



# Nellip

Network of European Language Labelled Initiatives and Projects



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

### LITHUANIA



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.  
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## **Best Practice in School Education, Lithuania**



## **The Ambassador of Languages of 2012**

Simonas Daukantas Gymnasium is an example of an educational institution that offers a wide choice of languages to their pupils: the language of tuition is Lithuanian, besides, up to seven foreign languages are taught every year. The gymnasium website – in five languages – provides a multifaceted view of the varied and eventful school life, projects being its indispensable part. The administration of the school attaches significant importance to the raising of qualification of school teachers and to promoting most modern methods, both in class and in extra-curriculum activities. The school holds a leading position in organizing international education exchange projects, university and college students from other countries are invited to school to do their teaching practice here.

The school is fully equipped with all the necessary language learning facilities. The pupils are encouraged to collaborate in the classroom and to use the foreign language not only during classes but also in various school events, in correspondence with peers in other countries in the framework of various international projects or on more personal levels.

In terms of the language learning programmes, the Gymnasium pursues the following objectives: to increase the range of languages offered to the school pupils; to raise pupils for operating in multilingual and multicultural Europe and to ensure high quality of teaching.

In 2012 Vilnius Simono Daukanto Gymnasium was awarded the title of “Ambassador of Languages” : this title is given to persons and institutions that have achieved outstanding results in raising motivation and promoting attractive and innovative ways of learning languages. The 2012 award was to be given to a school that encourages language learning and creates multilingual learning environment. The selection process was part of the programme of the Multilingual competition held in Vilnius International American school in March 2012; 33 Lithuanian schools competed in using their multi-language skills: each participants spoke not fewer than two foreign languages, all in all the “working” languages of the competition amounted to 19.

The participants had to accomplish various tasks that comprised reading, writing and speaking skills. The event was supported by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, the Education Exchange Support Foundation, the Education Development Centre, the British

Council, Goethe Institut, the French Cultural Centre, ISM University.

The team of S. Daukanto gymnasium won the competition and received the Ambassador of the Year title, which proves its high achievements in teaching languages and creating a motivating multilingual learning environment. The selection criteria: European priority for the 2012-2013 Label campaigns ('Multilingual classrooms'), ability to act as the ambassador of languages and innovation in language teaching.

### **Project coordinator**

Vilnius Simono Daukanto Gimnazija

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### **Partnership**

At present the school is taking part in 11 national and international projects with partners from over 15 countries

### **Web site**

<http://www.daukanto.vilnius.lm.lt/index.php?group=56>

### **Project duration**

2012



[http://projects.pixel-online.org/nellip/DB\\_database\\_scheda.php?art\\_id=463&ta=&sec=&cou=21&yea=&ppr](http://projects.pixel-online.org/nellip/DB_database_scheda.php?art_id=463&ta=&sec=&cou=21&yea=&ppr)

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



### **Euro Languages Net**

Current continental integration processes have challenged the European countries of less widely used languages to keep the sustainability of their mother tongue and to promote their own identity in terms of their linguistic and cultural diversity. The main objective of the Euro languages net was to introduce the less widely used and less widely taught European languages to the world. The project partnership brought together the educational institutions and organizations from 11 countries of Europe to promote new ideas and practical ways how to best encourage the general public to learn less widely used European languages.

The "Euro Languages Net" information system project produced an Internet language learning resource to assist the Europeans and people around the world in learning less widely used European languages and in getting acquainted with 11 participant countries. The site provides the information, in English and in the appropriate native language, about the newly emerging and already existing possibilities for learning less widely used European languages as well as access to a diversity of resources and institutions related to learning and teaching European languages. It also provides easier access to all learning facilities and creates a coherent virtual multilingual team of European specialists to share expertise, best teaching and learning tools and methods with the project participants and users.

The ELN project focused on the less widely used and less taught languages of Europe and suggested practical and easily accessible ways of learning and teaching them. The project portal was designed by the specialists from various institutions and companies, thus several perspectives of promoting learning languages were reflected both in its content and format. The project activities and results gained an extremely wide and diverse dissemination: over 40 seminars, workshops, nation and international conferences, TV and radio coverage in four countries, about 30 articles in various publications spread a highly positive evaluation of the project results. Over 120 participants from 25 countries of the world took part in the project final conference held in Vilnius in September 2004. The conference speakers and participants included language teachers of all educational levels, famous policy-makers and other stakeholders.

The project activities did not end with the end of the contractual agreement. In the following five year the partnership held on-line forums on language learning issues in which both learning and teaching communities took part.

The Lingua Products Fair is still widely used for disseminating news about various language related projects and their best products. The success of the Euro Language Net gave rise to the new – Euro Language Net Plus project, covering 23 languages. The project focus on promotion of the less widely used and taught languages is of utmost importance for preserving multilingual and multicultural Europe.

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### **Partnership**

Berufsfoerderungsinstitut Oesterreich, AT  
Integra Association, BG  
European Centre for Education and Training, BG  
International House Tallinn, EE  
Rovala-Opisto, FI  
Novoschool Language School, HU  
UAB ANGLORA, LT  
Public Service language Centre, LV  
FLEP- Formacao Lingua E Estudos Portugeeses, PT  
Universitet im Adama Mickiewiczza, PL  
EuroEd Foundation, RO  
PROSPER-ASE Language Centre, RO  
E-KU Institute of language and Intercultural Communication, SK  
JSC "Mobitechas", LT

### **Web site**

<http://www.euro-languages.net>

### **Project duration**

3 years

2001 - 2004



[http://projects.pixel-online.org/nellip/DB\\_database\\_scheda.php?art\\_id=7&tla=&sec=&cou=21&yea=&ppr=](http://projects.pixel-online.org/nellip/DB_database_scheda.php?art_id=7&tla=&sec=&cou=21&yea=&ppr=)

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



## **Learning by Moving**

The Learning by Moving project aimed to help people realize the importance of learning languages in a most original way: public transport passengers had a chance to participate in language mini-sessions right on their way to work or elsewhere. The project brought together 8 partners from 7 countries. Each partner chose “to teach” three languages in their respective countries: English as a Lingua Franca, the state language of the country and the language of a minority or a neighboring country: in Lithuania – Polish, in Poland – German, in Romania and Malta – Italian, in Germany – Turkish, in Italy – Spanish.

The main objectives of Learning by Moving were to facilitate promotion of native languages and LWUEL and prepare the general public to interact in multilingual European context. The project targeted the general public with special emphasis on pensioners, students, tourists, the unemployed and immigrants. The project activities included the language learning campaigns on public transport in 6 European countries, several seminars and conferences to evaluate the project progress and results. The project products are a collection of most common social phrases in the target languages presented in the attractive booklet and a CD.

The project suggests new solutions for language acquisition by providing an innovative out-of-classroom environment for teaching languages. Although the language mini - sessions on public transport did have some features of teaching the language (the recordings of most common social phrases were played and replayed, supported by visuals in the target languages), the project did not seek to teach the language but rather to ignite people’s interest in languages that could help them act adequately in unfamiliar language environment and various everyday situations.

The use of non-standard user-friendly methods stimulated people’s curiosity and motivation, which should lead to further, more conscious learning of languages. The innovative solutions to the actual problems facilitated the success of the project implementation which resulted in wide visibility all over Europe and even reached US (info on the project on BBC online news page, Deutsche Welle webpage, The Christian Science Monitor, etc.).

The project deserves special praise for the partners’ choice of languages “to teach”: each partner researched and decided on their target languages, the ones that reflect the relevant needs of the county’s people and visitors.

In most cases the partners chose the language of the neighboring country. In general, the project turned to be one of the most democratic initiatives: any passenger of a trolley or a bus had an opportunity to learn a couple of useful phrases just for the price of a bus ticket.

The project was highly appreciated not just by the communities of the places where it was implemented, but also by the European Commission: Learning by Moving has won the first European Language Label of the Labels Award as one of the five outstanding projects which in the last decade have promoted innovative teaching and learning of languages in Europe.

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### **Partnership**

International House Bath, UK  
Hamburger Volkshochschule, Germany  
AcrossLimits, Malta  
International House Srl, Italy  
International House Integra Sp. z o.o., Poland  
Fundatia EuroEd, Romania

### **Web site**

<http://www.learningbymoving.eu>

### **Project duration**

3 years  
2006-2008



[http://projects.pixel-online.org/nellip/CS\\_scheda.php?art\\_id=110&tla=&sec=&cou=21&yea=](http://projects.pixel-online.org/nellip/CS_scheda.php?art_id=110&tla=&sec=&cou=21&yea=)

## **Best Practice in Vocational Education and Training, Lithuania**



## **New Technologies for Learning Lithuanian**

The project initiated by the Department of Lithuanian Studies of Vilnius University aimed at using new technologies to teach Lithuanian as a foreign language. Those years were marked by an increased interest toward learning Lithuanian: the Lithuanian diaspora was keen on reviving contacts with the newly restored Republic of Lithuania, besides, many representatives of minorities – citizens of Lithuania – needed to learn the state language.

The creators of the learning materials wanted to offer a language course that would be attractive to adult learners and would develop their communicative competence that is to enable learners to use the language in everyday situations, when one needs to listen, read, speak or write. The course had a sound theoretical basis; the Common European Framework of Reference was used to align the materials with the descriptors of the relevant language levels. The main attraction for the users was the choice of language materials: up-to-date topics, reasonable balance between theory and practice; besides, the course was adapted to be used in class as well as at a distance: that is, the learners could adjust their progress to their own pace and time.

The project objectives were:

- to create a CD of materials for self-study ( beginners)
- to create a distance learning course for more advanced learners ( the materials were placed on the websites)
- to start work on a new distant learning website for learners of Lithuanian, Polish, Estonian, Finnish and Portuguese.

The project addressed the following themes: open and distance learning, quality of language teaching, technology-enhanced language learning, which was innovative for the existing traditions of teaching Lithuanian. The idea of the project found support in among language teachers and promoters in other countries: the Department of Lithuanian studies built up a team of language specialists, publishers, computer specialists and TV people who enthusiastically collaborated in producing the language learning website Oneness City.

Although very diverse in their professional interests, the project partners managed to pull together and create the product that has been of great demand ever since the early 2000ies. The suggested course focuses on the needs and preferences of the present day learners: it offers reference materials so that learners could work autonomously, it also contains “entertainment activities “which raise motivation and positive approach.

On the website one can start a chat with other learners or share one’s worries and achievements in Forum. The materials have become part of the Erasmus exchange language courses in Estonia and in Lithuania; they are widely used by foreigners who want to learn Lithuanian, Polish, Estonian, Polish or Portuguese for business or personal reasons.

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### **Partnership**

Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

Elektronines leidybos namai, Lithuania

Tartu University, Estonia

YLE, Finland

Finlectura, Finland

Uniwersytet Jagiellonski, Poland

Lisboa University, Portugal

### **Web site**

<http://www.oneness.vu.lt>

### **Project duration**

5 years

2002 – 2006

<http://nellip.pixel->

[online.org/CS\\_scheda.php?art\\_id=154&tla=&sec=&cou=21&yea=](http://nellip.pixel-online.org/CS_scheda.php?art_id=154&tla=&sec=&cou=21&yea=)

## **Best Practice in Vocational Education and Training, Lithuania**



## **Communication and Vocational Language Skills**

It was a joint project of Alanta (Lithuania) Technology and Business school and Steinfurt Technical school - .Technischen Schulen des Kreises Steinfurt. Both schools train professional joiners; throughout the project the trainees worked together and communicated in foreign languages. Alanta's professional school history dates back to the middle of the 20th century, since 2002 the school is called a technology and business school as it better reflects the present day's programmes and activities.

Currently, the school has more than 550 students and around 50 staff. The projects objectives were to set up cooperation between Lithuanian and German students as well as the staff in the area of safe wood processing, to compile a German-English-Lithuanian dictionary/glossary of carpentry terms and to exchange best practice in wood processing, including production of furniture. During the project exchanges the students from Lithuania learned to work with modern technology wood processing machinery, the students from Steinfurt developed their manual skills. The language of communication was English, but German and English lessons were organized at both schools.

The project activities were integrated into the school curricula according to "Lehrplan für die Berufsschule in Nordrhein – Westfalen Tischler" (Germany) and the Carpenter training standards of the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science.

Although the project was completed almost ten years ago, still it is one of the best examples of bringing innovation into vocational training and raising motivation to learn languages for professional purposes. According to the project coordinators, many students of Alanta school have low study skills and lack motivation; it was that category of students that the project partners focused on. The project activities went beyond routine studies, they gave an opportunity to learn more not only about one's future profession, but also how students in other countries master it. The exchange visits and face-to-face communication between German and Lithuanian participants raised motivation to learn the language that would ensure professional cooperation; besides, the language was indispensable for personal contacts, also for staying in the foreign country.

One of the project products – the three-language- glossaries of carpentry terms – is still used in similar professional schools in Lithuania and Germany. The project was well designed in terms of pedagogical support and teacher training. Teaching languages for professional purposes, basics of teaching adult professionals, incorporating culture and country studies into language courses were widely discussed and shared in seminars and conferences, both during and after the project.

The ELL award proved most beneficial for the school' profiling and gave rise to other project initiatives. The school successfully participates in the international projects of Leonardo da Vinci, Socrates, Phare, Sapard, Open Society Fund Lithuania, and LLL programmes.

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### **Partnership**

Alanta School of technology and Business  
Technischen Schulen des Kreises Steinfurt, Germany

### **Web site**

<http://www.alantostvm.lm.lt/english.htm>

### **Project duration**

3 years  
2001-2003



[http://projects.pixel-online.org/nellip/DB\\_database\\_scheda.php?art\\_id=290&tla=&sec=&cou=21&yea=&ppr=](http://projects.pixel-online.org/nellip/DB_database_scheda.php?art_id=290&tla=&sec=&cou=21&yea=&ppr=)