



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

## NORWAY



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

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## **Best Practice in Adult Education, Norway**



### **My language – your language**

My language - your language project was part of the activities of the Multilingual library (Det flerspråklige bibliotek DFB) that is situated in Oslo. The Multilingual library's work is based on the conception and belief that language learning and knowledge of each one's own language and of other languages give citizens a stronger capacity to cope in modern society and participate there, and by this contribute to greater diversity.

The project target groups were people living in asylum receptions, as this is a particularly vulnerable group with a particular need of good support from public authorities and institutions. Children are also important for the Multilingual library's work, as the curiousness about and stimulation of language from an early age is significant.

Six main topics have been chosen to enable most of the target group to read a new language during 2010:

1. Convey offers especially to people in asylum receptions. End-users in the whole of Norway may borrow language courses or log on to the organizers' websites.
2. The magical carpet is an exhibition produced to be shown in libraries, primarily to children of 4 to 10 years old. It consists of a piece of Islamic art, a pavilion of glass tessellation, called The Gate to the Orient. Three newly written tales are linked to the theme, in three different languages.
3. Bazar is a tailor-made online service for linguistic minorities in Norway and available in 14 languages. It is a unique possibility to reach minority groups in their own languages. It contains information about Norwegian culture and society, papers from 50 countries, books for reading and an address list of organizations for linguistic minorities.
4. Production of bilingual books, having especially minority children as a target group.
5. Participation in the ABM-development project called "Lesefroe" (Reading seeds) which is a biannual national project where kindergartens with a large proportion of minority children have established library branches.
6. Multilingual bags of fairy tales: picture books and sound books in different languages and specially made ragdolls are put in the same homemade bag.

The main results of the project are especially the interest for the Norwegian language, which has increased the number of courses and licences available. Another clear result are the 7 titles of bilingual picture books in Norwegian with Arabic, Kurdish, Persian, Polish, Russian, Somali, Tamil, Thai, Turkish, Urdu and Vietnamese. They are lent out or sold to libraries, nurseries and schools.

The reasons why the project was included among the Norwegian Best Practice:

- The target group is well chosen: people and especially children in asylum reception centres
- The target group is offered possibilities to learn Norwegian via different media
- The project activities aim at migrants' integration into the Norwegian society and towards working life
- Early language learning has been taken into consideration
- The great diversity of languages in Norway has been taken care of by the project and by the Multilingual Library.

The project has been chosen to represent Norway at the Label of the Label ceremony held in Cyprus on 26-28 September 2012. It was also awarded by a special Label among five chosen project in that ceremony.

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## **Best Practice in School Education, Norway**



## **The Saami Language Centre**

The language center was founded to amass expertise in the Saami language, to coordinate language resources, to increase public awareness and to create more arenas for the use of the Saami language and to legitimize the use of the Saami language in more areas.

One general feature of the development and implementation of the majority of the courses was the importance attached to intensive periods of training that used a wide range of culture-based and practical tasks in a natural environment for language learning.

The Saami Language Centre employs the resources of regular instructors with formal skills and people with non-formalised knowledge of the Saami language, Saami traditions and local history. In this way, valuable and informal knowledge of the Saami language and culture is also transferred to others.

Many of the courses are also product-oriented and are based on the notion that the Saami language shall be a natural language for communication during, for example, training in traditional Saami handicrafts. The courses involved natural training and allowed different generations to work together.

Available resources were used in a holistic process of language and culture learning, contributing to the preservation of expertise and knowledge of the Saami culture and language, as well as stimulating new generations - of both Saami and Norwegian heritage - to become bilingual and to increase cross-cultural understanding. The project responded to the European themes for language learning that were cultural awareness of regional/minority languages, intercultural awareness (any language) and informal language learning.

The Saami Language Centre project was selected as an Norwegian Best Practice mainly because it:

- addresses to a specific target group of the Saami people
- integrates language training to cultural and practical tasks and in that way enhanced language learning in natural contexts
- aims at inspiring young people to become bilingual and to understand the importance of the local culture

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**Best Practice in  
Adult Education, Norway**



## MigraNorsk

MigraNorsk is an online multimedia-based instructional program that teaches both language and social science topics for immigrants to Norway. The target language is Norwegian. The program combines e-learning and traditional classroom teaching, which makes for a high degree of differentiation and student influence on content and progression.

The program comprises a comprehensive database, an authoring tool for local adaptation and a learner management system. All language examples are context based and are usually first presented in a PC video format. Videos are also used to introduce Norwegian ways and various social settings. To help the learning process, the main foreign languages spoken in Norway have been taken into consideration: the language section is available in Arab, Kurd, English, Somali, Thai, and Urdu, each with a separate glossary and explanations on sound files.

Employment-related modules are easy to further develop and to integrate into the program. Companies, trade unions or other players can develop the modules that are related to their field and are linked to the general language course. The learner can switch between basic language elements and work-related language training.

The project addresses on the Commission's political priorities in the field of language learning by facing the themes of VOLL - Vocationally oriented language learning, Intercultural awareness (any language) and ODL – Open and distance learning.

The MigraNorsk project was selected as a Norwegian Best Practice mainly because it:

- makes use of the ICT for language learning
- develops work-related language training
- addresses the needs of the working life
- develops modules that are easy to integrate to other contexts and there is the possibility to further develop them

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