



Linguanet WorldWide, Surfing Languages all over the World

Lorenza Venturi

E-mail: l.venturi@indire.it

Lifelong Learning Programme National Agency -
Comenius, Erasmus, Grundtvig and Study Visits (Italy)

Abstract

Lingu@net World Wide is a new EU Commission funded project, taking the award winning Lingu@net Europa site www.linguanet-europa.org one step further!

Lingu@net Europa, the multilingual, on-line resource centre for foreign language learning was developed over the last 12 years. The site provides information about, and links to good on-line resources from around the world relating to the learning and teaching of any modern foreign language.

Lingu@net Europa is based on the idea that if you are learning or teaching a language you could be interested in relevant resources in any language you understand - not only the resources you can find by searching in your mother tongue.

Lingu@net Europa gives multilingual access to over 3,500 catalogued on-line resources, many of them specifically for learners. It also offers support for adult learners on how to learn a language, how to assess your level and how to communicate with other learners on-line.

At the moment, you can access the whole site in: Basque, Bulgarian, Catalan, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, Galician, German, Greek, Icelandic, Italian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish.

In this new project phase (Dec 2009 – Nov 2011), the project consortium, consisting of 34 organisations from all over Europe with CERCLES and ECML as dissemination partners, are adding twelve new interface languages, including all official EU languages, Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese and Russian.

The new Lingu@net World Wide site www.linguanet-worldwide.org will be launched in spring 2011, giving access to over 5,000 good quality online resources and providing online support and advice for language learners in 32 languages.

Lingu@net EU was developed over the last 12 years with support from the EU (in 1998-2001, and 2003-2006). In 2007 it was awarded the MERLOT prize for being 'exemplary on-line learning material for all disciplines' (www.merlot.org) and in 2008 Lingu@net EU was awarded the European Commission's Gold prize in the "European Lifelong Learning Awards for quality in mobility" (http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/news/news1687_en.htm).

By the end of the project Lingu@net World Wide will:

- give access to over 5,000 (currently 3,700) good quality online resources
- provide online support and advice for language learners in 32 (currently 20) languages
- reach over 400,000 (currently 100,000) visits per month by October 2011.

Lingu@net WW will add to the existing 20 languages, the following 12 new interface languages:

- 7 new European languages to complete all 23 official EU languages:



- Czech (CS)
- Hungarian (HU)
- Irish (GA)
- Latvian (LV)
- Romanian (RO)
- Slovak (SK)
- Slovene (SL)
- 5 new world languages:
 - Arabic (AR)
 - Chinese (ZH)
 - Hindi (HI)
 - Japanese (JA)
 - Russian (RU)

Adding these 12 new languages to Lingu@net Europa will help:

- give better access to online resources for learning languages (i.e. users can access materials and support for language learning in their mother tongue);
- give wider access to online resources for learning these new languages by making them accessible via 32 language interfaces;
- support language acquisition for migrants throughout the EU;
- act as show-case world-wide for EU-produced resources;
- continue to disseminate good quality results of EU language-related projects; and
- allow Lingu@net to continue its work towards sustainability for the project as a whole.

Resources are selected and catalogued by experts nominated by the 34 partner organizations forming the Consortium. These experts undergo a period of training, before they actually start inputting resources in Lingu@net. Detailed Guidelines for cataloguing, classifying and inputting resources in the database are provided for them via Internet in the workspace. Scope notes are always provided.

Metadata model for resource published in Lingu@net WorldWide

Level 1

1. Title of the resource
2. Author or creator
3. Resource identifier (URL)
4. Date resource created
5. Publisher / provider of resource + language the name of the publisher/ provider is written
6. E-mail of the publisher or provider
7. Source country
8. Source language(s) language(s) of the resource
9. Access restrictions



Registration required

Commercial site

Software download required

10. Rights of use/ copyright notice

11. Technical requirements necessary hardware or software

12. Description (a free text description of the resource not exceeding 50 words

written in the main source language of the resource, or, where appropriate, e.g. for a bilingual site, in two languages)

13. Short description - for resources included in the learner support pages.

14. Subject

Teaching and learning materials (LEP21)

Resources specifically designed for use with or by learners of modern foreign languages

Courses

Exercises and Tasks

Games

Lesson plans

Quizzes

Songs

Authentic materials (LEP22)

Materials in the target language which could be used for MFL teaching and learning although they were not originally designed for this purpose e.g. on-line weather forecasts; timetables; guides to museums or galleries.

Institutions

Literary texts

Magazines

Museums and Galleries

Newspapers

Radio

Television and video

Reference and research resources (LEP23)

Reference and research resources include sites which may be consulted for: definitions and explanations (e.g. dictionaries, glossaries), further information on a specific topic (e.g. bibliographies, list of web links) or articles on a particular topic. Research is taken to mean the systematic investigation, collection and analysis of data to reach conclusions, estimate effects, or test hypothesis.

Academic articles

Bibliographies

Corpora
Encyclopedia (languages and linguistics)
Dictionaries
Glossaries
Information sheets
Journals
List of web links
Newsletters
Reports
Thesauri

Assessment, evaluation and testing (LEP24)

Resources related to measuring, checking or acknowledging modern foreign language learners' needs, level of competence or progression.

Accreditation and qualifications
Examinations
Learning style questionnaires
Materials evaluation
Quality assurance
Self-assessment tools
Tests

Interaction and events (LEP25)

Resources enabling communication (electronic or in person) between language learners or those involved in MFL teaching, learning and training. These include listings of forthcoming conferences and events.

Blogs
Chat rooms
Conferences and events
Discussion forums
Exchanges and placements abroad
Partner-finding services
Virtual worlds and MOOs

Methodology (LEP26)

Resources relating to how to work with the different resources, situations or approaches listed, e.g. how to develop autonomy; how to teach other subjects through the medium of the foreign language; how to use games / songs / videos in the language classroom.

Bilingual education



Communicative language teaching
Exploiting materials
Immersion education
Information and Communication Technology (ICT), e-mail and video conferencing
Language Resource Centres (LRC)
Learning Strategies
Motivation
Open and distance learning
Special Educational Needs (SEN)
Syllabus design and curriculum development
Teaching in the Target Language

Organisations and service providers (LEP27)

Information on organisations and individuals (including institutions, professional associations, translators and interpreters, commercial and non-profit organisations) whose main purpose is to provide services for those involved in language teaching, learning and training.

Funding and grants
Libraries
Listings of language schools
Professional associations and non-profit organisations
Providers of language services

Policy and planning (LEP28)

Resources related to the management of Modern Foreign Language learning or language policy on an institutional, regional, national or international level.

Professional development (LEP29)

Only to be used for resources aimed at the professional development (i.e. training) of language professionals, including training events and training activities for language teacher trainers and teachers (e.g. Training teachers to use the European Language Portfolio, an ECML project)

Level 2

- 15. Target language(s) (LEP30)
- 16. Proficiency level (LEP32)
- 17. Skills & competences (LEP33)
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Listening
 - Speaking



Grammar

Vocabulary

Pronunciation

Spelling

18. Educational sector (LEP34)

Pre-school education

Primary education

Secondary education

Special education

Further education

Higher education

Adult education

Teacher training

Language training in a professional context

19. Vocational sector (LEP35)

Agriculture, Land, Environment (includes Mining and Fisheries)

Art and Design

Built Environment (includes Architecture and Construction)

Business and Administration (includes Management)

Education

Engineering

Financial Services (includes Accounting, Banking, Insurance)

Hospitality and Catering

Information and Communication Technology

Information, Library and Museum Services

Law

Leisure and Tourism (includes Sport)

Manufacturing

Media: Communication and Production

Medicine, Health and Social Care

Performing Arts

Public Service

Retail and Distribution Services

Science

Transport

20. Notes (LEP36)

Extra fields created automatically:

LEP4 Date added to L'net WW

LEP16 Cataloguer

LEP17 Metadata last modified

LEP18 L'net WW accession number



Besides giving access to on line resources, Linguanet also provides:

- Live chat: chatroom online for language learning
- Key Pals: "in tandem" peer learning (e.g. exchange of e-mails)
- Discussion Forum: online opportunity to discuss relevant topics for the target language
- Blog: read, write, contribute or blog in the target language
- Virtual Worlds: or MOOs, specifically designed for language learning. In a MOO you can «build» your own environment and communicate with other «players», like in a computer game

Everybody is very welcome to:

- Find resources to teach your mother tongue or a vehicular language to pupils
- Recommend a resource: to be included in Lingu@net Europa?
- Give Feedback: what do you think of it?
- Get in touch: if you want to practice, share your comments and ideas

For further information please contact the Lingu@net World Wide Information

Unit:

Lingu@net World Wide

The Languages Company (TLC)

Hamilton House
Mabledon Place
Bloomsbury
London WC1H 9BB

UK

Tel: +44 (0) 207 6333 329

E-mail: info@linguanet-worldwide.org

Website: www.linguanet-europa.org

Italian contact point


Lorenza Venturi

Unità Comunicazione
Agenzia nazionale Lifelong Learning Programme
Comenius, Erasmus, Grundtvig e Visite di Studio
T +39 055 23 80 366

E l.venturi@indire.it

Web: www.programmaLLP.it

Appendix 1

 The institutions involved in the Linguanet World Wide project are:

España – ES Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, UPM (Contractor)

United Kingdom – UK - The Languages Company – TLC (Coordinating Organization)

International Conference
"ICT for Language Learning" 3rd edition



Ellas - EL Institute for Language and Speech Processing / R.C. "Athena" ILSP

Rumania - RO EuroEd Foundation EuroEd

Bulgaria - BG European Centre for Education and Training ECET

Ceska Republika - CZ University of South Bohemia PFJU

Magyarország - HU Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences, Budapest ELTE

United Kingdom - UK Queen's University Belfast QUB

United Kingdom - UK School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London SOAS

Latvija - LV Public Service Language Centre PSLC

España - ES Instituto Cervantes IC

France - FR Centre International d'Etudes Pédagogiques CIEP

Lithuania - LT Public Service Language Centre PSLC

Slovenija - SI University of Primorska UP FHS

United Kingdom - UK Japan Foundation, London Language Centre JF

United Kingdom - UK CILT, the National Centre for Languages CILT

Polska - PL "Linguae Mundi" Foreign Language Teaching Foundation LM

Italia - IT Agenzia Nazionale per lo Sviluppo dell'Autonomia Scolastica INDIRE-ANSAS

Suomi - FI University of Jyväskylä JYU

Sverige - SE Svenska institutet/The Swedish Institute SI

Island - IS University of Iceland HÍ

Ireland - IE Confédération Européenne des Centres de Langues de l'Enseignement CercleS

Slovensko -SK E – KU Inštitút jazykovej a interkultúrnej komunikácie E – KU