

VIA LIGHT – Language for Integration and Global Human Tolerance

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Abstract

In the EU there are about 500 million people of different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds, including some 25 million of foreign origin. 28% Europeans speak two foreign languages, 56% only one foreign language (Euro-barometer survey 02.2006). Language competence is therefore an essential element of successful social policy, education policy and economic policy development in Europe. The EU therefore supports the multilingual education as an Indicator for a peaceful unity in diversity.

Bilingual education requires skilled professional for this task Educators. There are some universities in Europe, the issue of bilingual Education have integrated into their teaching programs. However, there is still no common European curriculum for professional exchange developments according to the professional qualification requirements and still no common European framework for the training of educational personnel.

*The project "VIA LIGHT" based on a European Centre for bilingual education, in which a European training (200 hours theory and practice) for bilingual Education will be developed, tested and implemented sustainably. **A mobile Trainer pool (min. 35 experts)** will be established and in demand by the target group institutions of the EU regions used. **The training program consists of specialized modules can be flexibly combined (Course Case) and supported the learning success by the online learning space, the online library, professional forum and theme-café.** In the Partner countries, the course will be tested in at least three universities, three schools, 9 Kindergartens with about 110 participants. All 11 partner organizations from eight countries (including 2 third countries) deal with the issue of strategic bilingual education and are active in the successful implementation of VIA LIGHT involved. The project development and project results have to development of partner organizations closely linked. The European Training is being developed with partners, tested, and disseminated in the education, teaching and learning structures included sustainable. This provides a sustainability of the project results.*

1. Historical Background

In the EU Member States, the European policy is implemented nationally and regionally. For example, in DE in June 2010, "Qualification Initiative for Germany - Advancement through Education" with concrete measures put in places that include early childhood language development. Finland / FI is the essential part of language education in early childhood and preschool education. Preschool teachers completed since 1995, a 3-year education at a university. The education and promotion of the language are an important part of Finnish education preschool teacher. In the new EU Member States, as the project partners, BG, CY, EE, LV, because of the European networking and the increasing migration, the socio-political and educational task of language support and more important. This also applies to the EU's neighbouring countries Moldova and Russia.

Notable results shows the model of bilingual education in the successful integration of Russian immigrants in Europe (www.mitra-ev.de; www.liikuri.ee; www.itasuomenkoulu.fi; www.svk-kannatus.fi;

www.klasika.edu.lv). In kindergartens, preschools, schools, children and young people are bilingual (RU-language) to successfully educated and multilingual European citizens formed.

The project initiative VIA LIGHT is the result of the successful work and results of the European project "Language for Global Integration and Human Tolerance LIGHT" (2008-2009). The partners have developed a European model for the development of bilingual kindergartens and successfully implemented. In the Project LIGHT more than 20 bilingual pre-school facilities in Europe were built. An increase of 90 jobs was created, including 40 for migrants. Out of the project it became clear that the professional preparation and training of teachers and educators for bilingual education in Europe are content to concerted and comparable criteria, methodological and didactic evolving needs. This project concept for VIA LIGHT has emerged, which involves the prestigious European educational institutions (BG, EE, Moldova), schools (DE, FI, LV), kindergartens (CY, EE, FI, LV), the bilingual education strategic sustainable integrate into their facilities in Europe and in the training of educational staff.

2. State of the art

The project consortium has met from 05. to 02.July 2011 in Berlin / DE by MITRA e.V. at a preliminary project meeting. All participating 12 organizations have their current local, regional and national experience (BG, CY, DE, EE, FI, LV, RU, Moldova, Kazakhstan) on the state of theoretical and practical preparation of educational professionals (educators, teachers, lecturers, students) are shown for bilingual education. So that was both technically and geographically derived an effective overview as a basis for evaluating the need for qualification of personnel for bilingual education in preschool, school, college and the development of the project concept VIA LIGHT.

The main innovative aspects of project and new VIA LIGHT compared to the state of the art:

1) Thematic Innovation

All project partners are using Russian and local languages in a bilingual context. In all organizations will either teaching Russian as their native language and / or as a foreign language. Thus a significant migration in Europe language in the focus of the project is made, which is also for the social, cultural, scientific and economic cooperation with the EU-Russian-speaking CIS countries, is of great importance.

2) Organizational innovation (European added value)

11 partners from 8 European countries (6 EU members, 2 non-member countries) to combine their theoretical and practical experiences on bilingual education and to develop, test and sustain a common European training. The European impact is being globalized through the involvement of partners from the EU's neighbouring countries.

The course material is in RU, ENG, and individual contributions in the languages of partner countries provided to ensure a pan-European use.

3 universities, 3 schools and 9 kindergartens from 8 European countries combine theoretical and practical empirical experience and scientific knowledge for the design of a common European comparable training program as part of a European Centre for bilingual education VIA LIGHT as a certified educational institution. The sustainable existence and sharing of project results through the project after completion of the partnership will ensure support from the EU.

3) Methodological-didactic innovation

The European Centre for bilingual education is set up as a Mobile Centre.

The mobility is achieved through the establishment of a mobile pool of trainers (at least 35 experts from 7 countries), whose experts are depending on content requirements as a faculty team locally, regionally, nationally, in Europe for use.

The mobility is achieved through the establishment of an online learning space for the project platform (link to project website), in which participants, independent in time and place complement wherever their presence events professionally and discuss on Internet forum, thematically Café and the online library.

The content of training modules (bilingual pedagogy, methodology, didactics) are bundled into one rate case and can be compiled for specific target groups according to content requirements.

The training modules combine theory (160h) with local, regional, national, European Practice (40h) for the participants, in the form of part-time "training on the job" is completed as an internship or "job shadowing".

3. Objectives

The main objective of the project VIA LIGHT is a mobile European Centre for bilingual education as a certified educational institution based on RU-language for the ad hoc training of staff (educators, teachers, lecturers, students) for the bilingual education in kindergartens, schools, universities Europe.

The main aim of creating a professional solution for content developed according to European requirements and the needs of relevant target groups, comparable in Europe and certified qualification of educational personnel for bilingual education. Only professionally trained personnel with a comparable, effective promotion of multilingualism in preschools, schools and universities is possible to meet the EU's long term educational goals.

The following targets are fixed in VIA LIGHT:

Target 1:

Analysis of regional and national continuing education opportunities for bilingual education and analysis of training needs for educational staff in bilingual institutions in partner countries.

The part 1 defines the main objective technical requirements for innovative European continuing education as the basis for professional staff in bilingual institutions.

Target 2:

Structure of the training blocks (bilingual pedagogy, methodology, didactics), consisting of theory (160h) on the basis of common European principles and regional "best practice" applications, and regional, national, European Practice (40h), which are summarized in the "course case" according to target group needs are combined.

The sub-goal 2 provides the technical and content provide a comparable qualification in Europe with common European principles and regional adaptations to hedge the demand for training of bilingual education professionals. During the test run was completed in VIA LIGHT approximately 110 participants continuing education.

Target 3:

European Centre for bilingual education as an educational institution certified trainer with mobile pool, online learning space for time and place independent learning and teaching for Europe-wide sustainable conservation and use of the training.

Target 3 creates the legal, material, financial framework for the sustainable conservation and utilization of technical and substantive training for bilingual education in Europe. Thus, the results of

VIA LIGHT backed project after completion of the EU funding and sustained so that the regular training of personnel for bilingual education at the example of RU-language system for European unity.

4. Methods

VIA LIGHT methods in the project following the successful implementation of the objectives can be used:

1) Professional analysis (months 1-3)

The professional analysis will be conducted by all partner countries, to compare the actual current proposals for education and training in the field of bilingual education by way of jointly agreed criteria (content of the offers, professional goals, target group are the most popular, temporal volume, methodology, teaching methodology, results) the results of the professional analysis of the needs of target groups in the project (teachers, teacher trainers, teachers, students) in kindergarten, preschools, schools, universities. Indicator: Professional Analysis of the offers and expert analysis of the needs exist in RU, DE, ENG, and serves as the basis for the structure of the training modules.

2) Design, discussion and joint development of training modules in transnational working groups (months 4-12)

The training modules consist of 160 hours theory (principles of multilingualism, bilingual education work in schools, intercultural educational activities, methodology, didactics) and 40h local, regional, national or European practice in bilingual institutions. The contents are based on common European principles of bilingual education, in the transnational working groups from the scientific expertise and the regional empirical be "best practice" experience developed.

Indicator: The training modules are developed in content, methodological and didactic and are developed in RU, EN and ENG to use and spread before.

3) Building mobile online educational tools for training VIA LIGHT (months 4-12)

The training modules form the "course case", depending on its specific content needs of the target group and region are combined. The course is complemented by case teaching materials such as handouts, textbooks, training materials, methods, materials. For the realization of pan-European development, a mobile trainer pool of at least five experts from the seven partner countries BG, CY, DE, EE, FI, LV, Moldova is formed, which are in accordance with their specific expertise to use.

Indicator: The "course case" is available for use. The trainer pool is ready for use with a minimum of 35 experts.

4) Building mobile online educational tools for training VIA LIGHT (months 4-12)

The course case is complemented by the creation of an online learning platform with online library (technical papers in RU, DE, ENG, and partner languages, BG, EE, FI, LV, GR), Forum and Theme Café for time-and location-independent education experts and participants. The online learning platform used for thematic transnational exchanges and deepened the cross-cultural teaching and learning effect of the presence of regional events.

Indicator: Function of the online learning platform and usage statistics (number of discussion forums and topics, number of active users).

5) Preparing and conducting the test phase of development in partner countries VIA LIGHT (months 13-21)

The training will be tested in the partner countries in a total of at least 3 universities, 3 schools, 9 kindergartens with about 110 participants of the target groups educators, teachers, trainers, lecturers and students. The test is used as the basis for the professional and organizational evaluation.

Indicator: Completed testing training courses in partner countries with programs, practical evidence, participant's lists and participant's certificates.

6) Evaluation of training and fixation of the final version of the European training VIA LIGHT (months 22-24)

All regional development is analyzed according to commonly agreed evaluation criteria (questionnaires, interviews with experts, participants, members of the Steering Committee). The results are used to fix the final version of the European training VIA LIGHT as the final project product.

Indicator: Number of evaluation forms. Interview protocols. Final version of the training is available.

7) Development and certification of the European Centre for bilingual education VIA LIGHT

(Months 13-24)

To sustainable content, organization, material, financial and legal security of the project results, the European Centre for bilingual education in European cooperation LIGHT VIA is established as an educational institution and certified. The certification assures the European standard of continuing education VIA LIGHT and the associated integration into the regular educational structures and offers to kindergartens, schools, universities of the partner organizations of partner countries and the EU.

Indicator: Letter of Commitment of partners to the European Centre for bilingual education VIA LIGHT; approval for the educational institution; certificate for the educational institution.

8) Project management tools and quality management project in the VIA LIGHT

For the successful implementation of the PM and QM are used the following instruments:

- Personal communication structure with responsibilities for overall project coordination, regionally, nationally, for transnational working groups;
- Reporting and accounting system with internal accounting and financial content, per quarter, using common templates, training of key personnel of the partners, individual coaching hotline at PM;
- Online and offline PR on the VIA LIGHT project site, project presentation at workshops, seminars, technical conferences, professional fairs, exhibitions, layout and production of flyers, posters, promotional material, newsletters in RU, DE, ENG; VIA LIGHT news page on P11 (RIA Novosti / RU);
- External and internal evaluation of the project development through the integration of external experts for the European project management and the involvement of a Steering Committee. 5 scientific, political, educational, political VIPs, conducting five direct project meetings and quarterly video conferences on a regular target-balancing of project development, implementation of the evaluation of products (training) and processes (project stages) with questionnaires, interviews, online surveys.

Indicators: minutes, reports, participants-lists, questionnaires, promotional material (flyers, posters), Steering Committee members, website.

5. European Added Value

The European added value of VIA LIGHT project appears in the following:

1) A European expert consortium of 11 partner organizations (kindergartens, schools, universities, PR firms) from eight nations, scientific-theoretical and empirical-practical skills to bilingual education by the example of the important European migration language Russian. All organizations concerned with the education and training of educators on the topic of "bilingual education" in the context of RU-



language and its link to regional and national experience and knowledge to develop a common European training.

2) The European exchange between knowledge "old" EU countries (DE, FI) with many years of migration experience and "new" EU-member countries (BG, CY, EE, LV), which with the inclusion in the EU the issue of promoting the multilingual language learning as national political re-classified and Russian-speaking countries around the EU (RU, Moldova), which are in close cultural and economic cooperation with the EU. This professional exchange creates innovative educational products (training, European Centre), promoting sustainable solutions for the promotion of multilingualism in European society.

3) The geographic integration of northern Europe (FI), Western Europe (DE), Eastern Europe (BG, EE, LV, RU, Moldova), Southern Europe (CY guarantees) for a European-involvement of expert institutions from different European regions and also for the corresponding spread the results of the project work.

4) The training combines VIA LIGHT regional "best practice" experiences and analyzed together with developed European bases for bilingual education.

5) The training is being tested in Europe with about 110 participants at 15 institutions of different European countries. For comprehensive European trials of education is possible, in both the scientific and practical differences and similarities detected, evaluated and incorporated into the final design of the training modules.

6) The training is being implemented with the mobile pool of European coaches (35 experts from 7 countries), in which the EU experiences are pooled and are targeted specifically for use.

7) The VIA LIGHT online learning space provides time and location chosen by all the experts and participants to the European professional exchanges on the Internet. Communication takes place in RU, DE, ENG + individual contributions (library, forums, topics) in the languages of partner countries. Regional areas are set aside for this language.

8) The European Centre for bilingual education is the result of European cooperation as an educational institution established and certified for sustainable security and integration of the VIA LIGHT regular training in the educational structures of the partner countries to European educational standards.