

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- The project addressed the national priority of curricular reform in the area of languages, and specifically Macedonian as a foreign language. There were four specific project objectives and the results achieved are the following:

1. Reform and upgrading of the existing curricula for teaching Macedonian as a Foreign Language (MFL)

This part of the project comprised of 2 substantial segments, as follows:

- A. Restructured curricula of MFL at the “SS. Cyril and Methodius” University - Skopje (UKIM), “St. Kliment Ohridski” University - Bitola (UKLO), “Goce Delchev” University - Shtip (UGD) and University American College - Skopje (UACS)

The achievement of this objective can be seen through the following indicators:

- 25 teachers trained by EU partners (2 trainings by SI university and 2 by the PL university)
- 4 pilots of the curricula in the academic year 2010/2011 (UKIM, UKLO, UGD, UACS)
- system of monitoring of the curricula introduced
- the new curricula revised by the EU partners
- the new curricula adopted by respective bodies of all 4 MK partner universities
- 4 study programs printed and published (UKIM, UKLO, UGD, UACS)
- 15 courses in MFL implemented (UKIM 5, UKLO 6, UGD 2, UACS 2) in academic year 2011/2012
- 300 students included in the teaching: UKIM – 30, UKLO – 10, UGD – 250, UACS – 10. Furthermore, there are 40 more students studying MFL at the University of Ljubljana.
- placement test drafted and 1 review performed in April 2011 by the University of Ljubljana
- 4 pilots of the Placement test carried out (Ohrid Summer School – June 2011, UKIM enrolment course – September 2011, UKLO – Bitola and University of Ljubljana – October 2011)
- 2 long and 2 short versions of the placement test produced

- B. Introducing a new module for teachers of MFL at UKIM

A completely new module for teachers of MFL was designed and adopted by the relevant bodies at the Faculty of Philology at UKIM and is due for implementation in academic year 2013/2014 pending accreditation.

2. Course design and design of three course books for teaching Macedonian as a Foreign Language at three levels: basic, intermediate and advanced
 - 9 materials' writers trained by EU partners (2 trainings by the SI university and 2 by the PL university) aiming at transferring experience in designing course books according to the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)
 - 3 teams established: one for each level with a team leader
 - three course books designed and published: "Bozilak" – course book in MFL at basic level, "Dzunica" – course book in MFL at intermediate level and "Vinozito" – course book in MFL at advanced level
 - 27 pilots and consequent revisions of the course books carried out, as follows:
 - a. 13 pilots for basic level: 2 at the Ohrid summer school (July 2010 and July 2011); 2 at the UKIM enrolment course (September 2010 and September 2011), 4 in 2010/2011 (at UKIM, UACS, UKLO and the University of Ljubljana); 5 in 2011/2012 (at UKIM, UGD, UACS, UKLO and the University of Ljubljana);
 - b. 8 pilots for intermediate level: 2 at the Ohrid summer school (July 2010 and July 2011); 3 in 2010/2011 (at UKIM, UKLO and the University of Ljubljana); 3 in 2011/2012 (at UKIM, UKLO and the University of Ljubljana);
 - c. 6 pilots for advanced level: 2 at the Ohrid summer school (July 2010 and July 2011); 1 in 2010/2011 at the University of Ljubljana; 3 in 2011/2012 (at UKIM, UKLO and the University of Ljubljana).
 - 3 external reviews submitted for each course book and revisions made accordingly. Review teams were made up of five senior professors: 1 from the University of Ljubljana, 2 from the Jagiellonian University and 2 from UKIM.
 - 3 audio CD-s to accompany the three course books were recorded in a professional studio
 - over 100 original photos taken to illustrate the texts in all three course books
 - translation of the instructions in nine languages commissioned for the basic level course book (European edition: English, French, German; Balkan edition: Albanian, Turkish, Greek and Slavic edition: Russian, Polish, Croatian)
 - 1650 copies of the course books published ("Bozilak" – basic level course book: European edition: 250; Balkan edition: 250 and Slavic edition: 250 – total 750 copies; 450 copies of "Dzunica" – intermediate level and 450 copies of "Vinozito" – advanced level)
3. Defining suitable testing and grading procedures for advanced level test, and preparing corresponding structured documentation according to European standards
 - 3 trainings for three MK academic test developers for developing C1 level tests (1 by the University of Bedfordshire, 1 by the University of

Ljubljana and 1 by the Jagiellonian University)

- 3 tests drafted, out of which 1 demo and 2 operational tests
 - implemented standards of ALTE in the course of designing the C1 level test
 - 3 reviews performed: 1 by the University of Ljubljana (October 2010) and 2 by the Jagiellonian University (November 2010, May 2011)
 - 2 pilots of the TEMAK demo-version and consequent revisions performed: 1 in Skopje in January 2011 and 1 in Ljubljana in April 2011
 - final versions of 3 tests (1 demo and 2 operational) produced for implementation in the academic year 2011/2012
 - 3 audio CDs to accompany the 3 tests recorded in a professional studio
 - supporting documentation designed in a form of three guidelines: Guidelines for Candidates, Guidelines for Item-writers and Guidelines for Examiners and Raters.
 - 1 review of the guidelines carried out by the University of Ljubljana and revisions integrated
 - Guidelines for Candidates published in 200 copies, and the Guidelines for Item-writers and Guidelines for Examiners and Raters published in 30 copies each
 - new model of C1 Certificate produced and printed in 200 copies
4. Introducing sustainable inter-university academic cooperation and harmonization of the curricula
- network for on-going collaboration and cooperation established among the Macedonian universities
 - a help line set up at the Centre for Testing and Certifying Macedonian as a Foreign/Second Language for any issues arising from using the course books
 - all participating universities are including the same core elements for program accreditation
- The four MK partner universities are now in a position to offer new reformed and upgraded curricula in Macedonian as a foreign language in line with the new developments in the area, the market demand, and according to the Bologna process and European standards. The diverse needs of all 4 MK universities were met by producing institution specific curricula.
 - The positive changes as a result of the project are the following:
 - suite of tests of Macedonian as a foreign language completed. The test TEMAK at C1 being completed, the Centre Cetis Mak as an affiliate member of the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) will apply for associate membership and will enter the Association's auditing procedure;
 - as part of the pilot, feedback was given to teachers on the

communicative language teaching methodology and this has been a source of professional development for those involved;

- as an outcome of the project the courses follow a coherent sequence from basic to advanced in line with the European Framework of Reference for Languages and teachers within the 4 MK universities all follow the same program. This contrasts with the individual teacher devised programs under the previous system;
 - students now follow unified and consistent program which culminates in a certificate with European currency.
- The opportunities created are as follows:
 - the employability of the students who will take the Module for Teachers in MFL increases in terms that they will have a diploma supplement, i.e. apart from teaching Macedonian as L1 or any other foreign language – they will be able to teach MFL as well, so it is expected that it will be easier for them to find employment in the centres for teaching foreign languages as well as in the lectorates of MFL in the world;
 - the Module for Teachers in MFL creates possibilities for other foreign students in MFL to be able to upgrade their qualifications enabling them to teach MFL in their respective countries which will increase the inter-university cooperation and mobility, as well;
 - the course books will be marketed more widely: other universities having foreign students, all Macedonian language teaching centres in the world, the schools for foreign languages, the diplomatic representatives and other individuals interested in studying MFL.
 - The impact of the project on the higher education
 - the project is compatible with the European credit transfer system and is therefore well placed to take advantage of the reform of higher education in Macedonia in accordance with the Bologna process. It can provide a template for reform of other subjects.
 - The impact of the project on the economic and social level
 - the project has raised the profile of Macedonian as a foreign language and its recognition within higher education, government and society more widely.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

- Training activities

As planned, in order to commence with the design of all project products, all training sessions, except one, were performed in the first year of the project.

Since the submission of the Interim Report, one remaining training session, in a form of a workshop, was performed in May 2011 by Dr. Hab. Wladyslaw Miodunka and Dr. Hab. Przemyslaw Turek from the Jagiellonian University, Krakow. 15 MK professors were trained. At the workshop Polish colleagues discussed with their Macedonian counterparts the almost final versions of all project products, especially the three course books in Macedonian as a foreign language (basic, intermediate and advanced levels). Revisions were made on the basis of these discussions.

In the course of the workshop all 3 MK universities (apart from UKIM where a special dissemination was held in December 2010) were visited and disseminative activities were carried out in a form of lectures and power point presentations of the project achievements. The number of attendees was the following:

- 70 students and teaching staff at UGD, Shtip
- 10 teaching staff at UKLO, Bitola
- 50 students and teaching staff at UACS, Skopje.

- Mobilities

Since the Interim Report three remaining mobilities, in the form of short training visits, have been carried out in the following way:

1. April 2011: University of Ljubljana, SI, Centre for Slovene as a Second/Foreign Language:

- visit to the Centre for Slovene as a Second/Foreign Language and exchange of information on all project products
- training of the MK staff in using the Phonolaboratory for foreign language teaching
- training in: “Using IT in the foreign language classroom” and “Teaching methods in a FL classroom”
- visit of the Department for Slavistics where Macedonian is taught as a foreign language
- each course book author piloted one lesson of their course books with the Slovene students in order to get first hand feedback – in the presence of the Slovene instructors
- the test TEMAK at C1 was piloted by MK examiners, in the presence of the Slovene instructors and the testing was video recorded and afterwards revisions were made.

2. July 2011: Jagiellonian University, Krakow, PL, Centre for Polish Language and Culture in the World:

- visit to the Centre for Polish Language and Culture in the World and exchange of information on all project products (curricula, course books, test TEMAK at C1 level)

- lecture: Teaching of the 4 language skills in Polish as a foreign language
 - presentation of text books and tests in teaching Polish as a foreign language
 - visit to the Summer school for Polish as a foreign language, where MK professors were actively included in the class in order to experience the Polish teaching methods.
3. March 2012: University of Ljubljana, SI, Centre for Slovene as a Second/Foreign Language:
- visit to the Centre for Slovene as a Second/Foreign Language in order to present the final project products and to discuss finances and last co-ordinating and managerial activities including the Official external dissemination.

DISSEMINATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Since the Interim Report the following disseminations have been carried out:

1. Internal dissemination. The Internal dissemination took place in May 2011 in the course of the workshop carried out by the Jagiellonian University professors. Since the second internal dissemination took place at UKIM, the third one was carried out at the other 3 MK partner universities (UKLO - Bitola, UGD - Shtip and UACS - Skopje) one day each. The disseminations were in a form of lectures and power point presentations of the project achievements with a focus on the achievements and the specifics of each institution. At the dissemination in Shtip 70 students and teaching staff attended, in Bitola 10 teaching staff attended, in UACS 50 students and teaching staff attended.
2. External dissemination. The external dissemination was held at UKIM on the 13th of June 2012 and was in a form of official promotion of the final project products, the course and the benefits of the project. In order to ensure the project products sustainability, all interested parties were invited: all faculties of philology where MFL is taught, the private centres for teaching foreign languages, the representatives of the diplomatic community and the peace corps, the representatives of the media, students and lecturers. The event was covered by 3 national TV-channels (Macedonian Television, Telma and Alfa) and 1 radio channel (Macedonian Radio).
3. Further external disseminations were carried out in a form of papers presented at international conferences or published in annual periodicals:
 - “Applying European Standards in the Process of Learning, Teaching and Testing Macedonian as a Foreign Language”, paper presented at the International conference “First, second and other language: Macedonian-Croatian parallels” – Skopje, UKIM, May 2010
 - “Macedonian as a Foreign Language within the context of the international project co-operation”, paper published in the Annual Review, vol. 36, pp.: 541-551, UKIM, “Blaze Koneski” Faculty of Philology, Skopje, 2010
 - “Setting Standards in Teaching and Assessment of Macedonian as a Foreign Language”, paper presented at ALTE 4th International Conference, Krakow, 7-9 July, 2011
 - Annual reports of the Centre for Slovene as a Second/Foreign Language, University of Ljubljana, 2010 and 2011:
 - Letno poročilo 2010, Raziskovalni in aplikativni projekti:
http://www.centerslo.net/files/file/Zalo%C5%BEni%C5%A1tvo/LP_2010_web%20kazalo.pdf
 - Letno poročilo 2011, Raziskovalni in aplikativni projekti:
http://www.centerslo.net/files/file/Zalo%C5%BEni%C5%A1tvo/LP%202011_splet.pdf
4. A separate interview was given out by the project coordinator and the project supervisor for the very popular radio show “Radio Spectre” broadcasted on the 29.06.2012 on the Macedonian National Radio. The interview focused on the results of the on-going project and the project impact on the wider society level. Further TV-interviews are scheduled for the Macedonian National Television due to be realized in September 2012.
5. Web-page. The project is presented in detail on the web-page of the Centre for Testing and Certifying Macedonian as a Foreign/Second Language and is regularly updated. The web-page is: www.cetismak.edu.mk

The project is also presented on the websites of the project partner universities:

- Ljubljana University: www.centerslo.net
- Jagiellonian University: www.polishstudies.uj.edu.pl
- University of Bedfordshire: www.beds.ac.uk
- University Sv. Kliment Ohridski: www.uklo.pfbt.edu.mk

- University Goce Delchev: www.ugd.edu.mk
- University American College Skopje: www.uacs.edu.mk

Upon the completion of the undertaken dissemination activities, especially the external dissemination event which was covered by the media, a large interest for the final project products was aroused and the demand for the published course books is extremely high.

SUMMARY

Project title

Macedonian as a Foreign Language Curriculum Upgrading

Objectives (as indicated in the project proposal)

1. Reform and upgrading of the existing curricula for teaching Macedonian as a foreign language
2. Course design and design of 3 course books for teaching Macedonian as a foreign language at 3 levels: basic, intermediate and advanced (A1, B1 and C1 levels according to European Framework of Reference for Languages)
3. Defining suitable testing and grading procedures for C1 level, thus preparing correspondingly structured documentation according to European standards
4. Introducing sustainable inter-university academic co-operation and harmonization of the curricula

Outcomes

1. Reformed and upgraded curricula for teaching Macedonian as a foreign language
2. Three course books in Macedonian as a foreign language (basic, intermediate and advanced level)
3. Test of Macedonian as a Foreign Language – TEMAK at advanced level – C1 and accompanying testing documentation (3 new guidelines, upgraded certificate model, upgraded Rule book)
4. Training and mobilities of MK academic staff
5. Modern academic environment (installation of new equipment and introducing new teaching methods)
6. Dissemination
7. Sustainability
8. Quality control and monitoring
9. Management of the project

Activities

- 1.1. Design of the first version of the new curricula
- 1.2. Carrying out legal procedures for accepting and accrediting the curricula
- 1.3. Design of the final version of curricula for official implementation
- 1.4. Printing and publishing the new curricula
- 1.5. Design of a Placement Test

- 2.1. Design of the first version of the 3 course books (A1, B1 and C1 levels)
- 2.2. Carrying out pilot and reviewing of the 3 course books (A1, B1 and C1 levels)
- 2.3. Design of the final version of the three course books (A1, B1 and C1 levels)
- 2.4. Printing and publishing of the 3 new course books (A1, B1 and C1 levels)

- 3.1. Design of the first version of TEMAK C1 level: demo and operational tests, 3 guidelines and upgraded certificate model
- 3.2. Organizing and carrying out pilot of the C1 level demo and operational tests
- 3.3. Design of the final version of the C1 level demo and operational tests, the 3 guidelines and the upgraded certificate model
- 3.4. Printing and publishing of C1 level demo and operational tests, 3 guidelines and the upgraded certificate model
- 3.5. Carrying out legal procedure for upgrading the Rule Book

- 4.1. Organizing and carrying out 6 training sessions by EU academic staff: 3 training sessions by the SI team in MK, 2 training sessions by the PL team in MK, 1 training session by the UK team in MK
- 4.2. Carrying out 5 mobilities by MK academic staff to EU partner institutions: 3 by the MK team to SI, 1 by the MK team to UK, 1 by the MK team to PL

- 5.1. Purchasing and installation of the necessary equipment

- 6.1. Organizing and carrying out 3 internal disseminations
- 6.2. Organizing and carrying out 1 external dissemination
- 6.3. General dissemination and promotional activities

- 7.1. Preparation of Sustainability strategy

- 8.1. Evaluation by Supervision body
- 8.2. Peer-review of the final project products
- 8.3. Monitoring the implementation of the new curricula in the teaching process

- 9.1. Three managerial meetings of the project consortium members
- 9.2. Participation of two project staff in the Annual "Tempus Project Representatives' Meeting"
- 9.3. Project management and co-ordination on monthly basis
- 9.4. Preparation of the 2 annual reports

Achieved results

1. Four curricula in Macedonian as a Foreign language re-structured and implemented in the teaching process at the four Macedonian partner universities: “SS. Cyril and Methodius” University (UKIM) – Skopje , “St. Kliment Ohridski” University (UKLO) – Bitola, “Goce Delchev” University (UGD) – Shtip and University American College (UACS) – Skopje
2. One new Module for Teachers in Macedonian as a Foreign Language designed at UKIM and approved by the relevant UKIM bodies
3. Two long and two short versions of a Placement Test designed and implemented
4. Three course books in Macedonian as a Foreign Language along with accompanying CD-s designed, printed and implemented:
 - a. “Bozhilak” – course book in MFL at basic level
 - b. “Dzunica” – course book in MFL at intermediate level
 - c. “Vinozhito” – course book in MFL at advanced level
5. Test in Macedonian as a Foreign Language – TEMAK aiming at C1 level produced in three versions: one demo and two operational tests along with accompanying CD-s
6. Three guidelines to support the tests designed, written and printed:
 - a. Guidelines for Candidates
 - b. Guidelines for Examiners and Raters
 - c. Guidelines for Item-writers
7. A new certificate model for the TEMAK test at C1 level designed and printed
8. The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages translated in Macedonian and published
9. Twenty five MK academic staff trained by EU partner universities: University of Ljubljana – Slovenia, the Jagiellonian University – Krakow, Poland and the University of Bedfordshire – Luton, United Kingdom
10. Two phonolaboratories installed and functioning at UKIM and UKLO and other IT-equipment installed at all four MK partner universities

Future developments

The results achieved through this project fully encompass the topic of Macedonian as a foreign language regarding learning, teaching and assessment. At the same time they provide an appropriate basis for future work along the following lines:

1. Provision of textbooks for Macedonian as a foreign language, which should be:
 - a. written for the learners within Macedonian diaspora;
 - b. specialized for learners having different professions (law, economy, medicine etc.);
 - c. adapted for children and young adolescents;
 - d. designed for distance and e-learning.

2. Improving the education system of Macedonian as a second language:
 - a. analysing and establishing the realistic needs of the respective ethnic segments of the population;
 - b. providing training of teachers/instructors for Macedonian as a second language;
 - c. provision of appropriate learning, teaching and testing materials.