



NELLIP, Network of European Language Labelled Initiatives and Projects

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Context

Since 1998, in all EU countries, a number of successful language learning initiatives have been awarded a quality label: the European Language Label. The European Language Label is assigned to the best initiatives promoting language teaching and learning. The European Language Label is assigned on the basis of a quality evaluation and assessment criteria that should be taken into account by all those who are involved in the planning and implementing of new language learning initiatives.

The European Language Label system and the related quality criteria used to promote the development of quality based language learning initiatives, is still not sufficiently known and understood by all those who are working in the field of the promotion of language learning, and this is an obstacle in promoting a correct "quality oriented culture" among language learning providers.

Also, often the contacts and information exchange among European Language Label initiatives developers are limited or nonexistent.

Finally, often language learning providers, having developed high quality products and initiatives, that received European Language Label, find difficulties in exploiting their results and in identifying and applying the necessary strategies to sustain their products.



Objectives and Target Groups



NELLIP, Network of European Language Labelled Initiatives, is funded by the European Commission in the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme – Key Activity 2 Languages. The project was funded for the period January 2012 – December 2014.

The aim of the NELLIP project is to promote quality in language learning through the application of the quality criteria used to award the European Language Label.

The NELLIP project has three specific objectives:

- to promote the networking and creation of synergies among language learning initiatives having received the European Language Label with the aim to enhance their impact, transferability potential and sustainability.
- to promote the adoption of a joint methodology that will allow the effective planning and implementation of high quality language learning initiatives according to the quality criteria used for the assessment of initiatives that apply to be awarded the European Language Label
- to promote the information about the European Language Label initiative among language learning providers.

The methodology of NELLIP focuses on:

- Strategies for the exploitation and networking of language learning initiatives that have received the European Language Label
- The effective planning and implementation of quality language learning initiatives that are consistent with the quality criteria used in awarding the European Language Label.
- Analysis of the benefits and impact of the European Language Label for language learning providers.

The direct target groups of NELLIP belong to the following sectors:

- Schools
- Higher Education Institutions
- Adult Education Institutions
- Vocational Education and Training Providers

Activities

The project activities are organized into the following main actions:

1) Research

The research aims to identify and describe success stories and good practices in planning and implementing language learning initiatives that received the European Language Label. The methodology adopted in the development of the labelled initiatives will be analyzed according to a comparative approach.



The research activity will focus, first of all, on the identification and analysis of language learning initiatives that were awarded the European Language Label in 18 different European countries. Quantitative and qualitative data related to the identified projects, initiatives and products that received the European Language Label will be collected.

The second part of the research activity will focus on the identification of Case Studies to be carried out selecting the most successful initiatives having received the European Language Label. Each of the selected language learning initiatives will be analyzed through a direct contact with the manager of the initiative itself. A detailed analysis of the methodology adopted to develop the selected successful initiative will be made. Benchmarks will be identified.

The third part of the research activity will consist of the identification of success stories describing the best practices developed in the framework of initiatives having received the European Language Label.

On the basis of the information collected in the framework of the research work, a total of eighteen National Reports will be created. Each National Report will present a clear picture of how European language label has been managed, what types of products and results were achieved, which target groups and language learning needs were addressed etc. The reports will describe also the common problems and best practice solutions adopted to overcome them experienced by European Language Label projects/products promoters. The production of the National Reports should be made in close cooperation with the relevant National Agencies that are in charge of the European Language Label at national level.

The National Reports will be jointly analyzed by the project partnership so as to produce a Comparative Transnational Report on effective methodologies for the development of successful language learning initiatives according to the quality criteria adopted to award the European Language Label. The transnational Report will further analyze the information presented in the national reports according to a transnational comparative approach that will highlight points in common and main differences among the European Language Labelled projects/products created and assessed in Europe. The transnational report will therefore provide language learning providers with reference to best practice solutions in planning, creating, disseminating and exploiting European Language Label products.

Both national and transnational reports will be published on the project internet portal available at: <http://projects.pixel-online.org/nellip>



2) Creation of the Guidelines

On the basis of the results of the research activity carried out the project partnership will develop Guidelines addressed to language learning providers. The Guidelines will focus on how to plan, implement, manage, exploit and network quality initiatives for language learning. The Guidelines will exploit the best practices developed in the framework of European language labelled projects.

The Guidelines will take the form of easy to use, hypertext based collection of hints, suggestions, check lists and operative plans. Direct links to examples, documents and tools collected during the research work will be made available.

The Guidelines will be organized in three main sections:

- Exploitation and Networking of European Language Labelled Initiatives

This section will focus on the strategies for the exploitation of language learning initiatives having received the European Language Label as well as strategies and suggestions on how to create excellence networks among the promoters of the labelled initiatives. The topics will include issues such as: European cooperation for language teaching and training, National and European resources and funding to sustain European Language Labelled initiatives, Best practices in planning and development of dissemination strategies; Best practices in Planning and development of exploitation strategies; Networking among language learning providers, How to ensure language projects' sustainability etc.

- Quality Issues in planning of language learning initiatives

This section will focus on the methodologies for an effective planning and implementation of high quality language learning initiatives according to the quality criteria used for the European Language Label assessment. The aim will be to present strategies on how to develop language learning initiatives that can successfully apply for the European Language Label.

This section will therefore exploit the European criteria used for the assessment of initiatives that apply to be awarded the European Language Label.

- Information on the European Language Label

This section will provide information for language learning providers about the European Language Label initiative including its purposes, the benefits, the impact.

A focus on the general (i.e. European) and national criteria for winning the award will also be made.

Within each section there will be sub-sections, each addressed to the project's target groups: schools, higher education institutions, adult education institutions, vocational education and training providers.

The Guidelines will be published on the project internet portal available at: <http://projects.pixel-online.org/nellip>



3) Workshops

The aim of workshops that will be organized is the testing of materials produced and the sharing of information about the most effective language learning initiatives having received the European Language Label in Europe. About 180 language learning providers will be identified in the nine European countries involved in the project. They will represent the project's target groups: schools, higher education institutions, adult education institutions, vocational education and training providers.

The learning providers will be identified among those who:

- were awarded the European Language Label to at least one of their initiatives and need to acquire effective strategies and operative solutions to disseminate and exploit them.
- applied for the European Language Label but were not awarded it because their language learning initiatives did not respond to the necessary quality criteria.
- may not be aware of the existence of the European Language Label but have willingness to improve their capacity to plan and implement quality initiatives for language learning that can successfully apply to obtain the European Language Label

Each project partner will organize Workshops where the end users will have the opportunity to be presented with and test the educational and training materials developed in the framework of initiatives having received the European Language Label. The workshops will also give the participants the opportunity to test and exploit the Guidelines on how to plan, implement, manage, disseminate and exploit, quality initiatives and products for language learning that can successfully apply to obtain the European Language Label.



The participants involved will be asked to work on the identification of their most relevant current language learning initiatives that need to be improved. A plan for the improvement of the selected language learning initiative will be developed according to the quality criteria outlined in the guidelines, so as to possibly apply to receive the European Language Label.

Information about the workshops will be available on the NELLIP Internet portal at: <http://projects.pixel-online.org/nellip>

Main Results

The main expected results include:

- Case studies and examples of good practice on language learning initiatives that have received the European Language Label
- National and Transnational Reports analyzing the impact of the European Language Label on quality improvement in language learning
- Guidelines on how to plan, implement, manage, disseminate and exploit, quality initiatives for language learning with reference to the European Language Label
- Workshops to test the materials produced
- International networking activities

All of the project results will be available on the project internet portal at: <http://projects.pixel-online.org/nellip>

Project Organization

The project is promoted and coordinated by Pixel (www.pixel-online.net), an education and training organization specialized in European cooperation, based in Florence, Italy.

The project transnational partnership is composed by: KU TU Ltd. (Bulgaria); GexCall, University of Extremadura (Spain); Omnia, Joint Authority of Education in Espoo (Finland); Universal Learning Systems (Ireland); Connectis (Italy); Public Service Language Centre (Lithuania); EuroEd (Romania); PROSPER-ASE (Romania); Fågelskolan (Sweden); EAQUALS (United Kingdom).