



Third National NELLIP Workshop

“Promoting networking in the development of linguistic skills in connection with the European Language Label”

Report

**Florence
11 April 2014**



Programme

“Promoting networking in the development of linguistic skills in connection with the European Language Label”

9.30 - Introduction

Speaker: Elisabetta Delle Donne (Pixel)

Introduction to the Workshop

Brief introduction to the NELLIP project. Analysis of the Guidelines developed in connection with the European Language Label. Description of the elements related to the network activities

10.30 - Work team, analysis of projects and development of operative plans

Rapporteur: to be defined during the Workshop

- Presentation of linguistic projects focusing on possible criticalities and strategies identified for networking development
- **Discussion and production of an operative plan for the promotion of network in linguistic contexts**

11.00 – Coffee Break

11.30 - Discussion on the topic: “Innovation in the development of linguistic skills”

Rapporteur: to be defined during the Workshop

- Discussion
Examples of topics to be discussed:
 - Definition of network for the development of linguistic skills as key competences for the lifelong learning
 - Criteria and strategies for network implementation
 - Solutions
 - Examples of best practices
 - **Identification of the key elements for the promotion of networking in linguistic contexts**

12.30 - Presentation of the results to the participants attending the Irish National Workshop

- Transnational presentation of the results reached by a rapporteur from the Irish group to the Italian one
- Transnational questions and answers
- Transnational presentation of the results reached by a rapporteur from the Italian group to the Irish one
- Transnational questions and answers

13.00 - Workshop Evaluation

13.15 – Lunch

End of the Workshop



Presentation of the participants

Chiara Cappa, Liceo Scientifico “L. Respighi” of Piacenza

Teacher of English language at "L. Respighi" High School in Piacenza. Reference person for the CLIL area. Cambridge International Examinations Officer at "L. Respighi" High School in Piacenza. Trainer at Indire. Blogger on insegnoinglese.orizzontescuola.it.

Laura Distefano, Liceo Linguistico “Giambattista Vico” of Pozzallo

Teacher of Spanish language at “Giambattista Vico” High School of Pozzallo (Ragusa). She attended the International Master “European Project Planning and Management”.

Lorenzo Martellini, Pixel

Project manager at Pixel. He managed several projects concerning school education (early leaving, drop-out, scientific education). Teacher of Italian language for foreigners. Responsible of the scientific committee of international conferences.

Giovanni Caruso, Pixel

After a bachelor degree in Political Sciences, he worked as tutor at University of Calabria. He is currently dealing with European projects aiming at reducing the phenomenon of the early school leaving.

Elisabetta Delle Donne, Pixel

President of Pixel. Coordinator of the NELLIP European Network. She managed around 100 European projects. External evaluator of several European projects. Head of the scientific committee of international conferences. Trainer in the framework of international seminars. Author of books and articles.

Antonio Giordano, Pixel

Assistant Project Manager. He is responsible for providing support to the coordination of European projects and the organization of international study visits. Tutor of the International Master “European Project Planning and Management”.



On Friday 11 April 2014, the third National NELLIP Workshop “*Promoting networking in the development of linguistic skills in connection with the European Language Label*” took place in Florence, in the framework of the NELLIP project, the Network of European Language Labelled Initiatives, funded by the European Commission - Lifelong Learning Programme – KA2. The National Workshop was organized by Pixel.

1. Introduction

The workshop started with an opening speech by Elisabetta Delle Donne, Pixel President , who welcomed the guests, thanked for their participation, and described the aim of the initiative: to analyze the role and the effectiveness that networking can guarantee in supporting the dissemination of language teaching and learning initiatives. According to Elisabetta Delle Donne it is necessary to create sustainable networks in order to exploit European funds to be addressed to the education system. In addition, networking is necessary to share best practices which act as benchmarks for further initiatives in the field of language teaching and learning.

The opportunities available at European level are not widely known in Italy. And those opportunities would be really precious for a country whose geopolitical position is strategic in terms of access to the Mediterranean sea and its migration flows. To use European funds in order to guarantee migrants’ education would be a good practice to be further disseminated thanks to the participation in sustainable networks, which would make it more effective.

After this brief introduction, Elisabetta Delle Donne described the NELLIP portal and all the main deliverables produces in the framework of the project. The portal aims at fostering cooperation among language experts thanks to their participation in the network. The production of the portal too is based on the idea of network, on the cooperation among the project partners, on the dialogue between the partners and the National Agencies. The NELLIP Network has the aim to promote quality in language learning through the application of the quality criteria used to award the European Language Label.

During the description of the portal, Elisabetta Delle Donne focused on the deliverables produced and addressed to the target groups identified. In particular, the following sections have been described:

- [Database](#) of projects that received the European Language Label selected by NELLIP in cooperation with the National Agencies
- [Case studies](#) realised through specific interviews with the reference persons of each project identified
- [Best practices](#) identified in each member country and organised according to the specific sector: school education, higher education, adult education, vocational education and training



- [National Reports](#) presenting the implementation of the European Language Label in the 18 European countries addressed by the NELLIP network
- [Transnational Report](#), a comparative transnational analysis of how the European Language Label is organized and managed throughout Europe
- [National Reports](#), a section containing a description of the materials produced and presented during the workshops realised in all the countries involved in the NELLIP network
- [NELLIP events](#), organised in order to increase the visibility and the sharing of the portal and its products
- [Associated members](#), a section containing a brief description of the institutions which officially entered the network.

One of the deliverables produced – the [Guidelines](#) – was presented by Antonio Giordano. The Guidelines have the aim to promote quality, exploitation and networking in the field of language learning with reference to the European Language Label. In particular the Guidelines are specifically addressed to the sectors identified: school education, higher education, adult education, vocational education and training. Each Guideline is organized in three chapters:

- General information about the European Language Label
- Quality in language teaching and learning initiatives
- Networking activities in language teaching and learning initiatives

Antonio Giordano focused on this last chapter, describing the benefits of networking activities for language projects, outlining the instructions shared by project partners in the definition of a dissemination and sustainability plan, describing how the European Language Label can have a positive impact in supporting networking activities. In particular, during the production of the main deliverables, it emerged how the European Language Label has a strategic role in: guaranteeing qualitative recognition to the project, ensuring greater visibility to the project coordinator, increasing the motivation of the staff involved, contributing to the sustainability of the project, creating transnational partnerships, obtaining external sponsorships, increasing the possibility to submit "TOI - Transfer of Innovation" applications.



2. Work team, analysis of projects and development of operative plans

After this brief introduction, participants were given the possibility to describe the networking activities in which their institutions have been involved.

Chiara Cappa described the network initiatives that the "L. Respighi" High School uses in order to disseminate and exploit its activities:

- collaboration with schools and universities at national and international level
- participation in European projects
- sharing of good practices
- cooperation with cultural institutions (eg Cambridge, Goethe Institute , Cervantes)
- students mobility and internship
- eTwinning partnerships
- support to CLIL initiatives

Amongst the projects implemented by the "L. Respighi" High School, some have further developed the concept of network:

- the EYP (European Youth Parliament) project: some students were invited to Riga where, together with other 300 colleagues, simulated a plenary session of the European Parliament, in order to acquire the skills to be displayed on the occasion of international debates
- the FAST competition: two students obtained a grant in order to go to Abu Dhabi for a scientific competition with other students at European level
- the development of the "Network Language : multiple languages, more Europe , more CLIL ", a network for the dissemination of good practices in CLIL

Chiara Cappa also described the most critical issues related to networking in Italy. According to the teacher, in Italy it is more frequent to create vertical networks, but it is much more complex to share common experiences at horizontal level (between schools belonging to different orders, for example). On the contrary, vertical networks would help students to better overcome the various steps of their education career.



Laura Distefano too described the main network activities in which "Giambattista Vico" High School is involved:

- mobility projects
- use of the European Social Fund
- certification of language skills
- acquisition of new skills in computer science

Among the projects developed, two of them have better exploited the concept of network:

- "Literarte en accion", mobility project duration of 3 weeks, during which students involved focused on less addressed cultural issues
- "Sin Fronteras", the acquisition of new skills through projects addressed to teachers

According to Laura Distefano, in Italy there is not enough information about the opportunities existing at European level. To cope with this criticality, the suggestion is: to put together classical teaching methods and innovative approaches; to promote cooperation between teachers and project managers who are able to identify funding opportunities at European level.

3. Discussion on the topic: "Innovation in the development of linguistic skills"

Workshop participants were then asked to complete a list of keywords which are essential in order to guarantee the networking of language teaching and learning projects:

- to open a window to the world
- to support teachers' motivation
- to promote synergies between different institutions
- to analyze and implement existing models
- to feel part of a community and to share its vision of the world
- to ensure ongoing improvement of existing training models
- to transfer the acquired know-how
- to promote the cultural aspects of language learning



4. Presentation of the results to the participants attending the Irish National Workshop

The transnational discussion represented the added value of the workshop. Thanks to a Skype connection, Italian participants of the workshop shared the results achieved with the participants attending the workshop in Ireland, organized by Universal Learning Systems, a consulting and training agency in the field of research, evaluation and training.

According to the Irish workshop participants (language teachers), the key words to ensure networking in language teaching and learning projects are:

- to implement innovative methods to promote language teaching and learning
- to share best practices
- to underline the link between language skills and employability opportunities
- to focus on creativity in language teaching

5. Conclusions

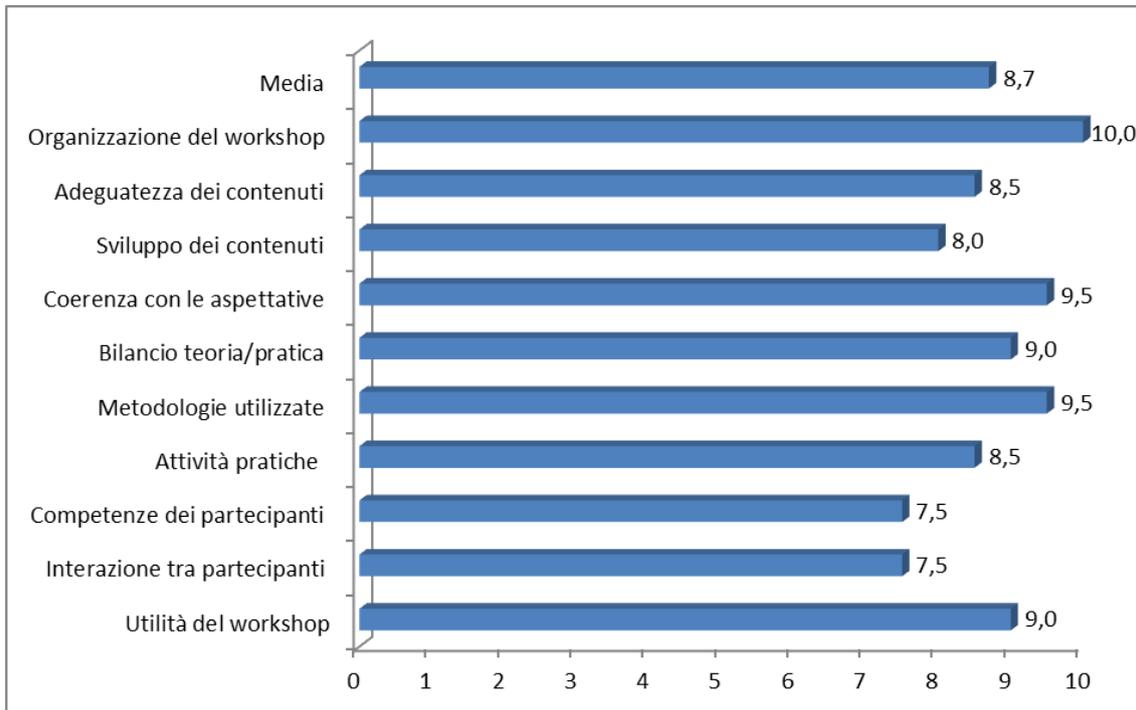
At the end of the workshop , participants came to the following conclusions:

- it is necessary to safeguard culture by opening it to the exchange and the sharing with other cultures
- networks are necessary for language promotion thanks to a constructive dialogue with all the aspects belonging to a culture which is different from ours
- networks allow a greater empowerment of native speakers who feel responsible for the promotion of their language through the new channels offered by innovation
- the relation with other cultures should be based on a dialogue and a mutual exchange

6. Workshop evaluation

The results achieved in the framework of the practical sessions were jointly discussed. Workshop participants received a certificate attesting their participation and their active involvement in the activities of the NELLIP network.

At the end of the meeting, all participants completed the questionnaire evaluation of the workshop, which showed a good level of appreciation. The details of the evaluation are reported and commented in the graph below:



Participants appreciated the organization of the workshop (10 / 10) and the methodology used (9,7 / 10), in line with the initial expectation (9,5/ 10). The result is a very good score average of 9 / 10.