

Newsletter No.1

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STELA Project

STELA (2020-2023) is an Erasmus+ strategic partnerships for school education, which seeks to promote storytelling as a method among language teachers and thus contribute to improving the national and European language learning policies. The project directly supports the strategy by contributing to promote key competences, specifically - by promoting comprehensive approach to language teaching and learning.

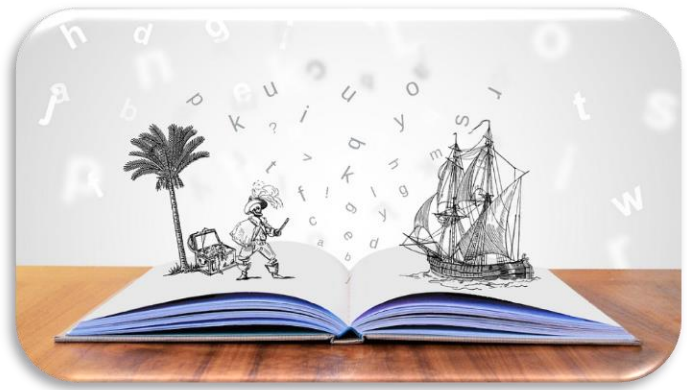
Project Title: *STELA: Storytelling for Teaching English as Second Language*

Project Start Date: *01.11.2020*

Project End Date: *30.04.2023*

National Agency of the Applicant Organisation: *British Council, in partnership with Ecorys UK – British Council*

Storytelling is one of the oldest forms of human communication, and much has been said in the literature about its effectiveness as a pedagogical tool in the development of language skills, regardless of learners' age or background. Studies believe that effectiveness of storytelling relies on the fact that it is fun, engaging and highly memorable, raising learners' interest in listening to stories, as well as in speaking, writing, and reading about them. Storytelling is, therefore, considered to be a powerful instrument to motivate learners to learn languages by engaging and encouraging them to actively participate in the language learning process.



Together with storytelling methodology, STELA project will integrate digital tools made to visualize these stories. By combining creativity (storytelling) and technology (digital story telling tools) the project seeks to respond to the language teacher needs and to contribute to the national and European language learning policies.

The project objectives:

- | to engage students in learning English language via an innovative method - storytelling and dedicated digital tools - a digital storytelling software for creating their own stories.
- | to enhance professional competences of language teaching and learning educators by promoting storytelling as a comprehensive approach for teaching English.

Target Groups:

- | Students aged 15-18
- | Language teachers and trainers

Partnership

The project partnership consists of 7 institutions from 6 different countries. These institutions are;

- | The Corporation of NCG - UNITED KINGDOM
- | Viesoji Istaiga Svetimo Ir Kulturos Mobiliuju Technologiju Institutas - LITHUANIA
- | IFPRA De Normandie - FRANCE
- | Pomo Giovina - ITALY
- | Onageb.Spain S.L. - SPAIN
- | Zeynep Mehmet Donmez Mesleki ve Teknik Anadolu Lisesi - TURKEY
- | Profesinio Mokymo Centras Zirmunai – LITHUANIA



The project consortium represents a great mix of public and private organizations. It represents good complexity and professional experience to achieve the project aims: educators, professionals of language teaching and learning, practitioners, and educational administration.

The project activities will be conducted in 6 partner countries. There will be a series of common activities, meetings and events organized to ensure the quality and the results of the developed STELA method and its instruments.

Project Outputs

1. STELA Feasibility Study

The output will identify the requirements for the rest of the project products. The study will investigate requirements in three areas:

- | Learning requirements of teenager students in different European countries and how these requirements currently being addressed.
- | The preferred learning styles of contemporary teenager learner and preferred language teaching methods used by the language teachers currently.
- | Pedagogy trends in connection with use of storytelling method - cases of educational storytelling and related ICT proving a significant impact on students' learning achievements.



This study will involve a review of national and international literature on listed topics.

2. STELA Pedagogical Framework

Second output will undertake activities targeted on development of educational storytelling pedagogy which would be appropriate pedagogically for the target audience of secondary and vocational school students.

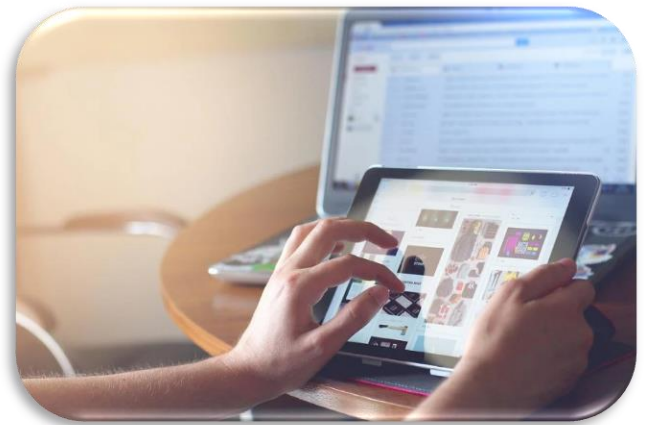
This study aims to define a compact framework of learning design used within appropriate teaching and learning paradigm developing the common pedagogical framework (educational goals, methodology, learning activities, evaluation methodology, and guidance for teachers). It will include lesson plans and student materials to be used by teachers and students in lessons.

3. Guidelines for STELA Digital Storytelling

Third Output will produce Guidelines for Digital Storytelling, including three instructional animations.

These guidelines (digital tools review & recommendation documents & associated digital learning scenarios) will be directly influenced by the research to understand the context of use carried out in Output 1 and by the lesson scenarios from Output 2 will be adapted to the Guidelines for Digital Storytelling.

Output 3 will undertake activities targeted on development of digital educational storytelling pedagogy which would be appropriate pedagogically for the target audience of secondary and vocational school students. It will provide technical overview, analysis and recommendations on digital storytelling software in specific school settings.



Project Activities

In the period until June 2022, when the first half of the project timeline ends, the project team has carried out several important activities and achieved milestones planned within the project:

- | Project partners held many online meetings in the first months when travel restrictions due to the pandemic continued. During this meetings, project partners discussed the basic project idea, main objectives, activities, expected results, resource plan, and funds allocation, qualitative and quantitative requirements for the entire project in order to achieve results and create intellectual outputs.
- | The first output, the STELA Feasibility Study, has been completed by all partners.
- | Partner institutions created the scenarios for the second output; STELA Pedagogical Framework,

- | First Transnational Project Meeting was conducted in Zaragoza, Spain on 21-22 March 2022, hosted by the partner institution *Onageb.Spain S.L.*
- | The 2nd transnational meeting was conducted in Vilnius, Lithuania on 20-21 June 2022, hosted by the partner institution *Profesinio Mokymo Centras Zirmunai.*



Future Events

Short-term joint staff training event will be held on 26-30 September 2022 in Didim, Turkey. The aim of this training workshop is to teach language professionals how to apply the storytelling methodology at their daily work. The participants will be English



teachers/trainers directly working with students in partner institutions. The creators of intellectual outputs will lead the training. The training will be implemented by a prepared program using nontraditional forms, engaging practical hands-on activities. During the event, trainers will reveal a new working concept with students using storytelling method and dedicated digital tools, discuss own students'

profile, internal structure of needs, analyze behavioral nature, reveal a created intellectual outputs purpose and learn how to apply STELA Kit.

To get detailed information about Stela Project and to be informed about updates, Please follow our project website: <https://project-stela.eu/> and facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stelaproject2020/>

Contact



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