



Annual report 2017 – Bridging Ages International

2017 in Review

Year 2017 was a year when a lot happened on the Time Travel front. Many national branches grow wider and stronger and new countries came on board and started working with applied heritage and Time Travels.

Bridging Ages Kenya was launched in 2016 and the national branch found a good way to work as a team in a big country and worked with peace building and current subjects in the society.

In South Africa, with the support from the Department of Arts and Culture, the Time Travel method has now through training reached all the provinces and have a possibility to grow into a strong contender on the heritage and education arena.

Finland celebrated 100 years as an independent state and did more Time Travels than ever, over 100. In February there was also a heritage education seminar in South Africa together with the Embassy of Finland and the work also continued in many other countries.

Estonia was part of the “Heritage Bridge”-project coordinated by Finland and also including Latvia and Lithuania and did many trainings with schools on the method, preparing for a big Time Travel all over the country in 2018.

Latvia worked with museum educators and teachers to find a working form for Time Travels on a broader scale.

In Lithuania, the regional formation was made possible through working together with many partners and finding funding on new levels.

Sweden did about 100 Time Travels and continued to work with cohesion integration in about 100 workshops with different groups in society.

In North America, a new country came on board as work started in the Yukon, Canada with the Time Travel method as the work continued in New Mexico.

The international conference was held in September in Vasa, Finland gathered participants from over 10 countries got together to discuss and reflect on the Time Travel method. A week before the conference, there was a training week held on the Time Travel method.

This all was made possible with many engaged and professional individuals in many countries, as well as national and regional branches working together and finding new partners to work with.

With many of the examples shown, the Time Travel method is an adaptable tool to work with in various countries. The demand is big on uniting methods and the financial support in cultural heritage needs to grow to meet the challenges in society.

***Use the past to reflect on today
and create the future!***

Board members

President	Annina Ylikoski, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia, Finland
Vice President	Johanna Ejderstedt, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden
Secretary	Jabulani Phelago, Freedom Park, South Africa
	Agrita Ozola, Tukums Museum, Latvia
	Ebru Iltenmis, Manisa Municipality, Turkey
	Pille Rohtla, Audentes School, Tallinn, Estonia Tallinn University
	Steven Labarakwe, Marsabit County, Kenya
	Scott Green, Department of Cultural Affairs, New Mexico, USA
	Dovile Vaiciulyte, Gargzdai Regional museum, Lithuania
	Ebbe Westergren, Kalmar County Museum, Sweden (honorary member)

Board meetings per skype

19.1, 5.4, 20.6, 29.8, 11.9 (in person), 14.12

Newsletters

February 2017

Participants

Around 20 000 people took part in Time Travels and trainings worldwide.

The Finland office

The Ostrobothnian Children's Culture Network BARK consists of 16 municipalities and was founded in 2009. The network is administrated by the Regional Council of Ostrobothnia and as a Children's Culture Center BARK is funded partly by the Ministry of Culture.

The work in the region is done with museums, schools, universities, heritage associations and other groups. Each municipality has a different structure for its group working with Time Travels, coordinated by BARK.

2017 was the year Finland celebrated 100 years as an independent country and BARK did a record number of Time Travels, trainings and workshops on democracy and integration.

Overview/highlight of the year

The highlight of the year was the international Bridging Ages conference, with gathered 120 people from over 10 countries. The theme was linked to the 100 year anniversary and the Time Travel at the conference also went back to 1917.

Another highlight of the year was the 1917 Time Travel with a training school, where 300 students took part.

Projects and programs: local, regional and national

In Ostrobothnia's 16 municipalities BARK did a Time Travel tour, which meant that all 8 grader in the region got to take part in a Time Travel from the time Finland was independent. This engaged local and regional groups and museums in all the 16 municipalities. In total BARK conducted over 100 Time Travels in the region on different

themes with all from 4 year olds to high school students and university students.

During the year BARK also did a democracy workshop with schools. In this workshops questions on human rights and what rights we need in a country was central. This was linked to the celebration on a 100 year democracy.

On the national arena, BARK took the Time Travel tour also out of the region and did trainings and Time Travels in other children's culture centers around the country.

Projects: international

The "Heritage Bridge"-project continued with Finland and the Baltic countries. In January the participants came to Vasa and in June we met in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

In February, there was a heritage education seminar in Pretoria, South Africa together with the Finland embassy, Freedom Park and Department of Arts and Culture. The seminar followed up with trainings around the country. More trainings were held in October.

In May, there was a presentation at the Lake Turkana Cultural festival as well as trainings with the National Museum of Kenya and Bridging Ages Kenya around the country.

In October, there was an ICOM-ICTOP conference in Windhoek, Namibia and the Bridging Ages team was part of a training the Finland Museum association held there as well as did a presentation at the conference.

Bridging Ages Sweden

Summary

The Education Department at Kalmar County Museum (KCM) is responsible for all educational activities at the museum and linked to the museum across the county. In 2017, KCM have worked with various projects, exhibitions, public and educational programs, trainings for different target groups, lectures, city walks, school holiday activities, special events and historical time travel events. KCM have worked locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. The starting point is the local history and heritage; to use the past to talk about issues that are relevant to us today. In 2017, KCM worked with social issues and focused on themes such as diversity, integration and value-based issues. KCM also continued to actively seek out new audiences to collaborate with. During the year, KCM have worked in the county's twelve municipalities, together with the county's all cultural institutions and with several partners.

The international projects and collaborations are strongly linked to the Education Department at Kalmar County Museum. Ebbe Westergren and Johanna Ejderstedt were responsible for the international projects, with contributions from other persons within the Education Department and in the region. Ebbe Westergren also worked in the year to sort and archive documents from 40 years of work at KCM; local, regional, national and international.

Regional/National projects and collaborations

In 2017, KCM have collaborated with a number of partners: The Swedish Church in Växjö, the children's and youth administrations in the county's municipalities, elderly care facilities in several municipalities, Linnaeus University, County Administrative Board of Kalmar County, Kalmar County Regional Council, Kalmar County Theater, Södermöre Municipality, SFI, Komvux, Kalmarsund High School Association, Kalmar County Home Associations, local heritage associations, Kamprad Foundation, Småland Cultural Park in Växjö, several parishes in the county, County Council of Kalmar

County, Kalmar Castle and the Culture and Recreation Administration in Kalmar Municipality.

Linnaeus University, Kalmar

The cooperation project with Linnaeus University in Applied Cultural Heritage was completed at the beginning of the year and two pamphlets on applied cultural heritage were published. The Center for Applied Heritage was established at the university. The book "Archeology of Time Travel", intended to be used as course literature at the university, was published by LNU, with Bodil Petersson and Cornelius Holtorf as editors and with an article by Ebbe Westergren on "Use the Past, Create the Future; The Time Travel Method, a Tool for Learning, Social Cohesion and Community Building "

Bridging Ages Conference in Vaasa

Bridging Ages Thirteenth International Conference was conducted in Vaasa in connection to the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence. The theme was "Together for the future". About 80 people attended, three of them from KCM. The week before the conference organized a training in time reading methodology for 10 participants from different countries.

International projects and collaborations

South Africa

The cooperation with the Ministry of Arts and Culture in Pretoria and Bridging Ages South Africa (BASA) continued during the year. Two visits were made in South Africa, together with Annina Ylikoski, chairman of Bridging Ages International. In February-March, a Heritage Education Seminar was held in Pretoria, which was also the Bridging Ages South Africa (BASA) Sixth National Conference. A major public time travel event was held in Cape Town in connection with Human Right's Day in March. Several presentations and workshops were arranged in the four provinces that had not previously participated in BASA. A training in the time travel method for these provinces began in October. This

means that the Time Travel Method has spread nationally across all nine provinces in South Africa. The book "Freedom Charter 1955-2015" on the time travel event in Kliptown, Soweto, was published during the year.

Kenya

Staff from KCM visited Kenya in April-May together with Annina Ylikoski; a partnership with Bridging Ages Kenya, National Museums of Kenya and Marsabit County Government. The training in the Time Travel Method begun in 2016 was completed. Time travel events took place in Karen Blixen Museum in Nairobi, the Rabai Museum in Mombasa and Meru Museum in Meru. Presentation of Wikimedia was made at one time. Approximately 20 people obtained a certificate for completed education.

Staff from KCM and the chairman of Bridging Ages International participated at the Lake Turkana Cultural Festival in northern Kenya, invited by Marsabit County Governments. A presentation and workshop on the Time Travel method was held for about 40 representatives of the 15 tribes living in Marsabit county. Workshops and time travels were organized at three local communities in Marsabit county after the festival; in Ngurunit, Kalacha and Gadamoji.

Uganda

The "Sites & Stories II" project between Kalmar and Entebbe municipalities continued, with KCM and Kalmar County Theatre as implementors, in collaboration with ABF Göteborg and Linnaeus University. Two visits were conducted during the year in Entebbe and one delegation from Entebbe visited Kalmar one time. During the project visits, trainings in the time travel method was carried out and time travel events planned and implemented.

Namibia

A presentation of the Time Travel Method was conducted at the annual ICOM International Conference in Windhoek, Namibia. Discussions were also held with the Ministry of art, Culture and Education in Namibia on future cooperation. KLM had a meeting with Heritage West at The museum of Vänersborg for cooperation and contacts with Namibia.

Turkey/Georgia

At the invitation of the Ecological Development Association of the Black Sea and the Bridging Ages group in Giresun, Turkey, courses in the Time Travel method were conducted in Giresun and Ordu for 20 people from 4-5 different regions in Turkey. On the initiative from the Turkish Bridging Ages group, a trip to Tblisi, Georgia, was organized and presentations and meetings at the National Museums of Georgia were held. The intention was to prepare future cooperation projects between Turkey, Georgia and Sweden.

Overall, KCM completed 30 trainings in the Time Travel Method abroad and participated in 16 time travel events. 2709 people participated in the arrangements, of which 1979 were adults and 730 children.

In Kalmar county, KCM conducted 120 time travels events in schools across the county. Several exhibitions were held in the museum and educational programs developed linked to these. Several regional and national partnerships and projects were carried out during the year.

Estonia

BA Estonia relies on volunteer work.

1.) In cooperation with Finland, Latvia and Lithuania, project Heritage Bridge was continued, which was made to celebrate the 100. Anniversaries of our countries.

This project included:

- **January:** work related visit to Vasa, 2 people from Estonia participated.
- **March, June, August, September, October:** Estonian group's work related meetings in Tartu and Tallinn, 4 – 6 people every time.
- **September:** participation in the BA conference in Vasa, 4 people from Estonia (2 involved with the project).

2.) Trainings:

- **January:** introducing time travel 1918 and time travel methods to librarians. 40 participants.
- **March:** introducing time travel 1918 and time travel methods 1918 to class teachers. 20 people participated.
- **March:** schooling for writing the scenario for Time travel 1918, 45 people participated.
- **March:** Viljandi history teachers and students time travel methodology schooling, 100 people participated.
- **May:** Time travel 1918 background knowledge schooling (the political situation, fashion, school life), 50 people participated.
- **August:** history teachers summer school in Põltsamaa, discussion about the problems of time travel 1918 and counseling, 50 people participated.

- **August:** teachers information day in the Estonian National Museum, analysing the projects current situation and talking about future plans. 150 people participated.
- **August:** counseling Kadrina school about time travel questions. 50 participants.
- **August:** sharing information about the methods of time travel during the teachers fair in Tallinn. 100 people participated.
- **October:** Presenting the time travel 1918 scenario in the Estonian Open Air Museum. 60 participants.
- **August – December:** time travel counseling in various places all over Estonia. Around 200 people participated.
- Counseling Time travel 1918 Facebook page has 133 members.

3.) Time travels:

- **March:** time travel to 1910 to look at school life in Viljandi (southern Estonia). Over 100 people participated.
- **March, May, October:** time travel to a medieval school (in cooperation with Niguliste art museum, Tallinn City museum, Estonian History museum, Occupations museum). A total of 300 students took part in this.
- **October:** time travel 1939 in Kadrina Gymnasium (eastern Estonia). 612 participants.

The total amount of participants taking part in our schoolings and time travels: 1965 people.

Lithuania

Introduction (introduction, structure of the organization, network or such)

Gargzdai Area museum (Lithuania) became member of Bridging Ages organization in 2016. It is the biggest museum in Klaipeda region and has 4 departments, where typically Time Travel is held. Dovile Vaiciulyte, manager of Jonas Gizas ethnographical homestead department is the board member of Bridging Ages.

Projects and programs (local, regional and national)

Gargzdai Area museum held new Time Travel project in the region. Project was financed by Lithuania Cultural ministry. Museum bought some clothes related to 1930-1939 fashion and created the Time Travel leaflet with its methodology. Related to this project, Gargzdai Area museum organized seminars and Time Travel educations free of charge in Autumn.

Projects (international)

International project „Heritage Bridge“ introduced Lithuania with Time travel methodology. Coordinator of this project Annina Ylikoski (The Ostrobothnian Childrens Culture Network BARK) helped to engage different model of education and use it in Lithuania. Project started in 2016 and ends in 2018.

Related to this project, members from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Finland had a meeting in Gargzdai Area museum, Lithuania (June, 2017). After seminar members participated in Time Travel in Agluonenai.

Trainings held (short description and number of participants/ also speaking at conferences etc that was not organized by BAI)

Dovile Vaiciulyte, Lithuanian board member of Bridging Ages participated in international conference organized by BAI. She presented the beginning of Time Travel educations in Gargzdai Area museum in Lithuania.

Time Travels organized (short description and number of participants)

Gargzdai Area museum created scenario for 1939 Time Travel. Mostly it was organized in museum's department in Agluonenai. 5 Time Travels had been done all in all and 89 people (54 pupils, 15 adults and 20 pensioners) participated.

Bridging Ages Latvia

Tukums museum represents the international organization Bridging Ages in Latvia and is a leading institution in the national network of the museum educators, which is created in 2017 and involves more than 70 museum educators from about 40 museums.

Overview/highlight of the year

- Network of the museum education started in 2017. Three working sessions were organized for museum educators organized, which took place in the Tukums museum, Rundāle palace museum and Latvian National Art museum.
- There was also an international conference in Venstpils museum devoted to the history and contemporary challenges in the field of the museum education.

Projects and programs (local, regional and national)

- In order to develop the partnerships with national institutions, the agreement in between the Tukums museum and Latvian Academy of Culture had been signed and some new initiatives were started.
- The second study course on museum education took place in the Latvian Academy of Culture (lecturer Agrita Ozola) in the autumn 2017.
- Museum education was included also in a continuing course for museum professionals, which took place in the Latvian Academy of Culture in 2017.

Projects (international)

- The Tukums museum is also an active partner in the project “Heritage Bridge”,

which is managed by the Ostrobothnian Childre'ns culture Network “BARK”. In cooperation with the BARK (Finland), Estonian National Museum and EE-Audentes School (Estonia), and Gargždai Regional museum (Lithuania), Tukums museum is working on development of the Time Travel method and strengthening of the professional networking in the Baltics.

- The format of the project is giving a new ideas for, looking for new models how museums, schools and other culture institutions can work together in order to have a better understanding of heritage and strengthening of the professional networking in the Baltics.

Trainings held

- Many museums in Latvia, particularly Tukums museum, Jurmala City museum and Daugava museum is developing a closer cooperation with schools and libraries in order to develop the special programmes, including Time Travels, as a tool supporting new trends in the school system, like development of the competencies based approach.
- Because a new national initiative “Latvian School Bag” will start in the autumn 2018, Tukums museum provided several seminars and training programs for teachers in the Tukums, Engure and Jaunpils Districts.

Time Travels organized (short description and number of participants)

- There are 11 different programs in Tukums museums which happened 138 times and 3719 people participated in year 2018.

North America

North America Bridging Ages is currently conducting Time Travels in New Mexico, United States and Yukon Territory, Canada. In the Yukon Territory, we continue to conduct workshops in Whitehorse and Dawson City.

We conducted a Time Travel workshop in Dawson City, YT, Canada from August 14th to the 18th and public Time Travels at the Dawson City Museum on the 18th, 19th and 20th of August.

As Lotteries funding was not secured until well into July, we had a very short window to market the program. In the end, we had 6 students. However, it worked extremely well. Two were younger students (11 - 13) and 4 were older (15 - 18).

In 2017, one youth used this experience to become much more interested in his native culture and was so proud to share his heritage with the visitors. Over 125 visitors attended the museum over the weekend where they were able to interact with the youth and hear their characters stories. What did not work was the marketing. While an ad ran in the local paper, it was mostly through word of mouth and Facebook that the youth heard about the camp.

Funding for the Dawson City workshops and Time Travels was provided by Lotteries Yukon.

Quotes (from participants, partners, officials, etc.):

The parent of one of the Dawson City participants, Liam, said, "He was never interested in performance before." Also, "He never finished a week-long class until this one."

The parent of another Dawson City participant, Anya, said, "We both learned so much this week."

For 2018, Bridging Ages North America will focus its Time Travel and youth education/ living history efforts in the Yukon Territory of Canada and New Mexico in the United States. In both locations there is a commitment to empower the indigenous cultures through Time Travel.

Plans for Dawson City, Yukon Territory for summer of 2018 include:

- Time Travel Fair (long weekend of games, contests, etc.)
- Historical music camp and Time Travel- the week before the city's Music festival
- Time Travels each week to a different era (1905, 1915, 125, etc.) with murder mysteries and other interactive audience experiences included

For Bridging Ages North America, living history and Time Travel allow participants to connect the past with the present, to bridge the distance between generations, and to invigorate historical exploration in a manner that leads to lifelong learning. Living history performance also elevates an awareness of voices silenced by history such as First Nation/ Native American people, women and immigrants. In line with Bridging Ages International we endeavor to use living history and Time Travel to share the story of the Klondike and the many facets of its history with the community and afar while introducing youth of the Yukon and New Mexico to a new method of heritage education.

Kenya

Bridging Ages Kenya (BAK) is the Kenya chapter for Bridging Ages International (BA) formed in 2011 and with membership in 5 main institutions (Kenyatta University, National Museums of Kenya, Maseno University, TIKAH, and selected primary and secondary schools in Kisumu town) across six counties in Kenya. As composed currently, BAK is a network bringing together different Bridging Ages Teams

The key highlights in the BAK calendar include:

- The launch of BAK in November 2016
- The Marsabit County Cultural Festival at Loyangalani in 2017
- National Time Travel and training at the Karen Blixen Museum in Nairobi
- BAMU Time Travel on Post-Election violence in Maseno and Kisumu

The following activities were carried out by different BAK teams:

1. The National Museums of Kenya (NMK) organized two national training events at Uhuru Gardens for 2 days and at Karen Blixen Museum. It also organized 5 Time Travel events:
 - Opening of the first Christian church on the East African Coast at Rabai in 1848
 - Land Disputes and justice system at the District Commissioner's Office in Meru in 1964
 - Welcoming Karen and Bror Blixen in 1917
 - Preparation for the Independence celebration at Uhuru Gardens 11th December 1963
 - Opening of the new Railway station in Kisumu 1972
2. Bridging Ages Northern Kenya (BANK) held trainings and TT events in each of its 4 centres of Kalacha, Ngurunit, Loyiangalani, Gadhamoji

under the theme of "Traditions to keep, traditions to leave....".

3. Bridging Ages Maseno University (BAMU) had 3 training sessions with students and staff of the university. They also held two time travels: one in Maseno and the second in Kisumu all under the theme of "Post-Election violence in Kenya 2007/8.
4. Bridging Ages Western Kenya (BAWK) held 4 Time Travel events and training for members on:
 - Opening of the new railway station in Kisumu 1972
 - Welcoming the school inspector at Shaurimoyo primary school
 - Visit of the president 1978 also at Shaurimoyo primary
5. Bridging Ages Kenyatta University participated in all the national BAK activities. We need to join hands with them to help the team stand and grow.
6. TIKAH is cultural activity group affiliated to BAK.

BAK has received tremendous support from the international team in terms of activities, projects and training. The National Board of BAK wishes to show gratitude and sincere appreciation for the support from the international team members: Lena and Ebbe Westergren, Berit Johansson, Annina Ylikoski and Johanna Ejderstedt for having held our hands to show us direction guide and offer the much needed training, emotional and moral support that led to the birth of BAK.

BAK so far has been funded by donations from institutional partners and membership fees from individual members. The main contributors have been County Government of Marsabit; National Museums of Kenya; Maseno and Kenyatta University; Shaurimoyo primary school and individual members of these teams..

Future projects, goals, collaborations

1. BAK hopes to bring on board the National Cohesion and Integration Commission of Kenya and South Eastern University.
2. BAK was toying with the idea of hosting an experts' seminar in 2018 subject to availability

of funds but this did not happen and it is still a future aspiration

3. Seeking partnership through an MOU with any interested partners from the international community

Bridging Ages Annual Report for South Africa

Introduction: structure of the organization, network, focus, partners

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The Time Travel method was introduced to South Africa in 2006 by Kalmar County Museum. The team has worked consistently for many years with museums, non-governmental organisations and sector government departments. Numerous partnership collaborations developed. In 2008 the International conference was held in Worcester, Western Province. National Bridging Ages South Africa was inaugurated in 2009. Bridging Ages South Africa (BASA) is a National Committee that co-ordinates interactions with Bridging Ages International and locally in all provinces with partner/affiliate organisations.

Overview/highlights of the year:

During 2017, time travel events were held by both Government and non-governmental institutions. Training at schools continued. It has made a huge impact in South Africa by addressing various contemporary issues.

At Provincial Level, in KwaZulu Natal, Umzumbe Municipality in collaboration with many partners in Kwa Zulu Natal commemorated the Zulu heritage and King Shaka with over 2000 people in attendance.

each province. We believe that in time our programmes will have an impact similar to that in Sweden and Finland. We will attempt to persuade all Heritage based organisations to use

Commemoration of Human Rights Day, Women's Day and Heritage Day were successful.

The programme now has a national footprint. National Department of Arts and Culture accepted the merits of this programme and a three year agreement to fund the programme ends in 2018. The aim is to ensure implementation in all nine provinces.

In addition, an Expert Seminar was also held in South Africa in 2017. Seven countries were represented. The outcome was the firm endorsement of the fundamental method.

In October 2017, a national training programme was held, supported by Bridging Ages International targeting five provinces. This was to follow the practical aspect, in developing their Time Travels and mentored by the national trainers Andy Perterson, Jabulani Phelago and Gulshera Khan.

South Africa was well represented at the International conference held in Finland. Finally, South Africa will again host the International Conference 2018. This will be a joint partnership with Bridging Ages South Africa, Freedom Park and the National Department of Arts and Culture.

Future projects and goals:

Our goal is to spread Time Travel to all nine provinces and to deepen the participation in

this method. Our ultimate objective is to get TT institutionalised via our Education Department through the syllabus.