

Newsletter
April 2019



Bridging ages world wide

Bridging Ages is active in different parts of the world and working with the Time Travel method gives a possibility to work with history and heritage in various ways. In this this newsletter, there are articles on how to work together around common themes, like 100 years celebrations as well as using the method to address gender violence.

The project "Heritage Bridge" was a possibility for Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to work together on their 100 years anniversaries and create new models for co-operation. The project gave new and innovative collaboration models for heritage education and was a great example of what can be done if we work together with a common theme.

Tanzania is a new country in Bridging Ages and in their project with the Church of Sweden and Kalmar County Museum they are working against gender-based violence and female genital mutilation. Gender as a theme and key question is a very common in Time Travels in many Bridging Ages countries. This angle on gender violence and female genital mutilation is a good example of how the Time Travel method can be used to tackle the hard subjects, even the one's it is hard to talk about.

To work with heritage through Time Travel gives many perspectives, even to travel to the future, as the last article brings forward from Sweden. Can we through this method imagine the future?

In Bridging Ages future is the international conference in Tartu, Estonia 9-13.9 2019. There's still time to send in a paper, so check out the Call for Papers at the Newsletter and send in!

Time Travel greetings,
Annina Ylikoski, president,
Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, Finland



Heritage Bridge – a collaboration project on 100 years anniversaries

When Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania all celebrated our 100 years anniversaries in 2017-2018, we saw a great opportunity to collaborate on heritage education and Time Travels. In all four countries, there was a demand for different programs on history and heritage for both schools and museums. Heritage Bridge started as a Nordplus Horizontal project in June 2016 and finished in July 2018. The project was coordinated by the Regional Council of Ostrobothnia in Finland and the partners were the National Museum of Estonia and Audentes school in Estonia, Tukums museum in Latvia and Gargzdai Museum in Lithuania.

Our goal was to find ways for schools and museums to work together on heritage education through the Time Travel method. Through our collaboration we also got ideas and inspiration from each other, since our themes were quite similar, but still different. We met in all countries and took part in different programs; Time Travels, educational programs and seminars.



Every country also developed a program. Finland did a Time Travel tour in the Ostrobothnia region. We covered all the 16 municipalities and invited all the 8th graders in each municipality. We also did a special Time Travel to 1918 for a big vocational school, where 300 students took part. Most Time Travels went back and discussed the time before the Civil War in 1917/1918 as well as just after, when the question was how do we go forward from here now? How do we create an inclusive country? We collaborated with



Kicking of the Time Travel tour in Maxmo, Finland. It's January 1914 and skating were one of the activities.

museums, heritage associations and other local associations.

Estonia did a grand Time Travel; on the 7th of February 2018, about 8300 pupils around Estonia travelled back to 1918, when the independence declaration for Estonia was read. Estonia held trainings for teachers on how to work with the Time Travel method and also did a Time Travel to create understanding of the event. The Facebook-group created for the event gathered 180 members and in this group where info and material could easily be shared. On the day, the 7th of February 2018, over 8000 pupils travelled back in time. The Time Travel started with the reading of the declaration of independence for Estonia, which was read in all schools on that day. The experience became very popular, gathered big media attention and a plan to create the next common Time Travel to 1869 and the first song festival.

In Latvia and Tukums, the focus in the program was on the cooperation between the museum educators and the regional association of history teachers. Tukums museum organized workshops and trainings for the teachers and created 3 different Time Travel scenarios according to the curriculum. One of the Time Travels took place in 1918 and discussed the situation for Latvia as a young state, with discussions on independence and democracy.

The project's final seminar was also organized in Latvia.

Gargzdai area museum in Lithuania wanted to focus on creating a collaboration with the museum and the educational system in the region. The museum organized a seminar for teachers to introduce them to the subject as well as creating a scenario for a Time Travel to 1939. This Time Travel was done 5 times and that way the method got a wider spread in the area. The project helped the museum to collaborate more with schools, other museums and most importantly with Klaipeda region education center. Better dialogue between culture- and education institutions created new projects in Gargzdai Area museum.

The project was a big success in all four countries. The collaborating institutions had a similar view of the goals and aims, which made the teamwork a joy. The work over the borders gave us all new ideas and inspiration to new programs and ways of working! The results were over 10 000 participants in the created programs and many new ideas for continued collaborations!

More info on the project can be found here: <http://www.bridgingages.com/news/heritage-bridge-report/>

Annina Ylikoski, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, Finland



Introducing the Time Travel Method in Tanzania to fight Gender-Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation

The Time Travel Method is currently being implemented in Tanzania through a collaborative project together with Kalmar County Museum, Sweden, and Church of Sweden. Kalmar County Museum is conducting trainings for Church of Sweden's two partner organisations Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) and Christian Council in Tanzania (CCT). The goal is to find new innovative methods in the fight against gender-based violence and female genital mutilation (FGM) in Tanzania.

"We see cultural heritage and faith as resources in the fight against gender-based violence in Tanzania. By raising contemporary

issues with a cultural heritage perspective, you allow everyone in a local community to get their voices heard which can contribute to change; especially women and children who generally have very little space in decision-making processes," says Johanna Ejderstedt, international coordinator at Kalmar County Museum.

In a country like Tanzania, faith is widespread and a very important part of life. Religious leaders have great influence in the local communities and are therefore seen as change-makers when it comes to promoting gender justice and gender equality in the country.





The method is currently being implemented in the two faith-based organisations Gender Justice Program targeting FGM and early marriage in Tanzania in particular. The method is used to uphold good culture and to leave culture that are harmful such as FGM. The community feel a sense of ownership since it uses their historical sites and heritage, it enables discussions, reflections and together they must agree on an action plan on how they wish to live in the future. The method is attitude-changing and can lead to behaviour changes for individuals and in the community as a whole.

The trainees from the two faith-based organisations look at the method in

positive ways; the importance of historical and cultural aspects when addressing gender challenges in the community, and that it creates a safe space for the community members to discuss and give solutions to the challenges in their community. The Time travel Method is an interactive method that can build cohesion at family, community and national level. The Time Travel Method can help support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

“The method is bringing all people together where children, elders and traditional leaders all discuss relevant issues.”, said participant Emanuel Baru in Mara.

“This is a touching method, involving many people doing activities, using historical facts and opening up to discuss their challenges”, trainee Wilson Time Travel Method champion from Singida.

Pendaeli Kuyan, local coordinator Time Travel Project in Tanzania



Time Travels and the Future

Kalmar county museum has seen the future! As users of the Time Travel Method we are used to travel back and forth in time using the Time Travel Method, taking inspiration and experience from past times with the aim of addressing the issues of today. In the autumn of 2018 Kalmar county museum was challenged by Prof. Cornelius Holtorf at Linneaus University to do something that we never done before: Travel to the future.

Prof. Holtorf holds the UNESCO chair in "Future heritages" and examines the relation between heritage and the future. His challenge for the museum was this: Is it possible to use the Time Travel Method to travel to the future? The idea was to use the method in the exact same way as we normally do, with key questions, local sites, safe spaces etc. The only difference was of course the historical sources. Instead of using historical documents, oral traditions, archaeology and similar sources, we had to look into different estimations on demography, climate, economy and technology. All of these "facts" was merged into a believable, but fictional, future. The process in this Time Travel was very thought-provoking and the team involved had many vivid discussions. The process is always important in the Time Travel Method, in this case we felt that this was extremely crucial. After the project we realized that we had the same experiences as someone arranging their first Time Travel!

The scenario was about the city district Varvsholmen in



VARVSHOLMENS FRAMTID!



**ÖKADE VATTENNIVÅER. SOCIALA PROBLEM.
VAD GÖR VI? STANNA ELLER FLYTTA?**

**ALLMÄNT MÖTE PÅ VARVSHOLMENS ÄLDREBOENDE
ONSDAGEN DEN 5 DECEMBER 2068 KL. 09.30**

Aktivistgruppen för Varvsholmen

The future of Varvsholmen!
Raising water, social issues. Stay or move?
Poster from the Time travel to 2068.

Kalmar, a site close to the sea and the Time Travel was staged in December 2068. In our scenario Varvsholmen is put under great stress. The Baltic Sea has risen over two meters and the embankments are in bad shape,

threatening the residents. The ageing population of Sweden is seen as a great burden, the social cohesion is low and the government has just passed a law allowing assisted suicide. Some people have left the town to live on the country-side, while others are residents of the world, travelling from place to place. At this specific day, a group of activists has invited the local government to explain what they want to do with their beloved part of town.

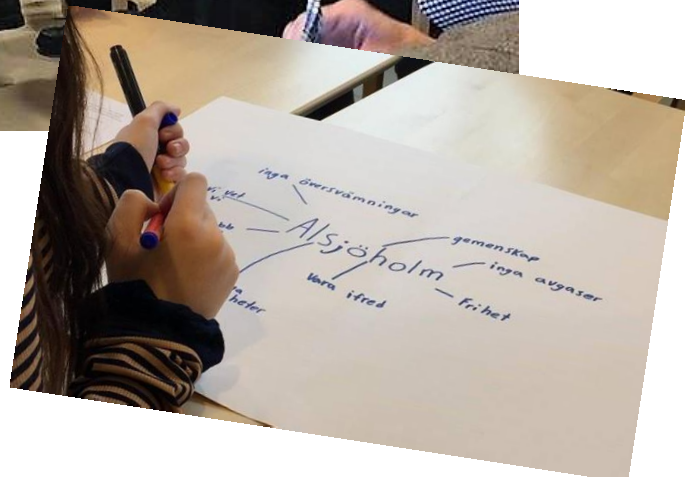
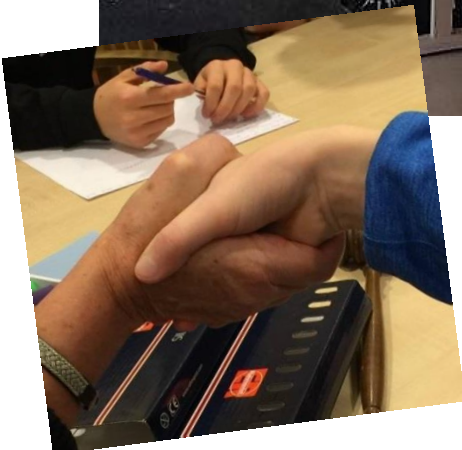
The Time Travel event was piloted two times, using the same scenario. The first was with a mixed group of adults and the second was with an 8th grade class. Both groups were very engaged in the discussions and especially the soft values as social cohesion and spirituality were lifted. In the evaluation the Future Time Travel was seen as an interesting tool for discussing different futures, and how to reach or avoid them. But, as always in the Time Travel

Method, we were talking about the issues of today. This Time Travel connected different futures to our individual possibilities and responsibilities that we have in shaping the future. Could this be an interesting add-on to the Time Travel Method as we know it? Maybe, at least we know that the future is ours to shape, so why not start creating it right now?

Reflections:

- It was a challenging task to change the mindset to the future
- The teenagers reflected on their own future, they will live to see 2068,
- The participants saw their own possibility to influence their own future

Adam Norman, Tina Lindström, Kalmar läns museum, Sweden



Bridging Ages International Conference in Tartu, Estonia 09.-13.9 2019

Send your presentation
before 01.05.2019!

FREEDOM to/in Time Travel Can we see the future?

Call for papers

The freedom of expression and the freedom to define yourself as an independent country: this topic was widely discussed during the 'Time Travel to 1918' programme in 2018 when Estonia celebrated 100 years of independence.

The freedom to travel in time – does this method give us the freedom to talk about problematic or taboo topics of everyday society and can we contribute to society by doing so?

As a small country on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea Estonia has had a dramatic history. Only in the middle of the 19th century did we become aware of ourselves as a nation. In the beginning of the 20th century we gained statehood, but during the 2nd World War we lost it again. During the occupation by the Soviet Union we lost a number of basic freedoms such as the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion. We regained our independence in 1991, and since then we have built a strong, democratic state where people's basic freedoms are respected. We want to focus on the importance of freedom as we still remember the time when there was none. On a personal level freedom has many facets, and each person experiences it in their own manner.

We welcome innovative examples of how to discuss and reflect on democracy, nationalism, identity, ethnicity and unionism through heritage education and the Time Travel method.

We call for papers, panels or workshops that describe and analyse different practices of TT or scientific studies carried out on the TT method. (10 minutes for a description of the case-study and 10 minutes for analysis/reflection)

Please submit an abstract of your presentation (not more than half a page) and a brief description of yourself as soon as possible but not later than **01.05.2019** as a Word document attachment to Kaari Siemer (kaari.siemer@erm.ee).

During the conference we will focus on the following themes:

- How does Time Travel as a method contribute to the maintenance and development of democratic processes and personal freedom in society?
- Are freedom and responsibility incompatible?
- The meaning of freedom, can it mean different things to different groups?
- Can we see the future by looking at current global processes? Can Time Travels help us in this?

The conference is hosted by Estonian National Museum in Tartu, Estonia (www.erm.ee).

If you have practical questions, please contact our conference manager Saale Randaru (saale.randaru@erm.ee).

For any other questions please contact Pille Rohtla (pillerohltla@gmail.com).



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