



REPORT FORM FOR NETWORK ACTIVITIES

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Confidential

1. Lead Applicant

Surname	McCabe		
Forename	Kristiina		
Title (Dr, Professor, etc)	Ms		
Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Address for correspondence

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Present appointment and employing institution

Teaching Fellow of Estonian

Role in activity

Contributor

2. Activity details

Type and title of activity

Language Project: Reading Strategies for Postgraduates: the Finno-Ugric Interface
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Location

UCL SSEES Language Unit 16 Taviton Street LONDON WC1H 0BW
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Date

From: 02/06/2008	To: 01/08/2008
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Brief Description of activities carried out (please include or attach a confirmed list of participants)

<p>The participants of the project are Daniel Abondolo (SSEES, Senior Lecturer in Hungarian, Principal Co-ordinator) and Kristiina McCabe (SSEES, Teaching Fellow in Estonian).</p> <p>The Estonian component of the funded language project explored the particular morphological difficulties experienced by postgraduate learners of this agglutinative-inflected language. The primary aim of the project was to identify key-areas of grammar that account for these difficulties of morphologically complex languages, which are offered within the CEELBAS network and to address these problems by text-based grammar exercises. The outcome of the project is electronically available on MOODLE.</p>
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3. Achievement of stated aims and objectives

Please summarise how the stated aims and objectives of the activities proposed have been achieved and how these have helped to further the aims and objectives of CEELBAS.

The main aim of this project was to deliver and disseminate a programme of advanced language training and to integrate language learning skills development with a scope for development in East European Studies. Accordingly, the texts included are relevant to the CEELBAS research themes and, therefore, can assist students in familiarising themselves with the genre of text and with techniques for building vocabulary relevant to their key research area.

The language project explores the morphological features of the structure of Estonian, thus paving the way for modes of delivery that are more attuned to the purpose in teaching it. *Ergo*, the project addresses the following three key-areas of grammar and lexicon: 1. the morphology of nouns; 2. the morphology of syntax; 3. word structure and the use of dictionaries.

UCL SSEES's expertise in teaching Estonian for research purposes at postgraduate level is unique in the UK. The project has contributed to innovation in teaching methods while providing an example of pioneering practice in material development towards greater proficiency in languages for research.

4. Outcomes

Please indicate the outcomes and 'value for money' of activities carried out.

The principal feature of this project is the electronic interface (MOODLE) that enables the student to test their knowledge on a number of morphological functions. This particular assessment method accelerates and simplifies the learning process in that it does not require the presence of a tutor to rectify the student's errors, but corrects and displays individual marks as per question as well as the total score automatically. The substratum of the interface allows the students to have two erroneous inputs before giving him/her a mark.

An added benefit is the utilization of the same text, which deepens the student's understanding of the Estonian syntax as it progresses from simple case endings (suffixes) to more morphologically complex cases (genitive, partitive, and forms thereof), which syntactic functions may vary subject to the meaning of the sentence. Thus, due to the duplication of the text across the exercises, an explicit and detailed syntactic pattern is built that solidifies the student's understanding of the Estonian sentence structure.

5. Breakdown of total costs for workshops (please attach evidence of expenditure)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Key speakers (Travel, accommodation and subsistence)	
Postgraduate participation	
Room/equipment hire	
Administration costs	
Printing and publicity (including conference packs)	
Other (please specify	
Total expenditure	
Total contribution invoiced to CEELBAS	

6. Breakdown of total costs for projects (please attach evidence of expenditure)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Staff costs	1,551.56
Equipment/technical costs	
Administration costs	
Other (please specify	
Total expenditure	£1,551.56
Total contribution invoiced to CEELBAS	£1,787.31

7. Dissemination and further research

Please give details of dissemination of the outcomes of the workshop/project and any further research planned.

During the academic year 2008 the Teaching Fellow contributing to the project has used the readers in MA language classes in a hard copy format. After this initial testing period the exercises and texts were revised and improved during the third term (2009-2010) subject to further funding. The long-term aim of the proposed project is to update the texts bi-annually (*ditto* subject to funding) and write exercises for each new text, in order to produce a reader in HEF which is infinitely expandable and which can eventually serve as a database of discrete texts in disciplinary grouping for students studying the disciplines that inform research in the CEELBAS network.

8. Signature and date

Applicant's signature Kristiina McCabe
Date: 18.12.2009

Institutional authorisation (if required)
Position:
Date:

Institutional CEELBAS Network Primary Contact
Date:

This form must be accompanied by an invoice from the applicant's institution, supported by receipts or other evidence of the expenditure incurred.

Please send the completed form to: CEELBAS Administrator, SSEES, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT and by email to: ceelbas-network@ssees.ucl.ac.uk.

**CEELBAS is a consortium of UCL,
University of Oxford and University of Birmingham**



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