

NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

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

ROMANIA (Prosper-Ase)

General Information

- **Organised workshops: 3**
- **Dates:**
 - 15 November 2013
 - 21 February 2014
 - 21 March 2014
- **Total number of participants:**
- **Educational sectors covered: All**
- **Improvement plans produced: 3**
- **Online transnational meetings held: 3 (IT, LT, FI)**

1st National Workshop

- ▶ **Date:** 15 November 2013
- ▶ **Place:** Bucharest, Romania
- ▶ **Number of participants:** 18
- ▶ **Objectives:** discussing Quality, Innovation and Networking in language projects, based on the Nellip products and applying this information in order to improve an existing initiative
- ▶ Online meeting with Florence, Italy, where the Nellip pilot workshop took place. The Romanian participants followed online the presentation of Mrs. Manola Peschieri, Policy Officer and Coordinator of ELL at the European Commission, Directorate General for Education and Culture, Italy

Agenda

- ▶ Welcome conference - Dna Monica Calota, Director Romanian NA
- ▶ Introduction to the theme and objectives of the workshop - Liliana Dellevoet, PROSPER-ASE Language Centre
- ▶ European Language Label, 14 of Experience and Future Perspectives
- ▶ Manola Peschieri, Policy Officer and Coordinator of ELL at the European Commission, Directorate General for Education and Culture (Skype session with Italy)
- ▶ Presentation of the Nellip project, portal and Guidelines - Lucia Grosu, Irina David and Liliana Dellevoet, PROSPER-ASE Language Centre
- ▶ Conclusions and Improvement Plan
- ▶ Evaluation of the workshop
- ▶ Wrap-up

Improvement plan

- ▶ One of the participants briefly presented the importance of the materials developed as part of the Cinco project and mentioned as a strong point the fact that the project has an active website where all the materials developed by the project partners were available, free of charge. However, it was felt that the project needed to be continued in order for more people to benefit from the advantages of intercomprehension. The project website alone was considered to be insufficient in order to spread the information effectively. In this sense the partners were looking for the most effective methods to expand the network and increase the number of visitors of the project website and users of the project products.

- ▶ Drawing on the information in the NELLIP Guidelines, especially in the chapter on Networking, the workshop participants brainstormed possible solutions to increasing the networking potential of the Cinco Project.

- ▶ The following suggestions were made:
 - Involving (all) the project partners in the “Cinco” project in the post-project networking activity
 - Creating a database of educational institutions in the Romance speaking countries and not only which may be interested in promoting intercomprehension
 - Contacting their representatives and highlighting the benefits of using the Cinco project materials
 - Inviting them to become associated members of the project
 - Asking them to further promote the Cinco project through their own networks
 - Attracting funds for further updating the project website with the latest developments (events, news, feedback etc.)

Expected impact

- ▶ Hopefully, taking advantage of the enthusiasm of the project promoter and members and their commitment to the project objectives, such activities can be carried out. In this case, it is expected that the ideas promoted by the Cinco project will be further disseminated and more people will benefit from the advantages of intercomprehension.
- ▶ Ms. Cotoară said that she would take the suggestions further to the other project partners. She also said that this could represent the starting point of a new project, focusing on networking and that a project proposal could be elaborated.
- ▶ This discussion highlighted the valuable information in the NELLIP Guidelines, which can provide inspiration for a variety of situations.

Conclusions

Each of the 3 groups draw a list of conclusions, such as:

Group 1:

- ▶ Encouraging participating students to complete questionnaires on their expectations and progress at various stages of the project
- ▶ Comparing samples of students' correspondence at various stages of the project to assess their progress.

Group 2:

- ▶ Better definition of the target groups (the project involves both trainers and students)
- ▶ Project aims need to be re-formulated so as to focus equally on trainers and students
- ▶ Foreign language learning/ Language competences as communication of Olympic values (i.e fair play, competitiveness, overcoming limits, etc.) would be an asset for the project, because this would also connect to the 2013-2014 ELL priority. Creating a link between "Olympic values" and "universal values" (equal chances, friendship, excellence, etc.)
- ▶ Involving the private sector as well in order to give the project a better visibility and the possibility of learning outside the formal environment.

Group 3:

The best ways to expand its network and promote the project products to a wider public

2nd National Workshop

- ▶ **Date:** 21 February 2014
- ▶ **Place:** Bucharest, Romania
- ▶ **Number of participants:** 13
- ▶ **Educational sector:** focus on adult education, but representatives of the other target groups were also present
- ▶ **Aim of the workshop:** gathering ideas for a new project in adult education, focused on foreign languages for social inclusion
- ▶ Online meeting with Lithuania

Agenda

- ▶ European Language Label, 14 of Experience and Future Perspectives - Ileana Racoviceanu, responsible ELL Romanian National Agency (ANPCDEFP)
- ▶ Interactive presentation of the Nellip project, portal and Guidelines - Lucia Grosu and Irina David
- ▶ Practical Session – Ideas for a new project, based on the NELLIP Quality Guidelines
- ▶ Work in groups, discussions, feedback. Conclusions - Roxana Barlea and Liliana Dellevoet
- ▶ Skype session with Lithuania – Presentation of the results of the practical session and discussions
- ▶ Feedback from the participants

Improvement plan

- ▶ Based on the ideas developed during the workshop, we started writing a new project proposal under Ka2 – Strategic Partnership – Adult Education. We succeeded in finding other partners, discussing with them and other stakeholders all the details and finishing the proposal in due time. The application was submitted under the name of “Workplace: Society”, Submission ID: 1090097.
- ▶ All the main points of the new initiative were discussed starting from the Nellip Guidelines, with examples from the Nellip Portal for the participants with no experience in European projects.

3rd National Workshop

- ▶ **Date:** 21 March 2014
- ▶ **Place:** Bucharest, Romania
- ▶ **Number of participants:** 10
- ▶ **Educational sector:** focus on higher education. We had also representative of adult education and VET
- ▶ **Topics discussed:** multilingualism and the development of language competences through educational projects; Quality and Innovation in Language Initiatives
- ▶ Online meeting with Finland

Agenda

- ▶ Multilingualism and Developing Linguistic Competences via High Quality Educational Projects - Liliana Comănescu, from the European Commission Representation in Romania)
- ▶ European Language Label and quality standards. Interactive presentation of the Nellip project, portal and Guidelines - Irina David
- ▶ Feedback
- ▶ Practical session – Gathering new ideas for new projects, based on the NELLIP Quality Guidelines. Work in small groups. Conclusions - Roxana Barlea and Liliana Dellevoet
- ▶ Skype session with Finland - Presentation of the results of the practical session and discussions. Feedback from the participants

Improvement plan

- ▶ The idea for this project came from the participants' experience in working with undergraduate students who are beneficiaries of Erasmus scholarships in various European countries, before and after their mobility experience.
- ▶ The target group: undergraduate students who intend to participate in the Erasmus programme and study for one semester or one academic year abroad, in a foreign (European) university
- ▶ The project would have the following objectives:
 - ▶ To identify the training needs of young people preparing for mobility situations in an educational context, in various European countries
 - ▶ To create specific training programmes for this target group in order to help them develop integrated skills such as intercultural skills, data mining, research skills, linguistic competences
- ▶ In terms of partnerships, cross-sectorial cooperation was envisaged as a good recipe for success. The project should therefore have as partners:
 - ▶ Student Associations
 - ▶ Language Centres or Associations (NGOs)
 - ▶ Recruitment organisations
 - ▶ Providers of Education

Expected impact

- ▶ better informed undergraduate students regarding the academic requirements in the country where the mobility will be taking place
- ▶ the development of specific skills meant to ensure the success of such an experience from the academic point of view and from a cultural view point
- ▶ the participants agreed that such a project proposal would fall in the category of “Strategic Partnerships K2” and that it would be highly beneficial for academic mobility purposes and not only. It was decided to set up another meeting with more interested parties in order to further discuss the idea.

General Conclusions (1)

- ▶ All the participants expressed the need for qualitative projects focused on foreign languages.
- ▶ Some of the participants did not know about the existence of the ELL award and as a result they had never applied for it although they had run successful language projects. They openly expressed their interest in submitting their language projects in the future.
- ▶ The participants representing higher education expressed the need to work closely during projects with VET and Adult Education.

General Conclusions (2)

- ▶ The Nellip Quality Guidelines developed by the Nellip Network were evaluated by everyone as being a serious amount of professional work and a very useful tool not only for projects in language learning.
- ▶ The Nellip Portal received high scores in evaluation, being considered very useful and a very valuable source of inspiration for other projects.
- ▶ The Nellip Project was evaluated as a lot of work, very useful, especially for its broad vision. Participants expressed their wish to keep in touch with the results of the project and to be informed of its final conclusions.
- ▶ The Nellip workshops were considered a great opportunity on sharing new ideas, networking, learning about quality and innovative elements in languages initiatives.