

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

Kickoff meeting on Adult Education

in Apenrade / Åbenrå (Denmark),
7–9 September 2009

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

Editors: Judith Walde, Madlenka Kowar

Photos: RML2future Team

Translation: Frank de Boer

Layout: Jadwiga Weidlich

Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)

Schiffbrücke 41

D-24939 Flensburg

Germany

info@fuen.org

www.fuen.org



in cooperation with



www.eurac.edu



www.dglive.be



www.hojoster.dk



www.nsk.at



www.yeni.org

KICKOFF MEETING

on Adult Education in Apenrade / Åbenrå (Denmark),
7–9 September 2009

About the region and its minorities

The German-Danish border region

The German-Danish border region includes those areas on the Danish and German side of the border drawn between Germany and Denmark after the census of 1920. The German-Danish border region is regarded as a model region for European minority protection and four autochthonous, national minorities are living there:

- The **German minority** in Nordschleswig, Denmark, in the area of the former county of Sønderjylland; in total approximately 15 000 Germans,
- The **Danish minority** in Sydslesvig, Germany, approximately 50 000 people belong to the minority,
- The **Frisian minority**, living in the district of Nordfriesland on the west coast, on the islands lying offshore as well as on the island of Helgoland. They are approximately 50 000 people who consider themselves to be North Frisians or of North Frisian origin.
- The **Sinti and Roma**, approximately 5 000 of them are living in Schleswig-Holstein and can look back at a long tradition of being resident in this region.



The **German minority in Nordschleswig**, Denmark, has been existing since the census of 1920 and nowadays counts about 15 000 people out of a total population of 250 000 in Nordschleswig.

The German minority has its own kindergartens, schools and libraries, does diaconal and social work, publishes its own daily newspaper and offers sports and cultural activities within many associations.

The minority is represented by the **Bund Deutscher Nordschleswiger (BDN)**. The German minority believes that it has to maintain a good and trustful relationship with the Danish majority population and functions as a intermediary between Germans and Danes.

Kickoff meeting in the folk high school Højskolen Østersøen in Apenrade / Åbenrå, Denmark

Together with Højskolen Østersøen in Apenrade / Åbenrå, the Network for Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity, abbreviated RML2future, organised a kickoff meeting on Adult Language Education in Europe.

The starting point for the working meeting was the experience with adult education according to the Danish folk high school

tradition at Højskolen Østersøen. The main focus of the work of the network is on the small or regional and minority languages and in this context Højskolen Østersøen is able to contribute significantly through its experiences in teaching the Danish language.

The partners of the network RML2future were all invited (see below).



Programme of the kickoff meeting in Apenrade / Åbenrå, from 7–9 September 2009 on Adult Education

Monday, 7 September 2009 – introduction to the subject, training

- Arrival
- Language network FUEN: Language policy in Europe, an introduction
- Tour through the house and getting to know the folk high school
- Introduction to the latest scientific findings and research on the subject of language transmission and language learning
- Discussion and evening coffee

Tuesday, 8 September 2009 – key topic Adult Education

- Morning gathering with the students of the school
- Peter Buhrmann: Højskolen Østersøen and the Danish folk high school movement, followed by discussion

- John Petersen: About the work of the Association of Community Colleges (ACC). John Petersen and ACC try to export the idea of the Danish folk high school Europe-wide. John Petersen organised and for a part also implemented the minority courses that took place at Højskolen Østersøen from the mid-Nineties until about the year 2000.
- Discussion
- Defining the future work in the network on “Language Learning in Adult Education”
- Dinner together with the president of FUEN, Hans Heinrich Hansen
- FUEN-Congress 2009 in Brussels and 60 years of FUEN. Presentation of the Network and its partners from 29 September until 2 October 2009
- How do we present ourselves externally? Information booth and promotion materials, collecting ideas and brainstorming

Wednesday, 9 September 2009 – cooperation within the network, practical issues

- Morning gathering
- Preparation of the First Regional Conference in Eupen
- Round of questions for the partners
- Departure



Participants

Peter Buhrmann – Højskolen Østersøen, Denmark

Angela Hansen – Højskolen Østersøen, Denmark

Edgar Hungs – Agency for European Education Programmes VoG, German-speaking Community in Belgium

Hester Knol – Youth of European Nationalities YEN, the Netherlands

Susann Schenk – Federal Union of European Nationalities FUEN, Germany

Judith Walde – Federal Union of European Nationalities FUEN, Germany

Sabine Wilmes – European Academy Bozen / Bolzano EURAC, Italien

Frank de Boer – translator, Youth of European Nationalities YEN, the Netherlands

During the kickoff meeting the participants had board and lodging at Højskolen Østersøen itself. As a result, the participants not only learnt in theory how the Højskolen is functioning, but also in practice. They took part in the ongoing programme of the school: with meals together, at the typical morning gathering singing a morning song together, listening to presentations and also in the evening in the lounge, where you could easily get into contact with the students of the school.



web



More information about Højskolen Østersøen:

www.hojoster.dk

Extract from the press release:

<http://www.nordschleswiger.dk/SEEEMS/10589.asp?artid=16636> (German)



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission and the Autonomous Region Trentino-South Tyrol. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission and the Region cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



RML2future

Network for multilingualism and
linguistic diversity

www.language-diversity.eu