

## E-4. ENHANCING STUDENTS' LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

### APPLYING INNOVATIVE TEACHING/LEARNING TOOLS

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Globalization is changing the world as we have known it. The dramatic increase in mobility and contacts has turned communication into the big issue and cultures and languages play a major role in successful communication [1]. Hence, the content of the language course and the applied methodology are crucial.

Most higher education institutions of Latvia, including Turība University, offer its students the opportunity to acquire English for Special Purposes (ESP) course, which has become popular in Latvia during the last 15 years. At present we are experiencing the features of the second stage of ESP development (needs-based, purpose-driven English language instruction; significant growth in research, publishing and professional events) and the Next Generation ESP which moves the language learning to the real professional setting, the change of the course content to highly specific professional course, as well as the use of ICT tools in material design and teaching/learning [2-3]. During the last ten years Languages for Special Purposes (LSP) courses have been introduced alongside with ESP courses. The most frequently offered languages are German, Russian, and Spanish. Some universities offer also the LSP courses of Italian, French, Latvian for foreigners, and other languages.

Lots of different teaching/learning materials have been created within the framework of various EU projects. The current presentation introduces the created on-line teaching/learning modules for LSP course (English, German, French, Spanish, Russian, and Latvian) in the implementation of Leonardo da Vinci Grundtvig Learning Partnerships project "Language learning opportunities - ways out of unemployment risks" [LLO] (2012-2014) [4]. The aim of the project is to better integrate different groups of people in the European society, and to improve their professional abilities on the European labour market through language skills.

The created materials comprise on-line learning modules securing the enhancement of students' pluricultural competence and professional language skills. The created modules cover a wide range of topics (Meetings, Occupation, Job Interview, Travelling, Hotels, Restaurants, Business Etiquette etc.) and include the following traditional types of exercises in an unaccustomed on-line learning form – Matching tasks, Gap filling, Quiz, Substitution, Jumbled word order, Sentence completion, Word formation and derivation, Describing a picture, Reading comprehension, etc. The materials also include texts on intercultural topics and text comprehension tasks. Created modules are used as a supplementary material to regular lectures and as self-study materials for those who want to refresh their language skills. The project website offers also additional on-line materials for language learning and links to online dictionaries [5].

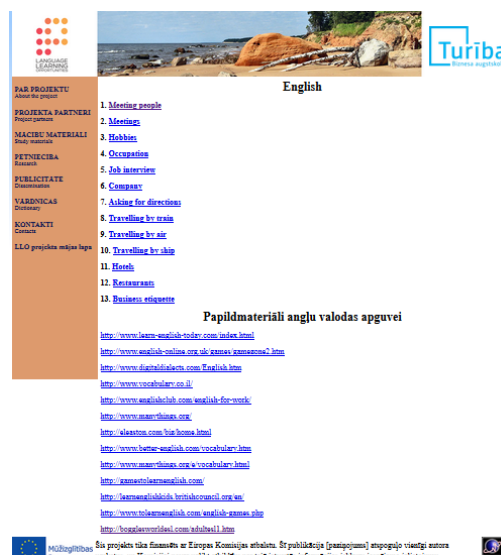


Fig. 1. Example of LLO project website with the ESP tasks.

As the created materials focus on the development of students' professional lexis and reading skills, they can be used as a source of information on pluricultural issues as well as a supplementary material to develop students' Language for Special Purposes competence.

#### References

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