



ELVIN – European Languages Virtual Network

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Abstract

The current situation within the area of learning and practicing languages has become more and more demanding but language learning requires opportunities for effective and motivating practice of the target language because of the lack of other learners with similar needs with whom to practice with makes this activity demotivating and artificial. Together with the lack of availability of relevant and up-to-date content especially within the workplace and university contexts. In the ELVIN project the aim is to address these issues. For this reason, the social network Myelvin was created; which is based on existing social network software by forming a multilingual online social community of language learners. The target groups are learners in the field of public administration and university students in 6 different European countries. The online community is also supported by an online learning content repository where users can access contents directly from the social network. The central focus of the project is on reinforcing language competence by motivating people to practice languages by giving users a new approach to the practice of the target language and providing them with up-to-date content in order to do so, in the sectors of continuing education and university education. The network will do this by matching up learners according to the language a user wants to practice and also the professional interests of the user. The nature of the tools and services provided by Myelvin will particularly benefit less well served languages in Europe. In the project these languages are Portuguese, Hungarian, Bulgarian and Latvian which will improve interaction between different countries and cultures and promote employability throughout Europe. Once the validity of the tools and approach has been demonstrated, the valorization approach will aim to extend the results to other sectors and linguistic contexts in Europe, which will help towards the increasing need for life long learning.