



OUTCOMES OF THE LLO PROJECT

The EU funded Lifelong Learning Grundtvig project “Language learning opportunities - ways out of unemployment risks” (Project No. 2012-1-DE2-GRU06-11344 4) implemented by the Department of Languages of Turība University has come to an end.

The project was aimed at improving people’s professional abilities on the European labour market by developing their language skills. The exchange of various experiences in formal and non-formal language learning as a means of improving communication skills of different groups including the socially disadvantaged and the unemployed was a focal point of the project.

The project lasted two years (1st August 2012 – 31st July 2014) and was implemented by six project partners EUROPANORAT Schulung - Training - Management - Consulting GmbH (Germany), Gönen Adult Education Center (Turkey), Turība University (Latvia), Voksenuddannelsescenter Frederiksberg (Denmark), Vilnius Business College (Lithuania), Ekonomska šola Murska Sobota, Višja strokovna šola (Slovenia).

Six international meetings were held during the project. These included mobility visits to Germany (October 2012), Slovenia (April 2013), a combined to Latvia and Lithuania (May 2013), Denmark (October 2013) and Turkey (May 2014). An additional meeting was held in Latvia (June 2014) when project partners gathered to discuss and draft the final project report as well as to disseminate the main project outcomes.

Workshops were conducted during these mobility visits for further enhancement of pedagogical competences of teachers involved in adult education focusing on the use of new innovative teaching learning methods for language learning, intercultural communication and exchange of best practices. Information regarding language learning at partner institutions, language learning opportunities for special target groups (socially disadvantaged, unemployed etc.) was presented and discussed during project partner meetings.

Partners acquainted each other with the education system in their respective countries during seminars with a special emphasis on organisation of adult education and language learning. Presentations were focused on lifelong learning and pedagogical qualifications.

Formal and non-formal education opportunities for language learning and language examinations accessible to adult learners in partner countries including those that resulted in the award of certificates were explored and a set of recommendations for improvements in language examinations for adults were drafted with a strong emphasis on developing general and professional language skills underlining the importance of conversational skills in foreign languages and not just writing skills. The use of CEFR levels was also recommended and suggestions regarding language skills required for employees are also put forward.

Examples of best practices of language teaching learning for adults were explored which were then adapted by other partners to their specific needs and tested as a part of their teaching learning process. As a result a Handbook of Best Practices (http://www.language-learning-opportunities.com/media/1044/grundtvig_handbook.pdf) was designed for adult language learning that comprised descriptions and methodological guidelines for 12 best language learning techniques. The handbook can be used by language teachers for various language levels, different age groups and purposes.

All the project information and results including all reports and documents are accessible at a project homepage <http://www.language-learning-opportunities.com> which was specially designed for the project. The webpage is accessible to the general public and contains detailed information about education system of partner countries language learning opportunities for adults, language examinations as well as presentations of best practices, etc.

Information regarding the project is also accessible in partner language on their institution homepages (e.g. <http://llo.turiba.lv> for Latvian partner). The project results were also disseminated through newspaper articles and research articles written and seminars conducted by various partners.

The Latvian project website (<http://llo.turiba.lv>) contains interactive study materials specially developed within the framework of the project in six languages (English, Latvian, French, German, Spanish and Russian on <http://llo.turiba.lv/index.php?id=4>) on a variety of themes to facilitate language learning. Links are also provided to online dictionaries as well as to additional Internet resources fostering language learning (<http://llo.turiba.lv/index.php?id=7>).

Mobility visits to partner countries also included a comprehensive cultural history programme providing participants the opportunity to get acquainted with the distinct cultural peculiarities and traditions, religion and history enabling them to understand the mentality, behaviour and actions of various partner nations thereby fostering respect and mutual understanding towards each other which is one of the cornerstones of successful European Union.

Participation in such projects enables language teachers to share their experience and learn to communicate across Europe. It provides them the opportunity to enhance their pedagogical and intercultural competencies and integrate new approaches and methods in lifelong learning.

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