MOLAN

Network for the exchange of information about good practices that serve to motivate language learners

Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme

MOLAN – Network for the exchange of information about good practices that serve to motivate language learners

- Funded by the European Commission under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) – Key Activity 2: Languages

- Co-ordinating / contracting institution:
  Freie Universität Berlin

- Carried out by 43 higher education institutions (HEIs) and schools from 22 European countries, and four European and national organizations

MOLAN - Rationale

- Young people in formal education have to acquire multilingual competence for the benefit of society and themselves
- Languages key competence for lifelong learning
- Neither the principle of linguistic diversity nor the notion of lifelong language learning is widely accepted by young people / education systems and institutions

MOLAN – Aim

- To bring about, on a large scale, a positive attitude among young Europeans in formal education towards the learning of foreign languages as well as towards other peoples and cultures

- To propose practically relevant strategies for action based on successful initiatives undertaken in various institutions

Motivation as the key to successful language learning

- → High Level Group on Multilingualism: Final Report
- Enhancing and sustaining learner motivation crucial for breakthrough in language learning across Europe
- Important role of schools and teachers, but additional learning opportunities should also be made available
- Emphasis on learning several languages, learning to advanced levels

MOLAN - Strategy

- Assumption of MOLAN: motivation can be enhanced by institutional and system-based policies, strategies, and practices

- Particular emphasis on
  1. the learning of a second or further foreign language(s)
  2. the learning of less widely used and taught languages
  3. cooperation between schools and universities

Network project – Change in paradigm

- Previous network projects: recommendations for action developed
- MOLAN: focus on implementation
- Identification, analysis and evaluation of successful action
- → encourage partners and project-external players to take further / similar action

MOLAN - Timeline

- Carried out in three stages:

1. Year 1 (ending now): preparation, collection, comparison, analysis, and processing of case studies of successful practice (from HEIs and schools)

2. Year 2: creation of an internet-based system for targeted information retrieval; preparation of a handbook

3. Year 3: preparation of impact reports; major European dissemination event; strategy for sustainability: relay points and learning networks

Case studies – first results

- Year 1: 39 case studies from HEIs and 10 case studies from schools collected and analysed

- Focus of case studies on

1. Success indicators: Identification of specific gains that have been achieved

2. Success factors: Identification of the factors that have contributed most to the gains

Success factors

- Important for the rationale underlying MOLAN: To what extent can the success factors identified be transferred to other contexts (mainstreaming)

- A few examples of success factors / categories which have led to gains in initiatives described in case studies, and which seem to be applicable in various contexts →

Schools: examples of success factors

- Curricular activities:
  - e-twinning
  - Novel modes of learning (e-conferencing, games)
  - CLIL
  - Languages as part of vocational training

- Extracurricular activities:
  - Exchange programmes
  - Partnerships
  - Linking of language learning to leisure activities (e.g. sports)

HEIs: examples of success factors

- Curricular activities:
  - Integration of languages into study programmes (obligatory or optional)
  - Allocation of ECTS credits to language courses
  - Mobility schemes
  - Languages for academic and professional purposes

- Extracurricular activities
  - Independent learning / e-learning
  - Tandems
  - Study trips
  - Internships abroad

MOLAN Year 2 – Handbook and web-based system for targeted information retrieval

- Handbook on policies and practices effective in motivating young people to learn languages
- Web-based system for targeted information retrieval about issues relevant to learner motivation
- Highlighting success factors, presenting case studies

Thank you for your attention.