The OPENLang Network

June 2019

OPENLang Network European Project

Background

According to both the Council of Europe and the European Union, mobility is one of the cornerstones of European society. Though, the lack of language competences is still one of the main barriers to participation in European education, training and youth programmes. With 4 million participants by 2020, Erasmus+ is a unique opportunity to study, train, gain work experience or volunteer abroad (EU, 2013). As languages are the heart of mutual understanding and comprehension, it is essential to promote language learning for Erasmus+ KA1 mobility participants.

Aims

The OPENLang Network project aims specifically at developing a network which envisages to connect all the Erasmus+ KA1 Mobility participants (HE students and staff, VET (at least 1 month mobility), Adult and School education staff, Youth learners, Youth Workers, Youth Entrepreneurs) in an OPEN informal and highly interactive online environment which could support more efficiently their effort to raise language awareness of the target mobility EU languages and to develop European intercultural knowledge. The project also aims at language teachers joining this network and voluntarily supporting this initiative. As a reward for their participation they will have the opportunity to get certified professional training on creating, sharing and using Open Educational Resources (OERs). This network will also supplement and enhance the formal Online Linguistic Support (OLS) European service by offering a truly informal and authentic language learning experience which will address the language needs of every European.

Objectives

The OPENLang Network envisages to:

1) connect Erasmus+ mobility participants and volunteers language teachers in an interactive collaborative environment supporting more efficiently their effort to raise language awareness of the target mobility EU languages and to develop European intercultural knowledge covering all EU cultures.

2) foster the Open Education European multicultural and multilingual vision to all OPENLang Network members.

Project partnership

The international partners are:

- University of Macedonia, Greece
- Open University, United Kingdom
- Cyprus University of Technology, Cyprus
- Pixel, Italy

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the OPENLang Network are:

− development of an open highly interactive, collaborative and multiservice web and mobile-based platform which will offer a variety of e-services as well educational and cultural material, such as:

  1) the e-tandem 24 EU Languages Learning Matching Service;

  2) qualified assessment tools for 24 EU languages;

  3) an open & highly interactive forum;

  4) a personal member's dashboard;

  5) an open and interactive database of language open educational resources (OERs);

  6) an OERs e-toolkit including a quality framework for language OERs;

  7) an Open Educational Practices (OEPs) e-Book;

  8) a language teachers' training MOOC on OERs creation, sharing and use.

− teachers' professional development: all teachers who will voluntarily support this initiative will have the possibility to attend the MOOC offered by the OPENLang Network and to participate in a number of activities that will broaden their professional network.

Intellectual Outputs

The OPENLang Network project will produce the following intellectual outputs:

O1: Mapping the 'Language Learning Profile' of the Erasmus+ KA1 Mobility Participants

O2: OPENLang Network' Pedagogical & Design Framework

O3: Online 24 EU Language Placement Tests (LPTs)

O4: Quality Framework for Language OERs

O5: e-Toolkit for OPEN Lang Resources and Practices

O6: Development of the OPENLang Network E-Platform

O7: Development of OPENLang MOOC

O8: OPENLang Webinars & Contest

O9: OPENLang Pilots & Usage

O10: Learning Analytics Report

O11: Sustainability Plan

Target Groups

The target groups of the OPENLang Network project are:

− Erasmus+ KA1 mobility participants (HE students & staff, VET, Adult & School education staff, Youth learners, Youth Workers, Youth Entrepreneurs) that need to boost their language skills (24 EU) and cultural awareness including those who will not enroll in the OLS courses.
− volunteers language teachers who will support the Erasmus+ KA1 mobility participants offering their professional experience while receiving professional certified training on the creation, sharing and use of language OERs.

Mapping the 'Language Learning Profile'

The Report mapping the "Language Learning Profile" is based on a needs analysis survey which identifies, analyses and presents the language needs of the participants involved in long-term mobility activities supported under Erasmus+ Key Action 1. (HE students and staff, VET for at least 1 month mobility, learners/staff, adult and school education staff, Youth learners and workers). We invite you to fill in the online survey to help us building an open community that would satisfy the needs of all Erasmus participants: **https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQ LSfiiW6sXTXA9Fmx5OhPSgL3NdqnZnSyh zkxEhsImtq-yURgmQ/viewform**.

https://openlang-network.kmi.open.ac.uk/