

European Language Portfolio in Practice

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Abstract

In the Czech Republic exists since the year 2001 printed European Language Portfolio, in four versions according to the age of its users. According to the Czech School Inspectorate report from the year 2008/2009 is the number of users of European Language Portfolio in the Czech Republic still very low. (23% of basic schools in the Czech Republic used ELP for English language and 16% of schools for German).

The running project European Language Portfolio in Practice aims at creating an on-line version, which is available for free to all internet users not only in the Czech Republic and which is thus more interesting for the target group. This on-line portfolio should help learners to record progress they made in the foreign language they learn or learned; and to create their language biography in four languages – in Czech, English, German and French. They can keep their materials to each language in the Dossier as well.

In our on-line language portfolio students of all ages can find environment suitable to their age. Besides interesting graphic the on-line ELP offers also a big help to the teachers. According to the survey we made in the CR, the most teachers and students find the "can do" statements too complicated. We completed the statements with some practical exercises that should illustrate the descriptors and help the users to check their knowledge and competences covered by the descriptors.

Next to the ideals and goals that underpin the mission of the Council of Europe: respect for linguistic and cultural diversity, mutual understanding beyond national, institutional and social boundaries, promotion of plurilingualism and pluricultural education, the on-line ELP increases the ICT literacy by learners as by teachers in the Czech Republic.

In the year 2010 our team places emphasis mostly on creating the new product, which will be tested and piloted at several schools of different levels (primary, lower and upper secondary education). In the next year around 3 120 of teachers will be trained how to use the new on-line portfolio in their education and above all how to motive their students to work with it.