



# Nellip

Network of European Language Labelled Initiatives and Projects



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

### IRELAND



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



### **A Whole School Approach to the Teaching and Learning of Spanish**

The main objective of this initiative promoted by St. Laurence's National School was to integrate Spanish into the school curriculum at all levels and to provide a user friendly curriculum so that all teachers, including those with very little Spanish, could teach Spanish to their pupils.

A further aim was to provide opportunities for all members of the school community to understand and use their knowledge of the Spanish language, to give every member of the school community a "feel" for the Spanish language, Spanish culture and traditions and to have every member of the school community aware that Spanish was being taught in the school.

The project has involved intensive engagement from pupils, teachers and school administration in promotion of the language and cultures of the Hispanic world. There has been an imaginative use of materials, activities and technologies to embed an appreciation of all things Spanish. In a dynamic and innovative matrix.

Since 2000 the Principal with her colleagues have set about to integrate Spanish language learning into the school curriculum at all levels. To achieve this, the school put in place a program for each class level using project work with a particular focus e.g. song, drama, art, poetry, cookery or ICT. Those involved in setting up the program included the school principal, the visiting language teacher, the class teachers, the Comenius Assistant and Spanish teacher-training students.

The program is now incorporated into the school plan and can be taught by any class teacher and adjusted to take into account the needs of all pupils. It is envisaged that the program will be updated on a yearly basis. Spanish is now taught to all pupils throughout the school and there is now a curriculum for Spanish for all classes.

This ensured continuity for the different teachers of Spanish, some of whom are in the school for short periods only, such as the Comenius assistants and Spanish teacher training college students.

Children are given opportunities to show-off their Spanish at school assemblies, concerts, Christmas Services, celebration of Europe Day, visits to and from the local private Spanish school, displays of work on corridors and in class rooms.

### **Project coordinator**

St Laurence's National School

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### **Web site**

www.stlaurences.com

### **Project duration**

2008 - on going



[http://nellip.pixel-online.org/DB\\_database\\_scheda.php?art\\_id=144](http://nellip.pixel-online.org/DB_database_scheda.php?art_id=144)

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



### **Authentik Language Interactive**

Authentik was founded as a result of extensive innovative and groundbreaking research into the benefits of using authentic materials for language learning. The company is a campus company of Trinity College Dublin. The project is based on earlier work with Authentik-online.

The product is designed around a foundation based on practical language learning with a high degree of facilitated access to media in different European countries. It provides language learners with high quality materials in French, German, Spanish, English and Italian including magazines, cassettes, CDs, photocopied exam practice books, teacher development books and digital products.

All of these features are then accessible in a single high specification web environment allowing learners to integrate their language skills with full control over resources and activities using a range of media. It is developed to give language content hitherto available only to native speakers, to a much wider audience. It accommodates all kinds of language learners in a variety of learning environments.

Authentik Language Interactive sets out to harness innovations in web and multimedia technologies to provide language learners with a language-rich, media-rich, empowering environment. This scaffolds learning across the range of language skills. The product has been formulated to show ways to embed innovation and applicability and to overcome the challenges of current curricula by thinking 'outside the box'.

The project is a product that highlights the importance of language learning in the creation of an inclusive multicultural society and the significance of real life situations in providing motivation for learners to develop and enhance their linguistic competence.

Authentik Language Interactive was designed to provide learners of languages with fresh, interesting material weekly, through multiple media. The product promotes integration of different language skills which are increasingly relevant in intercultural environments. It is designed both for independent learners, adult learners and for use in classroom environments. It is a very different concept when compared with traditional school texts.

The product gives access to real life news and provides interesting and relevant authentic material on a weekly basis through multiple media for a broad range of participants. Working in partnership with Agence France Presse, it provides news on a weekly basis from four European countries but has the possibility – and intention – of adding more. Content is regularly updated by native-speaker language teachers. The focus is motivating material, appealing to different learning styles and sectors.

The use of IT gives new opportunities for language learners suited to their level of ability.

### **Project coordinator**

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### **Web site**

<http://www.authentikinteractive.com>

### **Project duration**

2010 - on going



[http://nellip.pixel-online.org/CS\\_scheda.php?art\\_id=470](http://nellip.pixel-online.org/CS_scheda.php?art_id=470)

**Best Practice in  
Vocational Education and Training, Ireland**



## Multicom 112 Extension Project

The Multicom 112 Extension project was a Transfer of Innovation application under the Leonardo da Vinci Lifelong Learning Program 2007 – 2013. It built on the success of two earlier projects. It was awarded the European Language Label for innovative projects in 2008.

The project derives its name from the 112 number that was established in 1991 by the EU as the single European emergency call number to be used by all member states in an emergency. Article 4 of EU Council Decision 91/396/EU requires that all emergency calls are answered and handled in an appropriate manner. The recent enlargement of the EU has led to the increased mobility of the workforce and population with greater numbers of workers and tourists travelling around Europe.

The project commenced in October 2008 and concluded in 2010. Leitrim County Council as Lead Partner headed up a consortium of seven partners. The project further developed the modern innovative tools for language training including a user friendly CD and an online Virtual Learning Environment.

This project aims to further enhance the linguistic competence of all emergency services personnel by the development of the innovative language learning tools with a total of 17 spoken languages in Europe, with six new languages included in this application, namely Finnish, Irish, Slovenian, Lithuanian, Basque and Sami. The language learning tools are particularly suited to the informal learning environment of emergency service personnel.

Innovative aspects include the cutting edge e-learning training and the increased access by those with informally acquired language skills. Significant development in staff training followed together with the articulation of advanced ICT supported learning materials to enable the development of competence in those emergency services personnel who might be called upon to work with those who did not have the required language ability in the country involved. Significant added value was developed through the elements of transferability in the project.

Dissemination activities included in the project aim to inform emergency service personnel across Europe, employers, and other relevant stakeholders about the availability and the effectiveness of this innovative approach to language learning.

### Project coordinator

Leitrim County Council

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### Partnership

Bendrasis Pagalbos Centras, Vilnius, Lithuania  
Slovenian professional Fire services association, Ljubljana, Slovenia  
Finnish Association of Fire Chiefs, Helsinki, Finland  
Vereinigung zur Foerderung des Deutschen Brandschutes, Altenberge, Germany  
Sami Language Centre, Laksvatn, Norway  
Bizkaia Provincial Government, Bilbao, Spain

### Web site

<http://multicom112.org>

### Project duration

2 years  
2008-2010



[http://nellip.pixel-online.org/CS\\_scheda.php?art\\_id101](http://nellip.pixel-online.org/CS_scheda.php?art_id101)

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



### **CLIL training for mainstream teachers – for EAL learners**

This project was based on the significant social change and demographic transformation of Irish society in the past 15 years resulting from significant inward population flows and free movement of labour. Learners from other countries have often experienced significant challenges arising from unfamiliarity with English language competence and some displayed comparative difficulty in keeping up with their peers in terms of examinations, specialist subjects and social integration due to insufficient levels of English language proficiency.

The project sought to equip mainstream teachers with the required specialized language teaching skills so that they could facilitate EAL (English as an Additional Language) learners. The project accessed specialized training after regular school hours. Five schools (located in areas of significant cultural and linguistic diversity in outer suburban metropolitan Dublin) participated. Some 89 teachers were trained and certification was provided by the University of Cambridge ESOL program.

The training was designed to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes to deal effectively with a diverse learner base. This project met a real and defined need. In addition to the socially inclusive orientation of the County Dublin VEC (specific educational outreach to new immigrant communities and speakers of other languages), it was recognized that teachers themselves needed to be equipped with the skills and resources to respond proactively and imaginatively to the language competence and learning needs of diverse learners.

The approach was highly supportive of students with EAL needs across a wide range of subjects. Here was a noted element of improved motivation for teachers themselves as they saw the outcomes for students improve as both engaged in the enhanced communication fostered through the initiative. Objectives, contexts, aims and methods were clear to teacher participants. Initial research indicated that in some CDVEC schools up to 25% of the school population had varying degrees of EAL needs. The reduction in numbers of specialized Language Support teachers due to the worsening economic situation, means that a renewed emphasis on the skills and qualifications of mainstream teachers to act as facilitators for integrated language training is required. The program relied on volunteers who undertook the intensive training in their own time after normal school operational hours.

The University of Cambridge ESOL program provided the training and certification and teachers from some 11 schools participated. Teachers can play a critical role in moving beyond their specific subject areas into the kind of facilitation around EAL that fosters integration and improved inclusion. An interesting achievement of the program has been the use of the training in schools that use the Irish language. Transferability and sustainability are improved. The learning is thus eminently transferable to other intercultural contexts.

#### **Project coordinator**

County Dublin Vocational Education Committees

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#### **Web site**

<http://www.codubvec.ie>

#### **Project duration**

1 year  
2010-2011



[http://nellip.pixel-online.org/CS\\_scheda.php?art\\_id=196](http://nellip.pixel-online.org/CS_scheda.php?art_id=196)