



REPORT ON MULTIPLIER EVENT (E2) IN RIGA, TURIBA UNIVERSITY

The Aim of the Multiplier Event E2

The Multiplier Event of Latvia “National Exploitation seminar in Latvia: Culture based multilingual blended-learning language course for enhancement of adult learners’ 21st century skills” was held in Riga, Turiba University on June 28, 2021.

The aim of the national exploitation seminar in Latvia was to organize a national event in which to present to adult teaching organisers, NGO representatives, local authority representatives, adult teachers, representatives of different other organisations, adult learners, etc. the project outputs.

It was planned that during the multiplier event we would be focusing on the methodology, approach selected, analyse the piloting results, introduce with the learners’ and teachers’ feedback and organise a workshop with a hands-on-experience to get introduced with the course, so that the adult educators could later use it with their learners. The underlying aim was to show how the courses created may contribute to employability skills development.

Prior to the seminar invitations were sent out through professional networks and personal links to higher education institutions educating future language and culture teachers – the Faculty of Education, Psychology and Arts of the University of Latvia, the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Latvia, EKA (Economics and Culture University) University of Applied Sciences, Latvian Academy of Culture, Latvian Sports Pedagogy Academy. We also contacted adult language educators from other higher education institutions and language and culture teachers of several adult education centres, vocational schools, culture college, secondary schools, also professional associations such as the Latvian Association of Tourism Information Organizations „Latturinfo”, the Employers’ Confederation of Latvia, the Association of Hotels and Restaurants of Latvia, NGOs, publishing companies, employers of tourism and hospitality field and others.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we were allowed to invite only the persons with the green digital Covid-19 certificate, therefore, much of the organizational work was done in communicating this



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message to the possible participants of the seminar. We also posted the information on the Multiplier Event on the project webpage both in Latvian and English. The registration link was opened on the google.forms and the participants could register for the Event on it or on the e-mail provided.

It was planned to have 35 external participants for the Event. 39 participants arrived, but, unfortunately, one participant could not show a valid digital Covid-19 certificate, so the total number of participants is 38.

As the seminar participants were both language teachers and teachers of culture courses as well as representatives of professional organisations and other institutions, the event was held in Latvian. All the presentations and materials (a rich info pack for the participants) were translated into Latvian.

Programme for the Multiplier Event E2

The Event was held in 3 parts due to the Covid-19 restrictions that had to be observed in the country:

- 1) outside, in the University yard (registration of the participants, incl. checking their digital Covid-19 certificates; welcome speeches; brief information on the project and the main results),
- 2) presentations in the Room (detailed presentations of the project and every output highlighting the benefits and the challenges we faced),
- 3) workshop in computer-labs to have hands-on-experience.

The multiplier event was held on June 28, and as only on June 23 the Government released some Covid-19 restrictions as to organizing meetings and seminars, this actually was the first opportunity for language and culture educators to meet each other face-to-face after a 7-month on-line teaching and working period. Therefore, we also included a longer coffee break and lunch to provide an opportunity to participants to network. Moreover, according to the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of Latvia, a break was a must after every 2 hours spent in a room.



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- From 9:40** **Registration** and Coffee (in the University yard)
- 10:00** **Welcome speeches and brief introductory information on the project** (in the University yard) (Prof. Ineta Luka)
- 10:30** **Information on the Project** (Room A101)
- Presentation of the project aims, partners, project stages etc. (Prof. Ineta Luka)
 - Presentation on the project methodologies and approaches (Prof. Ineta Luka)
 - Presenting O1 Output: the English language course ‘European Cultural Heritage and skills development’ (curriculum, course structure, materials design, approach, course piloting, dissemination) (Prof. Ineta Luka, Inese Ate, Sundars Vaidesvarans)
- 11:45** **Break**
- 12:00** **Information on the Project** (Room A101)
- Presenting O2 Output: the course in 9 languages HR, LV, SI, PL, CZ, HU, RO + DE, FR ‘Culture-based multilingual blended-learning language course for adult learners’ (curriculum, materials design, approach, course piloting, dissemination, etc.) (Prof. Ineta Luka, Kristine Liepina, Anda Komarovska, Sundars Vaidesvarans)
 - Presenting O3 Output: Pedagogical guidelines for educators of adult learners ‘Developing adult learners’ 21st century skills’ (Prof. Ineta Luka)
- 13:00** **Coffee break** (Building A, Lobby downstairs)
- 13:30** **Workshop in a computer lab** (Building C, Room 111, Room 213 and Room 211) (Kristine Liepina, Inese Ate, Sundars Vaidesvarans)
- 14:30** **Lunch** in the Café Nike (Building C, ground floor)
- 15:15** **Conclusion** – feedback, certificates (Building A, Lobby downstairs)





Participants

Educators of language and culture courses from various education institutions attended the event – University of Latvia, EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvian Academy of Culture, Riga Technical University, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, Riga State Technical School, Riga Secondary School No.64, Riga Style and Fashion Vocational School, English, German and Spanish teachers from adult language education firms „Valodu mape”, „Roks”, „DialogsPro”, representatives of the Latvian Association of Tourism Information Organizations „Latturinfo”, Employers’ Confederation of Latvia, the Association of Hotels and Restaurants of Latvia, Tourism Information Centre of Vecumnieki, IK „DR dizains”, „Janne” Ltd., Ltd. „Bulduru DU”, Ltd. „Active LV” and others.

The seminar participants were involved in organising courses (language and culture) to adult learners, educating future teachers of adult learners, teaching languages and culture to adult learners, organising courses at their institutions or on the level of the country, some were adult learners having certain learning barriers.

After the Multiplier event, the participants filled in a specially created evaluation form. The evaluation form is similar for all the partners for the Consortium concerning the project evaluation.

Feedback on the Seminar

The subsequent part provides the summary of the participants’ answers (37 questionnaires by external participants filled in) concerning the Multiplier Event and the project outputs presented. One participant has not submitted the feedback form.

Most of the participants received the information on the Multiplier Event from some project team member, some also from the project webpage.



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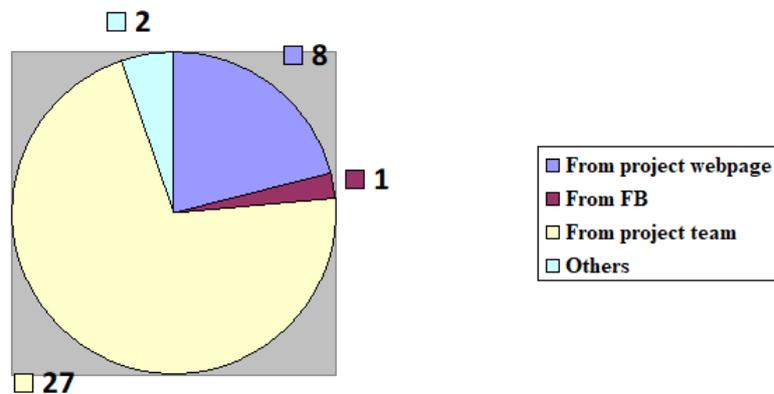


Figure 1. How participants found the information on the seminar

All participants admitted having received useful information on the basic principles of the project, on the project methodologies and curricula, on the English language learning course and on the multilingual learning course. Further evaluation is shown in the table below.

Table 1. Evaluation of the project and its outputs

| Participants | very useful | useful | 50/50 | useless | absolutely useless |
|---|-------------|--------|-------|---------|--------------------|
| Evaluation of the project basic principles | 20 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Evaluation of the methodologies and curricula | 25 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Evaluation of the English language course | 20 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Evaluation of the multilingual language learning course | 20 | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total (n=38) | 85 | 60 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Total (%) | 57.43 | 40.54 | 0.68 | 0 | 1.35 |



We also received written feedback on the open question from the seminar participants, which is summarized below:

- A very creative project, I highly evaluate it. (a lecture in foreign languages of the University of Latvia)
- Thank you! An excellent practical project. (a senior researcher in education science of the University of Latvia)
- In order to get a full perception of the project outputs it is necessary to study the modules and the tasks in-depth. Thank you! Immense work done! (an assistant professor of EKA University of Applied Sciences)
- I would like to ask about the terminology translations if the terminology has been agreed upon with the State Language Centre. (a Professor of the University of Latvia)
- I am pleased to see that the project team continues working with language competences. (a lecturer in applied linguistics of University of Latvia)
- A useful, practically applicable material. (a culture teacher of a vocational school)
- Everything is on the highest level. (a representative of the Employers' Confederation of Latvia)
- Thank you! Useful and interesting. (a German teacher of the Language firm *DialogsPro*)

Conclusion

As seen from the information above, the seminar participants highly evaluated the project and its outcomes, and they found them very useful and applicable. The seminar participants were satisfied with the information gained. We especially liked that all participants are ready to use the project outputs.

The seminar participants were encouraged to use their seminar password for learning the platform and preparing for the new study year. After finalizing the project outputs, the learning platform will be available to everyone, willing to use it, via free-of-charge registration.





Overall, the seminar was very fruitful, and we got lots of positive feedback and we see that we have done huge work that will be used not only by the project partner institutions but also by the institutions external to the direct beneficiaries, which is positive as it is the project added value and it increases the project scope. New collaboration links between language teachers of various education institutions of Latvia have been developed and the existing ones have been strengthened. The informal discussions were very fruitful, and they contributed to the overall positive atmosphere of the Multiplier Event, and everyone felt satisfied.

However, the project manager of the Latvian team has to admit that it was the most difficult event to be organized ever because of the Covid-19 restrictions and the unpredictable situation. We had lots more of language educators willing to attend the event, but they were not allowed because of not having a valid digital Covid-19 certificate. In the autumn, we are planning to have an online dissemination seminar for those interested ones who were not able to attend the face-to-face multiplier event.

After the event, its participants will be sent a link with additional information on the project outputs and their use in language and culture classes.

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Manager of Turība University project team

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