



Erasmus+

KEY ACTION 2

**COOPERATION FOR INNOVATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF
GOOD PRACTICES**

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

**PARTNERSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE IN
LANGUAGE LEARNING -
PAL**

Erasmus+ “Partnership for Excellence in Language Learning – PAL”

Project submission

The European Union’s “ERASMUS PLUS” programme was established with the aim of financing European State initiatives focussing on the development of teaching and training practices as well as the more general sectors of youth and sports development. Upon the project submission deadline of April 2014, each of the 148 “Key Action 2, Strategic Partnership, School Sector” proposals submitted to the national agencies of ERASMUS+ / Indire was evaluated according to the formal and qualitative criteria laid down by the European Commission for all participating countries.

IPRASE (Istituto Provinciale per la Ricerca e la Sperimentazione) is proud to announce that its project, “Partnership for Excellence in Language Learning - PAL”, was placed among the top 10% of Italian initiatives, with a total of 96/100 points, and has been granted funding of 220,000 Euros.

Project background

The promotion of territorial multilingualism and societal plurilingualism are initiatives with far-reaching implications, embracing as they do all sectors of a society’s social, cultural and professional life. The literature¹ suggests close links between a community’s plurilingual literacy and its working and social conditions, premising that attainment of ‘adequate’ linguistic competence in more than one language is an important advantage not only in guaranteeing employability but also in the active exercise of citizenship within the European contexts of economic and cultural internationalisation and contributing, ultimately, to individual personal development and to society’s collective prosperity.

Within our current ‘Learning Society’, foreign language acquisition, social and economic mobility and the development of linguistic diversity are priorities for the educational policies of all European Member States and regional governments.

Project Summary

Our project constitutes a Strategic Partnership whose purpose is the creation of a collaborative consultation network that includes both regional and international partners. At the regional level, IPRASE will coordinate four state schools, each representing different secondary scholastic sectors (Liceo “A. Rosmini” of Rovereto, Istituto Tecnico Tecnologico “G. Marconi” of Rovereto, Istituto “Pavoniano Artigianelli per le Arti Grafiche” of Trento and Liceo “Paolo Sarpi” of Bergamo). The international partners have been selected from leading educational organisations with proven expertise in the field of German and English language teaching and learning, namely the *Goethe Institut* in Germany and the *Norwich Institute for Language Education (NILE)* and the *Bell Educational Services* in England. This partnership, in collaboration with IPRASE, will be involved in actions to analyse and ameliorate L2 (specifically German and English) teaching and learning processes in the territory’s high schools, technical schools and professional schools and in actions to introduce innovative didactic processes into their syllabus design based on their specific differentiated educational needs.

With the above in mind, and following the schools’ differing educational pathways, the partnership is tasked with the development of:

- A complete didactic model, containing innovative practices and approaches based on multimedia tools, to both favour English and German language learning and to develop a greater understanding of the cultural, social and value dimensions of their respective linguistic contexts, the whole being differentiated according to the distinct secondary-school instructional pathways within the high-school, technical-school and professional-school environments;
- Approaches, methodologies and innovative didactic tools for the definition of 'best practice' models for the teaching and learning of the English and German languages, with a view to the continuous professional development of the teachers involved;
- Support for the continuing development of BICS (Basic Interpersonal Communicative Skills) competence as well as for CALP (Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency) for study and work purposes;
- The use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) to extend the learning environment in terms of place, use and content.

The project will be developed over thirty-six months, a period that will see the Partners involved in various cooperative activities aimed towards three principal outputs and two open events.

In order to develop the above-mentioned objectives, the following activities will be initiated:

- An action-research activity to identify a compendium of English and German language methodological-didactic practices both within the local educational contexts referred to in the project, and in the L2 teacher-training practices implemented by the overseas Partners. (O1/A1).
- A synthesis and implementation activity tasking the Partners in the establishment of guiding methodological frameworks for innovative didactic practices in the development of excellence in English and German language learning (O2/A1).
- A formulation, projection and implementation activity leading to the creation of a complete instructional model for the teaching of English and German L2, consisting of a collection of modules and teaching tools, taking into account the different instructional needs found in the high schools, technical and professional schools participating in the project, with particular attention being paid to ICT innovation (O3/A1). These resulting didactic models will be carefully trialled in the above-mentioned four state-schools under the supervision of IPRASE.

Two open multiplier events will be programmed in Italy to present and disseminate the resultant project outputs. These outputs may then, upon project completion, be freely disseminated by the participating partners in their own countries and through their organisational networks. thus leading to the continuation and further development of the project's outputs. Upon the completion of the project, it is IPRASE's intention to continue collaboration with the overseas partners with the scope of sustaining the mutual mission and its expectations in relation to the actions taken, leading to the strengthening of multilingualism in the local context. The Partnership action-plan predicts the holding of six international partner meetings marking key moments in the development of the project and for the follow-up on results obtained by the Strategic Partnership.