Call for proposals

International conference

Bringing Creativity and Thinking Skills into Educational Process

14-15 September, Riga, Latvia

Overview of important dates:

30 April 2012	Submission of abstracts
1 June 2012	Notification of acceptance
10 June 2012	Deadline for early bird registration
30 July 2012	Final deadline for presenter registration
14-15 September 2012	Conference

1. Conference theme

This conference provides opportunities to discuss the latest achievements in bringing creativity and thinking skills into the educational process. The conference will have a practical focus and the applicants are strongly encouraged to highlight practical classroom implications when submitting their proposals. The proposals should address one of the following themes:

- Creativity & thinking skills in language education
- Creativity & thinking skills in maths and science
- Creativity and thinking skills in arts and social sciences
- Creativity and thinking skills in primary and pre-school education
- Management of thinking schools
- Teaching thinking at home

The conference welcomes researchers, teachers, teacher educators and administrators involved in various levels of the system of education: from pre-school to tertiary and adult learning. Students, parents and practitioners are also welcome.

2. Presentation formats

The organising committee is pleased to accept the following presentation formats:

- Papers
- Workshops
- Round tables
- Posters

The different presentation formats are outlined below:

a) Paper

Paper sessions are oral presentations, followed by a discussion with the audience. The time allowed for each paper, including the presentation and discussion, is 20-30 minutes. It is important that papers have a strong practical implication for one of the conference themes and are based on empirical data, or they will not be accepted. Proposals based on ideas that have not been thoroughly tested yet or lesson plans for developing creativity and thinking skills are very suitable for Round Table or Poster sessions.

b) Workshop

Workshops are interactive presentations that last 45-60 minutes, with strong involvement of participants. Each workshop should *demonstrate* one or several aspects of bringing creativity and thinking skills in a specified context. Workshop proposals must include extended summaries that clearly describe what the facilitator wants to focus and how it will be achieved.

c) Round table

Round table sessions offer opportunities of a more discursive exploration of proposed topics. This may well involve discussion of an idea or work in progress. The presenter explains the idea and possible issues around it, and invites the participants to help to discuss emerging questions or to solve possible problems. This format is particularly

suitable for practitioners who have recently started working on bringing creativity and thinking skills in their work. It may also be a good context for students to discuss their research in progress. Teachers are particularly welcome to share and discuss their lesson plans for thinking lessons in this format.

All round table presentations will be grouped according to the theme. The presenter will have about 15-20 minutes for the presentation and discussion of his/her proposal.

d) Poster

Interactive poster sessions visually present a particular method or technique for developing creativity and thinking skills and the results of their application. There will be a special slot allocated to poster sessions. The audience will be freely moving from poster to poster and the authors will have an opportunity to discuss their work with interested participants. Suggested format for the poster is A1. The authors are strongly encouraged to read some advice on poster preparation, for example http://colinpurrington.com/tips/academic/posterdesign

3. Submission

Proposals should be sent to conference2012@ta-group.eu. The deadline for submission is April 30 2012. You will be notified whether your proposal is accepted by 1 June 2012.

Submission of your proposal will need to include:
- title (10 words max)
- abstract (150 words max)
- extended summary (500 words max)

All submissions should provide a clear definition of notions of creativity and / or thinking skills as used in the proposal and detail the aims, the approach taken and the results obtained. Poster and round table sessions may not include the results. If this is the case, this section is to be replaced with an outline of questions for discussion.

Lesson plans submitted for the round table session should include the following elements of the lesson / series of lessons: a) subject and age group taught; b) subject matter aim; c) thinking aim; d) task / tasks offered to learners; e) scaffolding procedures used by the teacher; f) learner outputs; g) evaluation and assessment; h) data on lesson plan implementation.

Workshop submissions should demonstrate how creativity and thinking skills will be integrated in the session and how the interaction with the audience will be organised.

All submissions are to be made in English. Submissions related to the development of creativity and thinking skills in teaching and learning of Latvian and Russian can be made in respective languages. The authors should indicate though if they are able to make a presentation in English, should there be an insufficient number of proposals for organising a separate section for presentations in Latvian and Russian.

4. Registration fees

The early bird deadline for registration is **10 June 2012**. The final deadline for presenter registration is 30 July 2012.

Full registration fee includes conference materials, admittance to all sessions, two lunches, coffee and tea during breaks, and the conference reception.

Up to 10 grants that will cover the registration fees for the conference will be offered to state school teachers whose proposals are accepted. This is done to encourage school teachers who are involved in the development of creativity and thinking skills of learners to share their experience with like minded colleagues.

We also offer a special school rate to encourage groups of five teachers from one school to benefit from a special conference rate.

For the audience interested in a specific question discussed during the conference, a special rate for attending one particular section is offered (indicated in brackets in the table below). There will be a section dedicated to each conference theme. All section sessions will be taking place on Saturday. Please note that the section rate does not include lunches or reception.

	early bird registration	late registration	on-site registration
Student	€ 75 (€ 25)	€ 100 (€ 40)	€ 150 (€ 50)
Staff member of the project 'Bringing Creativity & Thinking Skills in Educational Process' partner organisation	€ 75 (€ 25)	€ 100 (€ 40)	€ 150 (€ 50)
Presenter	€ 100	€ 150	n/a
Delegate	€ 100 (€ 30)	€ 150 (€ 50)	€ 200 (€ 75)
School fee (up to 5 staff members)	€ 300	€ 500	€ 750

Registration fees do not include conference dinner on Saturday, 15 Sep, and the excursions on Sunday, 16 Sep. Details of the conference dinner will be posted later and you will be able to pay for it when registering for the conference.

5. Pre-conference tutorials

A number of pre-conference tutorials will take place on Fri morning, 14 Sep, from 0900 to 1200. Proposed themes will be posted to the conference website. Tutorials will take place only if a minimum number of delegates have signed up. The fee for each tutorial is EUR 50. You can pre-register for the tutorial when registering for the conference.

6. Contacts

The international conference 'Bringing Creativity and Thinking Skills in the Educational Process' is organised in the framework of the project under the same name supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The project coordinator, TA Group, Latvia is pleased to host the conference. For questions or more information, please visit the conference website or contact the local organising committee through email.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Riga!

The Organising Committee