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Dear Recipient,

This is the second regular newsletter of the interdisciplinary research project ELDIA (European Language Diversity for All). You are receiving this letter either because you have subscribed to our newsletters or because your address was on our target group list. If you do not want to be contacted any more, just send an e-mail to *info.eldia@univie.ac.at* and you will immediately be removed from our recipient list.

If you want to find out more about us, you are always welcome to visit the ELDIA website at <http://www.eldia-project.org>. There, you will find more information about our activities, events, publications and local teams. These newsletters can also be downloaded from the website; choose “About the project > ELDIA newsletters” from the menu on the left side. On the newsletter page, you can subscribe to the following newsletters, which will appear at least twice a year: choose the newsletter in the language of your choice, type in your e-mail address and name and press “Subscribe”. Or simply send an e-mail to *info.eldia@univie.ac.at*. And, of course, you can stay tuned by becoming our fan on Facebook – the link is on the entry page of our website.

ELDIA in a nutshell

ELDIA is an international and interdisciplinary research project funded by the 7th Framework Programme of the EU. “International” means that our research consortium consists of seven universities and research institutions across Europe, working on 13 case studies in eight countries, and that we intend our results to be internationally applicable. We are not working specifically in the interests of any group, country or region; instead, we are searching for points of comparison, possibilities for further networking and cooperation. “Interdisciplinary” means that our teams include specialists of linguistics, law, sociology (media analysis) and statistics, working together to find out how linguistic diversity functions in everyday life in today’s Europe. And, finally, we are a research project trying to get and offer as reliable knowledge as possible about the parallel use and coexistence of diverse languages. We believe that language diversity is a good thing and should be promoted, but we do not make language policies or tell people how they should use their languages; we are only here to offer information which can be used as a basis for political and individual decisions.

Our work is divided into Work Packages which were described in more detail in Newsletter 1/2011. Some of these, such as WP9 *Coordination and Management* or WP8 *Dissemination* (including activities such as these newsletters) run throughout the project, others build successively upon each other. Of these, the first three – context analysis (WP2), data sampling (WP3) and fieldwork (WP4) – are finished now, and we have proceeded to WP 5: Data Analysis.

Continuing our work: From Fieldwork to Data Analysis

In the course of our fieldwork (Work Package 4) in the winter and early spring of 2011, questionnaires were sent out to both our target groups and control groups selected from the majority in each region or country. We also conducted interviews both with focus groups and with individuals. This would never have been possible without the generous help of numerous organisations, institutions, associations and individuals – our most cordial thanks to all who supported us in our work!

In order to have enough responses, the questionnaires (a booklet of 27 pages, in both the minority and the majority language in question, so that the respondents could freely choose their language) had to be printed in hundreds of numbered copies and (in most cases) put in envelopes and sent by mail. ELDIA researchers, often assisted by colleagues, friends and students, spent hours and hours preparing the questionnaires for mailing. In this photo, the Maribor team at work.





Elina Kangas from the Oulu team packed her car full of questionnaires for the Meänkieli speakers. Then she drove to Aapua on the Swedish side of the Torne valley (270 km from Oulu), where the kind people of the STR-T (*Svenska Tornedalingars Riksförbund – Tornionlaaksolaiset*, the organisation of the Tornedalian minority) helped in putting the questionnaires into envelopes, and providing them with their own accompanying letter. (And after that, the questionnaires had to be brought back to a post office on the Finnish side, since the University of Oulu only had a contract with the Finnish post...)

Together with their colleagues from Petrozavodsk, ELDIA researchers from Helsinki travelled through Karelian and Vepsian villages in Northwestern Russia. Instead of mailing the questionnaires, the researchers had to go and meet the respondents. The temperatures stayed at around -25 to -30 °C, and the libraries and the club houses of the villages were often not properly heated, but the informants answered patiently and participated eagerly in discussions – and went on chatting, despite the low temperatures, until the interviewers were too cold to continue.



Interviews conducted with individuals and focus groups (representing different ages and also including control groups from the majority) were an important part of our fieldwork. Young Karelians of Finland (the group of speakers under 30 years of age!) are waiting for the group interview to begin. (The photo, taken in Nurmes, Finland, at the beginning of March, has also appeared in the new Karelian-language periodical *Karjal Žurnalu*.)

As a result of our fieldwork efforts, we now have more than 4800 questionnaires (most of them, loads and loads of paper, were scanned into electronically analysable form in Vienna, with project researcher Angelika Parfuss organising and supervising the work) and dozens of hours of interview recordings. All this material will be stored in Mainz, under the supervision of Eva Kühhirt, our database manager, and only used for research purposes. As an EU project, we must follow very strict guidelines as concerns the protection of personal data. All personal background information, such as the address lists which we have used for contacting our informants, must be completely destroyed by the end of the project. Nothing in our material will be publicly accessible – random web surfers will not be able to browse through our questionnaire data, and we guarantee that our interview recordings will not land on YouTube. And anything that is published must be carefully anonymised (for instance, if samples of interviews are quoted in an article and names of real persons are mentioned there, they will be deleted or replaced).

The data analysis (Work Package 5) we are conducting now is partly done by our “number crunchers” – our resource person for statistics Kari Djerf (Helsinki) and his assistant Antti Mattila – and partly by the same researchers who will write the final case-specific reports on each case study. Basically, the analysis is about looking at the questionnaire statistics and finding patterns and correlations between the answers given to different questions, or relating them to what we know about the situation in each language community. For instance: All respondents received the questionnaire in both their “minority” language and in the local majority language, and they could choose freely which one they would fill in – which groups preferred which form, and why? How does the gender and age distribution of the respondents correlate to what we know of the group in question? (As for Estonians in Germany, an overwhelming majority of the respondents were women, and this is probably because the majority of this group really is female.) What do the respondents in each group think about the future of their language? (The results vary greatly between groups – why is that?) How does this correlate with their personal background variables (age, gender, education etc.) or their self-assessed language skills – are those who believe they know their language better more optimistic as concerns the future of the language? Etc.

In addition to the statistical analysis, we have been busy transcribing and coding interview material, with special respect to the variables we will use in the *European Language Vitality Barometer (EuLaViBar)*, the final result of the project. The results of the case-specific studies will form the basis of the case-specific reports, which will be published in a publicly accessible form (electronically, and possibly on paper as well) at the end of the project. Stay tuned for more information!

Some first results

Our work is still very much in progress, but some very preliminary results have already been published in our first Policy Brief (see below). Already at this stage of our work, it seems clear that issues of ethnolinguistic diversity and multilingualism are more complicated than policy-makers and, in general, representatives of majority ethnic groups believe. Another general observation: minority groups typically regard themselves and their problems as something unique, yet surprisingly similar issues can be observed with almost all our target groups, from the Barents Sea coast to Central Europe. One of our key messages to all our target groups could be: *You are not alone*.

Parallel with the analysis of questionnaires and interviews, two specific international research groups have been conducting their own analyses. A group of law specialists, led by Prof. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark (Mariehamn), has investigated legislation and law issues in our target countries and regions. Their findings are partly very disconcerting. Although, due to increased awareness of multilingualism issues, new language legislation or changes to existing language laws have been introduced in the last few years in all our target regions, this language legislation is often “toothless”: either there are no sanctions for violation of language laws, or even if such redress mechanisms do exist, they are often not implemented. Another major finding is that multilingualism itself is practically never supported by legislation: what is legally affirmed is a particular language, spoken by a particular group of people in a particular region. This is probably not the best basis for promoting societal multilingualism in today’s globalising world.

Another international research group, led by Dr Reetta Toivanen (Helsinki), has analysed majority and minority language media in Austria, Estonia, Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden. Their studies show that in all these cases, there are too little media resources

for the minorities in question, especially as concerns the types of (electronic and social) media typically used by younger generations (traditional newspapers are mainly read by older generations only). The majority media in all these countries seems to give a distorted picture of the minorities. The typical problems of minority groups (discrimination, lack of resources, too weak a participation in decision-making) seldom hit the headlines; when reporting on minority languages and ethnic groups, majority media typically focus on cultural events (for instance, folklore festivals). In the worst case, majority media may portray minority languages and cultures as something fatally endangered or “doomed to die out”, thus reinforcing the impression that using public resources for their revitalisation is a hopeless enterprise.

Introducing our teams: The Law team (Mariehamn)

Starting with this newsletter, we will introduce the teams of ELDIA to you. The series begins with the Law team which is now finishing its work. The team is led by Professor Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Director of the Åland Islands Peace Institute, a research institute focusing on forms of autonomy, minority issues, demilitarisation and conflict management.



Lisa Grans has a Master degree in Political Science (majoring in public international law) from Åbo Akademi University and an LL.M. degree in international human rights law from the University of Essex. She has worked for many years with international human rights law projects, specializing in non-discrimination issues. After completion of her research within the Eldia-project, Lisa has started working at the Finnish League for Human Rights (Ihmisoikeusliitto).



Anders Fogelklou, jur.dr. is Professor of Comparative Public Law with special reference to Law in Transition. He is an expert on federalism, decentralisation and constitutional law in the Soviet and post-Soviet spheres and especially interested in constitutional development in Eastern and Central Europe and the emergence of constitutionalism in these states. Professor Fogelklou has often worked in interdisciplinary settings and is now senior faculty member at the Center for Russian Studies at Uppsala University.



Petra Granholm has worked as a researcher for the Åland Islands Peace Institute in projects concerning integration, language rights and rights of minorities and indigenous people. She holds a degree in international law, M.Pol.Sc, from Åbo Akademi University and an MRM in coastal management from the University of Akureyri, Iceland. She is currently working for the Åland Government with coastal issues.



Heidi Öst obtained her Master's Degree in International Human Rights Law from Åbo Akademi University in Finland in 2009. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Global Politics from Keele University in England. She has worked with research at the Åland Islands Peace Institute on the cultural and linguistic safeguards of the Åland minority protection regime, as well as on issues of minorities, diversity and integration. She also heads the Mediation Office of the Åland Islands Peace Institute. She is currently starting her doctoral studies in public law at Åbo Akademi University.



Sarah Stephan holds an LL.M. in Public International Law from Helsinki University and a Bachelor's degree in European and Comparative Law from the Universities of Bremen and Oldenburg. At the Peace Institute Sarah works as a legal researcher within the ELDIA project and ÅLEX (The Åland Example and Its Components - Relevance for International Conflict Resolution) and is project responsible for a project on gender equality in Azerbaijan. Her research interests include European and Public International Law, international conflict resolution and post-conflict governance.



Marianne Meiorg is an expert on discrimination issues and EU law. She pursued a Master's degree in International Human Rights Law in the University of Nottingham. She has extensive experience in European research projects and works. She currently works at Tallin University of Technology as a lecturer and is a Member of the Executive Board in the Estonian Human Rights Centre.



Deva Zwitter, Mag., holds a Masters degree in law (Magistra iuris) from the University of Graz (Austria). She is an expert on minority education in Austria and has previously worked as a legal assistant in private practice as well as a scientific assistant at the University of Maribor. Deva Zwitter is currently working as a research assistant in public law at the Faculty of Law at the University of Graz.



Dr Petra Roter is associate professor of international relations at University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, and Senior Researcher at the Centre of International Relations. She conducted her studies at University of Ljubljana, received MA & Ph.D degree from the University of Cambridge (UK) specializing on minorities and political theory.



Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark heads the law and institutional studies within the ELDIA-project. She holds a doctoral degree in international law from the University of Uppsala and she has worked as a researcher and teacher at a number of academic institutions in Sweden, Finland, France and the USA. She has been the director of the Åland Islands Peace Institute (www.peace.ax) since 2007 where she heads the research activities. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark has published extensively in matters concerning minority protection in international law, multiculturalism, indigenous rights and participation, treaty law and international legal theory.

Publications and presentations

Kadri Koreinik: PhD thesis on language ideologies and South Estonian

The first “ELDIA-related” doctoral dissertation was submitted at the University of Tartu at the end of August this year: our project researcher Kadri Koreinik defended her PhD thesis *Language ideologies in contemporary Estonian public discourse: With a focus on South Estonian*. The study deals with the position of South Estonian language varieties (including Võro and Seto, our two “target languages”) in public discourse. Applying the methods of Critical Discourse Analysis, Koreinik has analysed texts from Estonian media in which the position and legitimacy of Southern Estonian language varieties are discussed: whether or not they are “real languages”, whether and how they should be revitalised etc. Interestingly enough, both those who think that South Estonian should be officially acknowledged and supported as a language and those who are against it seem to reinforce similar ideas of the language varieties involved: their discourse portrays both Standard Estonian and South Estonian in an “essentialist” way, as “naturally” existing entities.

The dissertation has appeared in the series *Dissertationes Sociologicae Universitatis Tartuensis* (Vol. 5), and a PDF version (without the articles that have appeared elsewhere) can be downloaded at <http://dspace.utlib.ee/dspace/handle/10062/17925>.



Kadri Koreinik in discussion with her opponent, Dr Nico Carpentier (Loughborough University / Vrije Universiteit Brussels), in the White Hall of Tartu University Museum.

Working Papers in European Language Diversity

The final results of ELDIA – the case-specific reports, the comparative report summing up all our results, and the EuLaViBar – will be freely accessible by the end of the project in 2013. Already before that, however, we want to share the results of our first work phases and especially to give our early-career researchers an opportunity to publish their work on an international, peer-reviewed scholarly forum. For this purpose, we have created a new publication series, *Working Papers in European Language Diversity*.

WPELD is an electronic series freely accessible on the Internet. The texts (in PDF format) can be downloaded from the ELDIA website, but they can also be accessed by way of PHAIDRA, the permanent digital archiving system of the University of Vienna (<http://phaidra.univie.ac.at>).

The first volumes of WPELD contain summaries of the “context analyses” which were the result of our Work Package 2. In them, you will find up-to-date reports on the current state of our target communities and their language use: what is known of them on the basis of existing research and which aspects are in the most urgent need of research. We have also started publishing the reports on law and legislation which our Law team, under the supervision of Prof. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, has produced; the first to appear is the report on the legal and institutional frameworks of Karelian and Estonian in Finland, by Lisa Grans.

Policy Brief No. 1

One of our official deliverables (the “products” we are obliged to provide), our first Policy Brief, is now ready for distribution. Policy Briefs, following a central design of EU projects, contain concise summaries of project results and policy implications – the practical recommendations which we can, on the basis of our research results, give to policy-makers and all stakeholders. Unlike these newsletters, the Policy Brief is so far only available in English. You can download it from our website (News, events, publications > Policy Briefs) or from the PHAIDRA repository (<http://phaidra.univie.ac.at/o:104017>).

Conference presentations

ELDIA researchers have participated in conferences, presenting ELDIA and their own ELDIA-related work. A small selection of recent contributions:

- Anneli Sarhimaa, our Coordinator in Mainz, gave a talk about ELDIA at a meeting of successful German coordinators of 7th Framework Projects in Social Sciences and Humanities on May 9-10 in Bonn.

- Anneli Sarhimaa (Mainz) and Johanna Laakso (Vienna) were invited to participate at a symposium on *Language and Identity*, hosted by the University of Tartu in connection with a meeting of the Coimbra Group of European universities, on October 20-22. The programme, with links to video recordings of the presentations, can be viewed at <http://www.ut.ee/lis/>.
- Riho Grünthal (Helsinki) was invited to represent European research on multilingualism in Korea, at the 30th Conference of the Korean Society of Bilingualism in Seoul (November 6). In his paper, entitled "Long-term Practices and Current Demands in European Language Policies", he gave an overview of the work of ELDIA and some other, thematically related research projects.
- Anna-Kaisa Räisänen (Oulu) has given lectures about the current state of the Kven language and research into it both in Oulu and at the University of Caen, France (conference "Langues, identités et littératures de Finlande", 18-19 November).
- Anna Kolláth (Maribor) has given presentations about research into Hungarian in Slovenia, including ELDIA, at the conference of the research network TERMINI in Budapest (November 22-23).
- Angelika Parfuss and Hajnalka Berényi-Kiss (Vienna) have presented ELDIA both at the Multilingualism Action Day organised by the University of Vienna (November 23) and at the conference "Methoden der Sprach- und Kulturvermittlung" hosted by the Hungarian Seminar of the Humboldt University in Berlin (November 25).

ELDIA activities to come

The next ELDIA workshop will take place in the first days of March 2012 in Haparanda/Haaparanta at the mouth of the Torne river, the Swedish part of the Siamese twin town which also comprises Tornio/Torneå on the Finnish side of the border. This workshop, hosted by the team of the University of Oulu and organised by the team of the University of Tartu, will prepare us for the writing of the Case-Specific Reports, which will then be used as a basis for our very final results: the Comparative Report and the EuLaViBar (European Language Vitality Barometer).

In 2012, ELDIA teams will organise national or regional dissemination events, in which the project and its results are presented to stakeholders and the general audience. Organisations representing our target groups and other minorities and multilingual communities, language professionals and language practitioners (for instance, teachers or customer service professionals), and all citizens and groups interested in multilingualism and language diversity are cordially invited. More information will appear on our website and, hopefully, in our next newsletter in the spring of 2012. Stay tuned!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at any time – either the main coordination team (eldia-project@uni-mainz.de) or the local team nearest to you (see www.eldia-project.org > About the project > Project participants). Researchers and research institutions are also cordially invited to contact us and to suggest concrete areas of cooperation.

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