

CROSSBORDER PROJECT ITALY, AUSTRIA, SLOVENIA

LANGUAGES IN A PLURILINGUAL ENVIRONMENT LINGUE IN AMBIENTE PLURILINGUE JEZIKI V VEČJEZIČNEM OKOLJU SPRACHEN IN MEHRSPRACHIGEN UMFELD LENGHIS INTUN AMBIENT MULTILENGÂL

2006 – 2009
Draft

1. EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL FRAME OF REFERENCE

The **improvement of language teaching - learning** is among the **Lisbon 2010 goals** for the States Members of the European Union.

I. In order to build up a multilingual Europe the European Union aims at providing, *inter alia* :

1. Foreign language learning for everybody
2. Mother tongue + at least two other languages, giving priority to the local language/s and languages spoken in the bordering regions
3. Foreign language teaching - learning from an early age (age range of pupils: 5 – 11)

II. In order to develop and reinforce the professional competencies of the European language teachers, the European Union intends to promote the following actions:

1. To consider the frame of reference for building up a *European Profile for Language Teacher Education*
2. To outline a common training model, by taking into account the specific situation of the countries involved
3. To build up European networks of language teachers

III. The European Parliament made a number of decisions in favour of the **protection of regional languages and cultures and ethnic and linguistic minorities**.

Both Italy and Region Friuli Venezia Giulia made laws aiming at preserving this linguistic and cultural heritage.

2. FINAL AIM OF THE PROJECT

In the light of the existing legislation, this project aims at a long-term co-operation among a number of crossborder educational Institutions. Co-operation is meant to be carried out both on a regional, national and transnational level, with the purpose of shaping up the future European citizens through language teaching - learning from an early age

3. COUNTRIES INVOLVED

Austria, Italy, Slovenia

4. CROSSBORDER REGIONS INVOLVED

Carinthia (Austria); Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy); Slovene Coastal Area, Notranjska, Styria (Slovenia)

5. CONTEXT, TARGET GROUP, TARGET LANGUAGES

This project is aimed at:

- teachers of EU languages, also with regard to those less used. Age range of pupils (5-11) covers both Pre-primary and Primary school levels
- teacher trainers and experts in the teaching - learning of languages from an early age.

“Target” languages are the native, second, foreign languages spoken by both the majority and historical minorities in the crossborder regions of the countries involved: Italian, Slovene, German, Friulano, and English.

6. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- a) A **professional profile** of the language teacher in the multilingual environments of the crossborder regions involved in the project (age range of pupils: 5-11)
- b) A **European Language Teaching Portfolio (T-ELP)** for multilingual environments of the crossborder regions involved in the project
- c) A **Web site** for documenting and sharing meaningful experiences, good strategies and approaches concerning the teaching - learning of languages from an early age in the crossborder regions involved in the project
- d) One or more transcultural-activity book/s for YL and a handbook with the corresponding guidelines, methods, approaches for teachers and parents, and including themes chosen both from the local and immigrants' cultures

7. ACTIVITIES

a) Activities undertaken in 2005 (in the project: “A tangible case of crossborder co-operation: the teachers' portfolio”)

1. Analysing and comparing different school and teacher training systems of Austria, Italy, Slovenia
2. Comparing different models of language teaching to YL, discussing how they are applied in different school contexts, and considering the related educational experiences
3. Analysing and comparing a number of professional profiles of language teachers practising in multilingual environments
4. Identifying a possible common professional profile
5. Developing the proposal of a Portfolio for language teachers (age range of pupils: 5-7)
6. International Conference: “The teacher of languages in a plurilingual environment – training, competences, experiences, portfolio” (Gorizia, December 2, 2005)

b) Activities planned for 2006

1. Meetings of the project group with the following aims:
 - ★ working out a professional profile of the language teacher in a multilingual environment
 - ★ developing a European Portfolio for language teaching in a multilingual environment (age of pupils: 7-11)
2. Collecting, editing, translating and publishing the records of the International Conference held in 2005, and possible additional contributions on subjects related to the project. The publication will include a CD-rom (or DVD) with materials concerning experiences in the field of teaching and teacher training
3. Creating a Web site for documenting and sharing a number of experiences, materials and ideas of best practices for the teaching - learning of languages. Stakeholders will be teachers, teacher trainers, parents and YL
4. International Seminar for the presentation of the outcomes of the project's first phase

c) Activities to plan for 2007, 2008 and 2009:

1. Building up a crossborder network of teachers, experts in languages and Educational Institutions, for the implementation of materials worked out within the project and the creation of new materials
2. Experimenting the prototype of a Portfolio for language teaching in a multilingual environment
3. Collecting authentic stories, folktales and songs for children living in the regions involved in the project, and in the States Members of the European Union
4. Elaborating one or more transcultural-activity book/s for YL (age: 5 – 11) and a handbook for teachers and parents
5. Dissemination of the research outcomes and materials by means of seminars, conferences, teacher networks and Web site.

8. PROJECT GROUP

AUSTRIA

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(English translation by Nora Matievich)