

## Vecu project "Proverbs"

### 9. Discussions with students about proverbs and test of the knowledge of proverbs by questionnaires

#### 9.1 University of the Third Age at Comenius University in Bratislava

##### Project VECU

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The project deals with the dissemination of cultural traditions and the transfer of information from different cultural areas.

Proverbs being a part of the literary heritage, we have decided to devote to them proper attention by a project.

We presented our project and a questionnaire in a grammar school in Bratislava.

The students who took part were from the Second, Tertian and Fourth-graders, aged between 13 and 18 Years, including 39 students and 33 female students.

The cooperation of the teachers of Slovak language and ethics was surprising. They have drawn on their own interest more additional copies of the questionnaire and transferred them to further students. From the 30 submitted proverbs, 55 students answered an average of 23-29 proverbs correctly. Further 17 students answered 7-22 questions correctly, which makes an average of 21.6 correct answers. Some answers showed apparently own "creation", some of them very funny.

To the question, from whom they got their proverb knowledge, the majority of the students answered: The fairy tales of childhood or the presence of grandparents, who led them to care for traditions.

On the other hand, it could be deduced by the answers that TV series are not unknown to the students, such as to the question: "*Time* heals all wounds" was the answer, "Dr. House heals all wounds."

Or responses of a youth, which grows up in a consumer society surrounded by advertisements: To the question "..... is the *best* cook" was the answer, "Dr. Oetker is the best cook", instead of „hunger“, which was asked for.

We can note with satisfaction, that the students, - even if some of them smiled about the questionnaire by saying „what is it good for ?“ - , after filling in the questionnaire and after the correct answers were presented, they were happy such as small children about their own right answers.

The main source of information for students is the Internet, less books, except the texts required by the teachers, or literature, which is a source of knowledge for the hobbies of the young people.

For us the use of proverbs has become so self evident, that generally we don't notice their use any more. Such a questionnaire, even arranged by coordinators and supported by teachers, was at least for a short time an opportunity for young students to reflect about the wisdom of the people, which had been used for centuries and implemented into our lives.