

**TLC PACK**

Teaching Languages to Caregivers

Newsletter April 2014

Launch meeting (Cham, Germany)

The TLC Pack launch meeting took place at the Volkshochschule (vhs) im Landkreis, Cham, Bavaria, in February 2014, hosted by the German project partner and coordinator. The meeting was attended by representatives from the six participating countries (Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain and the UK) and over the two days of the meeting a significant amount of planning and strategising was undertaken.

A series of key presentations was delivered by the various partners in order to ensure a consistent understanding and interpretation of the various work packages, resulting in engaging discussions and suggestions that demonstrated a real enthusiasm for making the project a success.



Attendees at the TLC Pack launch meeting in Cham, representing the various partner organisations

The partners also came to a unanimous decision in choosing the project logo. The chosen design depicts the shape of a heart created by two separate hands coming together to represent the importance of a 'partnership' within a caregiver and care receiver relationship, reinforcing the primary objective of the project.

Project overview

The project focuses on 'occupational specific language resources' to support migrants already working in, or with aspirations to work in, the care giving sector. It has been determined that this is one of the primary employment opportunities for migrant workers across Europe.



In the context of the TLC Pack project 'caregiving' as an occupation is defined as work that involves helping people who are older or those who need assistance with grooming, medical tasks and/or daily tasks. The work may be undertaken in residential care contexts or in the home of the person receiving care. Caregiver tasks are related to ageing, illness, hygiene and daily living activities inside and outside of the home (or residence).

In addition to supporting the acquisition of occupational specific language, the project also recognises the importance of developing complementary intercultural knowledge and insights, to be included within the final resource package. This aspect of the resource pack seeks to highlight the intersection of caregiving duties and a range of cultural conventions to take into account the cultural values, beliefs and attitudes of both caregivers and those receiving care.

Strategy

The strategy of learning specific occupational language along with intercultural understanding is to be achieved via a combination of video resources (available via a dedicated YouTube channel) and companion resources in the form of guides for teachers and guides for learners (working independently). Online interactive tests will also be provided for learners to be able to evaluate their progress. An additional facility will be made available for teachers and learners to communicate and facilitate assessment of learning via the use of web-based audio and video capture tools.



The TLC Pack will be developed for levels A2 to B1/B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The project focuses on domain specific and practically relevant scenarios and vocabulary to equip each learner with easy to use and accessible resources, teaching language along with valuable intercultural knowledge and understanding, addressed to migrants. This assumes a basic understanding and level of competence in the target language, though for those without the pre-requisite skills other resources are available.

The TLC Pack will be developed in six languages (Dutch, English, German, Greek, Italian & Spanish) with national versions reflecting specific national needs, within a largely consistent topic and content framework.

Needs analysis

One of the current stages of the project is the 'needs analysis', led by project partner IDEC though actively supported by all partners carrying out research in their own countries.



Via a series of questionnaires (available on and off line) three key stakeholder target groups have been identified, accessible within each partner country. These are current and aspiring migrant care workers (caregivers), language teachers that are in contact with migrant learners, and senior professionals (managers / employers) within the care giving sector.

While each questionnaire has a different focus the project team aim to acquire valuable information in response to both language competence and intercultural knowledge and understanding. This information will help to shape and direct the learning resources to ensure a high level of relevance in terms of content. It is expected that responses will support much of the 'suggested' topic areas established within the project development stages, however it is important that the responses from the three groups alluded to above are considered fully in their own right.

Partners

- Volkshochschule im Landkreis Cham,
(coordinator) Germany www.vhs-cham.de
- ASEV (Agenzia per lo Sviluppo Empolese
Valdelsa) Italy www.asev.it
- IDEC (AINTEK A.E.)
Greece www.idec.gr
- IFI (Instituto de Formación Integral, S.L.U.)
Spain www.ifionline.com
- LEAP (Language Education & Partnerships
Ltd) UK www.leaponline.eu
- Linguapolis (University of Antwerp)
Belgium www.linguapolis.eu



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