



Young Europeans Love Languages

Newsletter 4

Contents

11 partners from 10 European countries have joined together to form a network named "Young Europeans Love Languages" aiming to make language learning a key skill of lifelong learning. In terms of accomplishing this goal, a collection of best practice examples from these countries that represent fun, attractive and unconventional forms of language teaching which could be incorporated into formal, non-formal/informal learning environments, as well as diverse leisure activities amongst other will be offered to teachers, trainers, course providers and other institutions interested in new offers for young language learners. Other services that have been elaborated are:

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A Handbook. This document includes descriptions of best practices on innovative learning environments and language learning concepts, tools and methods, as well as practical pedagogical information to include them in educational offers.

The YELL virtual documentation centre. This section of the project's website www.yell-project.eu offers a variety of good practices for language teaching and innovative informal environments. By the end of the project in 2011, you will be able to search them using several parameters and download them free of charge.

Further information can be found on our site: www.yell-project.eu

Project Activities

YELL has included many different kinds of good practices found in the 10 partner countries. Experts have tested them for several months and found that even those which are not innovative in their teaching practice could simply be used as alternative to their daily routine. However, many of the examples collated in this project have been rated innovative and of value in most participating countries and — even more interestingly — the ones tested were fun and motivating for young learners. Now, teachers, trainers and tutors can show how motivated they are to implement them into their work with young European language learners.

Finally, that the YELL good practices can be of value for sports centres, youth clubs and alike can be seen in the next sections talking about specific YELL pilot tests.



ФОНДАЦИЯ НА БИЗНЕСА ЗА ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО



2nd Thematic Seminar



The 2nd thematic seminar in Stavanger (Norway), held in May 2010, focused on finding further solutions and pre-presentations of products available through the project, as well as demonstrating how education providers, teachers and trainers can raise motivation among young people to learn foreign languages. Finally, some examples were presented showing how attractive, joyful and unconventional forms of language learning could be incorporate not only in formal but also in non-formal and informal education.

The seminar was attended by project partners and various education providers, teachers, trainers, a representative of a comprehensive secondary education institution in Latvia and one member of the City Hall in Cham (Bavaria, Germany), as well as representatives of SMEs offering in-formal and non-formal learning environments to young Europeans. The Norwegian Rogerland School and Business Development Organisation were also present and contributed their experiences as well as an English teacher employed at a technical college in Austria, who shared her language teaching and learning practices. To make the most of a meeting where individuals with such diverse experiences in the field of education join together idea gathering exercises were organised – one example showed ideas of how motivation, time and investment could be increased within stakeholders, teachers and students in terms of language learning.

Motivation: What teachers can do about it



Many educators are quarrelling that young pupils are not motivated and will therefore not achieve any success in learning. Certainly, motivational factors like the learner's interest in the subject or the qualification s/he might achieve with the chosen educational path are of importance, but the other determinant of learning success lies in resources the student can invest (such as time, experience, cognitive skills etc.). However, good news is that both these sides can be influenced by teachers, trainers or tutors and their teaching approach, although it has to be mentioned that the second one might be with restrictions somehow. Bad news is that if one of the two factors is nil, the learning will also tend towards nil. By applying a learner centred teaching approach, the selection of tools and instruments can rather focus on the learner's interest and improve his/her motivation in the subject. In addition, educators should include as many different kinds of activities as possible to appeal all learner's cognitive abilities.



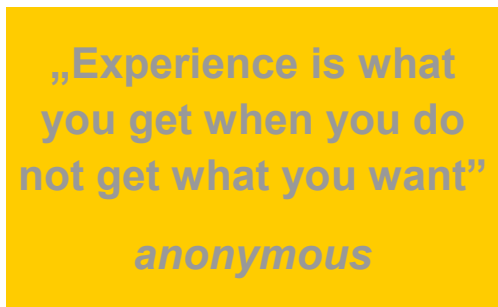
Pilot Tests and Case Studies

Over 50 teachers, trainers and guidance counsellors in Austria contributed to the project in the pilot test phase which proved through responses from the participants, to have been extremely useful, stimulating and practical.



Business Foundation for Education, the Bulgarian partner, conducted testing of two best practices of the *Relaxa method* based on the natural human ability that had helped people learn their own mother language – imitating the original pattern with a group of 12 pupils aged 17 and 18 from a secondary school in Gorna Oriahovitz (Northern Bulgaria).

Godalen (Norway) ran a language activity session in the youth section of Stavanger Karateclub. A handful of the members have been selected to participate in a YOUTH IN ACTION exchange program with Turkey, Estonia and Belgium this August. In order to stimulate the interest in foreign languages Godalen decided to run a teaser with several practical lessons. They tried to find common words in German and Norwegian in order to make “Karate kids” understand how similar the two languages really were. Since karate is a sport where most of the terminology is in Japanese, the lessons were done in German and English to motivate the participants a bit before meeting the youth from the other countries. Energy levels were very high and active participation made it a cool event for the youths.



Students of PSLC and Liepaja University from Latvia aged 14-17 joined together to take part in story telling, individual classes and summer camps where traditional folk dances from Germany, Ireland, Italy and Latvia were demonstrated in the original language. Responses showed that it was great to do something different and it was evident that the students thoroughly enjoyed the change.



In the UK, in two schools for children with special behavioural problems (primary and secondary) the testing was conducted by class teachers in October 2009 - January 2010. It was the acquisition of names of foods in French in a fun/playful manner and the increase in their awareness of other cultures which were tested. For this, the teachers implemented the good practice of *Speech bubbles* and *Divis* (making videos and saying words in the foreign language), as well as *Eat* (using ICT and working on the theme of food, eating and cultural awareness).



Like in the other partner countries, the implementation of good practices collated in YELL was very successful in terms of motivation (the children enjoyed the practical tasks including the eating and didn't mind the language element, it was part of the fun), they were proud of the results. To try them some good practices, visit: www.yell-project.eu



Next: International conference

Besides thematic seminars and other events, the project has foreseen a bigger final event. To present the final products, the partnership will organise a conference in Italy next autumn.

It is aimed at language centres, cultural and sport institutions, decision makers and public authorities from countries that have not been involved in the project. At this occasion, participants will have the chance to meet and ask the project partners in several speeches, workshops and round table discussions how they can implement and make use of the YELL products after the project is completed.

If you are interested in participating in the conference, please send an email to asikorska@vhs-cham.de

More information about the conference will be published on the project website in the near future www.yell-project.eu



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