

FINAL PROJECT REPORT: 2016-2018

Project Name: OPTIMISTS FLEET

Project Objectives

1. To provide a training and development opportunity for young people.
2. To build universal sailing boats - "Optimists" that will be used to strengthen Lithuanian sea scout programme capability so as to offer sailing as an activity to young people who would otherwise not have access to sailing (training and educational programmes).
3. To be adaptive, mobile and sustainable with sea scout programme nationally and take active part in local Ukmergė community life.



Project diary - 1st year: 2016-2017

- 14th of November 2016** - Boatbuilding started (Facebook diary: www.facebook.com/ukmerges.jurjai).
- 29th of November 2016** - 4 units Optimist boatbuilding frames were created. They are going to be used to build 8 (or more) boats
- 19th December 2016** - 4 optimist boat parts were cut and prepared for structural connection and glueing
- 27th of January 2017** - 2 first optimist boat structure were glued
- 17th of March 2017** - all 4 boat frame were created, glued and sanded and ready for a first coat of varnish
- 24th of March 2017** - new 4 new sails arrived from Polish sails manufacturers
- 5th of April 2017** - 4 boats are covered with fibre glass, daggerboards and rudders were made
- 7-8th of April 2017** - 1st boat was painted and prepared for first school exhibition
- 12-13th of April 2017** - Optimist project and new boats are presented for the first time in National school exhibition
- 19-26th of April 2017** - All boats are painted (3 coats of paint)
- 19th of May 2017** - All boats are fit with sailing equipment, ropes, blocks and safety air bags
- 22-30th of May 2017** - Practical trainings for leaders and young participants were done how to prepare the boats for sailing: set up the boat for sailing, basic knowledge about sailing
- 4th of June 2017** - Opening ceremony was held near local lake (Žirnajai lake), where parents, partners, supporters and participants gathered to celebrate first practical sailing activity. First boat building phase (4 boats) was finished and sailing season opened. First 30 children sailed
- 12-16th of June 2017** - Sea scout camp was held to gain more sailing skills and experience. 30 participants
- 18-30th of June 2017** - Day camps for local children were organized, Basic sailing programme with Optimists was introduced for 35 participants
- 1-15th of July 2017** - Scouts for non-scouts camp, 200 participants were sailing with new boats and had first sailing experience
- 16-20th of July 2017** - Sea scout educational programmes for school groups and youth were organized, basic sailing trainings programme was introduced, 150 participants.
- 1-7th of August 2017** - Day camps for local children were organized, Basic sailing programme with Optimists was introduced for 15 participants
- 13th of September 2017** - Sailing season for Ukmergė sea scouts started, first day of training at local lake with Optimists, 60 participants

Achievements and summary of 1st project year - 2017

Boatbuilding process for 4 units of frames and boats took more than 1500 hours (375 hours each boat) 70 participants and 2 leaders and Erasmus+ Europe volunteering service volunteers participated in boatbuilding process full time. 2 workshops were used: Ukmergė Youth leisure centre and local school - Siesikai gimnasium. It was decided to extend project time in 2 years and to build 4 boats per year, reaching planned number of 8 in 2018. Decision was made as project didn't received enough funding and support to go in one year. Second reason - physically Ukmergė sea scouts didn't had enough workshop space to fit more than 4 boats. Unfortunately it was not enough fund to buy boat trailer. It is planned to do in autumn 2017

Average price for 1 Optimist boat to build - 1100€ (plywood, glue, paint, tools and equipment, safety equipment, workshop, administration of the process, sails, sailing boat parts and stainless steel equipment, air bags, ropes).

Since 4th of June - more than 500 young people sailed with new Optimist boats and Basic sailing programme was introduced to school children locally and nationally. Local sea scout group, September 2017 got 50 new candidates in scouting wishing to do some more sailing practice, boatbuilding and scouting. Ukmergė sea scout group has more than 120 participants in total and number is rising steadily (20 in 2013, 2014; 70 - 2015, 100 - 2016, 2017).

Moments of the project



November 2017 - Children learn how to read boat drawings, drawing on plywood and using various power tools



January-March 2017 - Boatbuilding skills are gained: glueing, painting and parts of the sailing boat are learned



Plans/aims for 2nd project year - 2018

- Special trailer and equipment will be created to efficiently transport 8 Optimists and trainer motor boat to various locations in Lithuania in summer 2018. (It was not made in 2017, due to a shortage of project money)
- 4 Optimist boats are going to be built: 14th November 2017 - 14th June 2018 (reaching 8 boats in total). 1300 working hours, 50 sea scouts and 3 leaders and volunteers.
- 30 new participants will be introduced in boatbuilding process in 2018
- 2018 - Lithuanian scouting celebrates 100 years anniversary of scout movement. Boats will be used for the programme in National jamboree with more than 2000 participants in July 2018.

Project diary is advertised in Ukmergė sea scout group facebook page

www.facebook.com/ukmerges.juriai

Project diary - 2st year: 2017-2018

8-10 November 2017

Workshop was prepared for 2nd year boatbuilding project of 4 optimists. Plywood was bought and delivered to workshop

14 November 2017

Boatbuilding started by drawing and cutting parts for all 4 optimists

21 November 2017

4 optimist boat parts were cut and prepared for structural connection and glueing

1-24 December 2017

4 optimist boat structures were made and glued

22 December 2017

1 prototype of Ice Optimist boat body was made by one leader, but the project stopped

8-22 January 2018

Inner main parts of all 4 boats were glued in place

26-28 January 2018

Participating in National exhibition where project and boats were presented

12-26 February 2018

all 4 boat frame were created, glued, sanded and ready for a first coat of varnish

March 2018

All boats are painted (3 coats of paint)

All boats are fit with sailing equipment, ropes and blocks

April 2018

Practical trainings for Ukmerge and Širvintos sea scouts were organized to learn how to prepare the boats for sailing: set up the boat for sailing, basic knowledge about sailing, Optimists parts and how to use them properly

1-11 May 2018

Last jobs were made for boats before opening ceremony

12 May 2018

Opening ceremony was held at local lake (Žirnajai lake), where parents, partners, supporters and participants gathered to celebrate first practical sailing activity. All 8 Optimists boats were presented for a first time. Official sailing season opened with new Optimist boats

12, 16, 21, 22, 23 May 2018

Sailing practice took place in Žirnajai lake

1-7 July 2018

Scouts non Scouts camp 1, 112 participants had opportunity to sail with boats
National 100 year anniversary Jamboree was held near Kauno marios lagoon, 3300 participants were present, more than 2000 youth participated in sea scout programme and had possibility to sail.

14-21 July 2018

Scouts non Scouts camp 2, 120 participants had opportunity to sail with boats

29 July - 4 August 2018

Sailing practice took place in our local Žirnajai lake

21 May 2018

Participating in local exhibition "Smetonines 2018", presenting sea scouts and Optimist project

11 August 2018

Moments of the project



Main achievements and summary of “OPTIMISTS FLEET” project: 2016 - 2018

- During these 2 years, 8 Optimist boats were build, by diary journal it took 1500 hours 1st year and 1300 hours 2nd year to build all 8 boats. In total it took 18 months and more than 100 sea scouts and 4 leaders to finish project.

- Average price for 1 Optimist boat to build is 1000€ (plywood, glue, paint, tools and equipment, safety equipment, workshop, administration of the process, sails, sailing boat parts and stainless steel equipment, air bags, ropes).

- Taipei mission (Taiwan embassy) supported our project as well as generious scout donator across the globe. Bigger trailer was bought for optimists and leader motorboat to transport to the lake. None of the special frame was made so far and it's planed to do till next sailing season in 2019. At the moment it's possible to transport 4 Optimists on one trailer withhout frame.

- During project time Ukmergė sea scouts were donated 4 boats:

1) 2017-04-02 - 8m long unfinished to repair yacht was donated with trailer from other region yachtclub. Its big and heavy boat to sail for up to 6 people;

2) 2017-09-20 - small training yacht was donated by local man for Ukmerge sea scouts to carry yacht body repair and use it for sailing training in the future. Boat is good to sail for up to 2-3 people;

2) 2018-05-08 - 2 very old Optimist boats were donated to repair and add to Optimist fleet. 2 Boats are refurbishes, repainted and already used for sailing training.

- New candidates for sea scouts are appearing just now (1 of September - new school year starts). This time from both local nearest cities: Ukmergė and Širvintos.

- 2018-08-20 - Skautų slėnis (scout outdoor adventure education centre), together with Ukmergė sea scouts decided to start purchase procedure (still searching for supporters) for 3 hectare campsite and water base near local Žirnajai lake. All the boats will have a place and autumn sailing season and all activities will be held in this campsite.

This is 2nd boatbuilding project for Ukmergė sea scouts. We builded 9 boats and have 16 boats in total. During 2 years local sea scouts numbers grow more than 5 times. We are counting 60 members and same number of candidates.

Jonas Dragūnas

“Optimists fleet” Project leader, Ukmergė sea scout group leader
Lithuanian scouting - Sea scout programme team leader
Head of Skautų slėnis (Scout valley)