



## Young Europeans Love Languages

### Newsletter 5

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Dear readers,

After more than two years of our Languages Project which started in January 2009, our network has been extended by a large number of associated partners and other organisations interested and engaged in language learning.

The main aim is to increase the motivation of young people to learn foreign languages outside of formal education by offering a variety of attractive and exciting learning methods and environments via cultural, social and sports clubs.

Lots of things have already been done, e.g., the best learning practices collected and tested in other countries, and the handbook “How to Implement Best Practices” is written, a virtual documentation centre (VDC) is made and it is being improved and developed regularly, 4 newsletters have reached the readers, 2 thematic seminars have taken place in Vienna (Austria) and Stavanger (Norway) which focused on the network’s research and results. However, there is still a huge amount of work to be done.....

Further information can be found on our site: [www.yell-project.eu](http://www.yell-project.eu)

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## Project Activities

The “Handbook” has been finished. This handbook is one of the results from the project YELL. It has been targeted at multipliers in non-formal education and formal education, providers of cultural, social and sport activities for young people.

It provides teachers, trainers and relevant stakeholders’ insight on how to implement best practices on raising awareness about cultural diversity and motivation of young people to learn foreign languages. It is designed as a user-friendly manual. Trainers, teachers, tutors are able to introduce new teaching methods and materials into their respective language course and to develop awareness and raise these skills among their clients.

The “Handbook” is also directed at experts working for education policy and it will increase their readiness to promote such measures. The tools are designed for all education and vocational qualification institutions and for the trainers. This collection of materials and methods can be used because of their modular structure, for a wide variety of measures and interactions. It will be translated in other languages as well.

## Demonstration events



The concept of demonstration events is used from the previous projects' experiences and it is adapted to the project. The aim of the demonstration events is:

- to raise among non-formal education providers, cultural institutions, sports clubs their interest to make the use of the project's products that are available free of charge and to incorporate them into their activities concepts;
- to raise among education policy makers their motivation to promote such educational concepts that increase motivation of young people to learn other languages, also after having demotivating experiences in the formal system.



Demonstration events are organised in each partner country. Partners address language teachers, trainers, counsellors, course designers, representatives of education organisations and general public.

The demonstration events are conducted as classroom activities, workshops presenting examples from our Virtual Documentation Centres, discussions and seminar presenting the project outputs.

Examples of demonstration events conducted by partners will be available on the website [www.yell-project.eu](http://www.yell-project.eu)

## New! Join our network



On the project website YELL we have included a new option of the membership.

Anyone who is interested in good practices of teaching foreign language or would like to support our project aims, can become a member of the YELL Network.

By becoming a part of our network, each member will support our activities for increasing the motivation of young people to learn foreign languages outside formal education. Our network offers a variety of attractive and interesting learning methods, environments and ideas that can be put in practice by cultural, social and sport clubs.



As a member of the Network you are aware of the importance of language learning and promote the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe.

More information <http://www.yell-project.eu/en/join-our-network>

## News from other Language Networks

In cooperation with British Council in Latvia there has come a proposal to teach children English through rhymes involving the children's parents. "In pre-school age parents have got six times bigger influence on children's study achievements than their teachers", says Jim Knight, the UK State Minister. Parents' involvement into the children's study process can influence both the children's attitude towards the studies and speed of acquisition in a positive way. It is possible to do it with very simple and basic techniques providing the children with confidence that they can speak in English.

"Rhymes" are a part of all cultures. When children start learning to speak, they experiment with sounds while playing. They start to imitate the sounds and perceive the language, and also the rhythm of the rhymes.

Moreover, the rhymes also include a wider meaning which causes emotions, develops imagination and reveals ideas that stretch further than the child's familiar environment. Rhymes are like portable toys. Parents and children can recite them any time, any place in order to change the mood or fill in boredom. Rhymes do not need any tools or books. Rhymes can be supplemented with movements which help understand them better. A rhyme is like a whole story, it has a beginning, end and context.

Finally, teenagers and adults can also find some joy and fun learning the rhymes.

Children learn rhymes unconsciously and with hardly any effort and it is not a work consuming process. When playing with short texts and rhythm, children learn the principles of the English language structure. They understand how the language works and they find a connection between the sounds and letters, it is the information that helps later when they learn to read. Up to now the significance of the language games with rhythm, when acquiring the language, has not been appreciated sufficiently yet.

The traditional and well-known rhymes in English, which are sometimes called as Mother Goose Rhymes or Nursery Rhymes, e.g., "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" and "Humpty Dumpty", are considered an inseparable part of British culture.

[www.learnerenglishkids.britishcouncil.org](http://www.learnerenglishkids.britishcouncil.org)

For example:

Acker Backer, Soda Cracker,  
Acker Backer Boo!  
Acker Backer, Soda Cracker  
Out goes YOU!

**"Rhymes are a part of all cultures. When children start learning to speak, they experiment with sounds while playing."**





## Final seminar of the project YELL

If you love languages, if you are interested in language learning, we are pleased to invite you to the final thematic seminar, which will take place on

27<sup>th</sup> of October 2011 in Bologna, Italy.

The final seminar will sum up activities of the three years of the project "YELL" (Young Europeans Love Languages).

The aim of the project is to facilitate the exchange of experiences in motivation of young people to learn foreign languages.

The objectives of the seminar will be :

- presentation of the main outputs and products of the project "YELL";
- presentation of the partners' experiences in network creation ;
- exploitation of the network on their regional, national and European levels;
- facilitation of the good practices exchange among participants how to motivate young people to learn foreign languages;
- presentation of the good examples of language teaching in combination with other activities.

With this final seminar we want to:

- promote unconventional, attractive methods of language learning for young people;
- share a common discourse about the importance of language learning among language providers, stakeholders, cultural, sport associations, non-formal education organizations;
- create a network for new projects in the field of language learning and promote the best examples of language learning.



The seminar is directed to all who are interested in raising awareness and promotion of language learning:

- language providers, schools, training centres;
- regional, national authorities, stakeholders;
- language teachers, professionals;
- other organization acting in the field of non-formal and informal education;
- NGOs, volunteers, associations, clubs.

More information about our seminar will be published on the website [www.yell-project.eu](http://www.yell-project.eu) or you can contact directly via email [a.sikorska@vhs-cham.de](mailto:a.sikorska@vhs-cham.de)

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## Partnership:

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