

www.smile-network.eu



NETWORK
FOR SOCIAL AND MARKET INCLUSION
THROUGH LANGUAGE EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2015

The present Annual Report has the aim to provide an overview of the performed activities and achieved results during the second year (2015) of development of the **Network for Social and Market Inclusion through Language Education (SMILE)**.

OVERVIEW OF THE NETWORK ACTIVITIES IN 2014

In 2014, the project approach followed a pattern of definitions of the most important aspects of the set goals, research activities, exchange of experience, unification and customization of criteria, product development, quality assurance, dissemination and exploitation of results.

The project partners adopted a definition of the term “less widely used and taught languages” (LWUTLs), identified successful models and approaches for promotion of those languages in practical settings, performed a research and exchange of experience on current national and European policies for language learning with focus on LWUTLs, identified 28 sectors which can benefit from the application of non-traditional language learning approaches focused on LWUTLs and established channels for involving stakeholders from them.

NETWORK OF ASSOCIATED PARTNERS:

During the first year of its existence, the network attracted 47 associated partners representing different sectors (migrant organisations, VET providers, chambers of commerce and industry, language providers, tourism organisations, etc.). Those organisations were involved in the development of the project outcomes and used as the main channel for dissemination and exploitation of the network findings.

COLLECTION OF GOOD PRACTICES:

SMILE has created a collection of over 300 good practices covering 34 countries and 46 languages which is available on the project website www.smile-network.eu through a user-friendly search engine. Each practice provides information on the selected initiative, target groups and sectors concerned, objectives, methodology used, outcomes, benefits for the target groups, awards received as well as transferability potential.

COUNTRY OVERVIEWS

The collection of good practices was used as a starting point in the development of a Country Overview for each of the participating countries. A total of 15 Country Overviews have been produced – one for each of the participating countries. Each Country Overview was translated into the respective national language of the country it concerns and is being spread to relevant stakeholders through the established network of associated partners. The Country Overviews focus on the European and national language priorities and policies, sectors which can benefit from the accommodation of LWUTLs, sectorial demand for such languages in each sector as well as the benefits it reveals from the promotion of such languages in terms of labour market and social

inclusion, non-traditional methodologies and approaches for promotion and learning of LWUTLs in situational contexts with examples from the selected good practices.

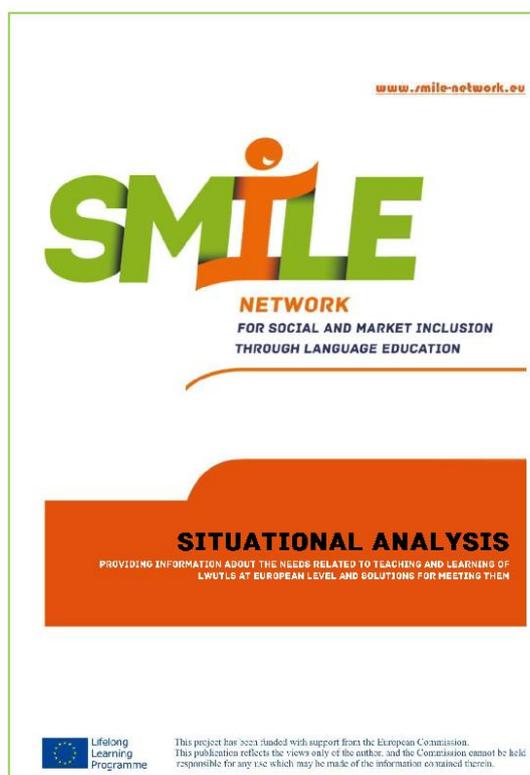
WEBSITE

The project website www.smile-network.eu is hosting all project outcomes as well as information about the project, partners, associated partners, useful links, an internal document-sharing platform, where all project documents are available, etc. The good practices are provided through a search engine enabling users to sort out their search preferences and search for good practices by criteria, target languages, sectors, country, key words, etc.

NETWORK ACTIVITIES IN 2015

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Based on the Country Overviews, the SMILE network developed a Situational Analysis providing information about the needs related to language learning and solutions for meeting them through non-traditional methodologies at European level. The Analysis aims to emphasize the benefits of the situational approach for promotion of LWUTLs with regard to enhancing competences, employability and competitiveness. It reflects on the situation in 15 European countries and makes references to successful good practices, their impact on different target groups, particularly those vulnerable to exclusion and potential for transferability.



THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

In October 2015, the SMILE partners held 4 workshops in Germany where they carried out a focused discussion and analysis on the project findings with regard to the opportunities for accommodation of LWUTLs in the identified sectors. A total of 11 external experts from different fields were involved in the organisation of the workshops – some of them were able to attend the separate workshops and others have provided their feedback in advance through a questionnaire and interviews.

The workshops were thematic and dealt with the opportunities for application of LWUTLs with target groups from the following areas:

- ✓ Language learning for the **labour market**
- ✓ Language learning for **disadvantaged people**
- ✓ Language learning for **specific economic sectors**
- ✓ Language learning in **educational sector**

The four workshops followed a common structure for discussions and were focused on:

- ✓ Demand for LWUTLs in the sector(s) concerned
- ✓ Opportunities for learning and promotion of LWUTLs in the sector(s) concerned
- ✓ Challenges for learning and promotion of LWUTLs in the sector(s) concerned
- ✓ A list of recommendations linked to the specific background and needs in order to enhance the current national and European language policies
- ✓ Networking opportunities in the sector(s) concerned



Thematic workshops in Heidelberg, Germany

October 2015

COMMUNICATION PAPERS

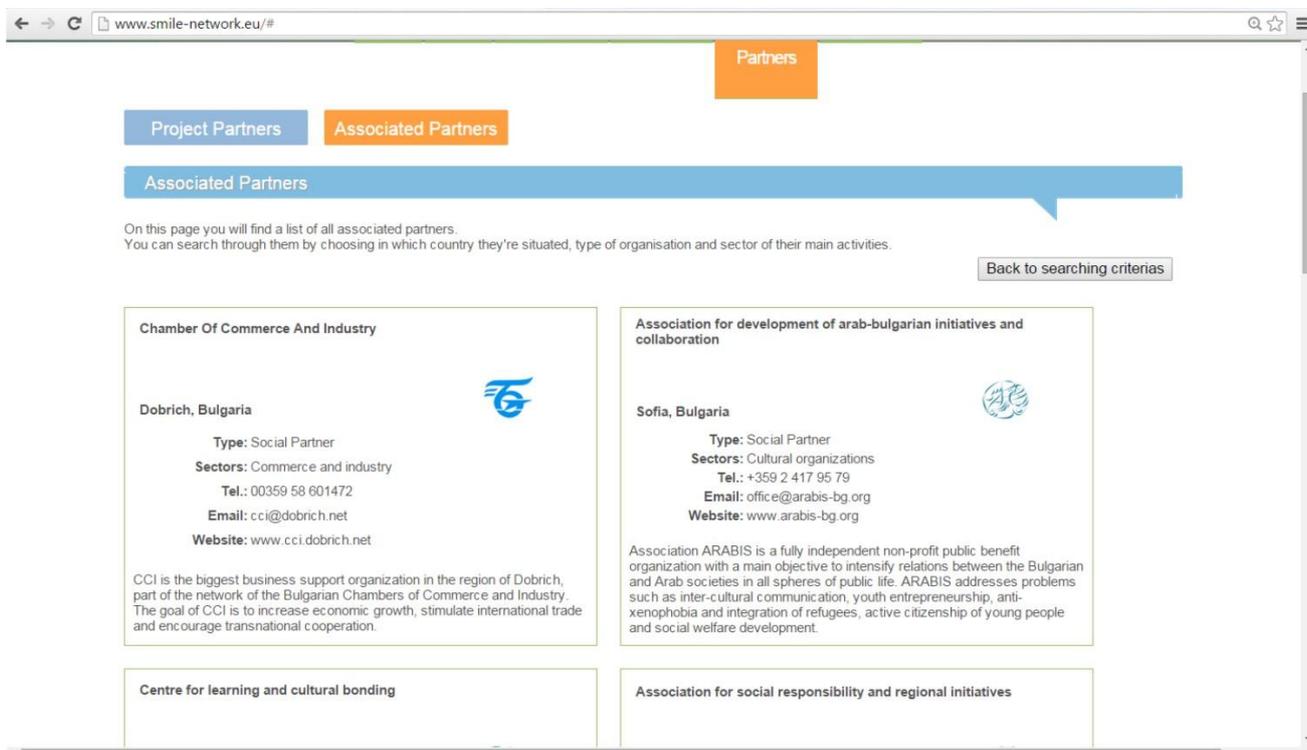
The discussions from the thematic workshops resulted in the production of four Communication Papers providing conclusions and recommendations on possibilities for enhancement of the impact from the promotion of linguistic diversity. Each Communication Paper is focused on the demand offered by the sector(s) it concerns in terms of LWUTLs, opportunities and challenges for accommodation of LWUTLs in view of the current realities in the analysed sectors, recommendations for enhancement of the promotion and learning of LWUTLs directed at policy makers and stakeholders as well as networking opportunities at national and European levels in the sector(s) concerned for multiplying the impact from the SMILE findings and contributing to the accommodation of LWUTLs.

The Communication Papers were analysed and used as a basis for the development of a Recommendation Paper presenting a set of recommendations for improvement of the current strategies and priorities in the field of language learning of LWUTLs.

EXPANSION OF NETWORK OF ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

In 2015, the SMILE network has expanded to over 130 organisations from all over Europe through the involvement in the project development and exploitation of its results of relevant stakeholders from the identified sectors.

Contacts and information on the associated partners can be found on the project website.



www.smile-network.eu/#

Partners

Project Partners Associated Partners

Associated Partners

On this page you will find a list of all associated partners. You can search through them by choosing in which country they're situated, type of organisation and sector of their main activities.

[Back to searching criterias](#)

<p>Chamber Of Commerce And Industry</p> <p>Dobrich, Bulgaria</p> <p></p> <p>Type: Social Partner Sectors: Commerce and industry Tel.: 00359 58 601472 Email: cci@dobrich.net Website: www.cci.dobrich.net</p> <p>CCI is the biggest business support organization in the region of Dobrich, part of the network of the Bulgarian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The goal of CCI is to increase economic growth, stimulate international trade and encourage transnational cooperation.</p>	<p>Association for development of arab-bulgarian initiatives and collaboration</p> <p>Sofia, Bulgaria</p> <p></p> <p>Type: Social Partner Sectors: Cultural organizations Tel.: +359 2 417 95 79 Email: office@arabis-bg.org Website: www.arabis-bg.org</p> <p>Association ARABIS is a fully independent non-profit public benefit organization with a main objective to intensify relations between the Bulgarian and Arab societies in all spheres of public life. ARABIS addresses problems such as inter-cultural communication, youth entrepreneurship, anti-xenophobia and integration of refugees, active citizenship of young people and social welfare development.</p>
<p>Centre for learning and cultural bonding</p>	<p>Association for social responsibility and regional initiatives</p>

✚ HOLDING TWO TRANSNATIONAL MEETINGS FOR EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE, WORK DISTRIBUTION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE OF THE OUTCOMES

During the second year of the project the SMILE partners held two meetings in order to exchange experience, review already achieved results and plan and agree upon the development of the upcoming project activities:

✓ *Forth partner meeting, 26-27 February 2015, Athens, Greece*

The forth partner meeting was focused on discussions on the first draft of the Situational Analysis as well as strategies and approaches for the organization of the thematic workshops and involvement of external experts in the events. The partners distributed their participation in the workshops according to each one's field of expertise in order to ensure relevant and effective contribution to each one of the selected topics. The meeting also included discussions on update of the project website, dissemination and exploitation activities, involvement and work with associated partners, internal and external evaluations, etc.

✓ *Fifth partner meeting and thematic workshops, 15-16 October 2015, Heidelberg, Germany*

The SMILE network held its fifth partner meet and successfully ran four thematic workshops on promoting learning opportunities for LWUTLs in the areas of labour market, disadvantaged people, specific economic sectors, formal and non-formal education. The event took place on 15-16 October 2015 with the participation and contribution of 11 external experts in different areas explored by the network. The partners also developed the structure and template for the development of the Communication Papers as a follow-up of the workshops.



DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION OF RESULTS

The SMILE network is being widely disseminated to relevant stakeholders through an attractive project identity and different means of dissemination (network of associated partners; synergies with other relevant projects, networks, institutions, etc.; dissemination leaflets, newsletters, websites and networks of the project partners, social media, etc.).

By the end of 2015, the project partners have organised nearly 300 dissemination events, directly reaching about 7,000 people through dissemination activities. The project website has registered over 30,000 visits and more than 65,000 hits. The SMILE Facebook page has reached over 1,500 people and thousands of people have been reached with the project idea through online publications and general dissemination activities.

✓ **SMILE newsletter, issue 2:**

SMILE NEWS

Issue 2, February 2015

EXPLORE 'GOOD PRACTICES' WITH SMILE!

During the first year of the project the partners in the Network for Social and Market Inclusion through Language Education (SMILE) have identified areas and target groups that can benefit from the promotion and learning of less widely used and taught languages (LWUTLs) and have performed a research on good practice examples in their countries. The partners selected good practices and methodologies for promotion of linguistic diversity and LWUTLs with focus on their practical application in different sectors. Over 300 good practices covering 34 countries and 46 languages are available on the project website www.smile-network.eu through a user-friendly search engine.



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR LEARNING LESS WIDELY USED AND TAUGHT LANGUAGES

The SMILE network aims to support the European and national language policies through researching, identifying and spreading the successful results of good practices for promoting linguistic diversity with particular focus on the learning of LWUTLs. The SMILE partners have developed *Country Overviews* covering 15 European countries and providing information about important European and national policies in the field of language learning and promotion of linguistic diversity. The documents also focus

FUTURE PLANS

During the third and final project year (2016), the partners will direct their efforts at the following:

RECOMMENDATION PAPER

The Recommendation Paper will reflect the main conclusions from the thematic workshops organised under the project, so as to collectively outline both potential and threats on four specific panels - labour market, disadvantaged people, specific economic sectors and educational sector – identified as decisive ones for the promotion of linguistic diversity and LWUTLs.

Through the Recommendation Paper, the SMILE network will intend to present a set of recommendations for enhancing the forthcoming European policies on these matters, after having gathered organisations, engaged in different industries and sectors of the economy and education, and jointly explored the opportunities to boost competitiveness, improve employability and reinforce social inclusion through better language skills with the emphasis on LWUTLs.

NATIONAL EXPLOITATION EVENTS

In 2016, each partner will organise a national event for sharing the project findings with its extended network of stakeholders and spreading the most effective language learning methods for promotion of linguistic diversity and LWUTLs. The national events will be organised with target group representatives, disseminate the opportunities offered by existing projects and initiatives focused on LWUTLs and share the conclusions and recommendations developed by the network with regard to improving the quality of the promotion activities in the field.

The main project outcomes will be presented in an interactive way making a demonstrational reference to how promotion and learning of LWUTLs could be reinforced and providing a forum for discussion of the problematic areas and opportunities for improvement with the involvement of stakeholders on practical and political level.

FINAL CONFERENCE

A final conference will be organised at the end of the project in Lithuania in order to present the project results to relevant stakeholders at transnational level. Participants will be presented with the network idea and findings and have the chance to take part in an open discussion on the issues targeted by the project. They will be introduced to the results from the performed research and the developed conclusions and outcomes. The event will lay the ground for exploitation of the results and further cooperation opportunities in the field.

NETWORK OF ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

In 2016, the network of associated partners is expected to expand to over 200 organisations from a wide variety of sectors relevant for social and labour market inclusion through language education and promotion.

DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION OF RESULTS

The partners will continue with the dissemination and exploitation activities, expand the network of associated partners and use it as the main channel for spreading the network outcomes and creating cooperation opportunities between organisations from the educational, work and social sectors.



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