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Baltic Human Rights Society (BHRS) is developing long-term human rights educational programs. The organisation provides information and explains their human rights to members of the society. For example, what human rights we encounter in our daily life, how violations of human rights can be identified, how one can defend himself/ herself if violations are faced.

Young people often go abroad to study human rights and other areas of international law and quite often are offered interesting job opportunities following studies there. This was also the story of the BHRS team. At the time when the idea that there was willingness to invest gained knowledge in improving the human rights situation in Latvia got stronger, each of them was in a different country. They contacted also other young experts of human rights and international law whose situations were similar and all of them were enthusiastic about supporting this idea.

This was how the platform was created and started operating with a very small administrative organisation, involving core experts who develop project ideas and implement them, as well as a broad range of partners and advisers who participate in particular projects within their areas of competence. Within a comparatively short period of time the team members returned to Latvia one by one and this organisation

<http://www.cilvektiesibugids.lv/en/themes/>

became their job. The core of the team has remained the same as it was at the time of establishment, i.e. in year 2012, however, the range of experts, volunteers and partners of the network has grown considerably.

Upon starting activities in the area of human rights education, the organisation discovered that both in Latvia and also other places there were no basic materials explaining human rights in a simple, easy to understand manner. Another conclusion was that the human rights problems in the other Baltic countries were very much similar, as the pathway of history and development had been the same during the last decades and the situation regarding human rights was also the same. Therefore, it was efficient to join forces to provide topical information about human rights to people not only in Latvia, but also in Lithuania and Estonia. The first public project “Guide to Human Rights” was developed. This is an online human rights education and self-assistance platform targeted to broad groups of the society in the Baltic countries.

It is not easy to evaluate quality indicators, however, it is a pleasure to see that the number of users of the Guide to Human Rights is increasing continuously. In December 2017 the number of unique visitors of the

“Affiliation to Latvia brought us home when we saw the volume of work to be done there and understood that we cannot do all this from outside.”

– ARINA MELSE

Guide was 3444, the number of unique visits in May 2018 exceeded 10,000. The newest project of the organisation, i.e. cilvektiesibas.info, which is an information platform about human rights topicalities important in Latvia, has also been available online since September 2018.

The area of operation of the organisation and the human rights projects implemented therein accurately correspond to the sustainable development goal of the global citizenship education, i.e. ensuring that all the trainees master knowledge and skills needed for promoting sustainable development, including provision of education on sustainable development and sustainable way of life, human rights, gender equality by promoting the culture of peace and non-violence via global citizenship. BHRS considers that a huge progress can be obtained in this area by 2030.

