



european language  
diversity for all



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# newsletter 2 / 2012

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## Dear Recipient,

This is the fourth 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. (The addresses on our address lists will in no case be forwarded to any other parties for any other purposes, such as marketing or advertising.) If you do not wish to be contacted any more, just send an e-mail to [info.eldia@univie.ac.at](mailto: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>. These newsletters can also be downloaded from the website; choose “About the project > ELDIA newsletters” from the menu on the left. On the newsletter page, you can subscribe to the newsletters to come – or you can simply send an e-mail to [info.eldia@univie.ac.at](mailto:info.eldia@univie.ac.at). And, of course, you can stay tuned by joining our (currently more than 800) fans on Facebook (you will find a link 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 applicable internationally, not just for a specific group, country or region. *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 obtain and offer knowledge as reliable as possible. We want to promote language diversity, 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 four – context analysis (WP2), data sampling (WP3), fieldwork (WP4) and data analysis (WP5) – are finished now, the Case-Specific Reports (WP6) are almost ready to be published, and the project has reached its last phase (WP7): the Comparative Report and the EuLaViBar (European Language Vitality Barometer).

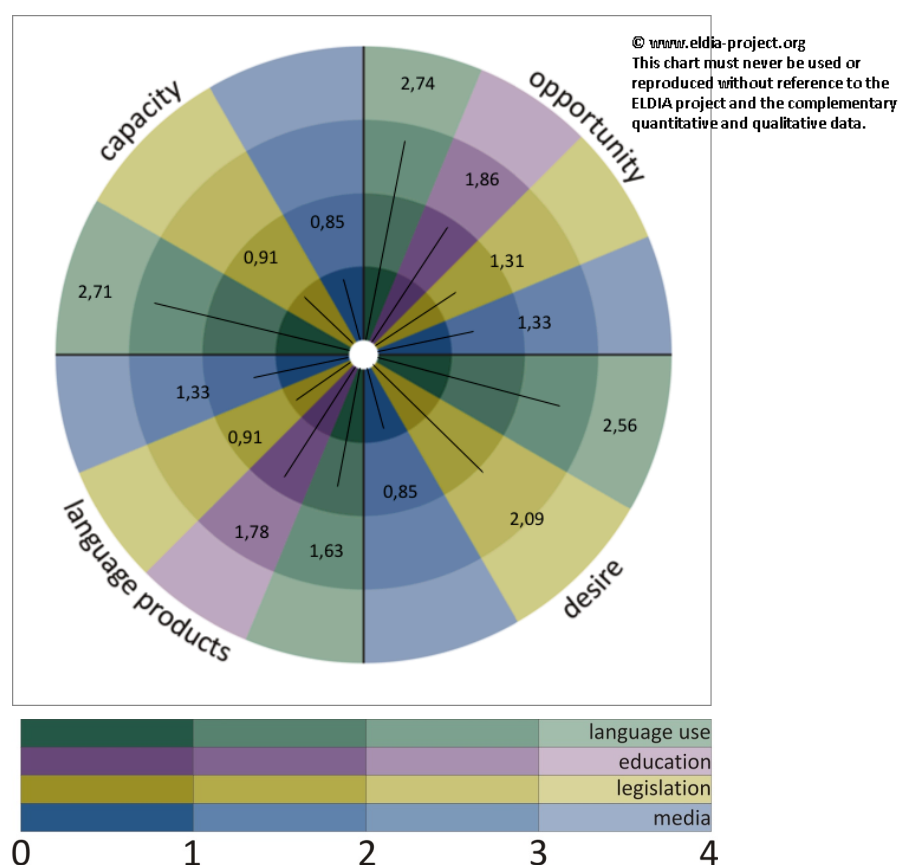
## Approaching our goal: From Case-Specific Reports to the Comparative Report and the EuLaViBar Toolkit

The year 2012 has, again, been very busy for all ELDIA teams. The Case-Specific Reports had to be submitted in their first, pre-final versions in September, which means that many ELDIA researchers could hardly enjoy their summer holidays. Moreover, these versions still need editing and language checking – but we sincerely hope to be able to begin publishing them in the next few months. “Publishing” means that the reports will be freely accessible on the Internet, both by way of our website or directly from PHAIDRA, the permanent digital repository of the University of Vienna. (Simply go to <http://phaidra.univie.ac.at/> and type ELDIA into the search field. Or go directly to <http://phaidra.univie.ac.at/o:80726>.)

What, then, is a Case-Specific Report? It is a report about an individual ELDIA case study, a book – many CSR's are more than 200 pages in length – written according to the guidelines which were created for all ELDIA CSR's by the ELDIA team of the University of Tartu (Kadri Koreinik, in particular, carried a great part of the responsibility). The reports include the previously conducted context analyses (that is, overviews of what was already known about the language at issue and what had been researched) and summaries of the analyses of legislation (by the ELDIA law team) and media (by the ELDIA media analysis team). A major part of each CSR consists of the presentation of the principles and results of our own new research: how the questionnaire surveys and interviews were done, how this material was analysed and what the results look like for each speaker community. The CSR's give a detailed picture of where and when the minority and majority languages are used, what the survey respondents and interviewees think about the use, role and importance of their languages. At the end of each CSR, the first version of the EuLaViBar chart illustrates the vitality of the minority language at issue, the central findings of our study are

summarised and some policy implications presented – that is: what policy-makers should understand and what measures they should take in order to support the maintenance of language diversity.

Thus, finally the time has come to concretise the magic word *EuLaViBar* – the vitality barometer that was our dream in the planning phase of the project is turning into reality. Our method of illustrating the vitality of a language with a “spider web” or a radar chart is the result of long discussions and intensive team work. The same goes for the data analysis: the procedures by which the data of our questionnaires was turned into numbers and fitted into a system of variables. This system, in turn, was based on the work and thinking of many sociolinguists and language sociologists – not only ELDIA researchers but many other accomplished colleagues as well. From the Catalan sociolinguist Miquel Strubell and others who have thought along the same lines, we took the idea of “language products” in the interaction of supply and demand. From the works of the Swiss colleague François Grin, we took the three basic elements of language vitality: *Capacity* (how fluently and confidently the speakers use their language), *Opportunity* (where and when the language can be used) and *Desire* (whether and how the speakers want to use their language). Redefining and applying these concepts to our data from different domains of language use, we can create an overall picture of language vitality. In the radar chart, the sectors stand for different areas and aspects of language vitality and use, and the longer the black lines (representing a scale of vitality, from 0 to 4), the less endangered is the language in the light of our data.



*An example – so far, for illustrative purposes only – of what the EuLaViBar radar charts can look like. (This is the first version of the EuLaViBar chart for Hungarian in Austria.)*

The results of all our Case-Specific Reports will be summarised in the Comparative Report which is now being written by a team of four senior ELDIA researchers: Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark (who is the leader of this Work Package), Anneli Sarhimaa, Reetta Toivanen, and Johanna Laakso. The Comparative Report will also include a EuLaViBar Toolkit: practical guidelines for creating a barometer for any language. All this will be published by the end of the project, that is, by September 2013. It seems hard to believe for many of us, but we are approaching our final goal!

As mentioned above, the EuLaViBar charts will become available in the published versions of the Case-Specific Reports. We have been happy to see that our barometer seems to work: the “big picture” shown in the EuLaViBar chart corresponds to what our researchers as specialists know about the status of the language. Thus, the EuLaViBar seems to function reliably in showing which areas in the life and use of a language are the strongest and which are in the greatest need of support. However, the EuLaViBar is just a tool for systematically describing and visualising what we know about a broad range of factors that influence the vitality of a language; it cannot be any better or more reliable than the data on which it is based. ***EuLaViBar charts cannot and should not be displayed, reproduced or interpreted without deeper knowledge of the situation and the background data.*** And, above all, the EuLaViBar is not a magic crystal ball which could let us see into the future. Whatever will happen to any language depends on a number of decisions – above all, decisions made by language users themselves, but also decisions of policy-makers and other people – and on a number of circumstances, political, economical, etc., which in turn may influence these decisions. This means that ***the EuLaViBar can never be used for determining whether it is “worthwhile” or not to support the maintenance or revitalisation of a language.***

While waiting for the Comparative Report and the EuLaViBar Toolkit, you will be able – within the next few months – to download and read the Case-Specific Reports. In many cases, they will be the most up-to-date, sometimes even the most reliable and detailed source of information about the current state of these languages. The CSR’s will be published in English, but translations – possibly abridged and condensed versions – of each CSR into the relevant minority and majority languages (for instance: for Karelian in Finland, in Karelian and Finnish; for Hungarian in Slovenia, in Hungarian and Slovenian) are also in progress.

## Introducing our teams: Tartu (Estonian in Finland and Germany; Võro and Seto) and Oulu (the “Polar Cap” case studies)

In our previous newsletters, we have introduced the Law Team led by Prof. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark (Mariehamn), the Coordination Team in Mainz, and the Vienna team which is responsible for project dissemination and the case study on Hungarian in Austria. The series continues with two further teams.



The ELDIA team of the University of Tartu, Estonia, is in charge of the case studies on Võro, Seto, and the Estonian migrant groups in Finland and Germany. Furthermore, the Tartu team has been responsible for the central coordination of the fieldwork (WP 4) and authored the manual for the writing of our case-specific reports (WP 6).



**Kadri Koreinik**, currently working at the University of Tartu and the Võro Institute, is a sociologist whose academic interests include the sociology of language and economy, linguistic ideologies and other factors affecting language maintenance or shift. She graduated from the university of Tartu (1996) and the CEU in Warsaw (1998) and defended her dissertation on language ideologies in Estonian public discourse in Tartu in 2011 (see ELDIA Newsletter 2/2011!). In the ELDIA project, Kadri Koreinik has authored the case studies on Võro and Seto, and participated in almost all phases of fieldwork, planning and reporting.



**Helle Metslang** is professor of contemporary Estonian at the University of Tartu. She defended her first PhD (Candidate of Philology in the Soviet system) thesis on the syntax of Estonian runic songs at the University of Tartu in 1978 and her second PhD thesis on the contrastive research of Estonian and Finnish at the University of Oulu in 1994. Her main research interests are Estonian morphosyntax from a contrastive and typological point of view and dynamics of language. She has also worked as visiting professor at the University of Helsinki and held courses in universities in Finland, Germany, Hungary, Austria, and Italy. In the ELDIA project, she has supervised the case studies on Estonian in Finland and Germany; as the leader of WP6, she has been the coordinator of the work on the case-specific reports.



**Karl Pajusalu** graduated from the University of Tartu in 1986 and defended his dissertation at the University of Turku, Finland, in 1997. The theme of his PhD thesis was variation in the Southern Estonian dialects and the effects of language contacts on it, and since then, the history, development and variation of the Southern Finnic language varieties has been in the focus of his research interests. He is professor for the dialects and history of the Estonian language at the University of Tartu (since 2000), but has also worked as a visiting professor at the University of Helsinki. In the ELDIA project, he has supervised the case studies on Võro and Seto; as the leader of WP 4, he has been the coordinator of our fieldwork.



**Kristiina Praakli** defended her PhD at the University of Tartu 2009 (her employer since 2006), but she has also studied at other universities (Tampere, Helsinki, Mainz, Genova). She is a sociolinguist interested in various questions related with multilingualism and migration; together with Jüri Viikberg, she has recently (2010) published a book on Estonians and the Estonian language around the world. Her main task in ELDIA has been to author the case-specific reports on Estonian migrants in Finland and Germany. She has also participated in planning and reporting, translated newsletters and other texts into Estonian and maintained contacts with Estonian-language media.

An important contribution to the case studies on Estonians in Germany and Finland was given by **Sarah Bast** (assistance in the context analysis of Estonians in Germany) and **Tiina Hakman** (all individual and most of the focus interviews in Finland). In Tartu, **Andriela Rääbis** (researcher at the University of Tartu) and the students **Helen Türk**, **Helena Teemets** and **Laivi Laanemets** helped with the transcription of interviews.

The case studies for Võro and Seto were also assisted by **Sulev Iva (Jüvä Sullõv)** and, above all, **Triinu Ojar**, who conducted all individual and group interviews for Võro. Many people helped with the transcription of interviews: students **Valev Laube**, **Monika Eichenbaum** and **Liisa Koreinik** as well as **Nele Reimann-Truija** from the Võro Instituut and PhD student **Liina Tammekänd**. **Helena Kesonen** assisted in the manual entry of data. The questionnaire study was conducted by **Lilian Freiberg**, **Kaile Kabun**, **Ene Laube**, **Talvi Onno**, **Maike-Liis Rebane**, **Nele Reimann-Truija**, **Õie Sarv** and **Aino Suurmann**. The Tartu team thanks everybody for their great contribution.

The ELDIA team of the University of Oulu, Finland, is in charge of three case studies in the Far North: Meänkieli (aka Tornedal Finnish) in Sweden, Kven and Northern Sámi in Norway.

**Laura Arola** is currently finishing her PhD thesis on multilingualism among high school students in the Meänkieli- and Sámi-speaking areas in Northern Sweden. In ELDIA, she has been in charge of the Meänkieli case study, conducting the analysis of the minority-language questionnaire data and supervising the other parts of the study – due to her maternity leave during the project, the Meänkieli case study has been a truly collective effort.



**Elina Kangas** has participated in the case study on Meänkieli in Sweden as fieldworker and research assistant. (As a native of Pello, which lies in the same language area on the Finnish side of the Torne river, she is actually a native speaker of a language variety which is historically identical with Meänkieli.) Alongside her ELDIA work, she has recently graduated from the University of Oulu. Her MA thesis about young adult Meänkieli speakers' attitudes towards their language was based on the ELDIA fieldwork material.



**Niina Kunnas**, currently lecturer at the Department of Finnish of the University of Oulu, defended her PhD thesis on variation in White Sea Karelian in 2007. In the ELDIA project, she has participated in many case studies, co-authoring the context analysis reports for Kven and Meänkieli and the research report on Karelian minority media in Finland. In her current research work she is investigating Northern minority languages from a socio- and folk-linguistic angle.



**Marko Marjomaa** has an MA in Sámi language and culture from the University of Oulu, and he is currently writing his PhD thesis in the *Giellagas* Institute (the Sámi Studies institute at the University of Oulu). The thesis, dealing with the North Sámi language in Norway, is closely connected to his ELDIA work – he has been in charge of the case study on North Sámi in Norway, coordinating the survey and interviews, transcribing interviews, conducting data analysis and authoring the case-specific report. Together with Anna-Kaisa Räisänen, he has coordinated the empirical research with the Norwegian majority control group in Norway.

**Minna Pelkonen** (BA), a student of English at the University of Oulu, has worked as an assistant to the ELDIA team of Oulu. Her most important tasks have included the data analyses for the control groups in Sweden and Norway, and she has also assisted in the Meänkieli case study.



**Anna-Kaisa Räisänen** graduated from the University of Oulu in 2006. In her MA thesis, she examined the linguistic identity of Kvens, and in her dissertation project she has studied linguistic perception in Kven communities. She joined the ELDIA team of Oulu in November 2010 and has since then carried the main responsibility for the case study on Kven in Norway.



**Helena Sulkala** is professor of Finnish at the University of Oulu and leader of the Oulu team. During her long career, she has published extensively on the teaching of Finnish as a foreign language (outside Finland, she is probably best known as the co-author of perhaps the most up-to-date English-language grammar of Finnish) and the minor Finnic languages. Before ELDIA, she participated in a large international research project dealing with the minority languages of the Barents Sea Region.

The Oulu team would like to express their gratitude to all respondents, interviewees and other persons who have helped in the ELDIA case studies of the Far North. Special thanks are due to **Ellen Oddveig Hætta** (for help



in organising and conducting the North Sámi interviews), **Sierge Rasmus** (transcribing North Sámi interviews), **Anu Alanko** (manual data entry), **Riikka Kolehmainen** (scanning of the questionnaires).

## ELDIA events

### ***Open conference in Mariehamn, September 26-27***

On 26-27 September, the Åland Islands Peace Institute, one of the ELDIA consortium partners and “home” to the ELDIA law team, organised its open conference *Changing Linguistic Landscapes* in Mariehamn, the capital of the autonomous province of Åland. The aim of the conference was to present the results and principles of ELDIA but also to encourage discussion with other researchers working on related questions. In addition to the keynote speakers, Prof. Fernand de Varennes (Moncton / Hong Kong), Dr. Reetta Toivanen (Helsinki), and Prof. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark (Mariehamn), 16 researchers – part of them representing ELDIA – gave talks on a wide range of questions pertaining to multilingualism and language policy. More information about the conference and its programme can be found in the news archive of the Åland Islands Peace Institute: <http://www.peace.ax/en/news-archive/>.



**Reetta Toivanen giving a keynote speech at the conference in the Alandica culture centre in Mariehamn.**

During the autumn and winter 2012–13, dissemination events have been and will be organised for all ELDIA case studies:

### ***Regional conference in Vienna, September 25***

The series of ELDIA dissemination events started with the Central European regional conference hosted by the University of Vienna and presenting the case studies from Austria (Hungarian in Austria, presented by Johanna Laakso and Hajnalka Berényi-Kiss), Slovenia (Hungarian in Slovenia, by Anna Kolláth and Annamária Gróf) and Germany (Estonian in Germany, presented by Kristiina Praakli).



**Happy and relieved after a successful dissemination event in the Aula: (from the left) Annamária Gróf, Anna Kolláth, Anneli Sarhimaa, Johanna Laakso (wearing the new ELDIA t-shirt), Kristiina Praakli and Hajnalka Berényi-Kiss.**

Among the audience in the *Aula* of the University Campus in Vienna, there were both stakeholders and researchers, and also representatives of media. An article by Mascha Dabić can be read on the website of the newspaper *Der Standard* – actually, on its special issues site *DaStandard* which focuses on migrants in Austria: <http://dastandard.at/1348284040573/Still-und-unsichtbar> .

### ***Focus on ELDIA: the yearly conference of the Võro Institute, October 25-27***

Together with the Võro Institute, the ELDIA team of the University of Tartu organised a conference in Võru/Võro, in the southeastern corner of Estonia on October 25–27. The conference also belonged to the long chain of the yearly Finnic conferences organised by the Võro Institute. This year's conference focused on ELDIA – Johanna Laakso gave a talk about the background and results of ELDIA, Marianne Meiorgh from the law team, Kadri Koreinik (Võro and Seto case studies) and Kristiina Praakli (Estonian in Germany and Finland) presented their studies. In addition to this, the programme included talks and poster presentations on other minor Finnic languages – for instance, Karelian, Votic, and Meänkieli.

The Estonian national broadcasting company made interviews with Kadri Koreinik and Johanna Laakso for the daily news broadcast *Aktuaalne Kaamera* on October 26. (The news broadcast can be viewed online at <http://uudised.err.ee/index.php?0534940&play&id=51542>; the interviews start at ca. 24".)





**While the first snow was falling outside, Helle Metslang officially opened the conference in the cultural centre *Kannel* in Võru.**

***The case studies of the Far North: ELDIA seminar in Oulu, 12 November***

The three Northern case studies of ELDIA – Meänkieli in Sweden, Kven and North Sámi in Norway – were presented in a dissemination seminar at the University of Oulu, by ELDIA researchers Marko Marjomaa, Anna-Kaisa Räisänen, Laura Arola and Elina Kangas. In addition to these presentations, the programme included guest lectures by Professor Leena Huss (Uppsala), with the title *Defining Success and Failure in Language Revitalisation*, and Professor Anna-Riitta Lindgren (Tromsø) on *Generations of Urban Sámis in Helsinki and Use of Sámi Language*.

In the Far North distances are long and the geographic areas of the languages are very large. For those numerous stakeholders and other interested people who didn't make it to Oulu in the already fairly wintery conditions, the talks were also live-streamed online.



**Facing the audience in Oulu: Marko Marjomaa, Anna-Kaisa Räisänen and Laura Arola**

### **ELDIA seminar in Helsinki, 30 November**

The case studies on Karelian and Estonian in Finland were presented in Helsinki, in the lecture hall of the Institute of the Languages of Finland (KOTUS). The programme included, of course, presentations of the case studies by their authors (Anneli Sarhimaa and Kristiina Praakli, respectively), and other ELDIA researchers: Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark talked about the law analysis for Finland, while Reetta Toivanen presented the results of the media analyses, together with Niina Kunnas, author of the media analysis for Karelian in Finland. There were also two panel discussions with representatives of Karelian and Estonian speaker communities in Finland. Tarja Halonen, the ex-President of the Republic of Finland, and Anna-Maja Henriksson, Minister of Justice, sent their greetings to this truly multilingual event. (In addition to Finnish, Estonian, English and Swedish, three varieties of Karelian were used in the discussions and presentations.)



**Discussion with Karelian language activists. From the right:**  
**Pirkko Nuolijärvi (Director of KOTUS, moderator), Archbishop Leo of the Orthodox church of Finland, Aila-Liisa Laurila, Juha Kuikka, Anneli Lujanen, and Kai Paajaste.**

### **Closing Conference in June 2013**

ELDIA is approaching its end, and the time has come to organise an open conference in which our final results are presented and scholars working on related themes are invited to participate in the discussion. The conference, entitled ***Maintaining Languages, Developing Multilingualism*** will take place at the campus of the University of Vienna on June 10-11, 2013.

In this conference, we want to tackle especially the discrepancies and paradoxes arising in today's Europe, where on the one hand multilingualism is generally accepted, supported and even declared as the official goal of language policy, on the other hand policies and practices may still enforce monolingualism, language loss and linguistic discrimination. How do we address the concerns which even speakers of major European nation-state languages may feel when facing the challenge of immigrant languages and global English, and how can an increasing number of minority and migrant languages be supported in the context of increasing diversity? How can individual languages be maintained and revitalised while at the same time affirming individual and societal multilingualism?

We invite papers from all relevant fields – in particular, sociolinguistics and applied linguistics – addressing the questions of supporting the maintenance of languages in multilingual settings. Empirical case studies on individual languages or individual aspects of language maintenance (for instance, language acquisition in families, education and school, attitudes of/towards speakers, legislation and language policy...) are welcome, as well as more general or theoretical approaches.

Abstracts (in English, max. 300 words) are expected by January 31, 2013 to the address [info.eldia@univie.ac.at](mailto:info.eldia@univie.ac.at). The complete conference call can be found on our website: [www.eldia-project.org](http://www.eldia-project.org) > CLOSING CONFERENCE. Please spread the word!

## More ELDIA news in brief

A dissemination event for the case studies in Russian Karelia (Karelian and Vepsian in Russia) will take place in **Petrozavodsk** on either 15th or 16th of January 2013. (More information will appear on our website.)

During the autumn of 2012, two young ELDIA researchers have graduated: **Elina Kangas** from the University of Oulu (see above), and **Hajnalka Berényi-Kiss** from the University of Vienna (the theme of her MA thesis: Teachers' discourse on linguistic diversity in the EFL classroom). **Annamária Gróf** (Maribor) defended her PhD thesis, in the field of pragmatics, at the ELTE university (Budapest).

In addition to our own dissemination events described above, the ELDIA project and/or its case studies have been presented at various conferences:

- **Anna Kolláth** (Maribor) has presented the work of ELDIA and the Maribor team at conferences hosted by the TERMINI researchers' network in Budapest (November 5-6) and the Imre Samu Language Institute in Alsóőr/Unterwart, Austria (November 17).
- **Johanna Laakso** (Vienna) gave a talk about ELDIA at the yearly conference of UKAN (the organ coordinating the teaching of Finnish studies abroad) in Helsinki in August.
- **Hajnalka Berényi-Kiss** (Vienna) presented the case study of the Viennese team at the *Conference on Minority Representation and Minority Language Rights* hosted by the Sapientia university in Kolozsvár/Cluj, Romania, October 11-14. An article based on her presentation (in Hungarian) has appeared in the Romanian journal *Transindex*: <http://vilag.transindex.ro/?cikk=19034>.

The Maribor team will participate at the 23rd Hungarian Applied Linguistics Conference (MANYEXXIII) in Budapest in March 2013, and other ELDIA-related conference presentations are also underway...

More information will appear on our website. 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](mailto:eldia-project@uni-mainz.de)) or the local team nearest to you (see [www.eldia-project.org](http://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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