

Development launch for an inclusive socio-linguistic and cultural inclusive practices model
European Integration Find 2011/12



Over the last decade the number of foreigners in Bolzano province has more than doubled.

The foreign population's educational level is not, however, reflected in its employment profile and the explanation for this is primarily limited language skills.

For this reason there is great demand amongst migrants for language courses (Italian and German): in fact knowledge of the

languages spoken in the province, together with adequate professional training and specialisation, are key requisites for access to the job market and for the ability to exert citizenship rights and duties and thus integrate.

For this reason the new project co-funded by the European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals and the Interior Ministry Development entitled Launch of an Inclusive Socio-linguistic and Cultural Inclusive Practices Model which began this autumn is intended to satisfy immigrants' language and civic education demands by offering Italian and German language and literacy courses.

The education requirement identified involves 37 Italian language (levels A1 and A2), 8 German language (levels A1 and A2) and 5 literacy courses for adults. The objective of the courses is to develop all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) via educational methods which prioritise a communication approach. The language learning programme will be accompanied by socio-pedagogical type initiatives designed to foster and facilitate immigrants' access to the local framework, enabling them to immerse themselves in an authentic local life context. The Museion contemporary art museum will be contributing to the project, with specific moments of language learning via art, fostering access to places of culture and contacts with local people (4-hour language workshops). To satisfy a need which emerged in earlier courses a baby sitting service will be offered to enable parents with underage children to attend.

The project also includes two pilot schemes:

one relating to **language education for mothers of infant and/or primary school children** for the purposes of offering them minimum support skills with which to accompany their children through school and also improve their understanding of organisational and administrative school practices. The school chosen for this is **Istituto Comprensivo della Bassa Atesina**. The language agency organises and holding the course is: CLS Bolzano .

The second initiative relates to an **Italian course (level A2) with a blended learning option** for those with minimal IT skills, an adequate educational background and a capacity for independent study who are unable to attend standard courses for reasons of distance, work, hours, etc. Students will in any case attend a minimum of 20 hours and independent online phases with tutor assistance. The agency organising and holding the course is: Learning Center Bolzano.

A further objective of the course is offering **teaching staff adequate professional training and refresher courses** regarding the plurilingualism and trans-national phenomena, an indispensable requisite for professional work with this specific target. Five theoretical-practical meetings are planned, each lasting 8 hours (three for teachers of L2 Italian and two for teachers of L2 German): each meeting involves a theoretical presentation, a discussion and a practical work part (practical work: observation, analysis and materials construction).

Lastly expert staff will carry out a **quality assessment** of the language education by agencies in the form of inspection and observation visits to classrooms. Feedback will thus be supplied to the administration and those assessed and strengths and weaknesses evaluated for service improvement purposes.