



Plurilingual Language Awareness Education in the Nordic and Baltic Countries

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The paper will introduce a three year project called Developing the Language Awareness/Eveil aux langues Approach in the Nordic and Baltic countries (DELA-NOBA) funded by Nordplus Horizontal. Eveil aux langues is defined as a specific approach within language awareness where “part of the activities concerns languages that the school does not intend to teach (which may or may not be the mother tongues of some pupils)” (Candelier 2003b), i.e. “the language or languages of the school and any foreign (or other) language learnt.” (ibid.) The objectives of the project are to integrate and further develop the approach in the Nordic/Baltic context and to examine and explore students’, parents’ and teachers’ attitudes, knowledge and skills regarding plurilingualism. In the project teaching activities derived from previous European projects (e.g. Eulang, Ja-Ling, FREPA) which focus on language awareness and language diversity are implemented in primary and secondary pilot schools in the participating countries (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Sweden). The project will adapt and evaluate the teaching materials for the Nordic/Baltic context and collect information about plurilingualism in the countries for comparison. A preliminary part of the project will be to conduct surveys among the students’ parents with regard to their language use and attitudes. Furthermore, teachers of languages and other subjects in the participating countries will be surveyed as to their language perspectives and teaching practices. The next step will be to implement language awareness activities with the students, including language autobiographies. The project will conclude with a final evaluation of the Language Awareness/Eveil aux langues activities by students, teachers and parents. This paper will report the preliminary findings of the initial parent and teacher questionnaires and discuss the position of plurilingualism and its impact on plurilingual language awareness education in the Nordic and Baltic countries.

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