



Helping teachers grow & develop



April 2016

Features:

- *Project meeting in Scarborough, March 2016*
- *Needs Analysis results*
- *Meet the Slovak partner*
- *Interview with a teacher*

Issue: 2



Reflections on our project journey
by **Jana Chynoradska** (project founder)

Looking back at the last transnational meeting that took place at ANGLOLANG ACADEMY in Scarborough, England there is one moment I would like to share with you here. Perhaps some of the team can remember how we got lost on the way to the school on that first working day. Some of the team had arrived in Scarborough the day before and had already visited the school. I had also been to ANGLOLANG back in 2002 with one of my students and therefore could more-or-less remember the place too.

When we all stopped to agree on where to go and which way to take, I suddenly realized that we were very close - I could recognize the hedge that was located at the back of the school which was just a few steps from where we were actually standing. As there wasn't an "ANGLOLANG ACADEMY" sign, and perhaps because the majority did not hear my voice, the team was not persuaded to follow the way I was showing, so we all turned back and moved on towards the hill where we then proceeded to get lost again!

I was with Vicki and we speeded up and took a leap in order to investigate whether the next choice of direction was going to be the right one. On the way up we both chatted and enjoyed the morning talk in the streets of Scarborough and as we got to the end of the street we saw a man starting a car and asked him where we could find ANGLOLANG. It turned out that we were just a few metres away from the school! Both of us could see everyone coming towards us and as we had confirmed the directions with the man who knew his town, we finally and luckily all got to the school where Linda warmly welcomed us!

If I had been a bit more directive and persuasive, possibly if my voice had been a bit stronger and louder, we would have got to the school a few minutes earlier. However we would have not enjoyed the "shared searching" of our target destination together and I would not be sharing this experience with you now.

Perhaps similar things happen to us more often than we think but we do not take any notice of them. I have learnt to stop and reflect on what I have learnt and/or experienced through the necessity of writing "learning reports" for mobility meetings. It is not compulsory for this project but I am coming back to this good practice and invite you all to write your learning experience that can enrich your professional life and bring a real source of energy to our project!

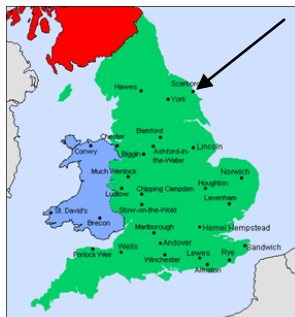
Yours, Jana

Second transnational meeting in Scarborough, UK

March 13-15th 2016

Meeting location & venue

The project partners were hosted at the scenic resort of Scarborough in north-east England.



This second meeting took place in the comfortable premises of Anglolang Academy of English, a British Council accredited private language school, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

Situated in a beautiful manor house, Anglolang is a stone's throw from the town centre,



castle and two sandy beaches.



The content of our discussions

Jana, the project manager, kicked off the meeting on a very positive note with a look at our brand new website. We were invited to provide testimonials and further partner information for this.

The meeting then covered reports from all the partners about the results of the needs analyses in the respective countries. It was interesting to appreciate and compare aspects of the cultural and professional contexts underpinning the results.

Next, we had a dissemination report from Sandra and Federica, our Italian partners, and an overview of the Prolant-Cap newsletter by Vicki from France.

More context was provided by Jana when she further explained about the "Learn and Lead" career path which dovetails with our Prolant Cap project. We were all requested to study the EA-QUALS framework and EPG (European Profiling Grid) to assist us with planning.

On the Tuesday, Daniel from Slovakia gave us an overview of the financial side of the project so far and Jana and Silvia from Slovakia rounded up the second meeting with a

summary and action plan.

Outside the meeting ...

There was some time to sample the historic delights of Scarborough during this second transnational meeting. A coach tour of the town coincided with a fresh, sunny spring day. We had amazing views of the bays and the castle from Oliver's Mount (where Oliver Cromwell once surveyed his troops) and plenty of fine views from The Esplanade and beaches.

On the gastronomic front, some partners took the opportunity to try (rather up-market) fish and chips at "Café Fish" and also enjoy the traditional meals at "The Falcon", a quaint gastro-pub on the North York Moors.

Finally..

It was a positive, upbeat meeting and the partners were happy to renew their acquaintance and also meet some new team members. We all feel focused on the task in hand and there is plenty to keep us busy until the next meeting in Italy from June 2-4th 2016.



Article by:
Linda Polkowski,
Vice-Principal,
ANGLOLANG, UK

To ensure that our project “Prolant-Cap” is in line with the current needs of our target group, over the last few months a needs analysis was carried out by all project partners. Every participating organization carried out research that targeted 3 groups - foreign language (FL) teachers & trainers, language schools and companies (Tourism and Automotive sectors) - to find out the current situation in language training in every partner country.

The acquired results gave a comprehensive overview of the professional teaching experience, qualifications and areas of expertise of foreign language teachers & trainers. In total from all the countries nearly 300 responses were received with Slovakian teachers being the most responsive. 50 % of all teachers who replied have been working in the industry for more than 10 years, except in Italy, where this long teaching experience was only 33 %.

Because the project not only aims to enhance the professional development of FL teachers & trainers but also to develop 2 industry specific language training programmes (one in Tourism and one in Automotive), we were keen to learn how many of our respondents teach specialized language programmes, such as English for Specific Purposes (ESP).

The Pie chart demonstrates that 45% of all relevant respondents have experience in

teaching ESP in specific areas such business, accounting and finance, tourism, trade, nursing and the automotive industry etc. The chart below also shows the individual results per country.

Specialized language programmes (ESP) taught in all countries



Do you teach specialized language programmes (ESP- English for Specific purposes)?



Article by:
Lana Radčenko
EU Project Manager
Biedriba Eurofortis,
Latvia



Research results also showed that companies from both Tourism and Automotive industries consider sector-specific foreign language knowledge within the organization of high importance, also in relation to employee positions. When asked directly which language is the most valued and needed foreign language in the sector, nearly all stakeholders in both sectors agreed upon English, though just as important in the automotive industries were German, French and Russian, while in Tourism, languages such as Spanish and Italian were named.

However, not many companies offer specific language courses for their employees which just one more time proves that this project is on the right path!

If you are interested in reading the full overview of the research results in all countries, visit our project website <http://www.prolantcap.eu/>

Overviews are available in all project languages.

Meet the Partners

The Association of language schools in Slovakia

is represented by Jana Chynoradská, Daniel Bacík and Silvia Holéczyová. It was established in Bratislava in 2011. It is a multi-organizational non-governmental organization that aims to facilitate the continuous development of schools and teachers, enterprises and society, supporting development of different competencies, as well as personal and professional skills. AJS cooperates with governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to improve the segment of language teaching on the Slovak market. It is open to other language schools that meet the quality criteria and share the AJS vision. Today the Association is a founder of ELT forum conference, which is the largest conference for FL teachers in Central Europe.



Jana Chynoradská is the founder of **HARMONY School and Academy**, where she is also Principal Manager and a trainer. Apart from her duties at the school, she is also the Project Manager for AJS. Jana is characterised by her incessant thirst for knowledge and a belief that every person has the potential for accomplishment.

She coined the term "learning way" for study and education, and the name has become the motto of the whole company. Jana expresses respect for the freedom of every person and their desire to become a guide, and supports anyone who decides to take this path. Jana puts all her effort into this philosophy, believing that true beauty and wisdom can be obtained not only in the destination, but in the journey. Therefore, she is the natural authority and driving force behind all Harmony innovations, initiating local and international projects related to ELT, education, communication and leadership.

Daniel Bacík graduated from the University of Matej Bel in Banská Bystrica in Humanities, English language & literature and History. This was followed by a Doctorate Via Voce (PaedDr.) in Methodology of English teaching. During his university studies, he also taught English at different schools in the town. He started work as a teacher, project manager and deputy vice principal in secondary education before setting up a private school in 2006.

Since 2008, he has been a Managing Director of **PLUS Academia language school** in Bratislava. His professional life is very closely connected with EU funds and projects financed by them. Due to this connection and his strong managerial skills, he is the natural authority and driving force of all PLUS Academia efforts, making it a leader in the Slovak market.

Silvia Holéczyová is the founder and CEO of **Your Choice Language School** in Trnava. She graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, majoring in the education of English language and History. She has been working as a sworn translator and interpreter since 2006.

Silvia has focused on training in international certificates (TOEIC, City and Guilds). She has worked as a TOEIC trainer since May 2013. At Your Choice, she is specialized as a trainer for many ESP subjects.



Meet the Partners



The Association of language schools in Slovakia is represented by Jana Chynoradská, Daniel Bacík and Silvia Holéczyová. It was established in Bratislava in 2011. It is a multi-organizational non-governmental organization that aims to facilitate the continuous development of schools and teachers, enterprises and society, supporting development of different competencies, as well as personal and professional skills.

ANGLOLANG

Angolang Academy is a private language school which was established in 1986. It is accredited by the British Council and is also a member of Quality English. It is located in the scenic resort of Scarborough on the unspoilt North East coast of England. Anglolang is a medium-sized school and covers a range of English language courses primarily general, academic and executive courses, with a special emphasis on Erasmus+ teacher training courses.



am Language Studio in Malta is renowned for offering quality English Language courses and retaining high customer satisfaction. It was established in 1987, and its main course philosophy is to be simple and effective by combining the latest innovative teaching techniques within a friendly and professional environment. It offers a personalised and holistic experience for individual learners or groups.



Euroform RFS is an Italian VET institution established in 1996 which operates in the vocational training and orientation sector. It organizes tailor-made training courses in different sectors and has developed on-the-job training, e-learning, and blended training, with innovative IT solutions. It aims to link training to the labour market, organizing work placements and has implemented numerous mobility projects in Italy.



Biedriņa Eurofortis is a multi-cultural organization, established in Riga in 2011. It aims to facilitate continuous education in schools, enterprises and society, supporting the development of personal and professional skills. Taking an active part in European educational projects it ensures the availability of educational materials, tools and methods, as well as seminars, mobilities and other different training.



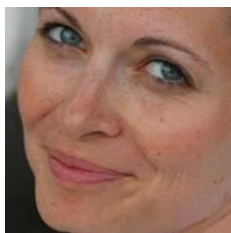
CNTC was launched in 1987 and pioneered teaching language by telephone in SW France. Alpha Langues is the main branch of CNTC, and offers courses in 12 different languages across all sectors of the professional and non-professional market, both adult & junior.

In addition translation and interpreting services are provided, as well as more recently e-learning and blended training solutions.

Interview with a FL teacher

(original version in French available on the website)

Who are you ?



I'm Amandine Fermigier. I've been a trainer of French as a foreign language for 8 years now teaching a very wide variety of people, but mainly adults.

I'm passionate about my job because there are so many different aspects to it; linguistics, culture, history, sociology, methodology, communication...etc. It's a profession where the human is at the heart of everything.

As a result, one lesson is never like another - there's no possibility of getting bored ! I especially like creating teaching material that is useful and fun which can be adapted in the best possible way to the interests and the needs of the students.

I learn as much as I teach— about my own language, my culture and the different cultures of my students. Also about different teaching methods and communication in general. It's very stimulating !

How does this project interest you and what role have you played in its development so far ?

Our profession has quite a special status in France, finding itself really on the edge of a lot of other professions in the teaching sector that are much more known and recognised. In spite of having equal skills and importance, we don't benefit from the same possibilities, salaries, rights, respect and recognition as our compatriots in the National Education system.

As a result of this, I'm extremely interested in this project as it enables me to better understand the status, the associated structures and the "profession" of a trainer whilst the market opens up, demand grows and it becomes a more and more essential industry. But above all, this project demonstrates a real desire to improve and to help the profession of training move forward.

I was responsible for an introductory part of the project, putting together a brief outline of the current situation of language training in France, the opportunities for obtaining teaching qualifications and the continuing development of teachers. The results were generally very hazy and depressing.

But, in spite of this, and also thanks to that, I have been

able to step back and look at my profession and at last, with the promising perspectives of this project, I have been able to see a way forward into the future.

How would you like to see the area of "teacher training" develop in France ?

By the quality of the teaching, to be and to remain competitive and credible. For teachers themselves, to have a professional life which could at last become a "career" with different levels, professional development, to be appreciated by employers and to have professional recognition. As such, it is paramount that teachers are continuously trained and developed.

Teacher-trainers, who unfortunately are in short supply, must firstly be trained with readily-available resources to provide relevant up-to-date training using current methodologies and technologies on diverse topics.



Interview by:
Nicki Abadie
**Owner/Manager
CNTC, France**



Address

Asociácia jazykových škôl SR
Bašťová 7,
811 03 Bratislava, Slovakia

Contact person

Jana Chynoradská
Phone: 00421 903 412 551
E-mail: info@prolantcap.eu



The PROLANT CAP project will help vocational trainers to not only deliver stimulating language programmes but also drive forward their own careers.