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L2paths

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Every day hundreds of people leave their homes and arrive in new countries whose language they do not speak. Communicating in the national language, however, is crucial for migrants in order to integrate into the host country. When looking for a suitable language course, migrants in Europe are confronted with a wide range of options such as language courses, self-study materials, language exchange partners, apps, etc. The variety of learning options is often confusing for migrants and they often do not find out about all options available to them.

In response to this problem, partners in Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia and Sweden have been working together in the EU-funded project „L2 Paths“- Pathways to Host Country Languages for Migrants” from November 2014 to April 2016. Over the past two and a half years the project partners have:

- created a **standardised format for language advice** which has been implemented successfully in over 200 advice sessions
- created **Pathfinder** – a tool for matching a person's needs with the learning options available which has currently around 400 users
- trained over 40 **language advisors** and set up advice centers in all partner countries

The Pathfinder-System at the Language Show Live in Glasgow

On 11th and 12th March the partners presented the Pathfinder-system at the Language Show in Glasgow (UK). Phil James, the coordinator of the project, explained that when the idea of the project was conceived, no one suspected that millions of refugees would soon come to Europe. However, given the current situation, the Pathfinder-system is more necessary than ever.

The statistics from the language advice centers show that within a very short time, migrants from northern Africa and the Middle East have come to be the largest group of migrants arriving in the partner countries. Their main motivation for learning the host country language is integration into the local society and better chances of finding a job or a place at university.

These long-term learning goals also have an impact on the choice of language courses. Someone who wants to work as a nurse, for example, needs a course in medical terminology. Many migrants also have very little or no funds at all to pay for language courses. Thus, there is a huge demand for free language learning options. This is where the language advisors come in. They determine the migrants' learning goals and help them find suitable learning options using the **Pathfinder-system**.

Phil James also stressed, that the **Pathfinder-system** can do much more than just produce a list of available learning options. How should newcomers know which courses are good or which textbook is worth reading? This is why the **Pathfinder-system** includes a rating function for courses taken by the learner or material tried out. Thus, the users' feedback helps other learners make their choices – like tripadvisor for learners.



The Pathfinder online Tool

Apart from learners who can look for suitable learning options, the **Pathfinder-system** is also an interesting option for providers of courses or learning materials to present their products to the target group.

At www.language-pathfinder.eu providers can register easily and free of charge. Once their registration has been approved, they can create offers. For each offer, providers can give information about the instruction language, prices, target groups and focus of the material. They can also provide a link to their own website where interested learners can proceed directly with the booking or buying process.

Around 400 learners are currently using the Pathfinder-system. Through the rating function they can help make offers more popular among other users.

So do not miss your chance to present your products on the Pathfinder-system! If you have any questions about the Pathfinder-system or regarding registration, please contact us at info@l2paths.eu.

What else is new?

New functions on the Pathfinder-System – the Task Manager: From now on learners can not only choose learning offers and put them onto their learning program, they can also assign specific dates and time frames to each learning goal. Thus, they can make their learning program more specific and monitor their learning progress even better.

Due to the large demand, the [Pathfinder-system](#) is now also available in Polish.

Guidelines for language advice centers and language advisors: Shortly, the partners will publish the guidelines for language advice centers and language advisors. The booklet will contain information about the idea behind the project, how to conduct language advice sessions and how to set up language advice centers. Thus language advice sessions can continue even after the end of the project.

The Pathfinder-Boxes: If you are interested in taking a closer look at the training course for language advisors or would like to open your own language advice center, or if you would simply like to find out more about the [Pathfinder-system](#), have a look at the new Pathfinder-Boxes!

Apart from promotional materials and a brochure about the project, each box contains a memory stick with the link to the [Pathfinder-system](#).

If you are interested in receiving a Pathfinder-Box, please send an email to: info@l2paths.eu.

For further information please visit www.l2paths.eu

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Translex
58 Dominick Street Lower
0000 Galway
Ireland

00353 91 539 792
info@l2paths.eu

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