



## About the YELL network

Newsletter no 1

Contents

YELL is 3 year Languages Network Project which started in January 2009 and will run until December 2011.

Our network comprises 11 partner organisations from across 10 European countries: Germany, Austria, Belgium, Norway, Holland, Spain, Bulgaria, Italy, Latvia and the UK. There are also a large number of associated partners involved in the project from all participating countries who will support the project outcomes.

Our 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 interesting learning methods and environments via cultural, social and sports clubs.

We will achieve this by:

- Collection existing good practices of language learning across the partner countries and beyond,
- Creating a toolbox containing language learning tools adapted to various social, cultural and sport activities directed at young people,
- Promoting awareness of the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe through thematic seminars and local events and a final international conference,
- Broadening our network of cooperation between social partners and representatives of formal and non-formal education.

More about network, please visit our website [www.yell-project.eu](http://www.yell-project.eu)

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## The main outcomes

**A virtual documentation centre (VDC)** accessible via the project website ([www.yell-project.eu](http://www.yell-project.eu)). The virtual documentation centre will include a variety of good practices in language learning. Currently the VDC is in the construction phase. The final version is planned for 2010.

**A Handbook „How to implement best practice“.** The handbook will include descriptions of best practices on innovative and fun learning environments and innovative language learning concepts, tools and methods.

**Newsletters.** Our network will issue 6 Newsletters on the progress of the project activities and interesting issues related to the topic of motivation and language learning. All newsletters will be available online on the website [www.yell-project.eu](http://www.yell-project.eu).

**Thematic seminars.** These seminars will focus on our network's research and results. The first thematic seminar focusing on cultural and linguistic diversity and language learning was held in Vienna between 6th-8th July. The second thematic seminar on raising motivation among young people to learn foreign language will take place in Norway in May 2010.

**International conference** (September 2011) will summarise our network's activities.



ФОНДАЦИЯ НА БИЗНЕСА ЗА ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО



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## Initial research

„The best education  
is the one  
you don't even  
notice”

*Quote from the  
French writer*

*André Malraux  
(1901 – 1976)*

Each partner looked for examples of good practice in language learning for young people which could be integrated into the outcomes of the project. The area of research was not limited to the country, all partners also investigated previous European projects and initiatives outside their own country.

Most of good practice outside formal education were combined with sport, the arts (including theatre, music, fine arts, museums and cultural events) new technologies, multimedia, gastronomy, etc.

Project partners collected good practise to be used in the project, taking into account their adaptability to other countries and institutions.

## 1st thematic seminar



The first thematic seminar entitled „Raising awareness of cultural and linguistic diversity and language learning” was hosted by partner organisation BEST from Vienna. Representatives of the 11 partner institutions, associated partners and invited stakeholders took part in the thematic seminar .

Associated partners and guests represented various institutions: governmental organisations responsible for language learning, associations of language teaching, schools, language centres from Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, the Netherlands, Latvia, Norway and the United Kingdom. The thematic seminar was an excellent opportunity for all representatives to exchange their own experiences on raising awareness of different cultures and making language learning an attractive subject for young learners. All participants of the seminar presented various examples language learning outside the classroom, e.g. combining language learning and sport and arts. Partners collected and presented examples of good practices which can be adapted for the project and will be available on the project platform in the near future.

Learning a new  
language is also  
about experiencing  
other cultures and  
broadening your  
horizons.



## YELL Activity in Vienna

Within the framework of the YELL Thematic Seminar and project meeting in Vienna (July 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>), project partners and invited guests were encouraged to experience informal language learning situations themselves. The Austrian partner BEST prepared a lively competition activity, which simulated some of the motivating aspects of the YELL approach:

The participants formed four groups and were given questionnaires and cameras to document their challenges. Groups had to interact with locals, to ask for directions and other questions related to Vienna related to art, culture, history and, of course, language. The groups were motivated by the competition to talk to local people in order to find out about specific Austrian terms (such as "Powidl") or specific Austrian traditions.

YELL partners and invited guests enjoyed practising and experiencing this informal learning.



**Project and Strategic Partners have fun and learn too!**



## 2nd thematic seminar

The second thematic seminar will take place in Norway, in May 2010 and will focus on how to raise motivation among young people learning a foreign language and how to incorporate interesting, fun and unconventional forms of language learning in formal and informal education settings.

The seminar is aimed at language centres, cultural and sport institutions, decision makers, local authorities.

If you are interested in participating in the seminar please send your request at the email [asikorska@vhs-cham.de](mailto:asikorska@vhs-cham.de)

More information about the second seminar will be published soon on the project website [www.yell-project.eu](http://www.yell-project.eu)



A few milestones:

## Celebrate European Day of Languages on 26th September



The European Day of Languages is the day we celebrate Europe's rich linguistic heritage. The aim of the celebration that day is to raise public awareness of the languages used in Europe, to promote cultural and linguistic diversity and to encourage people to learn languages.

More information <http://edl.ecml.at>

The Commission's Communication on Multilingualism:

"Multilingualism: an asset for Europe and a shared commitment" (2008)

["A New Framework Strategy for Multilingualism"](#) (2005)

[Action Plan "Promoting Language Learning and Linguistic Diversity"](#). (2003)

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/eu-language-policy/doc99\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/eu-language-policy/doc99_en.htm)

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## Partnership:

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[www.uhasselt.be](http://www.uhasselt.be)

Business Foundation for Education // Bulgaria  
[www.fbo.bg](http://www.fbo.bg)

IAL CISL Emilia Romagna // Italy  
[www.ialemiliaromagna.it](http://www.ialemiliaromagna.it)

Public Service Language Centre (PSLC) // Latvia  
[www.vmc.lv](http://www.vmc.lv)

ROC Nijmegen // Netherlands  
[www.roc-nijmegen.nl](http://www.roc-nijmegen.nl)

Godalen Vocational College // Norway  
[www.godalen.vgs.no](http://www.godalen.vgs.no)

Valladolid University General Foundation // Spain  
[www.funge.uva.es](http://www.funge.uva.es)

PNM Language Services // United Kingdom  
[www.pnmlanguageservices.com](http://www.pnmlanguageservices.com)

Careers Europe // United Kingdom  
[www.careerseurope.co.uk](http://www.careerseurope.co.uk)

