE CHILDREN FORGOT WHAT THEY HAD LEARNT, BECAUSE THE SKILLS WERE NOT CONSOLIDATED THROUGH USE

### **CONCLUSIONS**

- THE DESCRIPTION OF THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE PROCESS OF SUMMARIZING THE POSITIVE EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE EXPERIENCE OF COPING WITH IT IN PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN LATVIA
- MORE ACTIVE USE WAS MADE OF MATERIALS THAT WERE ALREADY AVAILABLE, OR THEY WERE ADAPTED AND VARIED, FOR EXAMPLE, BY TRANSLATING THEM FROM OTHER LANGUAGES
- MORE ACTIVE USE WAS MADE OF COMPUTER PROGRAMMES, WEBSITES AND COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS, AS WELL AS OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS OF COMMUNICATION THAT HELPED TO CONTINUE THE LEARNING PROCESS AND COOPERATION WITH PARENTS



### **CONCLUSIONS**

- WORKING REMOTELY WITH CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS DURING THE COVID-19
  PANDEMIC WAS ALSO A POSITIVE, MUTUALLY ENRICHING EXPERIENCE. SEVERAL
  EXAMPLES OF CO-OPERATION WERE EXCELLENT; THE PANDEMIC REINFORCED
  PARENTS' POSITIVE PERCEPTIONS OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE WORK OF TEACHERS
  AND FUNCTIONAL SPECIALISTS
- THE CURRENT SITUATION IN PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION IN LATVIA IS THAT YOUNGER PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE UNDER-REPRESENTED, ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF JOB VACANCIES IS INCREASING EVERY YEAR BECAUSE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED IN TEACHING DUE TO THE LOW PAY AND COMPLEXITY OF THE TEACHING JOB



### **CONCLUSIONS**

- TEACHERS IN PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS SURVEYED RATED THE CURRENT SCHOOL READINESS OF CHILDREN AS PARTIAL, AND THE PERFORMANCE OF THE GROUP ATTENDED BY MINORITY ETHNIC CHILDREN ONLY WAS RATED AS UNSATISFACTORY
- A DISPERSION IN THE RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT IN THE AREA OF DIALOGUE SPEECH AND PRONUNCIATION OF LATVIAN SOUNDS, WHICH ENCOURAGES EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO INTENSIFY THEIR WORK WITH CHILDREN WITH WEAKER LANGUAGE SKILLS IN THE FOUR MONTHS LEADING UP TO THE START OF SCHOOL (TEACHERS AND HEADS OF INSTITUTIONS ARE ALSO INFORMED OF THE RESULTS), PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO GROUPS OF MINORITY CHILDREN WITH RUSSIAN AS THEIR EVERYDAY LANGUAGE



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!