

Partners involved in the project:

1. Study Centre International University Audentes (IUA) of Tallinn School of Economics and Business Administration of Tallinn University of Technology, Tallinn, Estonia;



2. Estonian Board of Borderguard (EBBG), Tallinn, Estonia;



3. INK Catalunya, S.A (INK), Barcelona, Spain;



4. Visiolink Oy (VO), Tampere, Finland;



5. P.M.F. S.r.l, Catania, Italy.



Launch and implementation of a web-based language learning tool:
Estonian for special purposes for non-Estonian speaking civil servants

E-Kristjan Project

In order to promote the language learning at workplace, not depending on the geographical location of the person, International University Audentes (IUA; from Tallinn, Estonia) has initiated an innovation development and transfer project "Launch and implementation of a web-based language learning tool: Estonian for special purposes for non-Estonian speaking civil servants (e-Kristjan)". Please read further about the project and the partners from the homepage.

About the Project

EU is a very multilingual and multicultural region where it is very important to know the local language, no matter in which member-state a person lives. In order to be competitive in the labour market the knowledge of professional language is important. In Estonia, as in one of the EU member states there are many people who do not speak Estonian or whose level of knowledge of Estonian is low but they have still been or will potentially be employed by different organisations. Insufficient knowledge of local language would jeopardize the job and customer service related performance of non-Estonian speaking people.

According to the Estonian Language Law Estonian language should be spoken and used by the people employed in the public sector and regarding certain fields of activity also in the private sector. The requirements for the language skills in the public sector have been set by the Regulations of the Government No 249 of 16 August 1999 and they apply to all civil servants and employees involved in the public sector. A certain level of knowledge of the official language is required in order to manage in everyday tasks and in communicative situations. In Estonia we should also keep in mind the regional peculiarities - e.g. in North-eastern Estonia there are more people who speak Russian and whose Estonian language skills are



lower. With reference to the geographical location the opportunities of learning Estonian vary in different regions.

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Goals and Expected Results

The main goal of the project is to increase the non-Estonian speaker's level of knowledge of Estonian language in order to improve their communication skills and efficiency of everyday work as knowing the language would make things easier for them.

The main result of the project is the modern and flexible opportunity for learning official language for non-Estonian speakers. In the course of the project a web-based learning tool which consists of 10 modules and a set of methods for learning Estonian language at the workplace will be generated. The web-based learning tool will be available for further development and/or adaptation for all organizations in Estonia and in the other countries of the EU.

About the Acronym of the Project

Cannot the tongue of this land

In the wind of incantation

Rising up to the heavens

Seek for eternity?

These verses, which praise the Estonian language, are probably well known to many Estonians. Those lines have been interpreted as a claim to reestablish the birthright of the Estonian language. The author of them - Kristjan Jaak Peterson (lived from 1801 to 1822) - has been considered to be the first Estonian poet, a bard for the country people. His importance for the Estonian language has been so much appreciated that a Mother Tongue Day is celebrated in Estonia on his birth anniversary, on 14 March.

e-Kristjan project has been named after K.J. Peterson for two reasons. First, the project is closely involved in Estonian language learning and making it easier for people to study. The second reason lies in an interesting coincidence - the deadline for the project happened to be 14 March, which is the Mother Tongue Day and K.J. Peterson's birth anniversary as well.

