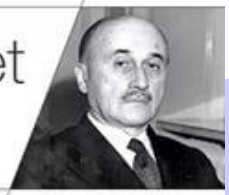
Erasmus+

Jean Monnet Programme



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Jean Monnet Project as a factor of improving students' professional competence

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PolidEU Jean Monnet project

- Title: *European identity via European policy (language, immigration and business policy)*
- Duration: *2015-2018*
- Work group:
- *Elena Alexeeva,* Head of the French Philology Department
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Project Aim and Objectives

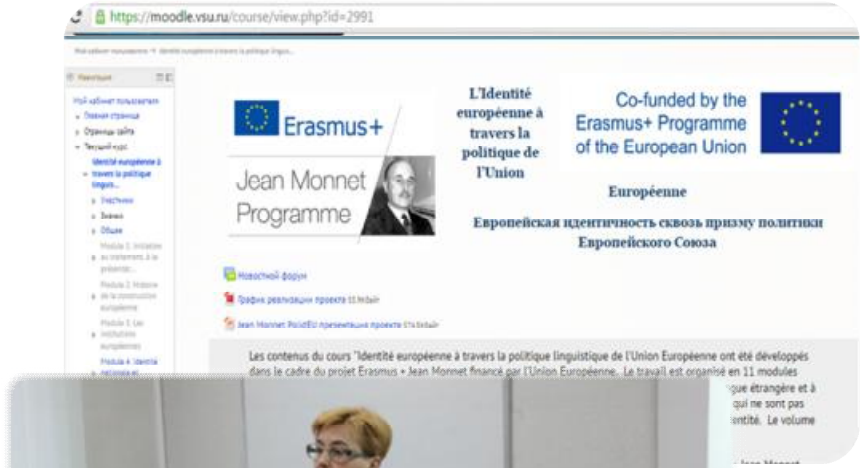
- Project Aim: foster students' professional competence by introducing the European dimension into language studies which are non EU related.
  - Project Strategic Objectives
- increased interest in understanding the European Union, leading to a more active citizenship and enhanced employability;
- promoting new high quality teaching and research practices in European studies.

Project Objectives

- improving the level of key students' professional and civic competences and skills, giving them knowledge in European studies which is relevant for the labor market;
- increasing awareness of identity related issues and of language as an element of identity;
- enhancing tolerance and respect towards other cultures as well as the ability to work in multicultural context.

Module Structure

- organized in the form of blended learning modules for students (Language Studies and International Relations), secondary school teachers and participants of Presidential Programme for Training Managers;
- the volume of face-to-face work is 60 h per academic year.



Jean Monnet Module for Language Students

Module 1. Processing and presenting research data and principles of the project-based learning.

Module 2. History of the European Union.

Module 3. European Union Institutions.

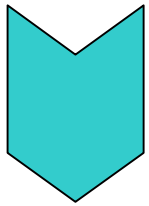
Module 4. National and European Identity.

Module 5. Values of multiculturalism and language policy of the EU and member states.

Module 6. Globalization. Official, regional and minority languages in Europe.

Module 7. Translation and interpretation issues in the EU institutions.

Module 8. Modern challenges related to language and identity.



Multidisciplinary contents: history, political science, law studies, linguistics, intercultural communication studies, language teaching studies, translation studies.

Achieving learning outcomes required by the Federal State Educational Standard: General Overview

- using teaching materials, modern information resources and technologies;
- using modern techniques, organizational forms and technologies of language teaching and evaluation of the quality of learning outcomes;
- carrying out information search activities aimed at improving professional skills in the field of teaching methods;
- carrying out information search activities aimed at improving professional skills in the field of intercultural communication;
- acting as an intermediary in the field of intercultural communication.

Communicative (Linguistic, Discourse, Strategic) competence

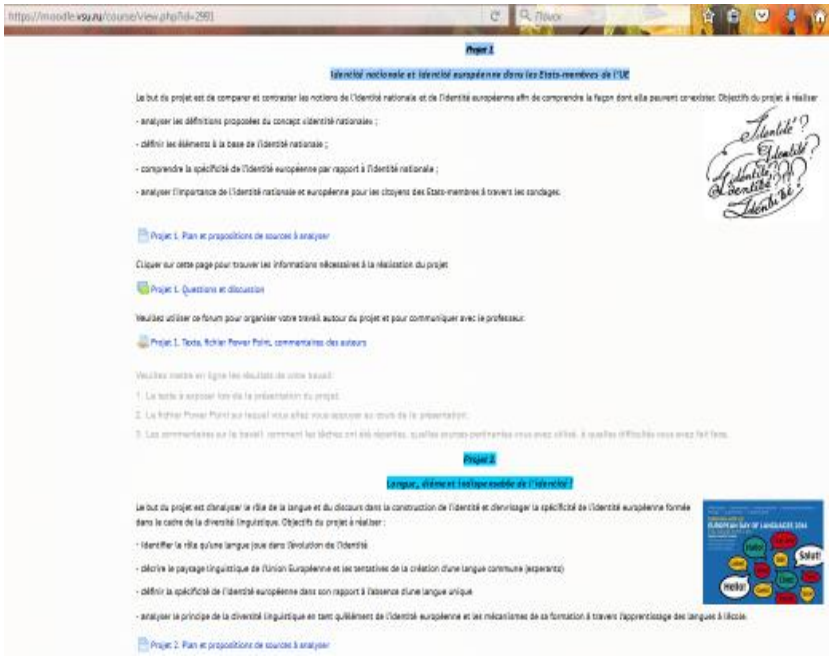
- Module 1 activities: summarising several written documents (synthesis), paraphrasing to avoid plagiarism - level B2-C1 of CEFRL, creating presentations

  - Developed Federal Standard competencies:

- mastering the language means to express semantic, communicative and structural continuity between the parts of the statements;
- Ability to freely express one's thoughts adequately using various linguistic means to highlight the relevant information;
- ability to put forward a hypothesis and consistently develop the arguments to defend it;
- ability to assess the quality of research, to relate new information with existing, to present logically the results of one's own research.

Competence in information search and ICT-competence

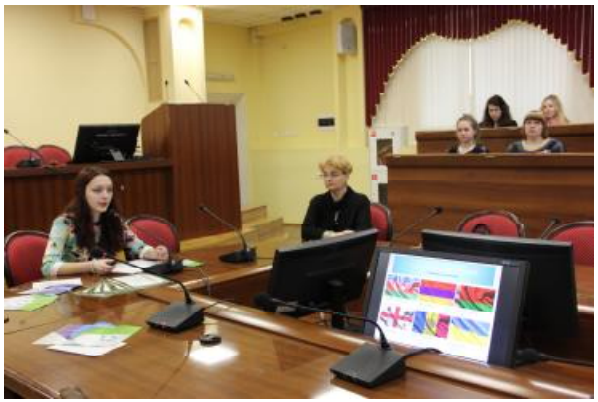
- Project-based learning and blended learning based on the Moodle e-learning course
  - Developed Federal Standard competencies:
- aquiring computer skills as a means of receiving and processing information;
- ability to work with different databases and global computer networks;
- ability to work with electronic dictionaries and other electronic resources to compensate the lack of language systems knowledge;
- aquiring skills to use standard research methods, methods of analysis and processing of research material.



Competence in Scientific Research

- Modules 2-8: project-based learning (carrying out an independent research)
- Scientific conference held for students

1) To be European in Europe: an overview of the results of social polls on European identity
2) Language policy as a means to foster European identity
3) Role of European identity in the Eastern Partnership as a mechanism for expanding the scope of influence of the EU
4) Phenomenon of European identity in the context of immigration crisis
5) French immigration policy and the difficulties of assimilation of immigrants in France
6) Influence of euroscepticism on European identity
7) European identity expressed by posters in Europe

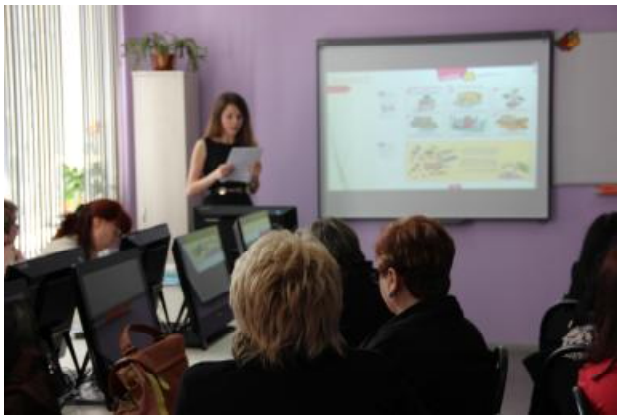


Competence in Scientific Research

- Developed Federal Standard competencies
- ability to put forward a hypothesis and consistently develop the arguments in its defense;
- mastering modern methods of scientific and information research, analysis and processing of research material;
- ability to assess the quality of research in the domain of studies, to relate new information with the existing data, to present logically and consistently the results of one’s own research.

Professional competence in teaching foreign languages

- students can evaluate the efficiency of new language teaching methods and reflect critically on the need to implement them in their own future teaching practice;
- students have carried out a critical analysis of Russian and French course books in order to evaluate the efficiency of activities aimed at fostering intercultural competence (seminar for secondary school teachers)



Professional competence in teaching foreign languages

- Developed Federal Standard competencies

- ability to use textbooks and teaching materials in foreign languages in order to develop new training materials on a particular topic;
- ability to critically analyze the teaching process and learning materials in terms of their effectiveness.

Challenges of the Jean Monnet project

- low degree of involvement of students with poor language skills (but high degree of motivation on the part of students with well developed language skills);
- lack of students' time devoted to Jean Monnet project due to the heavy workload in the educational process;
- regular introduction of new forms of work caused fatigue in case of some students.

Ways to overcome challenges

- creating a separate course based on the Jean Monnet module materials assessed in the end;
- further processing of the results of the project work in the framework of professional activity (developing teaching materials, editing glossaries, interpreting during the presentation).

Conclusions

- multidisciplinary approach in training language students allows to achieve a number of learning outcomes stipulated in the Federal Educational Standard;
- flexibility and adaptability of Jean Monnet module structure gives the opportunity to carry out different activities contributing to the improvement of communication, research, language teaching and ICT competencies;

Conclusions

- implementation of innovative forms of work during the project changes stereotypes about the methods of teaching foreign languages and contributes to the modernization of language education in VSU;
- project increases the efficiency of language training via the use of the updated information, increases general culture level and develops critical thinking and analytical approach to the modern events;
- project fosters a multicultural identity which is aware of its national identity.

Thank you for your attention!