

## WORKSHOP REPORT

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### NATIONAL WORKSHOP

organized in the framework of the project “NELLIP – Network of European Language Labeled Initiatives and Projects”

**11 MARCH 2014**

SOFIA, BULGARIA

#### 1) Information

The second NELLIP national workshop was organized on **11 March 2014 in Sofia, Bulgaria** (rented meeting hall). The preparatory work before the workshop included distributing information on the project to relevant organizations active in the field of language learning and making reference to the project website, the developed databases and documents. 26 people signed up for the workshop, 22 of them attended. Invitations and event programmes were distributed online and on print well in advance through email, associated partners, relevant events, etc.

A representative from the National Agency was invited but could not attend the event.

#### 2) List of participants

**22 participants from all 4 educational sectors** attended the workshop. In addition representatives from the Ministry of Education and Science as well as the Ministry of Culture were present.

The participants by sectors included:

- Primary education – 1
- Secondary education – 3
- VET – 6
- Adult education – 7
- University education – 3
- Policy-makers / Governmental institutions – 2

The list of participants is enclosed.

#### 3) Programme of the workshops

The programme of the workshop was focused on:

##### PRESENTATIONS:

- ▶ Presentation of the NELLIP project, performed activities and achieved results
- ▶ Presentation of the European Language Label award – opportunities and benefits
- ▶ Presentation of the NELLIP Guidelines – a guided tour via the project portal

**DISCUSSIONS:**

- ▶ Shared definitions of quality in language teaching and learning
- ▶ Criteria and strategies for improving quality
- ▶ Comparison of examples of good practices

**GROUP WORK:**

- ▶ Group work on a selected language learning initiative and strategies for improving its quality
- ▶ Production of an Improvement Plan for the selected initiative
- ▶ Interactive transnational meeting for exchanging ideas on the issues discussed (live online meetings with workshop participants from Sweden and Romania)

**EVALUATION:**

- ▶ Evaluation of the workshop
- ▶ Evaluation of the NELLIP portal

The programme is enclosed.

**4) Moderators and the experts involved**

No external experts have been involved.

**5) Materials used**

- PPT presentation on the NELLIP project
- PPT presentation on the ELL initiative and the NELLIP Guidelines for quality in language learning
- Guided tour through the NELLIP portal (through hyperlinks on each project deliverable)
- Worksheets for group discussions
- Improvement Plan template
- Form for evaluation of the workshop
- Form for evaluation of the NELLIP portal
- Attendance certificates
- Registration form
- Workshop invitations
- Workshop programmes
- NELLIP folders (with project logo and website)
- NELLIP pens (with project logo and website)
- NELLIP block-notes (with project logo and website)
- NELLIP posters (for announcing the workshop)
- NELLIP leaflets (with information on the project)

The materials are enclosed.

## 6) Conclusions

The workshop was very successful. It gathered organisations from various fields of activity and grounds for cooperation were established.

The participants found the NELLIP findings extremely useful and highly appreciated the information provided on the ELL initiative. The ELL award is still not that popular in Bulgaria and for some of the participants the information received was completely new.

The discussions and group work on quality issues were extremely interesting and resulted in a brainstorming session on tools for management and quality assurance.

The 2 online meetings gave an overview of the workshops in other countries and were a good forum for exchanging ideas on quality, innovation and networking.

The participants highly appreciated the developed Guidelines and evaluated them as useful, practical and applicable for the development of high quality language projects and initiatives.

The conclusions are enclosed.

## 7) Minutes of the workshops

1. Opening words and explanation of the objectives of the workshop
2. The participants were presented with the ELL initiative since not all of them were familiar with the award in details. Discussions and recommendations were directed towards making the ELL more visible and providing information about the procedure and deadlines well in advance and not only on the NA website. Recommendation for continuing with the update of the NELLIP database on ELL projects was made.
3. The NELLIP project was presented and the participants were introduced to all developed products through the online portal of the project. Some of the good practices were discussed in detail. Discussions were open on different types of language initiatives and possible collaboration opportunities mainly related to ICT. A few participants presented their current language projects and initiated discussions on innovative approaches for language learning and what methods for language learning are currently available on the market. An improvised presentation of an online learning tool for the blind was made.
4. Coffee break
5. Group work on shared definitions of quality in language teaching and learning. The work was based on an adapted version of the worksheets provided by Richard Rossner from EAQUALS. The group work resulted in a discussion on quality issues related to the link “service-client-quality” extracting the main ideas of each group on a flipchart. As a follow-up the participants brainstormed on connecting their findings with the most important aspects of a quality project.
6. Individual work on the topic “Tools for management and quality assurance” followed by discussions and summary of the main factors with reference to existing good practices for language learning promoted by the participants
7. Presentation of the NELLIP Guidelines with reference to the quality issues discussed in the previous sessions. The Guidelines were of a specific interest to the participants and a lot of questions on different sections were asked and addressed.
8. Work on the Improvement Plans. Three working groups were formed – the 1<sup>st</sup> of them undertook the improvement of an existing initiative, the 2<sup>nd</sup> one developed a strategy for submitting a completed project for the ELL award and the 3<sup>rd</sup> one developed an idea for a new initiative.
9. Lunch

10. Work on the Improvement Plans continued.
11. Online transnational meeting with participants in the workshop in Sweden. Both sides presented the results of their discussions on quality, innovation and networking. The meeting was quite useful and gave an idea of what is done in Sweden.
12. Online transnational meeting with participants in the workshop in Romania. Both sides presented the development of their workshops. Ideas on language learning initiatives were presented. The meeting was quite useful.
13. Presentation of the results from the work groups on the Improvement Plans. Discussions on the presented ideas and feedback from the other groups.
14. Evaluation of the workshop and the NELLIP online portal.
15. Discussions on collaboration models and common interests in terms of language projects continued informally.
16. Closing of the event and announcing the next national workshop – 11 April 2014.

The minutes are enclosed.

### **8) Evaluation Report**

The evaluation of the workshop took place via 2 different questionnaires providing the participants' feedback on the organization, objectives and results of the workshop as well as on the NELLIP online portal and all project outcomes.

The evaluation of both was very high with an average score of 9,5 pts out of 10 pts.

The participants also provided their feedback and comments on what they considered most effective and useful.

The summary of the evaluations is enclosed.

### **9) Results and Deliverables**

- Summary of brainstorming session on "Tools for management and quality assurance"
- 3 Improvement Plans
- 2 online transnational meetings
- Established collaboration for the development of a joint project based on online learning by 2 of the participants
- A trainer leading trainings on key competences and soft skills expressed interest in the used methodology for group work and brainstorming sessions and asked for permission to use them during her trainings

A report on the results is enclosed.

### **10) Photos**

Photos enclosed.

### **11) Videos**

N/A