

RML2future

Network for multilingualism and
linguistic diversity

***It's never too late ...
monolingualism is easy to cure!***

***Es ist nie zu spät ...
Einsprachigkeit ist heilbar!***

DOCUMENTATION

End of year meeting 2010

in Ljouwert / Leeuwarden (the Netherlands)
15–16 November 2010

www.rml2future.eu

RML2future – Network for Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity in Europe
under the lead of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)

www.language-diversity.eu, www.rml2future.eu

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www.eurac.edu



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www.yeni.org

END OF YEAR MEETING 2010

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Wolkom yn it moaiste plak fan d'ierde!
Welkom in de mooiste plek op aarde!
Welcome in the most beautiful place on earth!
Willkommen am schönsten Ort der Welt!



**Fryslân / Frisia / Friesland – Frisians –
Ljouwert / Leeuwarden**

Friesland (offiziell friesisch **Fryslân**) is a province in the north of the Netherlands. Its capital is Ljouwert / Leeuwarden. In the English language sometimes also the name Frisia is used and the adjective West- to distinguish the region in the Netherlands from the regions of East Friesland and North Friesland in Germany. In the province of Friesland, the Frisian language is used as an official language next to the Dutch standard language.

Frysk / West-Frisian is an autochthonous minority language spoken in Fryslân / Friesland. The Frisian language belongs to the West-Germanic languages, and is closely related to Dutch, German and English. Friesland has approximately 647 000 inhabitants; of these, circa 450 000 speak Frisian. According to research by the Province of



Fryslân (2007: De Fryske Taalatlas), from the population of Friesland, 94% understands Frisian, 74% can speak the language, 75% of the inhabitants can read Frisian and 26% can write it.

More than half of the inhabitants state that Frisian is their mother tongue.

In the capital of Ljouwert, where the provincial government is located, there are also important organisations and institutions of the Frisians, such as the Fryske Akademy / Frisian Academy, the Mercator European Research Centre, the Centre for Frisian Literature and History Tresoar and many other.

web



More information about the Frisians and Friesland:

Province of Fryslân: www.fryslan.nl, www.visitfryslan.com

Fryske Akademy: www.fryske-akademy.nl

Mercator European Research Centre: www.mercator-research.eu

AFUK (Foundation for promotion of the Frisian language and culture): www.afuk.nl

Ried fd Fryske Beweging: www.fryskebeweging.nl

Frysk Ynternasjonaal Kontakt, youth association of the Frisians FYK: www.fyk.nl

The partners of the network visit Ljouwert / Leeuwarden

The last meeting of the RML2future network partners in the year 2010 and therefore the end-of-year meeting took place in the capital of Friesland, Ljouwert / Leeuwarden, at NHL College, the town's University of Applied Sciences.

A total of twelve participants from the partner regions in Europe (Carinthia, German-Danish border region, German-speaking Community in Belgium and Lusatia) came to Fryslân / Friesland to have a meeting, but in the first place to get to know the region and the work of the Frisians who live here.

Because it is of great interest for the network during each partner meeting to get acquainted with the daily work within the regions in which we come, and also visit the organisations and institutions there, this meant that also in Ljouwert we had a long, interesting and diverse agenda to complete. Already on the first evening the partners got to know the Mercator Research Centre, which is part of the Fryske Akademy. The discussion focused on the current programmes in the field of language promotion, especially the work of

the Mercator Network of Language Diversity Centres and also the MELT-project.

Alex Riemersma, Cor van der Meer and Richt Sterk from the Mercator Centre spoke to us about the objectives of the Mercator Network. "The Mercator Network has as its goal to bring multilingual regions in Europe in contact with one another, to stimulate the exchange of knowledge amongst the regions, to facilitate the exchange of best-practices and good initiatives. The focus of the network is both on autochthonous regional and minority languages, but also on migrant languages and smaller national languages", said Alex Riemersma, researcher at the Mercator Research Centre.

In contrast, the project "Multilingual Early Language Transmission (MELT)" is a concrete project in four language communities (Brittany, Friesland, Swedes in Finland and Wales) that deals with the subject of "Early Language Learning". The goals are inter alia to identify best-practices in the field of language immersion, to widen the skills of professionals in the field of early multilingualism, to inform parents about multilingualism and to bolster the integrated language communities, as well as to promote cultural and linguistic diversity.

The representatives of the network RML2future and the representatives of the Mercator Research Centre¹ agreed: "It is very





important for us, to inform one another about what we are working on and about our goals, to remain in contact and to enhance our cooperation in the field of regional and minority languages,” said Judith Walde, the project manager of the network RML2future, after the meeting in Friesland.

At the second day the partners of the network evaluated the running year of 2010 and discussed in particular about further European networking and cooperation (*see extract from the agenda below*).

In the evening, another meeting took place with representatives of the Volangteers² project and EBLT, the EBLUL member state committee in the Netherlands. The main point of the meeting was to get to know and inform one another, over a delicious Frisian dinner.

At the end of the meeting the network partners visited the AFUK-foundation³. AFUK's aims are the promotion of the Frisian language and culture, disseminating information about the Frisian language and to further the use of the Frisian language in daily practice.

“It is a pleasure to see with how much commitment and dedication, with which creative ideas the Frisians foster and promote their language and culture! We can learn a lot that we also may apply in other regions and for other regional and minority languages. Concluding we must state that our visit to Friesland, including becoming acquainted with the institutions and organisations, also with the town of Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, the people living here and the cuisine, has been a real pleasure. We certainly will come back and hope that we will be able to learn more of the Frisian language,” according to the network partners.

Those who did not want to go home yet, participated in the EUNoM Symposium “Higher Education and Research on Multilingualism: Challenge or Opportunity?”⁴ in Ljouwert/Leeuwarden.

***Tige tank, oant tsjen en hooplik
oant gau wer yn Ljouwert!
Thank you very much, bye and
see you soon in Ljouwert hopefully!***

web



1 Activities of the Mercator Research Centre:

www.mercator-research.eu/research-projects/mercator-network-project; www.mercator-network.eu;

www.mercator-research.eu/research-projects/MELT; www.meltproject.eu

Links to Volangteers and AFUK:

2 www.volangteers.nl

3 www.afuk.nl

4 See: www.eventbrite.com/event/770062277

Extract from the agenda

- Visit to the Fryske Akademy and meeting with representatives of the Mercator Research Centre and the Mercator Network of Language Diversity Centres
- Meeting and presentation by AFUK (www.afuk.nl)
- Meeting and discussion with representatives of the project Volangteers www.volangteers.nl
- Presentation of the MELT-project (Multilingual Early Language Transmission) www.mercator-research.eu/research-projects/MELT; www.meltproject.eu
- Getting to know and talking about further cooperation with representatives of EBLT: the EBLUL member state committee in the Netherlands
- Evaluation of the activity of the network RML2future 2010; activity reports of the partners and project management
- Presentation of the work of the Youth of European Nationalities YEN: Summer Promo Tour and showing the work that has been done, planning of information and promotion materials for 2011
- Language teachers association: presentation by the German-speaking Community in Belgium and discussion on the next steps to be taken
- Presentation and planning of the Second Regional Conference in Apenrade / Aabenraa in Denmark
- Planning of the year 2011: content, planning, meetings, dissemination and exploitation
- Participating in the EUNoM Symposium “Higher Education and Research on Multilingualism: Challenge or Opportunity?” in Ljouwert / Leeuwarden (optional)



Participants

Judith Walde – Federal Union of European Nationalities FUEN, Germany
 Jenni Ali-Huokuna – Federal Union of European Nationalities FUEN, Germany
 Hester Knol – Youth of European Nationalities YEN, the Netherlands
 Frank de Boer – Youth of European Nationalities YEN, the Netherlands
 Matteo Feruglio – Youth of European Nationalities YEN, the Netherlands
 Marie Leroy – European Academy Bozen / Bolzano EURAC, Italy
 Sabine Wilmes – European Academy Bozen / Bolzano EURAC, Italy
 Marko Oraže – Council of the Carinthian Slovenes NSKS, Austria
 Saša Benjamin Wakounig – Council of the Carinthian Slovenes NSKS, Austria
 Edgar Hungs – Agency for European Education Programmes VoG, German-speaking Community in Belgium
 Nicole Pettkau – Agency for European Education Programmes VoG, German-speaking Community in Belgium
 Timolwersen – Højskolen Østersøen, Denmark

Representatives of the region of West-Friesland:

Mercator Research Centre, Mercator Network of Language Diversity Centres, AFUK, Volangteers, EBLT Netherlands

Accommodation: EDEN, Oranje Hotel Ljouwert / Leeuwarden, www.edenoranjehotel.com



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