



EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE IN PROJECTS THAT WERE AWARDED THE EUROPEAN LANGUAGE LABEL

FINLAND



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

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Best Practice in School Education, Finland



CMC_E: Comunicare in contesti multi linguistici

Kielitivoli – The Language Circus – is a joint project between the schools of the city of Hämeenlinna with the supervision of the city's administration and school board. The main objective has been to build a network whose purpose is to create awareness and visibility to broaden the selection of foreign languages offered and studied in all lower and upper level comprehensive schools. The aim has been reached by active and strategic policy and decision-making throughout the community e.g. by designing a language path that can be followed from pre-primary school to secondary education.

The project has involved cooperation between administration, teachers, pupils, pupils' parents, local entrepreneurs and other local and national interest groups. An example of cooperation has been having 9th graders survey language needs of local enterprises.

Project coordination lies in the hands of a group of active language teachers. Bodies such as Confederation of Finnish Industries and the Nordic Institution in Finland have also been involved to voice their opinion in terms of working life language needs.

As results of the Language Circus project, there can be seen many results that have been integrated into the schools' everyday life: strengthening of cooperation between teachers in different school grades, development of multicultural teaching, teaching of a great variety of migrants' languages, intensification of information about learning languages. One of the concrete products the has been a manual for international education ("Osasena maailmassa") which promotes the fact that diverse language skills are one of the key skills in the future. It can also be seen as a tool for international education in schools and may be put into practice according to the schools' resources. The project team has worked actively to promote its application and ideology both nationally and on an international level.

Here are the reasons why the Language Circus was included among the Finnish Best Practice:

- it shows innovative initiative in taking proactive measures throughout different sectors to enhance language learning
- it's initiatives motivate pupils and teachers to improve their language skills and it uses effectively it's networks for this purpose

- the project has worked very closely with all stakeholders and decision makers in the city of Hämeenlinna. This helps to ensure the equal opportunities for language learning in different schools and in different grades.
- the project results have been successfully integrated into the schools' curriculum
- close contacts and cooperation with the working life is a special add to the project's achievements

The project has been part of a national project funded by the Finnish National Board of Education in 2009-2010 and it has been chosen to represent Finland at the Label of the Label ceremony held in Cyprus on 26-28 September 2012.

Project coordinator

The City of Hämeenlinna / School Board

Contact details

Johanna Hyytiä
johanna.hyytia@hameenlinna.fi

Terhi Lahdenperä
terhi.lahdenpohja@hameenlinna.fi

Web site

<http://kielitivoli.hameenlinna.fi/Kieli/Etusivu.html>

Project duration

2 years
2010-2012



http://nellip.pixel-online.org/DB_database_scheda.php?art_id=345&tla=&sec=&cou=13&yea=&ppr=

Best Practice in Vocational Education and Training, Finland



Ready Study Go!

There was a concrete need for basic, work-based language learning materials in initial and vocational training in the beginning of the 21st century. Language learning was not related to the vocational situations. This project aimed at giving more choices for language learners, using new technologies to support learning and encouraging students to learn more about foreign cultures. The materials were especially targeted for those students who would go for an on the job period abroad: learning about the target culture, working culture and language were seen as a special support for motivation and orientation. Another important target group was those students who were not able to go abroad – the new materials gave also for them an opportunity to study new languages and to learn about new cultures in their home country.

The objective of the project was to develop new online language and culture learning material for the initial and vocational training. The sectors of hotel, tourism, restaurant and catering and bakery were targeted. The language learning materials were developed for the following languages: Finnish, Estonian, French, German and Italian. English was used as a support language for instructions, translations and for providing deeper cultural and linguistic information. The levels were mainly A.1. and A.2.

The main method used in the project was content and language integrated learning (CLIL) which provided opportunities of cooperation between vocational and language teachers. The materials were related to every day working tasks. Dialogues and authentic photos as well as concrete exercises related to the themes were the key materials used in the learning packages.

As a result the above mentioned language packages were created. The work process was also a learning process for the teachers that participated in the work: they learnt how to create online materials, how to use them as part of classroom teaching or as a self-study material, and how to guide the students to use the materials in the best way. The development work on the materials was kept on a very concrete level. There was a continuing project Ready Study Go Ahead!, that took place in 2009-2011. The second project disseminated the experiences of the first one and new languages (Spanish, Turkish and Swedish) and a new vocational field (vehicle) were targeted.

This project was selected as a Finnish Best Practice mainly because it:

- has increased the variety of foreign languages to be learnt in vocational training
- has used innovative approaches for language learning, among others the use ICT
- has succeeded in the dissemination and the project products are well integrated in the teaching programmes

Project coordinator

Omnia

Contact details

Ms Seija Heikkinen
PO Box 77710
02070 City of Espoo
Finland
Tel. +358 50 351 5987
Email: seija.heikkinen@omnia.fi

Partnership

Adulta, Finland
Teenidudskool, Estonia
Bildungsmarkt/Kiezküchen, Germany
Istituto Statale di Istruzione Secondaria "Andrea Barbarigo"
di Venezia, Italy
CFA La Châtaigneraie, France
IFA Marcel Sauvage, France
Institute of Technology (Tralee), Ireland

Web site

<http://www.rsga-dev.net/>

Project duration

2 years
2005-2007



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**Best Practice in
Adult Education, Finland**



Place of work as a learning environment for Finnish

Languages and intercultural communication in working life are included in the project as a concrete co-operation between target groups (immigrants, personnel at the workplace and customers). The Finnish language is used in job performance, recruitment and working life communication across different vocational fields. The target group - adult immigrants at work speaking Finnish as a second language regardless of their background - was selected because of their increasing number in the metropolitan area and the multicultural and diversity challenges due to this phenomenon for both individuals and organizations. Obviously there was and is a constant need for tailor-made field-specific Finnish language training at the workplace. The project made it possible to put the knowhow of the organization in practice methodologically and on a large scale.

The objective of the project was to support the career development of immigrants, to enhance diversity and to improve language training methods by developing new ways of learning Finnish at the working place.

The language training courses were planned together with the coordinator and the workplaces according to their needs. Evaluation was made by using feedback from both the employers and employees. The training plans were developed in co-operational trainer meetings.

According to the indicators of the feedback both the language and vocational skills of immigrants have improved during the project.

This project was selected as a Finnish Best Practice mainly because it:

- improves and promotes intercultural dialogue and close connections with employers, taking into consideration the needs for language skills in working life
- uses innovative approaches for teaching languages
- supports migrants to integrate into the Finnish society and into working life
- has developed a model that is easy to transfer to other work places and to other contexts
- has reacted to the fact that the number of migrants in Finland increases all the time and new ways of integration into the Finnish society are needed

Project coordinator

Amiedu

Contact details

Ms. Anni Piikki

PO Box 151

00381 Helsinki

Finland

Tel: +358 20 7461 284

Email: anni.piikki@amiedu.fi

Project duration

1 year

2009



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Best Practice in School Education, Finland



Teaching Chinese

The Meilahti Primary School offers Chinese language learning from the very early age on. The objective of Chinese as a foreign language program is to respond to the increasing need of Chinese speakers. The objective of bilingual program is functional bilingualism which is supported by providing teaching of both the Finnish language and Mandarin Chinese. Chinese is taught as a foreign language by using the CLIL method (Content and Language Integrated Learning).

The early language teaching project is also nationally important. In 2012 already 50 % of Meilahti Primary School's students study Chinese as a A-language or in bilingual program. In the bilingual program there are about 60 students in grades 1-9. The instruction follows the national curriculum. The program has been taken as a model also for other language programs, e.g. Finnish-Spanish program in Helsinki.

This project was selected as a Finnish Best Practice mainly because it:

- aims at offering a less taught language for children from the early childhood and through the whole comprehensive school
- aims at raising bilingual students
- has created good relationship and contacts with the Republic of China to support the teaching activities
- responds to the needs of working life regarding language skills
- has developed a model that is easy to transfer to other learning contexts and to other languages

Project coordinator

Meilahden ala-aste / Meilahti Primary School

Contact details

Ms. Pia Näsman-Hao
PO Box 3206
00099 Helsingin kaupunki
Tel: +358403345845
Email: pia.nasman-hao@edu.hel.fi

Web site

<http://www.hel.fi/wps/portal/Koulut/Peruskoulut/Meilaa?urlile=wcm:path:/meilaa/fi/Etusivu¤t=true>

Project duration

The third period of a five year contract is starting in 2012.



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