Broadening access to EdTech solutions for the learning of German

LANGUAGE EXPERTS GROUP

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English version

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Background

The Language Experts Group is a continuation of the online discussion which was started by **Die Beauftragten der Bundesregierung für Migration, Flüchtlinge und Integration** (The Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration) entitled: **Fachgespräch: Gute digitale Deutschlern-Angebote für alle** (Expert discussion: Good digital German learning opportunities for all).

The very first online consultation's topic revolved around how best to incentivise and broaden access to EdTech solutions for the learning of German for immigrants.

How can EdTech help newcomers to Germany?

This created the foundations for the topics and the themes that have emerged during the Language Experts Group monthly meetings.

During the meetings, experts based across Europe from the fields of immigration, language learning, education and EdTech join together, as an alliance of minds. They share their experiences, best practice and observations of the linguistic educational needs of people who come to Germany to live and work.

Members of the Language Experts Group

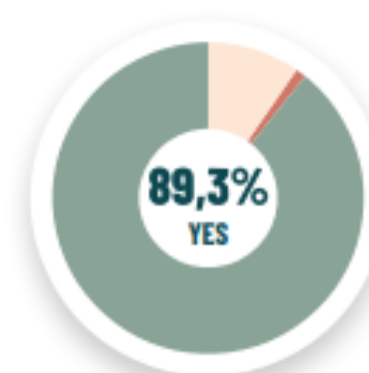

Five main themes emerging from the Group:

1. Understanding the effects of multiculturalism in Germany upon effective German language teaching and learning.

2. How best to use COVID-19 lockdown-learning research studies to broaden access to methods for learning German language.

3. Ways to reach and address people who are not in formal-learning, nor who are digitally literate.

4. Examining the language learning journey of immigrant nurses to draw out best practice.

5. Possibility of conducting a nationwide assessment of German language competence levels to help us identify the gaps, and then design a strategy to fill those gaps.

Some of the initial deliverables include:

- Cambridge University have offered to conduct a nation-wide assessment of German language competence levels to provide a benchmark for further analysis. They are keen to share their academic expertise in the field.

- Lingoda together with input from the Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration are conducting a survey of circa 1,000 migrant nurses learning German, who are either coming to Germany, or who are already in Germany.
The survey's findings are due to be shared soon.

- The Language Experts Group have invited Prof. Ingrid Gogolin (University of Hamburg) and Dr. Björn Haßler (University of Johannesburg & EdTechHub) to discuss their experiences in the context of the emerging themes.

Lingoda have shared their research on the lasting impact of the pandemic on language learning:

Nearly 90% of survey respondents said they will keep up their efforts beyond the end of the health crisis and only 1% said they would stop. The remaining 9.6 % hadn't decided yet.

89,3%
YES

9,6% INDECISIVE

1,1% NO

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