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IndyLan Newsletter – January 2020

Welcome to the first newsletter of our Erasmus+ project [Mobile Virtual Learning for Indigenous Languages \(IndyLan\)](#). The 26-month project (2019-2021) is led by [Heriot-Watt University](#) and the Coordinator is [Dr Katerina Strani](#) from the [Department of Languages and Intercultural Studies](#).

[IndyLan](#) includes 5 partners from 4 countries (UK, Finland, Norway and Spain) and aims to develop a mobile application which will help to learn the languages and cultures associated with the following indigenous languages: **Gaelic, Scots, Cornish, Basque, Galician** and **Saami**. The project will develop an educational tool designed specifically for users to learn not only some of Europe's endangered languages but also more about the cultures of the people who speak these languages.

The partners are:

- [Heriot-Watt University](#), UK
- [Cornwall Council](#), UK
- [Saami Council Headquarters](#), Norway
- [Learnmera Oy](#), Finland
- [Asociación Moviéndote por la Integración y la Participación Ciudadana](#), Spain

The [IndyLan](#) application will help speakers of English, Spanish, Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish to learn **Gaelic, Scots, Cornish, Basque, Galician** and **Saami**, [all endangered at different degrees](#).

The tool constitutes a gamified language-learning solution in the form of a mobile application. Smartphones have become a popular educational tool and the number of the smartphone and tablet users of all ages is constantly growing in the EU. The application is building on a previous project, [Moving Languages](#), with the key difference that [IndyLan](#) will produce one application for all languages, and not multiple language-specific applications as Moving Languages did. [IndyLan](#) will contain around 4,000 vocabulary items (both terms and expressions) in about 100 categories. The modes that will be available in the application are: Vocabulary; Phrases; Dialogues; Grammar; Culture; Test.



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The app will be launched at the **Final Dissemination Conference in Cornwall in September 2021**. It will be available for download globally for free in both iOS and Android. Like all language-learning apps, [IndyLan](#) is complementary to other language- and culture courses and can be considered to be part of self-study material.

Our vision is for the [IndyLan](#) app to contribute to endangered language learning and revitalisation so that these languages remain alive and relevant in contemporary societies and economies.

News and updates

Our kick-off meeting took place in [Edinburgh](#) on 07-08 October 2019.





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Partners met at [Heriot-Watt University](#)'s Riccarton campus and discussed the project's timeline, milestones and deadlines. They agreed on the project logo and on the design of the website. Each partner gave an overview of their contribution. The project evaluation procedures were also finalised, and the procedure of appointing an external evaluator was agreed upon. The external evaluator for the project will be [Dr Philip McDermott, Senior Lecturer, School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences, University of Ulster](#). The full agenda of the meeting can be found [here](#).



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(L-R) – Áile Jávo (Saami Council), Mark Trevethan (Cornwall Council), Katerina Strani (HWU), Veronica Gelfgren (Learnmera Oy), Naroa Bengoetxea (Asociación Moviéndote)

The first Intellectual Output is a short needs analysis, which will be published in early February. The 2nd Intellectual Output will be the application itself, which will be ready in beta version by April 2021. The 3rd Intellectual Output will be the pilot testing of the app which will be carried out by remote users as well as participants in our multiplier events in all partner countries in the summer of 2021. The app will be launched at the Final Dissemination Conference in Cornwall in September 2021. It will be available for download globally for free in both iOS and Android.



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Choosing a project logo



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Discussing the budget



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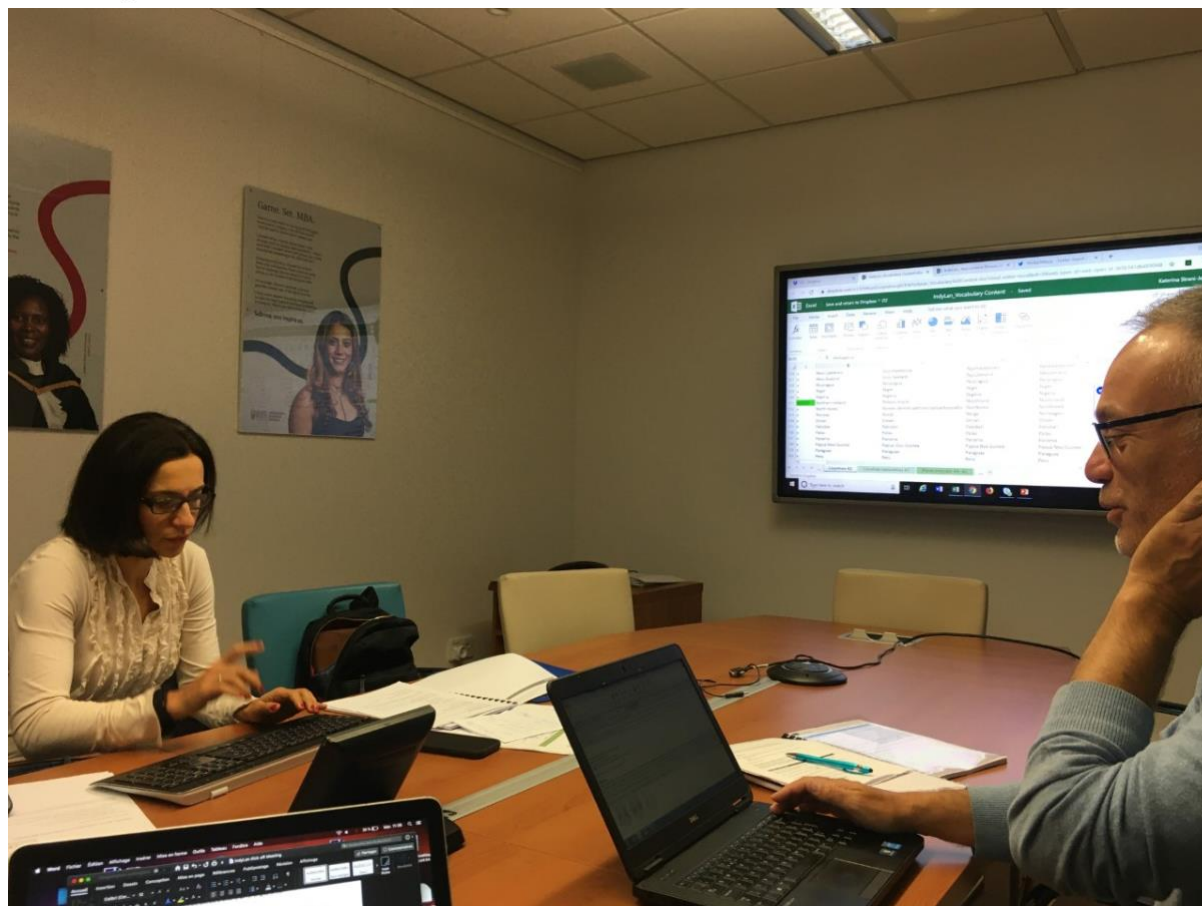


It's been a long but very productive day!



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Discussing the vocabulary and going through more than 4,000 terms!



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Finished! Now time for the partner dinner.

(L-R): Katerina Strani (HWU), Veronica Gelfren (Learnmera Oy), Mark Trevethan (Cornwall Council), Naroa Bengoetxea (Asociación Moviéndote), Áile Jávo (Saami Council)



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The [IndyLan](#) project partners with our [Intercultural Research Centre](#) Directors Ullrich Kockel and Máiréad Nic Craith

Our project website will soon be available, so stay tuned!



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**Next project meeting:
10-11 June 2020**

Karasjok, (Sápmi) Norway
Hosted by the Saami Council Headquarters



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Like us on **Facebook**: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectIndyLan>

For any questions or comments, please contact the project coordinator:

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