

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

Partner meeting

at Højskole Jaruplund in Handewitt and in
Flensburg (Germany), 20–22 September 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.nsk.at



www.yeni.org

PARTNER MEETING

at Højskole Jaruplund in Handewitt and in Flensburg (Germany), 20–22 September 2010

Hjertelig velkommen! Herzlich willkommen!
Hartlik wäljkiimen! Hjertlæ velkommen!

The Danish minority in Germany

The Danish minority in Germany is an autochthonous ethnic group living in the region of Schleswig, in the town of Flensburg, the districts of Nordfriesland and Schleswig-Flensburg and in the northern part of the district of Rendsburg-Eckernförde. Sydslesvig, as the Danes call it, lies between the river Eider and the Kiel Canal in the south and the German-Danish state border in the north; between the North Sea in the west and the Baltic Sea in the east (*see map*).

The number of people who belong to the Danish minority is estimated at approximately 50 000 people. The proportion of the members of the Danish minority in comparison to the overall population is very different and ranges from municipalities with only a few families belonging to the minority to about 20 percent in the town of Flensburg and in some smaller villages. The members of the Danish minority generally understand and speak Danish. Using the Danish language on a regular basis and promotion of the Danish language is the fundament of the entire minority work.

Danish belongs to the Germanic languages and to the subgroup of North-Germanic languages. With Norwegian and Swedish, Danish

today is one of the three main Scandinavian languages.

The Danish minority in the northern part of the Land of Schleswig-Holstein has an extensive network of associations and establishments, being funded by Germany and Denmark. This network guarantees the functional cultural autonomy of the minority.

About the organisations of the Danish minority in Germany:

- The umbrella organisations Sydslesvigsk Forening (SSF) – South Schleswig association: www.syfo.de
- Sydslesvigsk Vælgerforening (SSW) – South Schleswig voters association (SSW): www.ssw.de
- Sydslesvigs danske Ungdomsforeninger (SdU) – Danish youth association for South Schleswig: www.sdu.de
- Dansk Skoleforening for Sydslesvig – the Danish school association: www.skoleforeningen.org

web



Other organisations and information:
www.fla.de; www.dks.folkekirken.dk;
www.dksund.de; www.dcbib.dk;
www.samraadet.info



RML2future at the Danish minority in Sydslesvig

In September 2010, the partner meeting of the network RML2future took place in the German-Danish border region once again. During this meeting, the Danish minority in Germany was looked at in depth. The partners of the network were accommodated and had their meetings at Jaruplund Højskole, close to Flensburg, and thus learned about the functioning of a second Højskole (folk high school), this time south of the border. At the last day of the meeting the participants got to know about the Aktivitetshuset in Flensburg, which organises many projects and activities for both Danes and other persons who are interested.

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Read more at:

www.aktivitetshuset.de


The main reason for the partner meeting was to coordinate the current state of work, make an evaluation of the first half of the network activities, evaluate the interim report to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission and to make a planning for the second half of the project period of the network. Also the aim of establishing a centre of competence for the autochthonous minorities as a centre for information and service was actively discussed. Especially from the perspective of language promotion the needs in the regions of the representatives were discussed and the necessity of such a centre for the daily work within a region and between different multilingual regions.

Also the external evaluator of the network, Peter Weber, took part in the partner meeting. The participants were given insight into the activities of other European networks and also a short overview of the EUROMOSAIC-study¹, for which Weber was one of main collaborators.

The discussion that followed on questions such as: “How can regional and minority languages contribute to multilingualism and how can we ourselves evaluate on how we will reach our goals”, gave new impetus for working further within the network.

The dissemination of the results of the network and the promotion of the minority languages in Europe were the main topics of

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1 See more at:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/archive/languages/langmin/euromosaic/index_en.html


Peter WEBER,

Peter J. Weber, who was born on 1 March 1966 in Mannheim, has been vice-president of the University of Applied Languages (SDI) in Munich since 2008, where is also holds the Chair in International Business Communication. His research within business communication focuses on language and education economics, multilingualism and online-learning. Since 1996, Peter J. Weber holds a Dr. phil. in Romance Linguistics and Business Administration from the University of Mannheim. In 2001, he received his habilitation on the subject of “General and international educational science” at the University of Hamburg.

the second day. The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) gave a report on the Summer Promo Tour 2010. Together the participants talked about the proposal for a language campaign and the try-out of the slogan “It’s never too late... Monolingualism is easy to cure!” in several media forms and using modern information and communication technology.

But also the side-programme did not fall short of expectations. Next to tasting delicious Danish and regional specialties, getting to know the traditions and working methods of a Højskole, the partners also visited the town of Flensburg and took their time to marvel at the beautiful nature surrounding the Højskole during a walk or when jogging.



Extract from the agenda:

- Introducing the new persons in the network
- Evaluation of the interim report of the network to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission
- Fields of activity and update on the key areas of the network RML2future
- Meeting and discussion with the external evaluator of the network
- Outline of the planning for the second half of the network period until the end of December 2011
- End goal: Centre of Competence of the minorities
- Cooperation with other organisations and institutions on the European level
- Planning of the Second Regional Conference in Apenrade / Åbenrå
- Presentation of the Promo-Tour in 2010 and planning for 2011
- Language campaign and website www.language-diversity.eu
- Local activities and presentations of the network
- Project management

**Participants**

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

Timo Iwersen – Højskolen Østersøen, Denmark

Marko Oraže – Council of the Carinthian Slovenes NSKS, Austria

Saša Benjamin Wakounig – Council of the Carinthian Slovenes NSKS, Austria

Hester Knol – Youth of European Nationalities YEN, the Netherlands

Kirsten Schumacher – Youth of European Nationalities YEN, the Netherlands

Jenni Ali-Huokuna – Federal Union of European Nationalities FUEN, Germany

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, Italy

Marie Leroy – European Academy Bozen / Bolzano EURAC, Italy

Peter J. Weber – External evaluator of the Network RML2future, Germany

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