

Report on National Event „Workshop on an Electronic European Language Portfolio for Slovenia”, Maribor, 16 December 2010

- Contract N: LC78/2010 -

Beate Vogel / Landesinstitut für Schule Bremen / Germany

10.01.2011

Following the project ELP Implementation into Foreign Language Instruction in Slovenia a whole-day workshop was held in Maribor on 16 December 2010, to share German/Bremen expertise and experience on an electronic language portfolio (epos) with a Slovenian team. There were 16 experts from different institutions: Members of the ELP project group, (e.g. Dr. Janez Skela – didactics university of Ljubljana; mag. Nada Puklavec, Science faculty of Maribor, colleagues from the Regional Education Office (Nada Holc et al), language teachers who are already familiar with the ELP paper version; an internet expert (Radovan Krajnc); representatives from the Vocational Training Centre in Ljubljana (EuroPass), Zdravka Godunc from the ministry of education and Barbara Lesničar as a member of the ELP commission in the ECML Graz.

In preparation of the workshop the descriptors of the Slovenian portfolio (15-18 yrs) had been adapted into epos, in order to be able to work properly during the practical part of the workshop. Furthermore it had been recommended to read the compilation from David Little in advance: *The European Language Portfolio in use: nine examples* (<http://www.coe.int/T/DG4/Portfolio/documents/ELP%20in%20use.pdf>).

The objectives of the meeting were:

- getting acquainted with the idea, principles and advantages of an electronic language portfolio as a tool for lifelong language learning, self assessment and reflexion in contrast to the ELP paper version
- getting to know the practical handling of epos
- developing ideas for further cooperation between Germany and Slovenia to implement epos into secondary and further education in Slovenia and furthermore on a European level.

The workshop was divided into the following parts:

1. Plenary: Introducing epos (powerpoint) + discussion
2. Working with epos using parts of the (German) Guidelines on epos.
3. Implementation strategies for Slovenia.
4. Evaluation of the workshop via epos.

The technical infrastructure was excellent; all goals have been achieved. Epos was recognized as an interesting and powerful tool that could be transferred to the different Slovenian conditions at school and university. Participants appreciated the advantages of an electronic instrument for language learning; Mrs Godunc from the Ministry of Education in Ljubljana assured to support the implementation of epos in Slovenia.

Perspectives:

Cooperation between Bremen and Maribor will continue. Nada Holc and Beate Vogel had already started developing implementation strategies on epos in 2011. A joint EU-project – preferably supported by the ECML - is intended. The integration of the Euro-pass into epos could be an interesting part of further development.

The German guidelines on epos will be translated into Slovenian; an English version is already planned. The German version on the guidelines have been uploaded to the ECML-project (M. Nezbeda).

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A brief overview on *epos* :

"*epos*" stands for "Das **e**lektronische **P**ortfolio der **S**prachen". It is a web-based language portfolio based on the levels A1-C2 of the CEFR, which had been developed by a national German BLK-project called "Sprachenlehren und Lernen als Kontinuum" and by "Runde Tisch Sprachen Bremen".

Common aim: multilingual intercultural european citizen

Common tool for all educational language Institutions: Secondary education (general and vocational); Higher education: (college, university); Further education; Adult education centres

For each organisation:

- an individual URL
- adapted "look and feel"
- specifics pertinent to each organisation

Elements:

Language Passport, Language Biography / Learning Journal, Dossier, Checklist

Openings for: external evaluation / tutors; other interest groups: parents, prospective employers; ex-

tensions: certificates, blended-learning platforms, online publications,...

Functions:

reporting (documentation for acceptors); pedagogical (life-long learning); language political (european multilingual citizen)

PROGRAMME OF THE EXPERT MEETING

Time	Topics, speakers
8.45 – 9.00	Reception
9.00 – 9.30	- Introduction to the meeting (Nada Holc) - EYL - video (Zdravka Godunc)
9.30 – 10.30	- Introduction – e-portfolio; how to start/elements/advantages (Beate Vogel, Dr. Jaisli)
10.30 – 10.45	Break
10.45 – 13.00	- e-portfolio in practice (Beate Vogel, Dr. Jaisli) - Implementation strategies (Beate Vogel, Dr. Jaisli)
13.00 – 13.45	Break (snack)
13.45 – 14.30	- Using internet diary with EYL (Simona Granfol) - Europass in Slovenia (Špela Pogačnik Nose)
14.30 – 15.00	Future cooperation between institutions (from Slovenia and EU) in the e-portfolio implementation into practice as one of the tools of the lifelong learning (Beate Vogel, participants)
15.00 – 16.00	Discussion, open questions and answers; suggestions, conclusions, future plans (2011)
16.00 – 16.30	Evaluation of the meeting