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L2Paths

Newsletter n° 2 – October 2014

Dear sir and madame

When looking for a suitable language course, migrants in Europe are confronted with a wide range of options – from language courses or self-study materials to language tandems and apps, etc. It is crucial for migrants to be able to speak the national language in order to integrate into the host country. However, how to find the right option when most course providers only publish information about their own courses?

In response to this problem partners in Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia and Sweden decided to work together on the EU-funded project „L2 Paths“- Pathways to Host Country Languages for Migrants”. The project aims to:

- create a standardised format for language advice
- create a tool called Pathfinder for matching a person's needs with the learning options available
- train language advisors and set up advice centres in all partner countries

The Language Advice Centres

The British universities of Hull, Newcastle and Leeds have provided language advice

since the 1990s. Learners have an opportunity to work together with a trained language advisor to create a learning program adapted to their needs in terms of price, location, time, language level, learning goals and learning style. Learners' progress is evaluated regularly and their learning program can be adapted accordingly.

The role of Language Advisors

Language advisors are crucial when finding suitable learning options. They work together with learners to analyse their needs, goals and language level and create a personal learning plan that meets the learner's needs. Throughout the learning process, they meet regularly with learners to evaluate their progress until the learning goal has been achieved successfully. In order to provide the best support, language advisors use their experience in learning and teaching foreign languages, their intercultural competence as well as knowledge about different types of learning tools. They also help the learner to set realistic learning goals, evaluate their progress and help them to stay motivated or overcome learning barriers if necessary.

The Pathfinder system

Those who prefer a more flexible approach can complete the needs analysis at www.language-pathfinder.eu indicating their educational background, language skills, learning goals and preferences in terms of time, location, price and learning styles. The Pathfinder system will match their needs with suitable learning options and create a personal learning plan. Learners can also keep an online diary to monitor their progress and reflect on their experiences with language courses or self-study materials.

All those who prefer to use the services of a language advisor can use the Pathfinder-system to find the nearest advice centre.



What's next for L2PATHS?

Training of the Language Advisors: The first language advisor training will take place in March 2015 in Todi (Italy). The training will include the following topics:

- Neurolinguistic programming and communication
- Negotiation techniques
- Conflict resolution
- Interpersonal and intercultural skills
- Setting achievable and measurable goals

All project partners will offer this training course in their home countries starting in spring 2015. If you have any questions about the training course or if you are interested in taking part in one of the courses, please contact us at: info@l2paths.eu.

The Pathfinder-System:

From March 2015, learners will be able to register at www.language-pathfinder.eu to complete a needs analysis, create a personal learning plan and to track their progress.

Meetings:

The third partner meeting took place in Kristianstad (Sweden) on 15th – 16th October 2014. The partners discussed the results of their work in the last few months as well as the next steps for the development of the Pathfinder system. They also agreed on the content of the Language Advisor training course. The next meeting will take place from 9th – 10th March 2015 in Todi (Italy).



For further information please visit www.l2paths.eu

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