

European Centre for Modern Languages

Report on ELP event organised in Iceland within the framework of Project C6 – Training teachers to use the European Language Portfolio

(Expert mission: Viljo Kohonen)

The Icelandic national ELP event took place in Reykjavik on June 15th – 16th 2006. It was organized jointly by the Institute of Continuing Education of the University of Iceland and the Institute of Continuing Education of the Iceland University of Education. The seminar was attended by 23 teachers from 16 schools from different parts of the country: 20 upper secondary teachers 3 primary/lower secondary teachers and one teacher from adult education (see Appendix 1). The languages represented were the following: Danish, English, French, German, Spanish and Icelandic as a second language. Prior to the seminar the Icelandic version of the ELP, which has just been validated, was introduced to the participants. To follow up the seminar, two workshops with the participants will be organized in autumn 2006 and spring 2007.

The aims of the seminar were as follows:

1. To discuss the salient goals of the CEFR and the ELP
2. To share the central findings of the Finnish ELP research
3. To deepen the participants' understanding of the functions of the ELP, focusing on the pedagogical function
4. To facilitate the participants to use the ELP in their classes and arrange follow-up work

The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

Thursday June 15	Friday June 16
Morning session I Opening of seminar Main findings of Finnish ELP-oriented pilot work: "voices" Groups: "What ideas/ concerns?"	Morning session I Cooperative learning: basic principles, followed by a video: "Teaching social skills in class" Groups: "What ideas/concerns?"
Morning session II ELP-oriented pedagogy: guidelines student guidance (Portfolio video) Groups: "Guidance – new roles of teachers and pupils"	Morning session II The reporting function of the ELP: Groups: getting to know the SAG, and using the Grid for assessing written language essays
Afternoon session I Student autonomy: guidelines Video (H. Thomsen: autonomy) Groups: "Ideas for my classes?"	Afternoon session I Groups: Swiss video on assessing the spoken skills; joint discussion on the use of the criteria in class
Afternoon session II Groups: using the CEF competences and existing materials in ELP classes: (a) Design grid for written language teaching (H-M. Järvinen); (b) working on a textbook unit; group reports	Afternoon session II Where do we go from here? - networking of participants - outline of a personal action plan for 2006–07; mentoring and university follow-up seminars Evaluation and closing of seminar

In the final reflection at the end of the second day, the participants indicated that the seminar was beneficial to them and that they felt confident to work on the ELPs in their classes. Five participants with previous experience with the ELP indicated that they are willing to act as mentors to their colleagues who are beginning the ELP after this seminar. The participants also welcomed the follow-up seminars to be organized during the school year 2006–07.