

The EU-funded project L2 PATHS:

The road to professional language advice

Migrants moving to a new country face the challenge of having to learn the country's national language. Being able to use the language to communicate is crucial for them in order to fully integrate into the host country and their local communities, to find work and to make new friends.

When looking for a suitable language course, migrants in Europe are confronted with a wide range of options – from partly or fully funded integration courses, privately paid language courses, self-study materials to language tandems and apps, among many others. However, the question is: how can they find the right option when most course providers only publish information about their own courses? In many cases migrants receive advice from a teacher or member of staff who is not a qualified language advisor.

Attending advice sessions at various schools and getting different information about language courses available is confusing for migrants and often leads to frustration and loss of motivation. Thus migrants are deprived of the chance to find out about all options to learn the host country language.

The solution: L2PATHS

In response to this problem Iberika Sprachschulen and their European partners VCAT Consulting (Germany), Translex (Ireland), The Language Center (Italy), Baltic bright (Latvia), and Folkuniversitetet (Sweden) decided to work together on the EU-funded project “*L2 Paths - Pathways to Host Country Languages for Migrants*”. The aim of this project is to work towards a creative approach to these issues and enable the implementation of a standardized system of language advice.

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The Role of Language Advisors

In order to achieve this, all partners will train language advisors in their countries who will assist learners in five language advice centers in each partner country.

They work together with learners to analyse their needs, goals, and language level and to create a personal learning plan that meets the learner's needs. A personal learning plan may consist of language courses, self-study materials or language tandems.

Throughout the learning process, language advisors regularly meet learners to evaluate their progress and adapt the learning plan if necessary until the learning goal has been successfully achieved.

The language advisors are independent and can thus accompany the migrant's learning process free of charge and on a long-term basis.

In addition to the language advisors the partners will also develop the Pathfinder-System – an online platform that enables learners to look for the nearest language advice center, to complete the needs analysis and take a placement test prior to meeting with the language advisor. Thus language advice will become accessible free of charge from all over the world.

The Pathfinder-System and the language advisors will be available from spring 2015.

For further information please visit www.l2paths.eu

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