

Press release in celebration of the European day of languages



Kaunas (Lithuania), 22th September 2014

It's all about languages!

Europe has made great efforts to maintain the diversity and uniqueness of its languages. This autumn a new tool to help achieve this will become available in 17 languages - the online platform lingvo.info. The website is set to become one of the most innovative and fun e-tools for promoting multilingualism on the internet. Its goals are to offer information on all sorts of topics concerning languages and to increase users' motivation to learn languages.

The motto of the EU is “United in diversity“ and nowhere is this diversity more evident than in the many languages spoken across the continent. But most people don't know much about their neighbor's languages, let alone languages from the other end of the continent. And few people even know the answer to common questions such as: “Why does German have so many long words?” or “Why do Italian songs sound so nice?”

The answer to the first question is a process called compounding which allows speakers to form words like the famous “Donaudampfschiffahrtselektrizitätenhauptbetriebswerkbauunterbeamtengesellschaft”. The answer to the second question is simpler - because there are so many vowels in Italian.

“The European language heritage is a real treasure. There are so many interesting linguistic phenomena existing right next to each other. For example the Slovak language distinguishes between three grammatical genders, while Hungarian next door doesn't have gender at all! It is exactly this diversity that we've tried to capture on our website to make it understandable for the widest range of users.” says Maja Tišljar, coordinator of the project lingvo.info, which has already launched the beta version of its free language portal. “With this project we would like to contribute to the preservation of European language diversity and show Europeans, and especially young people, that languages are more than just means to an end. Of course languages are useful, but they are also fascinating, fun and worth learning about for their own sake.”

Linguists from all over Europe have joined forces in the project lingvo.info in order to produce a diverse and innovative language tool for those interested in languages. The website will be available in 17 languages at its launch and the developers are planning to add additional languages later on. Users will be able to browse through Lingvopedia, where they will find descriptions of European languages or they can get to know the basics of linguistics in the section Babylon. Lingvopolis, on the other hand, will offer links to more in-depth language descriptions and language-learning possibilities. Young users will be especially interested in the interactive language game Lingvomania, which was created with the aim of celebrating language diversity and arousing interest in exploring the world of languages in more depth.



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Press release in celebration of the European day of languages



Kaunas (Lithuania), 22th September 2014

Explore in your own language

According to the creators of the project, one of the most important aspects of lingvo.info is that it will be available in many EU languages; therefore solving the problem of linguistic information scarcity in less widely used European languages on the Internet.

“Our experience suggests that it is difficult to find high quality and reliable information on the internet about other EU languages in our native language and other smaller EU languages. This not only limits people with insufficient foreign language skills to broaden their knowledge and understanding, but also creates burdens for linguistic and cultural diversity. Lingvo.info is a significant step in solving this problem.” says Maja Cimerman Sitar, editor of the website and head of the Association for European Awareness, a project partner located in Slovenia.

Experts from different countries

Lingvo.info is financed by the European commission and unites 9 partners from 7 countries. Partners working on this project all have extensive experience in various language related activities in their own countries: Germany, Belgium, Slovakia, Poland, Denmark, Slovenia and Lithuania. This kind of intercultural partnership makes it possible to evaluate the content for the website from different perspectives, different cultural backgrounds and therefore ensures that it can be delivered in the most relevant way for each country.

About the project

The project lingvo.info aims to provide information about languages and promote multilingualism on the Internet. The project’s final product will be a multilingual website, which will launch in late 2014. The website lingvo.info will be an innovative, interactive and interesting e-tool for motivating Europeans to learn languages, providing useful materials for teachers, promoting existing web-based courses and demonstrating how interesting and fun languages can be.

The project lingvo.info is financed with support from the European Commission under The Lifelong Learning Programme.

Contacts:

UAB “Visetas”
Tomas Ruseckas
PR specialist
Tel.: +370 615 711 99
press@lingvo.info



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.