

Annual Report

Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning

2014



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1 INTRODUCTION

In this annual report on the year 2014, the Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning is looking back on its activities and will present its ambitions for the future. From its origin in 1987, when Mercator was initiated by de European Commission, the focus of Mercator was to be found in documentation and information of Regional and Minority Languages (RML) in the European Union. Nowadays, the Mercator Research Centre is more oriented to research with a clear focus on multilingualism and language learning specially linked to Regional and Minority Languages in Europe and beyond. Mercator has an open eye for other developments in the field of multilingualism, such as sign languages and immigrant languages. The interest in the diversity of languages in Europe is expressed first of all in Mercator's assessment of indigenous, regional and minority languages. Second, in language teaching in formal and informal settings and third, in a growing need for reliable data and comparative research. Mercator serves as a platform in Europe, it brings people together to share knowledge, exchange experiences and good practices and it connects scientists with practitioners, politicians and policy makers. All together these functions are of major importance for the Mercator Research Centre to fulfil its mission, received by the local authorities with flair: "bring Fryslân to Europe and Europe to Fryslân".

The activities of the Mercator Research Centre have the following four components:

1. Knowledge Acquisition and Inventory: Mercator focuses on existing research on multilingualism in the Netherlands and collaborating institutes in Europe. It collects and stores findings, policies and practices in the domain of regional and minority languages and multilingual education, both on paper and digitally.
2. Knowledge Transfer and Dissemination: Mercator transfers knowledge in various ways.
3. Knowledge Use and Application: The expertise of Mercator is applied by professionals in the multilingual practice in pre-school development, in innovations in language education, in pedagogical concepts in multilingual teaching and language acquisition and in overall language policy and planning. Mercator also advises in issues of multilingual education with respect to schools, trainer-institutes and school boards and to local and regional government agencies.
4. Knowledge Creation / Scientific Research in a theoretical (theory construction and testing) and empirical (data gathering) sense. The above-mentioned expertise of Mercator will result in conducting scientific research at its own institute and in collaboration with universities and other academic research centres. This research will be carried out with standard scientific methods and techniques such as surveys, experiments, and case studies and will be used as a tool for knowledge acquisition, knowledge application and knowledge circulation as well as other related knowledge activities.

1.1 Brief history

In 2007 funding obtained from both the Province of Fryslân and the municipality of Ljouwert/Leeuwarden gave the Mercator Research Centre a firm financial basis. The Mercator Research Centre also signed a research contract with the Basque Autonomous Community (November 2007) for the period till 2012 and later on for the period 2012 – 2015. The centre obtained new EU-funding for a Mercator Network project called LEARNMe (2013-2015) and in 2014 (2014-2016) for the LangOER project (more information on projects can be found below).

Thanks to this financial security the Mercator Research Centre was able to expand and realise its ambitious goals. For example by participating in various EU-funded projects and networks, as well as acquiring research projects from other sources.

1.2 General description

The Mercator Research Centre is part of the Fryske Akademy and is based in Ljouwert/Leeuwarden. The Fryske Akademy is a multidisciplinary institute whose main task is to conduct fundamental and applied scientific research in the areas of the Frisian language, its culture, its history and society. The main expertise of the Fryske Akademy concerns fields of social sustainability, education, language sociology, language systems in multilingual societies, and regional culture and identity in a comparative perspective. On these fields the Akademy delivers high qualitative and innovative achievements with a clear social relevance.

The Mercator Research Centre aims at the acquisition and creation, dissemination and application of knowledge on various aspects of language vitality and multilingualism in a wide context. Therefore the Mercator Research Centre:

- gathers and mobilises expertise in the field of language learning at school, at home and through cultural participation in favour of linguistic diversity of Europe;
- is an independent and recognised reference centre for policy makers and professional workers in the field of multilingual education and language learning;
- addresses the growing interest in multilingualism and the increasing need of language communities to exchange experiences and to cooperate in a European context. The starting point of research lies in the field of regional and minority languages. Yet, immigrant languages and smaller state languages are also topic of study.

The Mercator Research Centre focuses on research, policy and practice in the field of multilingualism and language learning. Its activities can be divided in research, documentation services, applying results of research,

(international) events and (joint) projects. Documentation services are a continuation of services such as the library, a database of experts and organisations and the answering of incoming questions. Research projects are usually externally funded. They are a good way for the Mercator Research Centre to further improve its reputation in the field.

1.3 Current state and ambitions

Since 2007 Mercator / Fryske Akademy and the Basque ministry for Education and Research work together. The agreement for co-operation has been extended for another 4 years (2012 – 2015). The new project is aiming at research and the organisation of international expert seminars. Its research aimed at the multilingual classroom in the society of the Basque Country as well as in Fryslân. In 2013 the focus of research shifted towards “ethno cultural dimension of school curricula in primary and secondary education”. Eventhough there was an agreement intention until 2018, sadly enough the Basque government had to cancel the co-operation in October 2014 due to the financial crisis (see also attachment V).

Through the years the Mercator Research Centre achieved an increasing reputation as a reliable project partner in the field of multilingualism in Europe. This results in an increasing amount of special requests for expertise, conference (key) presentations and to become partner in projects, etc. The high profile of the Mercator Research Centre’s activities and the good reputation it gained in Europe and beyond also has a positive side effect for the Province of Fryslân and the municipality of Ljouwert/Leeuwarden.

As the research centre on multilingualism in the city of Ljouwert/Leeuwarden the Mercator Research Centre strengthens the position of the city and its universities for applied sciences as the future hotspot of new knowledge and technologies within the University Campus Fryslân (UCF). In particular, the Mercator Research Centre is improving the expertise of all professionals with regard to language learning and linguistic diversity.

For the Province of Fryslân and the municipality of Leeuwarden, the Mercator Research Centre is a window to Europe. In that sense it is not only acting as an ambassador for Fryslân in Europe, but also providing Frisian partners with the inspiration of best practice examples in the field of multilingualism from across Europe.

More about the ambitions of the Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning can be found in Appendix I.

In 2014 the Mercator Research Centre hosted several (inter)national conferences. The staff members have also been active participants and presented their work at numerous events across Europe and even further.

Other activities of the Mercator Research Centre include its own Network of Schools and the publication of Regional Dossiers, which give detailed

descriptions of the actual language situation in multilingual regions in Europe, in particular with regard to education. Moreover, the Mercator Research Centre is an active member of the Civil Society Platform on Multilingualism, created by the European Commission in the end of 2009 and which mandate has been extended in 2012 by the EC. In October 2012 the provincial minister Mrs. Jannewietske de Vries has been elected as president of the NPLD (Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity, see also paragraph 3.2), a Europe wide network that receives co-EU funding. Hosting two of the main institutions/networks dealing with multilingualism and minority languages in Europe creates a strong position for Fryslân. Mercator and the NPLD complement each other in a constructive way. Background of the Mercator Research Centre lies in academic research and NPLD has a strong background in policy. The Mercator Research Centre maintains close and good relations with the NPLD and foresee also good and fruitful co-operation in the coming years.

1.4 Preview

The Fryske Akademy including Mercator wants to strategically further develop into a 'laboratory Fryslân' which will bring the Frisian case effectively out in the open for the regional, national and international scientific community. Four years ago the province of Fryslân started an initiative called the University Campus Fryslân (UCF) to endorse the academic/university, educational and research culture in Fryslân with one of the hotspots being "multilingualism". The UCF will consist of a research school and will offer a number of master degrees, in co-operation with universities. In 2013 a number of AIO's have been appointed in the research school. Mercator is involved in this development, which also includes a university research master on multilingualism.

This report will not provide an exhaustive list of all activities carried out, but will highlight the activities most noteworthy. In the coming paragraphs these activities will be described.

2. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

2.1 *Research projects*

Mercator has, amongst others, carried out the following (ongoing) research projects in 2014:

- FRY-EUS with the Basque Country
- More Languages, More Opportunities
- Language Vitality / Social media study
- LANGOER
- Mercator in Fryslân

In the next paragraphs these projects are presented.

2.1.1 *FRY-EUS*

The Fryske Akademy, through the Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning, carried out the project that has been designed as part of the activities for the second multi-annual contract. Mercator carries out the project, known as the FRY-EUS project. The acronym refers to the codes of the Frisian (FRY) and the Basque language (EUS), the minority languages of the regions of investigation. The dominant languages in these two regions are Dutch and Spanish respectively. The general objectives of the multi-annual research project are to analyse bilingualism and multilingualism as a resource for the individual and society and as a resource at school. In both the Basque Autonomous Country (BAC) and in Fryslân teachers play a key role in the context of learning languages inside the multilingual classroom where students have different language backgrounds and where the students are learning their home language, as well as a second and a third language.

In early 2014 the Fry-Eus project was put on hold. The Basque government was not able to sign the new agreement. The only activities within the framework of this project took place in Donostia and dealt with some data collection early 2014. After that a long period of negotiations and discussions during the year followed in the BAC until the final decision to stop the co-operation was sent to Mercator in October 2014 (also see attachment V).

Publications FRY-EUS 2014

- English language teaching in secondary education and the use of English outside school : a comparison of the Basque Country and Friesland : Research Report (2014)/ Eli Arocena and Jildou Popma – Leeuwarden : Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning / Fryske Akademy. – 62 p.

Expert seminar 2014

Since there was no new agreement for 2014 signed no new European Expert Seminar was organised. Through the years seven very successful and fruitful expert seminars were organised in co-operation with the Basque government.

2.1.2 More Languages, More Opportunities

'More Languages, More Opportunities: A Papiamentu – Dutch language development project' is a research and intervention project which started in 2009. Netherlands Antillean mothers in Leeuwarden and Rotterdam are encouraged to use both Papiamentu and Dutch in their daily lives. Moreover, language coaches who visit the families at home, offer guidelines on how to use both languages in a development enhancing way. Goals were: 1) to improve the (bilingual) language use of mother and child, 2) to stimulate the warm and linguistic interaction between mother and child, and 3) to improve the parental beliefs the mother has about her own influence in child language development. The materials used in the families were 12 specially developed bilingual books. Main character in the books was Tomke, a toddler who experiences all kinds of adventures. Also, hand puppets, games and a website were used. The materials were developed by the organisation promoting Frisian language, Afûk. After the completion of the intervention project in 2011, in 2012 and 2013 the research part received much more attention.

Final step

Nienke Boomstra defended her PhD thesis on the 3rd of March, 2014. With this promotion this project came to a beautiful and successful end.

Publication

- Read all about it! : parental beliefs, interaction trajectories and language use of Antillean families involved in "More Languages, More Opportunities" (2014) /Nienke Boomstra. - Leeuwarden : Afûk; Fryske Akademy, 2014. - 186 p. ; 23 cm. Isbn 9789062739745
Fryske Akademy nr. 1077 - Proefschrift 3 maart 2014.

2.1.3 Language Vitality / Social Media

In 2013 the project Language Vitality has started focusing on research about language use on social media. In May 2013 Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber was appointed for this project.

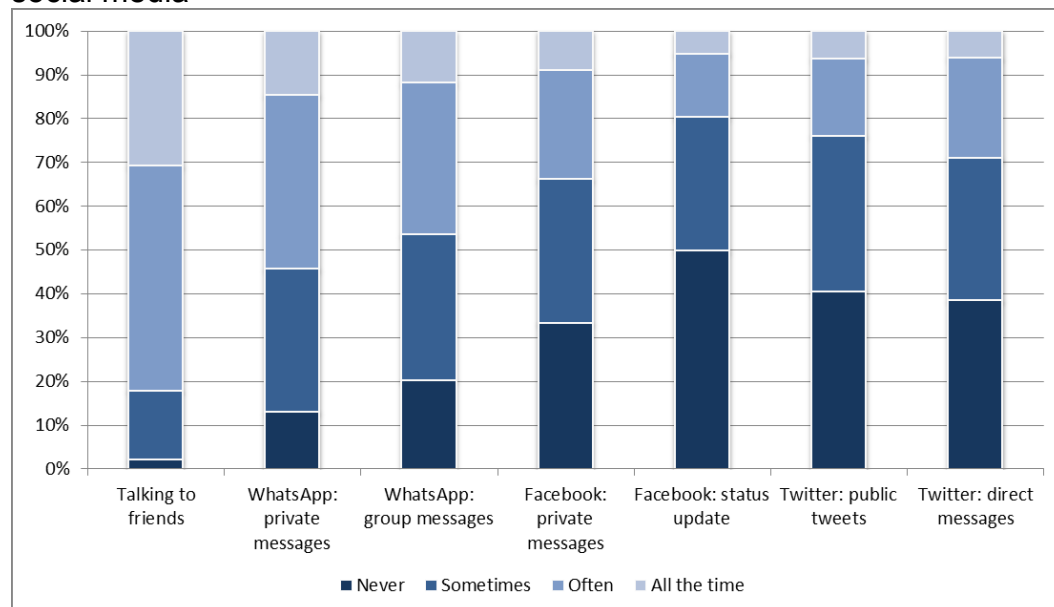
Results in 2014: extensive research among teenagers

From October 2013 until January 2014, we started an extensive research among Frisian teenagers by means of a questionnaire. Twenty-two schools for secondary general and vocational education participated in the research. As a result, over 2,267 Frisian teenagers between 14 and 18 years filled in an

extensive questionnaire. Almost all Frisian teenagers (98%) use social media. 95% of the teenagers use WhatsApp (a cross-platform mobile messaging app), 86% use Facebook and 76% use Twitter. Of the three, WhatsApp is used most: 47% chose the answer 'only when I am asleep, I do not check WhatsApp'.

In general it can be concluded that Frisian still is rather an oral than a written language. For Frisian teenagers the Dutch language is the dominant language used in writing. On average, the more formal the medium, the less often Frisian is used. For instance, for text messages and WhatsApp approximately half of the Frisian-speaking teenagers use Frisian. On Facebook and Twitter that proportion decreases to around 30%, and in emails it is 15%. In personal messages Frisian is used more than in public or group messages. In Figure 1 an overview is given of the use of Frisian by Frisian-speaking teenagers with friends and on social media.

Figure 1: The use of Frisian by Frisian-speaking teenagers with friends and on social media



Frisian is often written phonetically. Most teenagers are aware of that but do not mind: 'People will understand what I mean anyway.' Some think it is too much work to add all diacritics, others are not sure when to use them. Furthermore, the influence of Dutch is clearly visible in the teenagers' written language, and so is the use of dialect and abbreviations that are typical of social media. It also often happens that different languages are mixed intentionally.

In the province of Fryslân, big differences have been found regarding Frisian language use. In general, Frisian is hardly used in the big cities while it is much more common to use Frisian on social media in smaller towns and in the north-east of Fryslân.

The language one speaks with friends is the main factor influencing one's language choice on social media. Other factors affecting language choice are

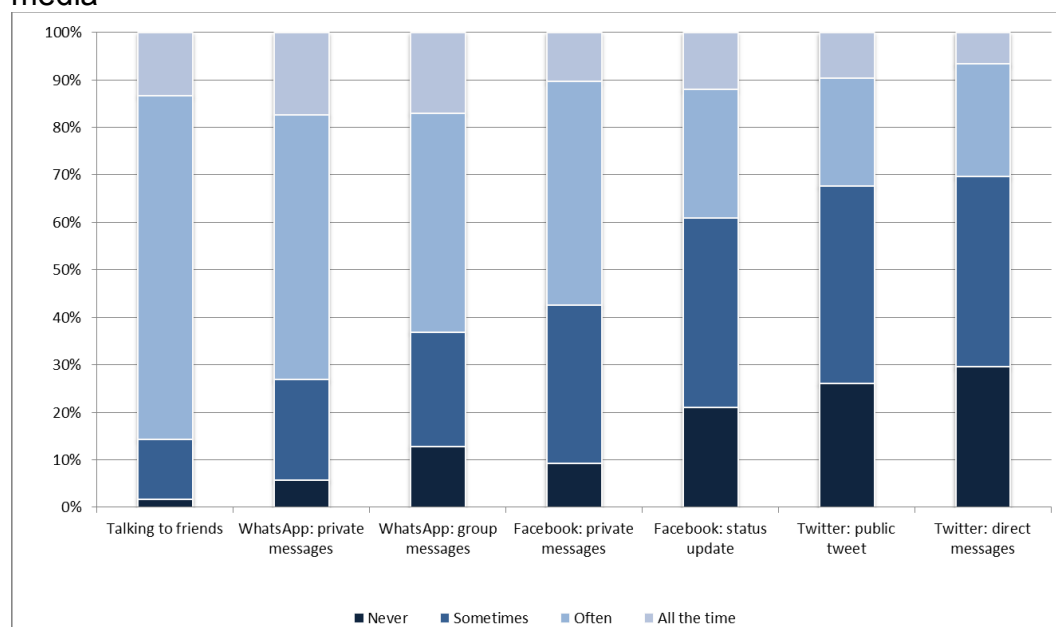
one's attitude towards Frisian, one's writing skills in Frisian, and the general attitude towards Frisian at one's school.

Approximately one fifth of the Frisian-speaking teenagers never uses Frisian on social media. The main reason is that they find it difficult to write Frisian, but it also has to do with their surroundings not being Frisian and their own attitude towards Frisian.

Results in 2014: extensive research among all generations

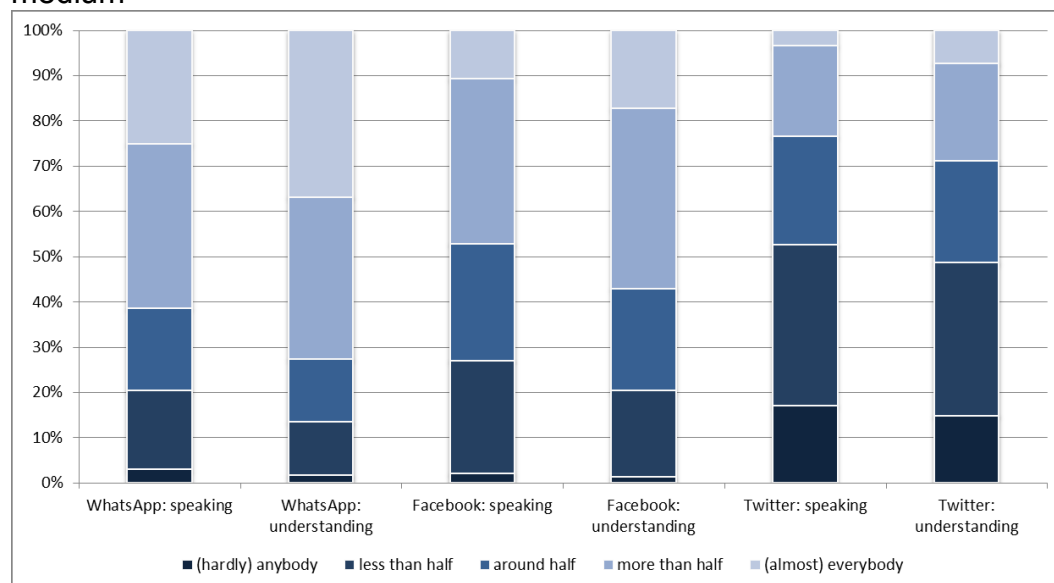
In the summer of 2014, we started a new research among all generations in Fryslân. Through social media and local newspapers, Frisians were asked to participate and fill in an online questionnaire. In total, over 1,200 Frisians between 15 and 94 completed the questionnaire. Please note that the proportion of Frisian-speakers is larger than in the total Frisian population and as a result, the research is not representative for the total Frisian population. In Figure 2, an overview is given of the use of Frisian with friends and on social media. Probably, on average, the total Frisian-speaking population will use Frisian less often than the results displayed in the table. Also, when considering all generations of Frisian-speakers, WhatsApp is the social medium where Frisian is used the most. Comparing the results with the Frisian-speaking teenagers, the most important difference is the use of Frisian in status updates on Facebook. While only one-fifth of the Frisian-speaking teenagers often or all the time use Frisian in status updates, in all generations this proportion is two-fifths.

Figure 2: The use of Frisian by Frisian-speakers with friends and on social media



When we consider the proficiency in Frisian of the contacts on social media (refer to Figure 3), we can conclude that on WhatsApp the proportion of contacts that speak and understand Frisian is largest and on Twitter this proportion is smallest. These proportions actually influence the choice for Frisian, as we can see later in the regression analysis.

Figure 3: Proportion of contacts that speaks / understands Frisian per social medium



A regression analysis explains 51% ($R^2=0.51$) of the use of Frisian on social media by the Frisian-speakers between 15 and 94. The main factors are:

- Language spoken with friends ($\beta=0.27$)
- Writing skills ($\beta=0.24$)
- Proportion of contacts on WhatsApp that speaks Frisian ($\beta=0.22$)
- Attitude towards Frisian ($\beta=0.17$)
- Frisian language settings on Facebook ($\beta=0.11$)
- Offline language switching practices ($\beta=0.11$).

Presentations and other public outreach

28th of March 2014: poster presentation at Sociolinguistics Circle conference at Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

9th of April 2014: presentation for European platform for education specialists at the Fryske Akademy Leeuwarden

3rd of June 2014: presentation on the exchange day for Frisian professionals at the Fryske Akademy in Leeuwarden

4th of June 2014: presentation at the NPLD international conference in Leeuwarden

11th of June 2014: presentation for trainees of the Province of Fryslân at the Fryske Akademy in Leeuwarden

25th of September 2014: presentation at the board meeting of the European Bureau for Small Languages

27th of September 2014: speech at the annual commemoration of the 'Battle at Warns 1345'

6th of October 2014: guest lecture at Drachtster Lyceum

28th of November 2014: presentation at the International Conference Multilingualism and Social Media in Leeuwarden, organised by Mercator Research Centre and SOAS London

12th of December 2014: presentation at 20ste Frysk Filologekongres in Leeuwarden, organised by the Fryske Akademy

In the media

The research on the language use on social media by Frisians is regularly referred to in the media, both in Fryslân and beyond.

Plans for 2015

In 2015, the research is continued with the analysis of the results of the questionnaires, we will start up focus group discussions and conduct an experiment. We also aim to participate in several international conferences about minority languages, bilingualism and digital humanities. Furthermore, we hope to publish one or more articles about the research in scientific magazines. Finally, we will continue with building up the international network with the aim to set-up (comparative) research in the near future. With support of the Province of Fryslân we hope to be able to continue this important research about language use on social media further into 2015 and beyond.



Presentation of the first study report to Ms. Jannewietske de Vries (Province) and Mr. Sjoerd Feitsma (Municipality of Leeuwarden) by Ms. Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber.

2.1.4 LangOER

LangOER: Enhancing teaching and learning of less used languages

Background and partners

In January 2014 the project “LangOER” started, which is a 3-year network (January 2014- December 2016) supported by action KA2 Languages of the Lifelong Learning Programme by the European Commission. LangOER aims to enhance the teaching and learning of less used languages through the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) and Open Educational Practices (OEP).

This project is coordinated by the Fryske Akademy, through the Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning. The project management is in hands of the company Web2Learn (Greece). An overview of the other partners involved in the project are:

- European Schoolnet (Belgium)
- University of Goteborg (Sweden)
- Jan Duglosz University (Poland)
- Mykolas Romeris University (Lithuania)
- International Council for Open and Distance Learning (Norway)
- European Foundation for Quality in E-learning (Belgium)
- Rezekne Higher Education Institution (Latvia)

Project aim

LangOER aims to contribute to the promotion of learning and teaching of less used European languages by linking them to the global challenges of Open Education. This will be achieved by awareness raising and capacity building activities (including exchange of good practice, training, expert consultations, discussions and dissemination activities) for the two main target groups, policy makers and educators in less used languages in Europe.

The project aims to “strengthen the role of languages in improving employability and competitiveness”, which is one of the backbones of the multilingualism policy.

At policy level

- Raise awareness of OER, demonstrate best practice and valorise multilingual and interactive resources on a European level
- Give the floor to less used and Regional/Minority languages allowing their needs to be heard on the international scene where OER experts meet and reflect.
- Reach and support policy makers seeking to overcome barriers for OER uptake through consultation mechanisms.

- Fuel activity of well-established and successful pan-European instruments, such as the big OER metadata repository Language Resources Exchange and the policy making channel Observatory, both run by the European Schoolnet (P3). Sharing LangOER materials through the former and creating a public, shareable Thematic Dossier on the latter will expand and multiply the impact of LangOER project results.

At teaching/learning level

- Foster creation and uptake of OER through awareness raising activities, delivery of training materials, provision of training on OER/OEP to at least 200 European educators and above all by making OEP a reality through implementation in real teaching contexts.
- Boost the multilingual and interactive dimension of OER (to combat the primarily monolingual and static current picture of OER) through a teacher-as-developer guided practice.
- Embrace educators and stakeholders of Regional and Minority Languages in remotely located areas to gain knowledge, develop skills and exchange good practice.
- Address language learning as a learning subject requiring specific attention due to two particular characteristics (speaking skills and teacher feedback) that may not be fully tackled by OER.

At project level

- Offer an up-to-date picture of languages in which OER exist, through an in-depth desktop research in 17 European countries.
- Map OER initiatives emphasizing the linguistic and cultural variety in Europe.
- Foster informal learning and community learning practice through moderated, sustained discussions through a social networking platform.
- Adopt a cross-sectoral and cross-linguistic approach to OER/OEP to combat fragmentation of efforts and to enhance the transferability of the approach and the materials to new pedagogical contexts/language contexts.

Consortium Meetings in 2014

Two consortium meetings took place in 2014. These consortium meetings have as main goal to share knowledge amongst the partners and on the progress of the project. One of the meetings has been organized by Mercator.

- 26-28 January (Leeuwarden, Fryske Akademy)
- 13-16 October (Oslo, ICDE)

Activities in 2014

- **Presentations**

(20-11- 2014). Marit Bijlsma, “*OER insights in a multilingual landscape*”, [Media and Learning Conference Brussels](#).

Marit Bijlsma (Fryske Akademy / Mercator Research Centre) gave a presentation during the Media & Learning Conference, 20-21 November 2014 during the session “Media-Based Open Educational Resources” which was moderated by Aikaterini Chariopolitou, EduTV, Greece.

An overview was given of benefits of OER for less used languages from a multilingual perspective, based on the knowledge and insights from the LangOER project. Next to that, the Creative Commons licensing component related to OER, and the importance of making this aspect explicit was touched upon. Using Creative Commons licensing allows the author to define rules on which he or she would like to share the creations with others. The discussion after the presentation touched upon challenges to move the field forward: Is OER uptake a far- fetched idea or a current practice? How can sustainable OER uptake be ensured?

- **First – state- of – the – art report**

Mercator has participated in the first state of the art research to map and analyze the OER initiatives in the Netherlands. This was merged with the research carried out by the other partners and resulted in a publication: *Open Educational Resources (OER) in less used languages: a state of the art report*.

The publication has been translated by Mercator in [Dutch](#) and [Frisian](#):

- (July 2014), ‘*Open Educational Resources (OER) in minder gebruikte talen: Een rapport over de stand van zaken*’.
- (July 2014), “*Open Educational Resources (OER) yn lytse talen: in rapport oer de stân fan saken*”

Website: <http://langoer.eun.org/home>

Blog: <http://langoer.eun.org/news>

2.1.5 Mercator in Fryslân

For many years Mercator has a strong position in the field of organisations which are in any form involved in the multilingual situation in Fryslân. Interviews, held in 2013 with these organisations, have confirmed this strong position. Frisian partners are willing to work together with Mercator.

In the autumn of 2014 a short investigation has been done to see whether Mercator can also share it's knowledge and experience in other working fields. Organisations with whom neither Mercator nor the Fryske Akademy

have been working with before. Service providing organisations whose clients are living and whose employees are working in this multilingual region.

At first the healthcare area was investigated, focussed on organisations providing rest homes, homecare and daily (health)care for elderly people. People who are all dependent on the personal- and healthcare they receive from these organisations. Almost all organisations in this area don't have a policy on language use. They experience multilingualism as a natural daily routine. Most of their employees come from the region they are working in and are able to speak both Dutch and the language of the region, i.e. Frisian or another local dialect.

Creating interest for the services of Mercator and creating awareness about the impact of native language on well-being of people in healthcare situations, is a great challenge. A few organisations were somehow interested in the subject. But, due to huge changes in the Dutch healthcare-system up to January 2015, this was not the right moment to get in touch with these organisations.

If research on the use of Frisian in nursing and rest homes and healthcare situations could be done by Mercator the coming years; this might contribute to the awareness and give Mercator the opportunity to introduce itself as an authority on multilingual matters. Recommendations have been made about 'rumour around the investigation' in order to reach as many people as possible.

Besides the area of healthcare also security forces, environmental and cultural organisations have been worked out; opportunities have been reported.

2.2 Project applications

- Differentiation on small schools in a multilingual context: in search for effective teacher characteristics (NWO application, 1-12-2014)
Research on effective teacher characteristics in differentiation in education and their results is not new. However, carrying out this research by taking into account a multilingual context and the classroom composition on small schools, is a new line of research. The aim of this project is thus to address this issue: What are the most significant teacher characteristics that are necessary for effective differentiation in a – especially combined and lingual diverse - classroom? The province of Fryslân will be the “laboratory” to carry out this research, as it is a bilingual community facing the challenges of an increasing number of small schools with multi-level classrooms. In the research, teachers will be partner in finding the right characteristics for differentiation in such classrooms. Result of this project will be scientific research, both qualitative as quantitative, on the topic of differentiation in a multilingual context in a small school. Also, a social open-learning platform for teachers to share knowledge about differentiation practices will be created. Aim is to make this 'differentiation-toolkit' that will be obtained through research, accessible for all primary school teachers (decision expected in July 2015).

2.2.1 Project Applications not Granted

- SHEPARD (Associated partnership): Social Holistic European Platform for Humanities and Arts Research and Development
Mercator Research Centre participated (as associated partner) in the preparation of a proposal for a Horizon2020 call, Platform for Reflective Societies.
Coordinating institution: Trinity Long Room Hub, Arts & Humanities Research Institute, Trinity College Dublin, University of Dublin
The Social Holistic European Platform for Humanities and Arts Research and Development (SHEPHARD) Project will create an open social platform for the embedding of arts and humanities research into the strategies and activities of potential research users, for the benefit of more reflective European citizens and societies and a strengthened sense of citizenship and agency in and for Europe. The headline objectives for the platform are twofold:
 - Create, for the first time, a strong, comprehensive and forward looking network of research producers and research users from the public, private and policy sectors and build an effective communications platform across the sectors. In this platform key actors from both sides of this equation will interact productively to investigate and articulate the societal benefits of increased application of R&D produced by arts and humanities scholars and practitioners within a variety of organisations and sectors.
 - To inform and elaborate an innovative and focussed research agenda for the development of reflective societies in Europe, based upon common ground between research producers and research users and highlighting fundamental research issues and key policy questions.

The application received 14 out of 15 points in the evaluation procedure, however has not been granted funding as only one project could be selected.

- TeaMLit: Teaching Minority Literature in Multicultural and Multilingual European Contexts

Mercator participated in the preparation of a proposal for the Erasmus+ call, Strategic Alliances.

Coordinating institution: The European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano, EURAC

The objective of the TeaMLit project is to test an interdisciplinary teaching approach to minority literatures in majority secondary schools. This approach aims at offering students cultural means that stimulate intercultural dialogue in six European multicultural and multilingual contexts. The understanding of the Other, the deconstruction of stereotypes and the complex notions and themes relating to the construction of majority and minority identities will all be part of the main issues delivered by the teaching of minority literatures, with the main aim of developing intercultural skills for secondary schools students.

The project will test tools for teachers and future teachers, aiming to integrate new teaching elements that foster the essential values of social and cultural understanding necessary for a future common life in Europe. These tools will also enhance cultural flexibility which will make it easier for young people to move across national, historical and cultural boundaries.

3. DISSEMINATE KNOWLEDGE IN NETWORKS

Mercator Research participates in several European networks and projects in the working field. Some for a limited period of time, some on a permanent base.

3.1 LEARNMe Language and Education Addressed through Research and Networking by Mercator

In 2013 a network project named 'Language and Education Addressed through Research and Networking by Mercator (LEARNMe)' started. This network is funded by the European Commission's LLP programme and will run for three years (2013-2015). The network consists of five partners: Mercator Media/ Aberystwyth University (Wales, United Kingdom), Mercator Legislation/Ciemen in Barcelona until October 2014, from November 2014 onwards replaced by CUSC / University of Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain), Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning/Fryske Akademy in Ljouwert/Leeuwarden (Fryslân, The Netherlands), The Stockholm University (Sweden) and the Research Institute for Linguistics/Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest (Hungary). The Mercator Research Centre in Ljouwert is the lead partner of the project. Because our Catalan partner, CIEMEN faced financial troubles they needed to withdraw from the LEARNMe project. An amendment procedure has started in order to include a new partner. The current project draws heavily on the experience of the Mercator Network which exists for over 25 years with three of the five current partners.

The LEARNMe project focuses on less widely spoken languages. Less widely spoken languages have special needs when it comes to education. Often practitioners, but also policy makers, are overstrained when it comes to finding solutions for these needs. The aim of the LEARNMe project is to provide policy guidelines and recommendations for policy stakeholders in the field as well as for practitioners. These guidelines and recommendations are meant to provide a practical outline of how the multilingual needs of less used language can be approached. We furthermore will collect and provide research results and give practical experiences regarding the promotion of lesser used languages through education. Education in this context is understood in a wide definition, including formal and informal education, adult education, and outside school education.

Working method of the project

The LEARNMe project will run from the beginning of 2013 until the end of 2015. Each year has a similar approach. Three experts will be invited to draft a discussion paper or discussion points about a specific theme. These will be discussed in a workshop. The discussion will lead to a position paper. The position papers of the three workshops will be input for a white paper that is to be presented at a final conference. This conference can be seen as a

presentation of the project's outcome. The conference's target groups are stakeholders from national politics and the European Union, but also experts, practitioners and educators working in the field. After the conference, proceedings will be drawn up. The first year will be dedicated to research. It will explore the state of the art from a science point of view. In the second year the focus will lie on practitioners in the field of education. The third year aims at policy makers as its most important stakeholders.

LEARNMe in 2014

2014 was the second year of the LEARNMe project. A progress report (at the mid-term of a project) needed to be handed in to the European Commission. We have been given a score of 80% with which we can be very satisfied. We will work on the recommendations that have been given and we hope that we can obtain even an higher score for the Final Report.

The second workshop of the LEARNMe project took place on the 8th and 9th of May in Stockholm, Sweden. Preceding the workshop, a Partner Meeting and a study visit to a bilingual school was organized. Cor van der Meer and Ineke Rienks from the Mercator Research Centre attended the Partner Meeting and the Workshop.

The workshop was arranged in cooperation with the Embassy of Finland and the National minority section of the Swedish Church in Uppsala.

The theme of the workshop was revisiting, reanalysing and redefining research on linguistic diversity: education, policy and media. Several experts from all over Europe, and even from Canada and South-Africa gave a presentation. The second workshop addressed implementation and practices, drawing on the voices of practitioners in the field of education.

Among the experts was professor Jim Cummins (Toronto, Canada) on educational policies and linguistic diversity.

Other experts who gave a presentation were professor Constant Leung (London, UK), who underlined that currently all pupils, irrespective of their language background, participate in mainstream English-medium classes, following the national curriculum, since there is no funding for English as an additional second language. Jeroen Darquennes (Namur, Belgium) explored in his presentation "And what about the practical side of LPP" history, practices and alternative approaches to the concept of language policy and planning (LLP) and Siv Björklund (Vasa, Finland) presented a case study on language immersion in Finland. Also experts from our own network gave a presentation like Prof. Csilla Bartha and Guillem Pujades. Other experts that presented were: Tom Moring, István Csernicskó, Juha Pentikäinen, Markku Peura, Kaisa Syrjänen-Schaal, Christopher Stroud & Caroline Kerfoot.

Both workshop days concluded in a discussion about the most important statements of that day and about redefining linguistic diversity.

During the workshop and during the whole year, Facebook and Twitter were used. Mini-summaries of each presentation can be found on our Facebook

page: <https://www.facebook.com/mercatornetwork> or on Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/mercatornetwork>.

Presentations from the experts can be found on the website of LEARNMe:
www.learnme.eu.

During the workshop video interviews were held with the experts. Experts told about best practices and about what linguistic diversity means according to them. The video's will be put on our website and will be used for the dissemination of the project and also be shown at the final conference in Budapest in 2015.

3.2 NPLD - Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity

Mercator is an associate partner of the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD). The NPLD consists of 11 regional authorities and a 16 language planning organisations throughout Europe. The aim of the Network is to create a platform for constitutional, regional and minority languages, as well as to assist in the development of project proposals eligible for European funding. In fact, the Network functions as a channel to the European Commission with regard to linguistic diversity policies.

In October 2012 the provincial minister Mrs. Jannewietske de Vries was elected as president of the NPLD (Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity, see also 1.3). In the summer of 2012 the NPLD applied for membership (through the proposal of Mercator) of the European Civil Society Platform on multilingualism (ECSP) and in December 2012 the NPLD was accepted by the platform to become associate member of the CSP with 6 other new networks. Also in 2014 Mercator can report ongoing activities and contacts with NPLD. In June Mercator anticipated actively at the membership meeting of NPLD in Leeuwarden.

Central themes of work of the NPLD are:

- Multilingualism and social cohesion / social co-existence
- Languages and business
- Languages: globalisation and identity
- Citizenship and linguistic rights
- Education (new developments)
- Media (new developments, including social media)

3.3 Civil Society Platform on Multilingualism (2009-2015)

Since October 2009 the Mercator Network is a member of the Civil Society Platform to promote multilingualism. This platform concentrates on three main objectives:

- raise awareness of the value and opportunities of the EU's linguistic diversity
- encourage the removal of barriers to intercultural dialogue and social inclusion
- achieve the Barcelona objective to communicate in two foreign languages.

The Civil Society Platform brings together 29 **European member organisations** and a number of associate members. It represents a wider network of organisations working in the fields of culture, early language learning, policy, translation, media, adult education and social inclusion.

In the summer of 2012 the platform received a new mandate from the EU. One of the main goals of the platform is to provide better access for the general public to the large amounts of information, reports, publications and projects in the area of multilingualism in Europe. Mercator will maintain to play in important role in this platform. A virtual platform will provide information

about the work of the forum and offer possibilities for contributions from the public. In 2014 two general meetings were organised in Brussels and a staff member of Mercator was invited to participate at conference of the EC in Florence, Italy at the occasion of the European day of languages (26 September 2014).

3.4 Network of schools

The Network of Schools is a network of multilingual schools in Europe. Its aim is to facilitate contact between schools, to encourage them to share information, and to provide the members with news about developments and research in multilingualism in general and multilingual education in particular. The Network is one of Mercator's permanent projects.

Network of Schools in 2014

In 2014 a new Basque member joined the Network of Schools, and another school withdrew as a member because it ceased to exist, keeping the total number of members to 99.

The network's digital newsletter, the *Network of Schools Bulletin*, appeared five times in 2014. Apart from that the *Network of Schools Newsflash*, which was reinstated in 2013, was sent to the members five times. The *Newsflash* is an email sent to all members, with two or three short (news) items or announcements. The *Newsflash* is a way to keep in touch with the network members more regularly.

Furthermore, the page with literature and links about multilingualism on the Network of Schools website was updated. After the publication of a bulletin or newsflash the links included in that bulletin/newsflash are added to that website.

3.5 Europeesk Buro foar Lytse Talen (EBLT)

The Europeesk Buro foar Lytse Talen (EBLT), since its foundation in 1984, provides promotion and protection of Frisian and Low Saxon in the Netherlands and in the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europa, and their institutions. For this, legal and political support is sought on European, national and provincial level. Furthermore, the EBLT is a member of the Network for the Promotion of Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) and also promotes cooperation with minorities in other places in Europe. Board member Froukje de Jong-Krap is a standby-member of the Steering Committee of NPLD.

The EBLT consists of representatives of 23 organisations, who strive for the position of Frisian, Low Saxon, Bildts and Papiamentu. Two of these four languages are languages to which the Netherlands has obligations to the international community, after the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of the Council of Europe came into effect. In 2014, two new

organisations became full-member of EBLT, i.e. SPLIKA (an organisation representing the Papiamentu language) and Folkshegeskoalle Skylgeralân (an educational organisation for the Frisian language and culture).

Since 2009, the EBLT and the Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning (Mercator Research Centre) of the Fryske Akademy established a cooperation agreement. The Mercator Research Centre is responsible for e.g. the secretariat and the website of EBLT. In addition, the partners organise different activities in cooperation.

In the year 2014 EBLT was quite active at both national and international level. At national level our efforts were directed at lobbying on behalf of the Frisian radio broadcaster Omrop Fryslân who is threatened, together with all regional broadcasters, with severe cutbacks. Further, the EBLT followed, observed and advised member organisation SONT in their efforts for recognition for Low Saxon in part III of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.

The Bildts language has requested a place in the Unesco Atlas of Endangered Languages, a process that started with a lobby of EBLT in 2013 when EBLT visited the municipality of Het Bildt and spoke with several council members. Municipality Het Bildt is striving for recognition for the Bildts language in part II of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Papiamentu strives towards full recognition of Papiamentu in the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for National Minorities. On the 28th of March Papiamentu organisation SPLIKA organised a conference about this issue in The Hague/Den Haag. Onno Falkena, the president of EBLT, was one of the speakers at this conference.

EBLT welcomed the language law 'Wet gebruik Friese taal', which came into effect in 2014. It is a first step towards a better protection of the Frisian language and culture. However, we remain critical because of the limited scope of the new law. According to the new law Frisian is protected in public administration and court, but the domains of education and media require further legislation. The EBLT has regularly contact with Dingtiid, the advising body on matters regarding Frisian of the ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations.

At international level EBLT closely followed the European Elections and keeps regularly contact with several Dutch EP-members. The EBLT was pleased that for the first time this century a Frisian speaker, Jan Huitema from Makkinga/Makkingea, managed to conquer a seat in the European Parliament. When in November it seemed that the Intergroup for multilingualism had little chance of continuation the EBLT started a lobby amongst Dutch EP-members, explaining them the importance of this Intergroup. This lobby contributed to its continuation and Dutch EP-member Jan Huitema became a member of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages of the European Parliament.

EBLT agenda in 2014

1. 21 January 2014: Oeds Westerhof addressed the January meeting of the general assembly of EBLT, about Kulturele Haadstêd 2018.
2. 7 March 2014: Letter to the minister of Interior and Kingdom Relations regarding the deadline of March 1st for the government of The Netherlands to provide the Committee of Experts of the Council of Europe with a report on their accomplishments concerning the agreements in the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. In this letter the EBLT offered their help to the government, for example to provide input for the report.
3. 17 March 2014: Meeting with the new Orgaan foar de Fryske Taal, an organisation of the ministry of of Interior and Kingdom Relations that advises the ministry on matters concerning Frisian.
4. 28 March 2014: Conference of member organisation SPLIKA about the Dutch Antilles and the position of the Papiamentu language. Our president, Onno Falkena, gave a presentation about the EBLT and offered SPLIKA full-membership, which they gratefully accepted.
5. 11 April 2014: Meeting with Pieter Heerma, Member of the Dutch Parliament for CDA, about the position of Omrop Fryslân, Frisian, Low Saxon, and about the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages.
6. 8 May 2014: Debate of the European Elections with potential members of the European Parliament. The EBLT discussed with them about culture and the protection and promotion of regional and minority languages.
7. 14 May 2014: Klaas Sietse Spoelstra addressed the May/Spring meeting with the general assembly of EBLT, about the Orgaan foar de Fryske Taal.
8. 4 June 2014: EBLT provided information on bilingual language policies of municipalities in Fryslân to SPLIKA as examples of 'best practices' to be used in advising the government of Bonaire.
9. 4-6 June 2014: GA of the NPLD. During that meeting Froukje de Jong-Krap became a standby-member of the Steering Committee.
10. 6 September 2014: Meeting with the general assembly of EBLT in the Low Saxon region, i.e. at the Erfgoedcentrum in Doetinchem. The Erfgoedcentrum informed the EBLT on their activities concerning the Low Saxon language.
11. 18 September 2014: Attendance of the presentation of the new Orgaan foar de Fryske Taal, from now on called Dingtiid.
12. 26 September 2014: Lysbeth Jongbloed addressed the Fall meeting of the general assembly of EBLT, on the use of Frisian in social media. During this meeting Onno Falkena resigned according to the regulations, Froukje de Jong-Krap became interim president of the EBLT.
13. 6 October 2014: Letter to the political parties in Fryslân with recommendations on multilingualism for their political programs for the provincial elections in 2015.
14. 22 October 2014: Letter to members of municipality council of Weststellingwerf to protest against cutbacks for our member organisation Stellingwarver Schrieversronte. At October 23th Onno Falkena informed the political parties in Weststellingwerf about the position of Low Saxon in the Netherlands and the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.

This was not without effect. The decision about eventual cutbacks in the future on the language budget was postponed.

15. 29 October 2014: Letter to the Provincial Council and Provincial Executives of the province of Gelderland to protest against cutbacks for Erfgoedcentrum Achterhoek en Liemers in Doetinchem. This letter received a lot of attention in the media in Gelderland.

16. 5 November 2014: Letter to the members of the Dutch House of Representatives and to the State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science, Sander Dekker, to call for more independence for the Frisian broadcaster Omrop Fryslân and point them towards the special position of the Frisian language.

17. 19 November 2014: Letter to all Dutch members of the European Parliament asking them to vote for the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages of the European Parliament. Our lobby contributed to the continuation of this intergroup. Dutch EP-member Jan Huitema is now member of this Intergroup.

Attendances at several meetings, e.g. EU-Netwerk Noord-Nederland, Tresoar, NHL, RuG, SPLIKA, etc.

Contact, and several conversations, with both the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) and the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD), regarding future co-operation.

Invitations by the Mercator Research Centre were sent to members of EBLT for several of their conferences. Furthermore, the EBLT has regularly contact with EP-member Jan Huitema who is also a representative of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages.

The general assembly of EBLT met three times in 2014; in Drachten (winter meeting), in Ljouwert/ Leeuwarden (spring meeting), and in Aldeberkeap/Oldeberkoop (fall meeting).

In January 2014 the Board of EBLT consisted of Onno Falkena (president), Ina Kuipers (treasurer), and Froukje de Jong-Krap, Henk Bloemhoff, Hein Jaap Hilarides, and Tryntsje van der Veer as general board members. In March Fokke Jagersma joined the board as general board member. In April Hein Jaap Hilarides (general board member) left the board. In September Onno Falkena (president) left the board. He remained involved as advisor. Froukje de Jong-Krap replaced him as interim-president. Jelske Dijkstra was the secretary of EBLT in 2014. Cor van der Meer of the Mercator Research Centre / FA mostly participates in meetings in an advisory role.

4 CONFERENCES AND STUDY VISITS

4.1 Conferences

The Mercator Research Centre organised and hosted several conferences in 2014. These conferences were organised in cooperation with various partners. All the organised conferences contribute to one or more of the goals of the Mercator Research Centre.

January 26-28 International expert kick-off meeting LangOER project in Leeuwarden

On the 26th until the 28th of January 2014, the LangOER kick-off meeting took place at the premises of the Fryske Akademy, the Netherlands. The meeting has been facilitated by Cor van der Meer (project coordinator, Fryske Akademy) and Katerina Zourou (project manager, Web2Learn).

All partners in the LangOER project participated in the first kick-off meeting:

- Alastair Creelman
- Anna Skowron
- Anne- Christin Tännhauser
- Cor van der Meer
- Gard Titlestad
- Giulia Torresin
- Katerina Zourou
- Linda Bradley
- Gosia Kurek
- Sanita Lazdina
- Sylvi Vigmo
- Vaiva Zuzeviciute
- Valentina Garoia
- Joop Petter

This first partner meeting had as main goal to introduce the specific expertise of each of the project partners and their activities in the LangOER project. Further, issues had to be discussed with regards to project administration, challenges, vision and scope of the project, setting up website, blog, social networks, promotional material and the dissemination plan.

The main topics discussed were:

27th of January 2014:

- Vision, scope and challenges of the project (Katerina Zourou)
- Expected outcomes, activities and deliverables (Katerina Zourou)
- Setting the scene: OER and OEP insights from other projects (Katerina Zourou)
- OER in Less Used Languages: State of the art (Linda Bradley and Sylvi Vigmo)

- International policy making in relation to OER (Gard Titlestad)
- Teacher Training (Gosia Kurek)
- Regional and Minority Languages (Cor van der Meer)
- Challenges for Language Learning (Katerina Zourou)

28th of January 2014:

- Dissemination (Valentina Garoia)
- Evaluation and Quality Assurance (Anne-Christin Tännhauser)
- Mainstreaming Good Practices at EU policy Making Level (Valentina Garoia)

This document provides all supportive documents to the kick-off meeting Agenda, minutes, list of registration, presentations and a group picture.

May 8-9 Mercator conference in Stockholm

On Thursday 8 and Friday 9 May 2014, the second workshop of the LEARNMe project took place in Stockholm, Sweden. The theme of the workshop was 'revisiting, reanalysing and redefining research on linguistic diversity: education, policy and media'.

Several experts from all over Europa and even from Canada and South-Africa, gave a presentation. The second workshop addressed implementation and practices, drawing on the voices of practitioners in the field of education.

Workshop 2 was arranged in cooperation with the Embassy of Finland and the National minority section of the Swedish Church in Uppsala.

Among the experts was professor Jim Cummins (Toronto, Canada) on educational policies and linguistic diversity. Professor Jim Cummins argued that, contrary to several hegemonic narratives, home use of a language other than school language is not a cause of underachievement. No relationship has been found between those two facts in Australia and Canada by research, he said. According to Professor Cummins, two major facts that have been neglected in policies explain academic underachievement: literacy engagement (amount and range of reading and writing, use of effective strategies for deep understanding of text, positive affect and identity investment in reading and writing) and identity affirmation. "In order to enable all students to succeed academically, they are crucial", he argued.

Other experts who gave a presentation were professor Constant Leung (London, UK), who underlined that currently all pupils, irrespective of their language background, participate in mainstream English-medium classes, following the national curriculum, since there is no funding for English as an additional second language. Jeroen Darquennes (Namur, Belgium) explored in his presentation "And what about the practical side of LPP" history, practices and alternative approaches to the concept of language policy and planning (LLP) and Siv Björklund (Vasa, Finland) presented a case study on language immersion in Finland.

Both workshop days concluded in a discussion about the most important statements of that day and about redefining linguistic diversity.

September 26, the European Day of Languages

On Friday the 26th of September, a special event in the streets and schools in Fryslân to celebrate the international day for languages, was organised. The European Language day is an initiative of the Council of Europe and has been celebrated since 2001. On this day, Europe celebrates its language diversity both for the smaller and larger languages. In Leeuwarden (Fryslân) this day has been celebrated with a concert of Wiebe Kaspers and Florian den Hollander on the central station.

Wiebe Kaspers and Florian den Hollander celebrated the richness of multilingualism in Fryslân with a concert on two locations: Leeuwarden and on a multilingual school in Waskemeer. This was organized by several organisations in Fryslân: Mercator Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning, Fryske Akademy, Afûk, Friesland Pop and the Province of Fryslân.

Oktober 14-16, Partner Meeting and Workshop on Policy Recommendations for Open Educational Resources (OER) in Oslo

From October 14th till October 16th, the 2nd partner meeting of the LangOER project took place in Oslo. The International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE), hosted the event. The partner meeting was accompanied by an expert workshop on policy recommendations for the uptake of Open Education Resources (OER) and Open Educational Practices (OEP). Several international experts attended the workshop and presented their views: Paul Bacsich, project manager POERUP, and Øystein Johannessen, Deputy Director of Education, Nordland County Council, Norway. Further, Ebba Ossiannilsson, project Manager of the University of Lund, gave her reflections on issues related to the quality of public policy on OER in Less used Languages (LUL) and Alek Tarkowski, lead at Creative Commons in Poland reflected on: Why open licenses are important to OER in less used languages.

November 28-30, International conference on Multilingualism and Social Media

The Mercator European Research Centre for Language Learning of the Fryske Akademy and SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London) organised a two-day international expert conference on 'Multilingualism & Social Media'. The conference was held in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands, on Friday 28 and Saturday 29 November 2014.

This conference offered an international forum for discussion on the impact social media is having on language communities, attitudes, linguistic identities and behaviour and on the new possibilities and opportunities the world of social media is bringing to the world of languages. Discussions were

particularly focussed on areas of language learning, minority, regional and endangered languages.

The rapid development, innovation and spread of social media and attendant technologies, are having a massive worldwide impact in a large variety of domains. The instant availability of information, media, contact, discussion fora and social networks and the corresponding new possibilities they bring for direct contact and communication, in a very wide and growing range of different languages, are generating new forms and modes of cultural, social, economic and political behaviour. The sheer diversity ranges from protest movements (eg 'Arab Spring'), to the work of NGOs such as Médecins Sans Frontiers across developing countries. It includes the exponentially increasing online and global commerce and the makers of evermore creative and useful apps. Every individual person in the world can now organise a direct and instant global outreach for their own ideas, operating as world broadcasters, traders, entrepreneurs, humanitarians, inventors, artists, opinion leaders, holiday makers and so on. Moreover, they are often able to bypass existing circuits and channels, relatively easily engaging in alternative and far more informal modes of direct exchange.

Speakers included:

- Daniel Cunliffe, University of South Wales
- David Little, Trinity College, Dublin
- Durk Gorter, Basque University
- Jannis Androutsopoulos, University of Hamburg
- Lorna Carson, Trinity College, Dublin
- Lysbeth Jongbloed, Fryske Akademy
- Sarah Cartwright, SOAS, University of London
- Sarah McMonagle, University of Hamburg
- Mandana Seyfeddinipur, SOAS, University of London
- Wim Benes, Fjoerfoks/Mozilla, Leeuwarden

September 2014; Together with a number of organisations in the province of Fryslân, including the province itself, Mercator participated in the organisation and participation in the Drongo Festival in Amsterdam.

Study visits in Leeuwarden 2014

- Samantha (Sam) Burke, a recent graduate from Wellesley College, Massachusetts (USA), received a Madeleine K. Albright fellowship for her mission at the Fryske Akademy. She spent three months in the summer of 2014 at the Fryske Akademy to solidify the Akademy's and Mercator's roles in Leeuwarden's 2018 cultural capital plans.

Sam interviewed over 25 Frisian organizations and individuals in Leeuwarden and Fryslân to identify collaborative opportunities for Lwd2018. She analyzed and compiled these interviews into a working document, which will provide collaborative opportunities for the Akademy and Mercator in the coming years. Sam has enjoyed her time at the Fryske Akademy and strongly believes Leeuwarden's cultural capital plans provide the Akademy and Mercator with

unique opportunities to reconnect with Frisian organizations, engage wider audiences, and strengthen their institutional images locally and internationally. She will return to the United States in early September, where she plans to work in the medical industry, analyzing doctor-patient communication, and eventually attend graduate school in sociolinguistics.

- 14 January; visit of a Basque delegation in the framework of European Capital.

Asier Basurto and Xabier Paya visited the Mercator Research Centre. Both are working in the cultural programme and are experts in language issues. At the agenda were several (common) initiatives and ideas which could be of interest for both cities Donostia in 2016 and Leeuwarden in 2018.

Contacted by: Eneko Garate Iturralde

Internationalisation Manager / Responsable de l'internationalisation

- 11 April; visit of politician Mr. Pieter Heerma (CDA)

Mr Pieter Heerma, member of the Dutch parliament visited EBLT and Mercator at the Fryske Akademy to discuss the position of the Frisian and Low-Saxon language and in particular the position of the local broadcast organisation Omrop Fryslân in the context of the European Charter for Regional- and Minority Languages.

- April 28; Omrop Fryslân came to film Cor van der Meer about activities of the Research Centre and (the future of) multilingualism in Europe.

- During a number of weeks in the summer of 2014 Dr. Tom Werner of the Carnegie Mellon University in the US visited the Fryske Akademy and Mercator to do studies on the Frisian Language. At the end of this period he gave an academic presentation on his work, his abstract was:

Circumventing the arbitrariness of the sign: ostensive definitions for natural language research

Ferdinand de Saussure's notion that the linguistic sign is arbitrary, a notion previously advanced by the American linguist William Dwight Whitney, has consequences for language learning and research. One such consequence is that to learn or study a language requires some means of discovering the association between a phonetic sign and its meaning, since the meaning cannot be read off the form. This is especially problematic because linguistic signs in a language are so numerous. Is there an optimal way to discover these associations and to circumvent this arbitrariness?

A natural way to discover semantic associations is through ostension – pointing to the reference of a word to indicate its meaning, as discussed for example by Ludwig Wittgenstein and W. V. O. Quine. However, simple ostension is of limited use in natural language research. Pointing is inherently unclear. Furthermore, building up definitions of isolated words does not present words in a full linguistic context, which is necessary for understanding their syntactic and semantic properties. As a pedagogy, the method of building linguistic structure from smaller units has not been entirely successful. Finally, there are relatively few words in a language which denote discrete objects that can be pointed to.

In this talk, I discuss an ongoing development of a systematic approach to ostensive definitions in language. I argue that sentences, rather than words, should be the primary target of ostension. Sentence utterances which describe minimally different scenes or situations in a target language will tend to be minimally different themselves. These minimal formal differences can then be associated with the differences in the scenes themselves. The differences constitute phrases and morphemes. Language collected in this way is highly transparent, as I hope to demonstrate with data I have been collecting from the Yakut language (Sakha) in North East Russian.

In the conclusion of the talk, I will mention some additional consequences for linguistic theory that this practical method entails. In particular, the method seems to support a syntactic theory whereby complex sentence forms are derived transformationally from basic kernel sentences (Zellig Harris, 1956), rather than a theory in which complex sentences are derived directly from morphemes or linguistic features (Chomsky, 1995).

- 3 June; Cor van der Meer was interviewed by Froeks.tv

5. PUBLICATIONS

5.1 Regional dossiers series

The Regional dossiers series gives detailed descriptive information and basic educational statistics about minority language education in specific regions in Europe. The dossiers follow a set structure so as to enable easy comparison between different regions.

The Regional dossiers series is available in a printed version and can be downloaded from the website of the Mercator Research Centre. The Mercator Research Centre is responsible for the compilation and publication of the dossiers. The total number of downloads of Regional dossiers in 2014 was more than [??] downloads.

In 2014 four dossiers in the Regional dossiers series were published; two updates of existing dossiers and two new dossiers:

- “Friulian. The Friulian language in education in Italy” (first edition);
Author: Cinzia Petris
- “Asturian. The Asturian language in education in Spain” (second edition);
Authors: Xosé Antón González-Riaño and Alberto Fernández-Costales
- “Serbian. The Serbian language in education in Hungary” (first edition)
Author: Anton Paulik and Judit Solymosi
- “Welsh. The Welsh language in education in the UK”(second edition);
Author: Ceinwen Jones

Another dossier is close to being published; “North Frisian. The North Frisian language in education in Germany” (third edition), written by Alastair Walker. Furthermore, work on other Regional dossiers has been carried out. Below is an overview of the dossiers that are being worked on at the moment, including their status:

| title | author | status |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| Aragonese in Spain | Juan Pablo Martínez Cortés | Dossier nearly ready for publication. |
| German in Denmark | Anke Tästensen | Author is working on final draft. |
| Finnic languages in Sweden (2 nd ed.) | Jarmo Lainio | Author is working on first draft. |
| Gaelic in the UK (2 nd ed.) | Boyd Robertson | Author is working on first draft. |
| Hungarian in Romania | Papp. Z. Attila | First draft edited by Mercator. |
| Manx Gaelic on the Isle of Man | Robert Teare | Dossier nearly ready for evaluation by second reader. |
| Occitan in France (2 nd ed.) | Philippe Martel | Statistics need to be added. |
| Sorbian in Germany (2 nd ed) | Beate Brëzan | Author is working on first draft. |

| | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Ladin in Italy (2 nd ed.) | Roland Verra | First draft edited by Mercator. |
| Nenets, Khanty, Selkup in the Yamal-region | Roza Laptander | Author is working on first draft. |
| Galician in Spain (2 nd ed.) | Xosé-Henrique Costas and Andrea Expósito-Loureiro | Deadline first draft: 01-03-2015 |
| Irish in the Republic of Ireland (2 nd ed.) | Helen Ó Murchú | Deadline first draft: 15-03-2015 |
| Papiamentu on the ABC islands | Marta Dijkhoff | Deadline first draft: 01-06-2015 |

5.2 Books, Articles, Presentations & Mercator in the Media in 2014

The scientific staff of Mercator receives regular requests from Friesland, Europe, and far beyond, to speak at conferences. But also to participate in academic books, articles and radio programs on the relevant fields. Through its public relations and press releases, Mercator can be found in the media regularly.

This section gives some examples that illustrate this nicely. An exhaustive list of books and publications can be found in **Appendix II**.

5.2.1. Mercator Research Centre in the media in 2014

A list and overview of press releases can be found in **Appendix III** and a selection of media appearances in **Appendix IV**

- 'Boeken Akademy foar Tresoar', *Omrop Fryslân* (Radio, Web), 24 March 2014
- Arend van der Meulen, 'Hemmo whatsapppt steeds vaker in het Frysk' & 'Twitter-Fries houdt taal levend', *Leeuwarder Courant*, 14 April 2014
- 'Wâldpiken Frysker op WhatsApp', *Omrop Fryslân* (Radio, Web), 14 April 2014
- Lysbeth Jongbloed Faber, guest in TV talkshow *Bynt*, *Omrop Fryslân* (TV, Web), 16 April 2014
- 'Fries als memmetaal schaars in Leeuwarden', *Leeuwarder Courant*, 17 April 2014
- Pieter de Groot, 'Social Frysk de toekomst', *Leeuwarder Courant*, 18 April 2014
- 'Wâldpykjes brûke it Frysk op sosjale media', *Nieuwe Dockumer Courant*, 23 April 2014
- 'Mercator wil meer subsidie in toekomst', *Leeuwarder Courant*, 24 juni 2014
- 'Sociale media: Friestaligen gezocht voor taalonderzoek', *Friesch Dagblad*, 10 July 2014

- ‘Onderzoek gebruik Fries op sociale media’, *Leeuwarder Courant*, 11 July 2014
- ‘Onderzoek Friese taal op social media’, *De Feanster*, 16 July 2014
- ‘69e betinking Slach by Warns’, *Omrop Fryslân* (Radio, Web), 27 September 2014
- ‘Meartalich optreden op stasjon’, *Omrop Fryslân* (Radio, Web), 26 September 2014
- Bauke Boersma, ‘Meertalige school helpt Fries’, *Friesch Dagblad*, 29 September 2014
- ‘Actie voor laatste stuk Fryske Facebook’, *LeeuwarderCourant*, 12 November 2014
- ‘Facebook tenei folslein yn it Frysk’, *Omrop Fryslân* (Radio, TV, Web), 28 November 2014
- Maria Del Grosso, ‘Laatste spurt naar ‘folslein’ Frysk Facebook’, *Leeuwarder Courant*, 29 November 2014
- Asing Walthaus, ‘De smartphone die een Zwitsers dialect spreekt’, *Leeuwarder Courant*, 1 December 2014
- ‘Actie voor hogere status Bildtse taal,’ *Leeuwarder Courant*, 7 November 2014

6. LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION 2014

The library of the Mercator Research Centre maintains three databases:

1. Bibliographical database
2. Database of Experts
3. Database of organizations

Ad.1 At 26th Up to 31th of December 2014 the bibliographical database includes more than 7600 records.

At the 26th of March 2014 the library collections of the Frisian Academy, including the collection of Mercator Research Centre were handed over to Tresoar (Frisian Historical and Literary Centre, Leeuwarden). A declaration of permanent loan was signed by Dr. Hanno Brand of the Fryske Akademy and drs. Bert Looper of Tresoar. In October 2014 the library of Mercator Research Centre has been moved to Tresoar, the collection is on the 1st floor in open setting and can be used by the public, among which are students of the master multilingualism of the University Campus Fryslân (www.ucf.frl), students of the Lectorate Multilingualism of NHL (Noordelijke Hogeschool) and others.

In the course of 2015 the collection will be secured and the catalogue of the library of Mercator Research Centre will be integrated in the catalogue of Tresoar.

Ad.2 the database of Experts creates an easy and quick access to all expertise in the field of regional and minority languages in Europe, in the field of bilingualism and multilingualism, education, language learning and language policy. It also facilitates contacts and co-operation amongst colleagues in these domains. Up to the 31th of December 2014 592 experts were registered. In 2015 the database will be updated.

Ad.3 the database of organizations gives detailed descriptions of some 1235 institutions, associations which can provide information on European regional or minority languages. The surplus value of this English-language-based database lies in the fact that almost all the information of institutions relating to minority languages in the EU can be found on one specific place on the web. This database will not be updated in the near future.

The feature Expert in the Spotlight gives the chance to interact one-in-one with our Ask the expert-section. The feature also provides interesting and insightful comments regarding the subjects mentioned above, in-depth content and exclusive Q and A's. It's cooperation between Mercator Research Centre and Mercator Network of Language Diversity Centres.

In 2014 the following experts were asked to become Expert in the Spotlight:

1. Cinzia Petris, ISAL, Udine , Italy
2. Katherina Zourou, Sør-Trøndelag University College; Developing Excellence in Education and Learning (DEEL) Research Unit, Norway and

projectmanager of the LangOER project in which Mercator Research Centre is involved.

3. Sabine Ehrhart, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg
4. Alberto Fernandez Costales and Xosé Antón González Riaño, University of Oviedo, Spain and authors of the REgional Dossier Asturian: the Asturian language in education in Spain.
5. Nanna Haug Hilton, Faculty of Arts, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, The Netherlands
6. David Little, Centre for Language and Communication Studies (CLCS) at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland

The task of the informationspecialist is to maintain and bring up to date the three databases mentioned above and organizing the Expert in the Spotlight feature.

She takes care of the acquisition of new titles for the library of Mercator Research Centre and the Department of Sociolinguistics of the Frisian Academy, answers questions of our target groups through the Q & A-service, administration of the collection of journals, literature search for the members of the Mercator Research Centre-team, the department of Sociolinguistics of the Fryske Akademy and external persons, adding data to the METIS-database of the Royal Netherlands Institute of Sciences for Mercator-colleagues.

In 2014 the information specialist worked, together with her colleague of the Fryske Akademy, at the remediation of the collections of the libraries of Mercator Research Centre and Fryske Akademy in order to the conversion of the old automated library system into the database of Tresoar, Historical and Literary Centre, Leeuwarden and the new housing of the Fryske Akademy. The conversion of the catalogue systems of both libraries to the catalogue system of Tresoar will take place in 2015.

During 2014 the informationspecialists cleared out the archives of Mercator Research Centre and the Fryske Akademy, were partly removed to Tresoar and placed in temporary depot in the framework of the renovation and new buildings of the Frisian Academy which will be finished at the end of 2015 / beginning of 2016.

The information specialist also writes contributions for the Mercator Newsletter (list of new acquisitions and other interesting news 10 times yearly), contributions to the website of the Network of Schools (list of literature concerning bilingualism, multilingualism and bi- and multilingual education) and to the Newsletter of the Network of Schools (4/6 times a year). A few times a week she assembles and spreads a newsletter: 'Taalnijs fan Elly' to intern- and extern-interested colleagues with facts concerning upcoming conferences in Fryslân, the Netherlands and Europe, languages, minority languages, multilingualism, education, new developments etc. This newsletter also provides the websites of the following projects in Brussels with news:

- Poliglotti4.eu
- EUNIC Union Network of Cultural Institutions

She is also involved, together with other members of the Mercator Research Centre-team, in the logistic part of the organization of international and regional conferences for Mercator Research Centre.

7. WEBSITES

Mercator European Research Centre hosts and maintains three websites:

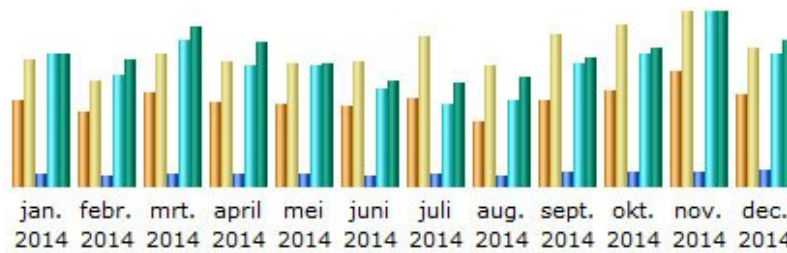
- www.mercator-research.eu, the main website of the Mercator Research Centre
- www.mercator-network.eu, the website of the Mercator Network and the LEARNMe Project (2012-2015)
- www.networkofschools.org, the website of the Network of Schools

7.1 *www.mercator-research.eu*

The website of the Mercator Research Centre is an important tool in the communication with its (project) partners and all national and international professionals working in the field of Multilingualism and Language Learning.

News, events and other content comes from communication staff and other colleagues / researchers working on projects but also from various news sources like newspapers, (news)websites, newsletters of other institutes, etcetera.

The chart shows the unique visitors, amount of visits, visited webpage's, hits and bytes for www.mercator-research.eu over 2014. Popular pages are the Regional Dossiers pages, conference pages and pages about (endangered) minority languages. Compared with the preceding year (2013: 23,611 unique visitors), a slow but steady increase of visitors can be observed.



People who find mercator-research most often use search terms like 'Mercator', 'Mercator Research', or 'Minority Languages'. Also, Mercator's research of language use in social media generated visitors searching for this type of information.

The Regional Dossiers have been downloaded most, and most sought after were the dossiers on Welsh in the UK, Frisian in the Netherlands, Swedish in Finland (2nd edition), Basque in Spain (2nd edition), and Saami in Sweden.

7.1.1 Mercator Research on Facebook

For several reasons Mercator decided to build a Facebook page.

For instance:

- In order to learn more about the target audience by talking to them and by getting direct feedback from them.
- To make the company website better found.
- To build a community where people can talk about multilingualism and language learning.

By the end of 2014 the Mercator Research Facebook page had 540 likes.

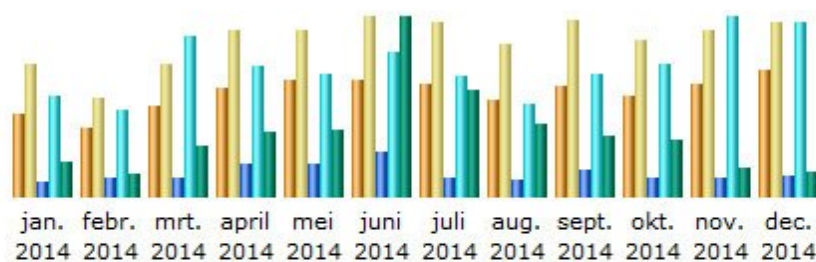
7.1.2 Mercator Research on Twitter

Since the Mercator Research Centre is a project of the Fryske Akademy, it was decided that they would Twitter on the Fryske Akademy account and the Mercator Network account.

7.2 www.mercator-network.eu / www.learnme.eu

The Mercator Network of Language Diversity Centres is an EU funded project connecting multilingual communities across Europe, promoting knowledge sharing and facilitating structured exchange of best practice and cutting edge initiatives through its programme of activities. The website of the Mercator Network is maintained by its lead partner Mercator Research.

The chart shows the unique visitors, amount of visits, visited webpage's, hits and bytes for www.mercator-network.eu over 2014. Compared with the previous year (2013: 3,919 unique visitors), web visits were stable.



| Maand | Unieke bezoekers | Aantal bezoeken | Pagina's | Hits | Bytes |
|------------|------------------|-----------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| jan. 2014 | 273 | 435 | 884 | 6,143 | 328.64 MB |
| febr. 2014 | 226 | 323 | 1,104 | 5,196 | 230.09 MB |
| mrt. 2014 | 299 | 436 | 1,113 | 9,759 | 484.83 MB |
| april 2014 | 358 | 542 | 2,000 | 7,946 | 629.79 MB |
| mei 2014 | 379 | 541 | 1,976 | 7,456 | 634.77 MB |
| juni 2014 | 383 | 586 | 2,752 | 8,767 | 1.69 GB |
| juli 2014 | 371 | 571 | 1,151 | 7,335 | 1.00 GB |
| aug. 2014 | 313 | 500 | 978 | 5,674 | 693.78 MB |
| sept. 2014 | 359 | 573 | 1,575 | 7,373 | 583.62 MB |
| okt. 2014 | 326 | 512 | 1,130 | 7,995 | 547.43 MB |
| nov. 2014 | 371 | 545 | 1,193 | 10,871 | 285.60 MB |
| dec. 2014 | 412 | 568 | 1,249 | 10,555 | 247.27 MB |
| Totaal | 4,070 | 6,132 | 17,105 | 95,070 | 7.25 GB |

7.2.1 Mercator Network Newsletter

The Mercator Network Newsletter is compiled by the web editor of the Mercator Research Centre and published 10 times a year.

The Mercator Network Newsletter is linked to the internet sites of each Mercator Network partner. This newsletter informs about the news from the five Mercator Network partners. These are:

- Mercator Media/ University of Wales in Aberystwyth;
- Mercator Legislation/ Ciemen in Barcelona;
- Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning/ Fryske Akademy in Ljouwert/ Leeuwarden;

- Mercator Budapest, the Research Institute for Linguistics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest;
- Mercator Stockholm, Stockholm University

Moreover, the newsletter focuses on news about multilingual regions dealing with regional or minority languages, but also immigrant languages and smaller state languages, with emphasis on language needs arising from migration and globalisation. An events calendar of relevant international conferences and events is included in the newsletter.

7.2.2 Newsletter readers

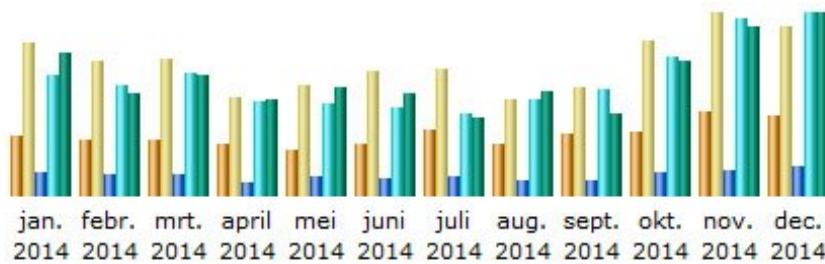
The Newsletter is read by over 2.200 national and international professionals working in the field of Multilingualism and Language Learning.

7.2.3 Mercator Network on Twitter

The Mercator Network is on Twitter (#MercatorNetwork) and had around 750 followers by the end of 2014. Subjects to Twitter about are for example new Experts in the Spotlight, the Mercator Network Newsletter and conferences.

7.3 www.networkofschools.org

The Network of Schools is a project of the Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning. It is a network of multilingual schools in minority language areas in Europe. It provides a platform for the exchange of information among educational practitioners.



The chart shows the unique visitors, amount of visits, visited webpage's, hits and bytes for www.networkofschools.org over 2014. The number of unique visitors (2013: 4,153) has lightly decreased in the course in 2014.

7.3.1 Network of Schools Bulletin

The Network of Schools Bulletin is compiled by a research assistant and the web editor of the Mercator Research Centre and published 4 times a year. Besides the bulletin a newflash was introduced in 2013, which in 2014 appeared 5 times.

8. FINANCIAL SITUATION

8.1 Operational costs

Since 2007 the Mercator Research Centre receives yearly subsidies from the province of Fryslân and the municipality of Leeuwarden (Ljouwert). The subsidy of the municipality stopped at the end of 2012, so 2013 is the first year that the centre had to deal with half of the funding of the previous years. To solve this decrease in funding the Fryske Akademy decided in January 2013 to integrate the Mercator centre more as a structural part of the FA by covering part of the staff costs of the Mercator Research Centre from its own sources. These staff costs are therefore not included in the project financial table below. Furthermore the FA has used part of the overhead costs to add

to the staff costs The funds of the province (and municipality before) were granted not only to maintain and fulfil its role as information and research centre in Europe, but also to match with other sources of funding. In the overview below the matching with other projects has been listed. Most of the projects are realised within the EU Lifelong Learning Programme. In general the financial matching part is around 25% (with 75% external funding). The external auditor report is written by Ernst & Young office in Leeuwarden.

Financial report
**Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism
and Language Learning 2014 + EBLT 2014**

| Omschrijving | Realisatie | Budget | Afwijking |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Staff costs Mercator 2014 | € 111.863 | € 95.000 | € -16.863 |
| <i>Sub- totaal personele kosten</i> | € 111.863 | € 95.000 | € -16.863 |
| <u>Bedrijfskosten</u> | | | |
| Reis- en ferbliuwkosten | € 2.796 | € 4.000 | € 1.204 |
| Organisaasje kongressen/seminairs | € 7.520 | € 4.000 | € -3.520 |
| Represintaazje kosten | € 2.246 | € 3.000 | € 754 |
| Publikaasjes | € 4.314 | € 8.000 | € 3.686 |
| Bijdrage aan Mercator Netwurk | 10.345 | € 11.000 | € 655 |
| Bijdrage aan LangOER | 9.058 | € 11.000 | € 1.942 |
| Bijdrage aan Basken | 12.586 | € 12.579 | € -7 |
| Fokus Fryslân | 13.717 | € 32.421 | € 18.704 |
| Akkountantkosten | € 2.934 | € 0 | € -2.934 |
| <i>Sub- totaal bedrijfskosten</i> | € 65.518 | € 86.000 | € 20.482 |
| <i>20% overhead</i> | € 16.117 | € 19.000 | € 2.883 |
| <i>Sub-totaal Kenniscentrum 2014</i> | € 193.498 | € 200.000 | € 6.502 |
| <u>EBLT 2014</u> | | | |
| Sekretariaat | € 4.991 | € 4.900 | € -91 |
| Publikaasjes | 788 | € 1.750 | € 962 |
| <i>Sub-totaal EBLT 2014</i> | € 5.779 | € 6.650 | € 871 |
| Totaal project kosten | € 199.276 | € 206.650 | € 7.374 |

From the table we can read that staff costs were higher than budgeted. For the budget of the EBLT not all available funds were used in 2013.

8.2 Staff

The Mercator Research Centre is part of the Social Sciences department of the Fryske Akademy.

In practise around 12 staff members are working within the framework of activities of the Mercator Research Centre. There is a wide range in dedicated working hours, because most of the staff members also work for one or more of the matched projects.

The following staff members and functions can be identified, working for activities and research of the Mercator Research Centre on a daily basis.

Mercator functions and staff members, situation 2014

| Function | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Management Mercator Research Centre | Drs. Cor van der Meer |
| Research assistants | Drs. Nienke Boomstra (AIO, till March) Drs. Saskia Benedictus-van den Berg Mrs. Mirjam Günther-van der Meij, MA (AIO) Mrs. Marit Bijlsma (MA) Mrs. Ineke Rienks (MA) Mrs. Richt Sterk (MA) |
| Communication officer / Web editor | Mr. Tjeerd Rintjema / Mr. Richard de Boer |
| Information specialist | Mrs. Elly Albers |
| Secretary | Mrs. Adrie Kaspers |
| Secretary EBLT | Mrs. Jelske Dijkstra |

8.3 Affiliated research contacts

Member of the team is also Dr. Tseard de Graaf, a specialist in phonology and endangered languages. He is retired but very active and functions as senior guest researcher for the Mercator Research Centre. Two other active research affiliates are:

- Senior honorary researcher Prof. dr. Durk Gorter, working as research professor for Ikerbasque at the University of the Basque Country (since mid 2014 Prof. Gorter is member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Fryske Akademy and therefor not affiliated researcher anymore.
- Prof. dr. Jeroen Darquennes, specialist in multilingualism and working as professor at the University of Namen/Namur in Belgium.

Appendices

Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning

2014



APPENDIX I

Goal and mission of the Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning

Mission Statement

Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning

The Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning (formerly Mercator Education) was originally founded in 1987 and reshaped in 2001. The centre is part of the Fryske Akademy, **the scientific research and educational centre for Fryslân and its people, its language and its culture.**

The Mercator Research Centre is an independent and recognised reference centre for policy makers and professional workers in the field of multilingual education and language learning. The Mercator Research Centre brings Europe to Fryslân and Fryslân to Europe. It is funded by the Province of Fryslân (Friesland) and the Municipality of Leeuwarden.

Mercator mission statement

- To contribute to multilingual education in a multilingual Europe through research and by collecting, distributing and applying scientific knowledge.

Mercator continuously strives to:

- Provide a platform for the academic community as well as practitioners and policymakers/ politicians.
- Conduct research on multilingualism and its aspects for both individuals and society.
- Offer a network of research institutes and universities in the field of multilingualism and function as a platform for the exchange of good practices.
- Focus on multilingualism in education, including language transmission in a social context.
- Increase awareness of the benefits of multilingualism and the added value of regional and minority languages through scientific results.

The values of Mercator

- Supportive of collaboration and working in partnerships
- Professional and working to a high standard
- Continuously learning
- Ambitious and provides a challenging environment for personal growth

The Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning (Mercator Research Centre in short) aims at the acquisition,

circulation and application of knowledge. The Mercator Research Centre gathers and mobilises expertise in the field of language learning at school, at home and through cultural participation in favour of linguistic diversity of Europe. The Mercator Research Centre is an independent and recognised reference centre for policy makers and professional workers in the field of multilingual education and language learning. The Mercator Research Centre brings Europe to Fryslân and Fryslân to Europe.

Full version in Dutch

Missie van het Mercator Europees Kenniscentrum voor Meertaligheid en Taalleren

Meertaligheid als norm en waarde

In zijn aankondiging van de nieuwe strategie voor “Meertaligheid in de EU” (november 2005) verklaarde Eurocommissaris Jan Figel, dat taalverscheidenheid de kern vormt van de Europese identiteit. De Europese Commissie hecht belang aan het bevorderen van talen en taalverscheidenheid in de Unie. Dit is formeel vastgelegd in art. 22 van het Handvest van fundamentele rechten van de Europese burgers (2000): “De Unie respecteert de culturele, godsdienstige en taalkundige verscheidenheid.” De nieuwe Europees commissaris voor Meertaligheid, Leonard Orban, verklaarde bij zijn aantreden: “We moeten ons taalkundig erfgood in de lidstaten koesteren en bevorderen, maar het is ook belangrijk dat we elkaar, onze burens en partners elders in de EU verstaan. – Het stimuleren van meertaligheid is een uitstekende manier om de Europese burgers dichter bij elkaar te brengen.”

Taalverscheidenheid van staten en regio's veronderstelt meertalige burgers. Het beleid van de EU en van de Raad van Europa is erop gericht, dat de Europese burgers elkaar willen en kunnen verstaan. Van Europese burgers wordt gaandeweg verwacht, dat zij naast de moedertaal (of moedertalen) ten minste twee andere Europese talen leren, kort samengevat: (2) M + 2. De beheersing van meerdere talen is ook van belang voor de interculturele dialoog.

Dit algemene uitgangspunt vraagt beleidsinspanningen op het gebied van de taalplanning. In de taalplanning wordt onderscheid gemaakt tussen corpusplanning, statusplanning en planning van het taalleren. Het Mercator Europees Kenniscentrum voor Meertaligheid en Taalleren beweegt zich in de afdeling ‘planning van het taalleren’.

De programma's van EU en van de Raad van Europa zetten in op de voorwaarden voor en de kwaliteit van het taalleren, bijvoorbeeld Integrated Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-2013).

Positie en herkenbaarheid in Europa en in de regio

Het Mercator Kenniscentrum is uitstekend toegerust om expertise en competenties die op het niveau van de lidstaten en de regio's ontwikkeld zijn, te mobiliseren en bij elkaar te brengen. Door de specialistische expertise op het gebied van taalverscheidenheid en taalleren draagt het kenniscentrum bij

aan het implementeren van de Europese beleidsprogramma's op het terrein van taalverscheidenheid en taalleren.

- Het Mercator Kenniscentrum groeit uit tot een onafhankelijke en erkende instelling waar zowel de beleidsmakers als de professionele werkers in het veld met vertrouwen gebruik van kunnen maken.
- Het Mercator Kenniscentrum groeit uit tot een Europees toonaangevend kenniscentrum op het gebied van meertaligheid en taalleren, waarbij zowel aandacht is voor het leren op school als voor de taaloverdracht buiten het onderwijs (thuis, op het werk, in de vrije tijd, door cultuurparticipatie). Het kenniscentrum bevordert de expertise en brengt de experts op dit terrein bij elkaar en draagt hiermee bij aan het Europese streven dat alle Europese burgers meer talen spreken en leren.
- Het Mercator Kenniscentrum draagt in de regio bij aan de versterking van de positie van 'Leeuwarden Kennisstad'. Het kenniscentrum is herkenbaar in en voor de stad Leeuwarden, hoofdstad van de tweetalige provincie Fryslân.
- Het Mercator kenniscentrum bevordert de deskundigheid van alle professionele werkers in de regio op het gebied van taalleren en meertaligheid.

Focus

De focus is de meertaligheid van het individu in de sociale en culturele context, zowel thuis als op school, in de werksituatie en in de sociale omgeving (verenigingen, maatschappelijke organisaties en (zorg-)instellingen) en de culturele sfeer (toneel, muziek, film). Het onderzoek is gericht op het leren en onderwijzen van talen als moedertaal, als tweede taal en als vreemde taal. De taalverscheidenheid van Europa komt in de eerste plaats tot uitdrukking in de aandacht voor de autochtone regionale en minderheidstalen in Europa. Naast het leren op school is er ook aandacht voor taalbeleving en taaloverdracht in de culturele context. Meertalige taaluitingen zoals muziek, lezen en literatuur, voordracht en toneel zijn belangrijke elementen van de beleving en ontwikkeling van taalverscheidenheid van de gemeenschap en van het individu. De **taakstelling** bestaat uit drie elementen:

- **Kennisverwerving**

Het Mercator Kenniscentrum legt zich toe op nieuw onderzoek betreffende meertaligheid, veelal in samenwerking met hogescholen en universiteiten in Fryslân en Nederland en met partnerinstituten in de EU.

Het Mercator Kenniscentrum continueert de taak van **kennisbeheer** door middel van een digitaal info- en documentatiecentrum op het gebied van regionale en minderheidstalen.

- **Kenniscirculatie**

Het Mercator Kenniscentrum is een transferpunt van kennis door disseminatie van de kennis d.m.v.:

- de Regionale Dossiers, de Mercator Newsletter, Q&A en de eigen website (www.mercator-research.eu);
- bijdrage leveren aan het verwerven van kennis door studenten (bachelor, master) en professionele werkers in opvoeding en onderwijs d.m.v. scriptie, stage en projecten;

- actualiseren van kennis van docenten, opleiders, onderwijsbegeleiders d.m.v. seminars, workshops en congressen (regionaal, nationaal en internationaal).
- **Kennistoepassing**
De expertise van het Mercator Kenniscentrum wordt door de professionele werkers in het veld toegepast in projecten op het gebied van voorschoolse vorming, vernieuwing in taalonderwijs, pedagogische concepten in meertalig onderwijs, taalverwerving en integraal taalbeleid. Verder advisering over meertalig onderwijs aan scholen en lerarenopleidingen en aan schoolbesturen, locale en regionale overheden.

Uit de samenhang van deze drie elementen – en de uitkomsten in termen van praktisch bruikbare instrumenten en adviezen – blijkt de waarde van het Mercator Kenniscentrum in de kennisinfrastructuur m.b.t. meertaligheid en taalleren, namelijk in het geheel van instituties die als primaire doelstelling hebben het verwerven, het beheren en de distributie van kennis.

Europese positie

Met deze taken is het Mercator Kenniscentrum een onafhankelijk en erkend focuscentrum voor beleidsmakers, onderzoekers en opleiders op het gebied van taalverscheidenheid en het leren van talen. Hiermee levert het Mercator Kenniscentrum ook een bijdrage aan de sociale cohesie en sociale duurzaamheid van meertalige gebieden in Europa.

APPENDIX II

Presentations Mercator 2014

Marit Bijlsma

Valentina Garoia (EUN) and Marit Bijlsma (Fryske Akademy / Mercator Research Centre) presented LangOER and its main activities during the Media & Learning Conference, 20-21 November 2014. The session “Media-Based Open Educational Resources” was moderated by Aikaterini Chariopolitou, EduTV, Greece. The audience was for a large part composed of teachers and the presentation gave insights from a practical point of view, on how to use OERs and what to know before starting using OERs.

Marit Bijlsma

Presentation for Master students Multilingualism about OER (Open Educational Resources) and the LangOER project. 19 November 2014.

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber

Presintaasje ûndersyk Taalgebrûk Fryske jongerein op sosjale media

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Interviewee)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Omrop Fryslân Tillefyzje: Bynt

Details

Event: Presintaasje ûndersyk 'Taalgebrûk fan Fryske jongerein op sosjale media' 16/04/2014

Date: 16 Apr 2014

Link:

<http://www.omropfryslan.nl/utstjoering/bynt-fan-16-april-2014-1830-0>

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Media participation

Twidentity

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Member)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Joint research with researchers from Meertens Instituut, Universiteit Twente and University of Maastricht to compare the use of regional language in Tweets in Limburg and Fryslân

Details

Date: 01 Jun 2014 → ...

External organisation: Meertens Instituut

Activity: External academic engagement › Research and Teaching at External Organisation

Speech at the annual commemoration of the 'Battle at Warns 1345'

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Speaker)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

It Frysk ferbynt, ek op ynternet en sosjale media

Details

Event: Betinking fan de Slach by Warns 1345, Reaklif, Warns 27/09/2014 - 27/09/2014

Date: 27 Sep 2014

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Public lecture/debate/seminar

Presentation at the NPLD international conference

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Speaker)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Minority language use on social media

Details

Date: 04 Jun 2014

Event: Presentation at the NPLD international conference 04/06/2014 - 06/06/2014

Activity: Conference participation › Participation in conference

Visit of European platform for education specialists, Leeuwarden

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Speaker)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Language use on Social Media by Frisian teenagers: Language use and Identity

Details

Date: 09 Apr 2014

Event: Visit of European platform for education specialists, Leeuwarden 09/04/2014

Activity: Conference participation › Participation in conference

Presentation on the exchange day for Frisian professionals

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Speaker)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Language use of Frisian teenagers on social media

Details

Event: Exchange of professionals from other Frisian organisations 03/06/2014 - 03/06/2014

Date: 03 Jun 2014

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Public lecture/debate/seminar

Presentation for trainees of the Province of Fryslân

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Speaker)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Language use of Frisian teenagers on social media

Details

Event: Visit of trainees at the Province of Fryslân 11/06/2014 - 11/06/2014

Date: 11 Jun 2014

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Public lecture/debate/seminar

Presentation at the board meeting of the European Bureau for Small Languages

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Speaker)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Language use of Frisian teenagers on social media

Details

Event: Meeting Europeesk Buro foar Lytse Talen 25/09/2014 - 25/09/2014

Date: 25 Sep 2014

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Public lecture/debate/seminar

Guest lecture at Drachtster Lyceum

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Speaker)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Guest lecture at Drachtster Lyceum about language choice of Frisian teenagers on social media.

Details

External organisation: Drachtster Lyceum

Date: 06 Oct 2014

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Schools engagement

Multilingualism and Social Media

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Speaker)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Frisians on social media: behaviour, choices and motivations

Details

Date: 28 Nov 2014

Event: Multilingualism and Social Media 28/11/2014 - 29/11/2014

Activity: Conference participation › Participation in conference

Jeugd uit de Fryske Wâlden brûkt it meast Fries

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Interviewee)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Friesch Dagblad

Details

Event: Presintaasje ûndersyk 'Taagebrûk fan Fryske jongerein op sosjale media'16/04/2014

Date: 14 Apr 2014

Files:

Lysbeth_FD_14-04-2014_pag23

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Media participation

Correct Fries net sa belangrik foar jeugd

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Interviewee)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Friesch Dagblad

Details

Event: Presintaasje ûndersyk 'Taagebrûk fan Fryske jongerein op sosjale media'16/04/2014

Date: 14 Apr 2014

Files:

Lysbeth_FD_14-04-2014_pag1

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Media participation

Twitter-Fries hâldt taal levend

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Interviewee)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Leeuwarder Courant

Details

Event: Presintaasje ûndersyk 'Taalgebrûk fan Fryske jongerein op sosjale media'16/04/2014

Date: 14 Apr 2014

Files:

LC-20140414-20

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Media participation

Wâldpiken Frysker op WhatsApp

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Interviewee)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Omrop Fryslân

Details

Event: Presintaasje ûndersyk 'Taalgebrûk fan Fryske jongerein op sosjale media'16/04/2014

Date: 14 Apr 2014

Link:

<http://www.omropfryslan.nl/nijs/waldpiken-frysker-op-whatsapp>

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Media participation

'Frysk appe' doet vooral jeugd in De Wâlden

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Interviewee)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Waldnet

Details

Event: Presintaasje ûndersyk 'Taalgebrûk fan Fryske jongerein op sosjale media'16/04/2014

Date: 14 Apr 2014

Link:

http://www.waldnet.nl/wn/nieuws/44377/Frysk_appe_doet_vooral_jeugd_in_De_W%C3%A2lden.html

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Media participation

Wâldsers ynternetsje mear yn it Frysk

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Interviewee)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

It Nijs

Details

Event: Presintaasje ûndersyk 'Taalgebrûk fan Fryske jongerein op sosjale media'16/04/2014

Date: 14 Apr 2014

Link:

<http://www.itnijs.nl/2014/04/waldsers-ynternetsje-mear-yn-frysk/>

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Media participation

Jongeren in Friese Wouden gebruiken meest Fries op sociale media

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Interviewee)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Details

Event: Presintaasje ûndersyk 'Taalgebrûk fan Fryske jongerein op sosjale media'16/04/2014

Date: 14 Apr 2014

Link:

<http://www.rtvnof.nl/jongeren-friese-wouden-gebruiken-meest-fries-op-sociale-media/>

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Media participation

'Hûnekeppel' yn de Wâlden

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Interviewee)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Details

Event: Presintaasje ûndersyk 'Taalgebrûk fan Fryske jongerein op sosjale media'16/04/2014

Date: 14 Apr 2014

Link:

<http://www.omropfryslan.nl/nijshunekop-effekt-yn-de-walden>

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Media participation

Hemmo whatsappt steeds vaker in het Frysk

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Interviewee)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Leeuwarder Courant

Details

Event: Presintaasje ûndersyk 'Taalgebrûk fan Fryske jongerein op sosjale media'16/04/2014

Date: 14 Apr 2014

Files:

20140414 LC - pag 3

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Media participation

Nieuw leven voor bedreigde talen door Twitter en Facebook

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Interviewee)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Details

Event: Dag van de Moedertaal21/02/2014

Date: 21 Feb 2014

Files:

201402 - nrc - Nieuw leven voor bedreigde talen

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Media participation

Jongeren whatsappen en sms'en steeds meer in het Fries.

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Interviewee)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Ouderenjournaal

Details

Event: Presintaasje ûndersyk 'Taalgebrûk fan Fryske jongerein op sosjale media'16/04/2014

Date: 14 Apr 2014

Files:

20140414 ouderenjournaal

Activity: Public engagement and outreach › Media participation

20ste Frysk Filologekongres

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Speaker)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Minority language use on social media: the case of Frisian

Details

Date: 12 Dec 2014

Event: 20ste Frysk Filologekongres 10/12/2014 - 12/12/2014

Activity: Conference participation › Participation in conference

Sociolinguistics Circle: one day conference, Groningen

Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber (Speaker)

Fakgroep Sosjale Wittenskippen (FA)

Language use on social media by Frisian teenagers

Details

Date: 28 Mar 2014

Event: Sociolinguistics Circle: one day conference, Groningen 28/03/2014

Activity: Conference participation › Participation in conference

Cor van der Meer

20ste Frysk Filologekongres

C. van der Meer (Organiser)

Fryske Akademy (FA), Fakgroep Taalkunde (FA)

20ste Filologekongres 2014

Details

Date: 10 Dec 2014 → 12 Dec 2014

Event: 20ste Frysk Filologekongres 10/12/2014 - 12/12/2014

Activity: Conference participation › Participation in conference

Multilingualism & Social Media

C. van der Meer (Organiser)

Fryske Akademy (FA)

Details

Date: 28 Nov 2014 → 29 Nov 2014

Event: Multilingualism & Social Media 28/11/2014 - 29/11/2014

Activity: Conference participation › Participation in conference

Meeting with partners of Civil Society Platform, Brussels, Belgium

C. van der Meer (Organiser)

Fryske Akademy (FA)

Civil Society Platform

Details

Date: 06 Feb 2014 → 07 Feb 2014

Event: meeting with partners of Civil Society Platform, Brussels, Belgium 06/02/2014

Activity: Conference participation › Participation in conference

International meeting with the partners of the LangOER-project, Leeuwarden

C. van der Meer (Organiser)

Fryske Akademy (FA)

LangOER Language Open Educational Resources

Details

Date: 27 Jan 2014 → 28 Jan 2014

Event: International meeting with the partners of the LangOER-project, Leeuwarden 27/01/2014

Platform / Consortium meeting with interested organisations in Fryslân on the Frisian Language Survey, 29 August 2014. Presentations of Cor van der Meer, Edwin Klinkenberg and Nika Stefan.

Presentation for Master students Multilingualism about the activities of the Mercator Research Centre and internship & job opportunities in the field of Multilingualism. 19 November 2014.

APPENDIX III

PRESS RELEASES: A complete overview of all press releases of the Mercator Research Centre in 2014

Wittenskiplike biblioteek Fryske Akademy oer nei Tresoar

24 maart 2014 - De biblioteekkolleksje fan de Fryske Akademy, ynklusyf dy fan it Mercator Europeesk Kennissintrum foar Meartaligens en Taallearen, wurdt woansdeitemiddei 26 maart oerdroegen oan Tresoar. Direktoren dr. Hanno Brand (Fryske Akademy) en drs. Bert Looper (Tresoar) tekenje dêrta in ferklearring fan permaninte brûklien; de ûndertekening fynt plak yn de Gysbert Japicx-seal fan Tresoar.

‘Mei de oerdracht oan Tresoar fan ús biblioteek, krije studinten, ûndersikers en minsken út ûnderwiis, makliker tagong ta dizze rike boarnen, wêrûnder de tige spesjalistyske kolleksje oer meartaligens fan ús Mercator Kennissintrum’, sa seit Akademy-direkteur dr. Hanno Brand.

Drs. Bert Looper is der ek tige wiis mei dat der no yn earste ynstânsje sa’n 200 meter boeken bykomt by Tresoar: ‘De Fryske Akademy draacht der sa ek oan by om Tresoar út te bouwen as takomstige wittenskiplike biblioteek fan Fryslân en moetingssintrum foar de UCF-community (University Campus Fryslân).’

Mear gearwurking

Yn 2006 hawwe de Fryske Akademy en Tresoar al in konvenant sletten, dêr’t se as doel mei hiene om mear mei-inoar gear te wurkjen. It tekenjen fan de ferklearring fan permaninte brûklien fersterket dat. Nei it útskiften fan dûbele eksimplaren en nei sanearring fan de kolleksje, bliuwt der by de Fryske Akademy allinne noch in hânbiblioteek yn har eigen ûnderkommen oan de Doelestrjitte. De beide Akademy-katalogy (algemien en Mercator) wurde konvertearre nei dy fan Tresoar.

De ferklearring fan permaninte brûklien wurdt woansdei 26 maart tekene by Tresoar. Akademy-direkteur dr. Hanno Brand sil dy middeis symboalysk begjinne mei de oerdracht, troch in ferhúsdooze mei boeken oer de dyk te bringen nei drs. Bert Looper by Tresoar.

De katalogus fan de Tresoar-biblioteek kin [hiir](#) rieplachte wurde.

Wâldpykjies brûke it measte Frysk op sosjale media

Undersyk Fryske Akademy: Taalgebrûk fan Fryske jongerein op sosjale media

14 april 2014 - Frysk wurdt troch jongerein yn 'e Fryske Wâlden mear brûkt op sosjale media as troch jongerein yn oare parten fan Fryslân. Dat docht bliken út ûndersyk ûnder Fryske jongerein dat ûndersiker Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber fan Mercator Research Centre fan 'e Fryske Akademy mei stipe fan de Provinsje Fryslân en de gemeente Ljouwert de ôfrûne moannen útfierde.

Lês hjir it rapport: [Taalgebrûk fan Fryske jongerein op sosjale media](#)

Kommunikaasjewittenskipper Jongbloed hat op 20 Fryske skoallen yn it fuortset ûnderwiis en middelber beropsûnderwiis ûndersyk dien nei it taalgebrûk fan jongerein tusken de 14 en 18 jier op sosjale media. Yn totaal hawwe mear as 2000 jongeren in fragelist ynfolle.

Hast alle Fryske jongeren brûke sosjale media: 98% is hjir aktyf op. WhatsApp wurdt troch 95% fan dy jongeren brûkt, 86% sit op Facebook en 76% op Twitter. WhatsApp wurdt fan dy trije it measte brûkt: 47% hat keazen foar it antwurd 'allinnich as ik sliep, sjoch ik net op WhatsApp'.

Mear sprektaal as skriuwtaal

Yn it algemien kin konkludearre wurde dat it Frysk noch hieltyd mear in sprektaal as in skriuwtaal is. Wat formeler in medium wurdt, wat minder it Frysk yn trochsneed brûkt wurdt. Sa wurdt yn sms'kes en op WhatsApp it Frysk troch ûngefear de helte fan de Frysktalige jongerein in soad brûkt. Op Facebook en Twitter binne dat noch sa?n 30% en yn e-mails leit it oandiel op 15%, docht bliken út it ûndersyk fan Jongbloed. Dat betsjut mei oare wurden dat it Nederlânsk ek ûnder Frysktalige jongerein as skriuwtaal dominant is.

Hokker taal ien it leafst praat, hat de grutste ynfloed op 'e taal dy't de persoan ek op sosjale media brûke sil. Oare faktoaren fan ynfloed binne de hâlding foar it Frysk oer, de skriuwfeardigens en de trochsneehâlding op ien syn skoalle.

Yn Fryslân binne grutte ferskillen metten yn it brûken fan it Frysk. Sa wurdt yn it algemien yn de grutte stêden hast gjin Frysk brûkt, wylst yn de lytsere plakken en yn Noardeast-Fryslân it Frysk op sosjale media folle gewoaner is. Yn 'e Wâlden wurdt it Frysk it measte brûkt.

Dakjes en streekjes

It Frysk wurdt faak fonetysk skreaun. De measte jongeren witte dat, mar fine dat net sa slim: 'De minsken begripe wol wat ik bedoel.' Guon fine it te folle wurk om alle dakjes en streekjes te typen, oaren witte net sa goed wannear't se se brûke moatte. Fierder is ek de ynfloed fan it Nederlânsk goed werom te sjen yn de skriuwtaal fan de jongeren, lykas it brûken fan dialekt en typyske sosjale mediaôfkoartingen. Ek it mei sin trochinoar brûken fan ferskillende talen komt in protte foar.

Sa'n ien fyfde fan de Frysktalige jongerein brûkt noait it Frysk op sosjale media. De wichtichste reden foar harren is dat se it dreech fine om Frysk te skriuwen; mar soks hat ek te krijen mei it net-Frysktalich wêzen fan harren fermidden en harren eigen hâlding oangeande it Frysk.

Fryske Twitterdei

Op tongersdei 17 april wurdt foar de tredde kear de [Fryske Twitterdei](#) hâlden. Op dy dei wurdt besocht safolle mooglik Frysktalige tweets de wrâld yn te stjoeren. Ut Jongbloed har ûndersyk docht bliken dat de Twitterdei in tige posityf effekt hat op it brûken fan Frysk op Twitter troch jongerein. Op de ôfrûne Fryske Twitterdei fan 2013 waard mear Frysk as Nederlânsk brûkt troch de ûndersochte groep jongerein, mar it oandiel Fryske tweets sakket nei de Twitterdei wer werom nei it eardere gemiddelde.

Mear ûndersyk

Nei oanlieding fan it ûndersyk hat de Provinsje Fryslân in subsidydzje takend oan it Mercator Research Centre fan 'e Fryske Akademy om yn 2014 en 2015 mear ûndersyk te dwaan nei it brûken fan Frysk op sosjale media; benammen nei de fraach wêrom't de iene persoan it Frysk op sosjale media wol brûkt, en in oar, dy't kwa kompetinsjes en hâlding oerienkomt mei de earste persoan, it Frysk net. Mei it nije ûndersyk sil ek it taalgebrûk fan oare leeftiidsgroepen ûndersocht wurde.

Teenagers from the Wâlden region use Frisian most on social media

Fryske Akademy research: Language use of Frisian teenagers on social media

14 april 2014 - The Frisian language is used more often on social media by teenagers from the Frisian Wâlden region than by teenagers from other areas in the Dutch province of Fryslân. That was found in a [study](#) of Frisian teenagers carried out over the past months by researcher Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber of the Mercator Research Centre of the Fryske Akademy with support of the Province of Fryslân and the municipality of Leeuwarden.

Communication specialist Jongbloed has conducted research into the language use of 14 to 18-year-olds on social media, at 20 Frisian schools for secondary general and vocational education. In total, more than 2000 teenagers filled in a questionnaire.

Almost all Frisian teenagers use social media: 98% use it. WhatsApp is used by 95% of the teenagers, 86% use Facebook and 76% use Twitter. Of the three, WhatsApp is used most: 47% chose the answer 'only when I am asleep, I do not check WhatsApp'.

Oral rather than written language

In general it can be concluded that Frisian still is rather an oral than a written language. The more formal the medium, the less often Frisian is used, on average. For instance, for text messages and WhatsApp approximately half of the Frisian-speaking teenagers use Frisian. On Facebook and Twitter that proportion decreases to around

30%, and in emails it is 15%, as Jongbloed's research demonstrates. In other words, for Frisian teenagers, too, the Dutch language is the dominant language used in writing.

The language one prefers to speak is the main factor determining one's language use on social media. Other factors affecting language choice are one's attitude towards Frisian, their writing skills, and the general attitude towards Frisian at one's school.

In the province of Fryslân, big differences have been found regarding Frisian language use. In general, Frisian is hardly used in the big cities while it is much more common to use Frisian on social media in smaller towns and in the north-east of Fryslân. In the Wâlden region Frisian is used the most.

Diacritics

Frisian is often written phonetically. Most teenagers are aware of that but do not mind: 'People will understand what I mean anyway.' Some think it is too much work to add all diacritics, others are not sure when to use them. Furthermore, the influence of Dutch is clearly visible in the teenagers' written language, and so is the use of dialect and abbreviations that are typical of social media. It also often happens that different languages are mixed intentionally.

Approximately one fifth of the Frisian-speaking teenagers never uses Frisian on social media. The main reason is that they find it difficult to write Frisian, but it also has to do with their surroundings not being Frisian and their own attitude towards Frisian.

Frisian Twitter Day

On Thursday April 17th, the third [Frisian Twitter Day \(Fryske Twitterdei\)](#) will be held. The aim is to send out as many Frisian tweets as possible on that day. Jongbloed's study shows that Twitter Day positively affects teenagers' use of Frisian on Twitter. On the previous Frisian Twitter Day of 2013, the teenagers in the study used more Frisian than Dutch, but after Twitter Day the proportion of Frisian tweets decreased to the average of before.

Further research

The study has led the Province of Fryslân to grant a subsidy to the Mercator Research Centre of the Fryske Akademy to carry out further research into Frisian language use on social media in 2014 and 2015; in particular, the question will be addressed why one person does use Frisian on social media, while someone else, with similar competences and attitude, does not. The new study will also research the language use of other age groups.

Warnsbetinking: "Nije generaasjes kinne in omkear bringe foar it Frysk"

27 septimber 2014 - Skoallen yn Fryslân hawwe in wichtige rol foar de takomst fan it Frysk, sawol oangeande de hâlding foar it Frysk oer as wat de skriuwfeardigens oanbelanget. Dat seit Lysbeth Jongbloed hjoed op de jierlikse betinking fan 'e Slach by Warns (1345) op it Reaklif.

Jongbloed, dy't ferbûn is oan it kennissintrum foar meartaligens Mercator fan 'e Fryske Akademy, docht ûndersyk nei it online brûken fan 'e Fryske taal. Op 'e Warnsbetinking sprekt sy oer hoe't it Frysk minsken mei elkoar ferbynt op sosjale media. "Jongeren dy't meartalich fuortset ûnderwiis folgje, brûke mear Frysk op sosjale media, binne positiver oer it Frysk en harren kompetinsjes op it mêd fan Frysk skriuwen lizze ek heger", seit Jongbloed. "It binne krekt dy faktoaren, dy't fan grut belang binne foar in taal om 'e 21ste ieu te oerlibjen. It útwreidzjen fan it tal meartalige skoallen yn Fryslân liket dêrom in hiel ferantwurde doel om op yn te setten foar de kommende jierren."

It Frysk wurdt skriftlik net in soad brûkt. Ut 'e Fryske taalatlas fan 2011 docht bliken dat sa'n 12% fan de Fryske befolking fan 18 jier en âlder oanjout it Frysk goed skriuwe te kinnen. It is ek sa, dat wat âlder immen is, wat better er it Frysk yn 'e macht hat.

Neffens Akademy-ûndersiker Jongbloed soene de nije generaasjes dy tendins wolris ombûge kinne, om't der yn it ûnderwiis hieltyd mear omtinken foar it Frysk is. "Yn myn ûndersyk jout 15% fan 'e jongeren tusken de 14 en 18 jier oan it Frysk goed skriuwe te kinnen", seit Jongbloed fan 'e middei op 'e Warnsbetinking. "Dat oandiel leit dus krekt wat heger as it oandiel folwoeksenen dat goed Frysk skriuwe kin en dat soe dus yndied in omkear betsjutte."

Lykwols tekenet sy oan: "Wy kinne ús ôffreegje yn hoe fier't ûnder nije generaasjes in ferminderjen fan taalfeardigens plakfynt, want de measte jongeren skriuwe it Frysk fonologysk, dus sa't se it 'hearre'. Se staverje net goed of fine it net nedich om goed staverje te kinnen. Harren beheinde wurdskat en it brûken fan Hollânske farianten fan wurden dy't ek yn it Frysk bestean, soargje allyksa foar in ferienfâldiging fan 'e taal."

Jongbloed sprekt hjoed op útnoeging fan 'e Stifting Slach by Warns, dy't alle jierren de Warnsbetinking organisearret. De oare sprekker is Hâns Dyk, foarsitter fan it Frysk Boun om Utens.

Warnsbetinking 2014

By de tinkstien op it Reaklif by Skarl, sneon 27 septimber 2014 om 13:45 oere. Sjoch foar it programma: www.betinking-slachbywarns.nl

Oersetsprint foar Frysk Facebook op Mercator-konferinsje

26 novimber 2014 - In team fan frijwilligers jout freed yn it Ljouwerter kafee Van Buren it lêste triuwke oan it folslein beskikber meitsjen fan Facebook yn it Frysk. Dizze ‘Fryske Facebook Oersetsprint’ fynt tagelyk plak mei in ynternasjonale konferinsje oer meartaligens en sosjale media fan it kennissintrum Mercator fan ’e Fryske Akademy.

Facebook wurdt ûnderstipe yn mear as santich talen. Sûnt 2010 is it populêre sosjale netwurk ek beskikber yn ’e Fryske taal, noch hieltyd allinnich mar as bêta-ferzje. Neffens Wim Benes, ynisjatyfnimmer fan ’e [Oersetsprint](#), is de lêste wiken stoef oanskreppe en moat no noch de lêste 4 of 5 persint oerset wurde. “Mei stipe fan Facebook sille wy ús oersetwurk ôfmeitsje en tagelyk de puntsjes op ’e i sette om de kwaliteit op in heger nivo te krijen”, seit Benes.

Benes rûst dat der freedtemiddei sa’n tweintich frijwilligers nei kafee Van Buren komme en oan ’e oersetsprint dielnimme sille. Dêrnjonken skoot in fertsjinwurdiger fan Facebook fan it Europeeske haadkertier yn Dublin, Julian Müller, oan by de Oersetsprint. “Hy sil ús helpe mei problemen dêr’t wy tsjin oan rinne en kin fragen oer it oersetten beäntwurdzje.”

De risseltaten wurde nei de oersetsprint presintearre op ’e konferinsje ‘[Multilingualism & Social Media](#)’, dy’t dan plakfynt yn it neistlizzende Eden Oranje Hotel. Dizze ynternasjonale konferinsje, organisearre troch it kennissintrum Mercator fan ’e Fryske Akademy en it Londenske universitêre taalsintrum SOAS, stiet yn it teken fan it tanimmend ûndersyk nei minderheidstalen lykas it Frysk, Baskysk, Welsk en Gaelic op sosjale media.

De Oersetsprint wurdt stipe troch Facebook, Praat mar Frysk, Fryske Akademy/Mercator en Mozilla.

Fryske Facebook Oersetsprint

Datum en tiid: Freed 28 novimber 2014, 13.30-16.30 oere

Lokaasje: Kafee-restaurant Van Buren, Stasjonswei 4, Ljouwert

Konferinsje ‘[Multilingualism and Social Media](#)’

Datum: Freed 28 en sneon 29 novimber 2014

Lokaasje: Eden Oranje Hotel, Stasjonswei 4, Ljouwert.

APPENDIX IV

PRESS CLIPPING: Selection of exposure in popular media, newspapers, television, radio, internet etc.

LEEWARDER COURANT

14 april 2014, pag. 2

Hemmo whatsappt steeds vaker in het Frysk

AREND VAN DER MEULEN

LEEWARDEN Fries wordt door jongeren in de Friese Wouden meer gebruikt op sociale media dan door jongeren in andere delen van Fryslân.

Dat blijkt uit het onderzoek van Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber van Mercator Research Centre van de Fryske Akademy. Jongbloed heeft op twintig Friese scholen onderzoek gedaan naar het taalgebruik van jongeren tussen de veertien en achttien jaar op sociale media. Ruim tweeduizend jongeren deden mee.

Bijna alle Friese jongeren (98 procent) zijn actief op sociale media. WhatsApp wordt gebruikt door 95 procent, 86 procent zit op Facebook en 76 procent op Twitter.

In het algemeen kan worden ge-



'De wurden dy't wy net kenne, skriuwe wy gewoan op sa't wy se útsprekke'

concludeerd dat het Fries nog altijd meer een spreektaal dan een schrijftaal is. Hoe formeler een medium, des te minder het Fries gemiddeld wordt gebruikt. Zo wordt in sms'jes en op WhatsApp het Fries door ongeveer de helft van de Friestalige jongeren vaak gebruikt.

Op Facebook en Twitter is dat nog zo'n 30 procent en in e-mails ligt het aandeel op 15 procent. Dat betekent

dat het Nederlands ook onder Friestalige jongeren als schrijftaal dominant is.

De achttienjarige Hemmo Yntema uit Heerenveen voldoet precies aan het profiel van de Friese jongere uit het onderzoek van Jongbloed. „Foar de mails brûk ik Nederlânsk, mar mei myn Fryske freonen whatsapp ik yn it Frysk. Ik haw dochs it idee dat de mail wat belangriker, wat serieuzer is.”

Hemmo leerde een beetje Fries op de basisschool. „Mar lang net genôch om it goed te skriuwen. Dêrom brûk ik it Frysk ek allinne mar as ik whatsapp mei myn Fryske freonen. De wurden dy't wy net kenne, dy skriuwe wy gewoan op sa't wy se útsprekke. Dat hindert ús neat. Wy merke wol dat wy hieltyd faker en hieltyd mear it Frysk brûke. It is fansels ek frjemd datsto Nederlânsk

brûkt asto whappst mei freonen dêrst altyt Frysk mei praatst.”

Jammer is het wel, aldus Hemmo, dat hij het Fries schrijven niet echt beheerst. Maar om daar nou een cursus voor te volgen? „Miskien letter ris.” Wel overweegt Menno het Fries in te stellen als gebruikstaal op Facebook. Ongeveer een vijfde van de Friestalige jongeren gebruikt het Fries nooit op sociale media, vooral omdat ze het moeilijk vinden.

Op donderdag 17 april wordt voor de derde keer de Fryske Twitterdei gehouden. Op die dag wordt gepoogd zoveel mogelijk Friestalige tweets de wereld in te sturen. Op de Fryske Twitterdei van 2013 werd meer Fries dan Nederlands gebruikt door de onderzochte jongeren, maar het aandeel Friese tweets zakte na de Twitterdei weer terug naar het eerdere gemiddelde. > pagina 20

LEEWARDER COURANT

14 april 2014, pag. 20

Twitter-Fries houdt taal levend

VERVOLG VAN PAGINA 3

LEEWARDEN Dat 95 procent van de Friese jongeren op de sociale media het Fries gebruikt, stelt Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber van de Fryske Akademy zeker niet teleur.

Sterker nog „Ik hie fantefoaren net toch dat der noch safolle jongerein it Frysk brûkt. Fan myn eigen generaasje tritigers en fjirtigers, brûkt hast net ien it Frysk. Dizze pubers dogge it wol.”

Dat is zeker belangrijk, „want stúdzjes hawwe al oanjûn dat as in taal net brûkt wurdt op ynternet, dat er dan sa goed as dea is. Dan rêdt sa'n taal it net. En wy sjogge dat it Fryske dus wol brûkt wurdt. Ek as ferfangen fan de sprektaal. Froeger pakte ien de tillefoan en spruts Frysk mei

syn freon oan de oare kant. No stjoe-re se in sms-ke of whatsapp se en dogge se dat ek yn it Frysk.”

Welke taal iemand het liefst spreekt, heeft de grootste invloed op de taal die de persoon ook op sociale media zal gebruiken. Andere factoren van invloed zijn de houding tegenover het Fries, de schrijfvaardigheid en de doorsneehouding tegenover het Fries op school.

Er zijn grote verschillen gemeten in het gebruiken van het Fries. Zo wordt in het algemeen in de grote steden bijna geen Fries gebruikt, terwijl in de kleinere plaatsen en in Noordoost-Fryslân het Fries op sociale media veel gewoner is. In de Friese Wouden wordt het Fries het meest gebruikt.

Het Fries wordt vaak fonetisch geschreven. De meeste jongeren weten

dat, maar vinden dat niet erg. Sommigen vinden het te veel werk om alle dakjes en streepjes te typen, anderen weten niet zo goed wanneer ze die moeten gebruiken.

Jongbloed wil nu onderzoeken waarom van jongeren met dezelfde achtergrond en hetzelfde niveau de een het Fries wel gebruikt en de ander niet. Om de kennis te verbeteren zou het Fries op drietalige basisscholen meer aandacht moeten krijgen en zouden er meer Friese kinderboeken moeten komen.

Ook kunnen basisscholen meer aandacht geven aan het Fries op sociale media. De zogeheten rolmodellen zouden ook op andere dagen dan de Fryske Twitterdei het goede voorbeeld moeten geven. Friese tweets van Doutsen Kroes worden massaal doorgestuurd.

Wâldpiken Frysker op WhatsApp

🕒 14 april, 2014 - 11:03 💬 0



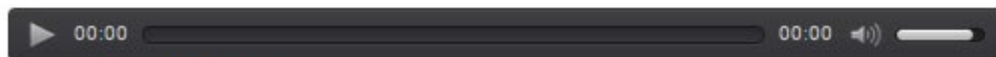
Sosjale media lykas WhatsApp en Facebook - Foto: ANP

Jongerein yn de Fryske Wâlden brûkt faker Frysk op social media as jongerein yn de rest fan Fryslân. Dat docht bliken út ûndersyk fan de Fryske Akademy. Op 20 Fryske skoallen yn it fuortset ûnderwiis en it middelber beropsûnderwiis is ûndersyk dien nei it taalgebrûk op social media fan jongeren tusken de 14 en 18 jier.

Goed 2.000 jongeren hawwe fragen dêroer beantwurde. Hast alle Fryske jongeren brûke social media. 98 % is hjir aktyf op. De helte fan de Frysktalige jongeren brûkt Frysk yn sms'kes en WhatsApp, yn mails is dat mar 15 %.

Yn de grutte stêden brûke de jongeren hast gjin Frysk. Yn de lytsere plakken en yn Noardeast-Fryslân is it Frysk op social media folle gewoaner. Ien fyfde fan de Frysktalige jongerein brûkt noait Frysk op social media, foaral omdat se dat te dreech fine.

It Frysk op de socialmedia wurdt faak fonetysk skreaun. De measte jongeren witte dat, mar fine dat net sa slim: 'De minsken begripe wol wat ik bedoel.' Guon fine it tefolle wurk om alle dakjes en streekjes te typen, oaren witte net sa goed wannear't se dy brûke moatte. Ek is de ynfloed fan it Nederlânsk goed werom te sjen yn de skriuwtal fan de jongeren, lykas it brûken fan dialekt en typyske sosjale media-ôfkoartingen. Ek it mei opsetsin trochinoar brûken fan ferskate talen komt in protte foar.



Undersiker Lysbeth Jongbloed

LEEWARDER COURANT

17 april 2014, pag. 34

Fries als memmetaal schaars in Leeuwarden

LEEWARDEN Slechts 8 procent van de jongeren in Leeuwarden heeft twee Friestalige ouders. Voor de hele provincie ligt dit cijfer op 45 procent.

Fries is in 45 procent van de gezinnen met twee ouders de voertaal. Voor het Nederlands is dat 36 procent. In 11 procent van de gevallen praat de ene ouder Fries en de andere Nederlands.

Het getal in Leeuwarden is lager dan wethouder Sjoerd Feitsma had verwacht, zo zei hij gisteren in het Provinsjehûs. Het gegeven dook op in een onderzoek van Lysbeth Jongbloed-Faber van het Mercator Research Centre van de Fryske Akademy.

Jonker onderzocht het gebruik van het Fries door jongeren van

veertien tot achttien jaar op sociale media. Deze krant berichtte daar maandag al uitgebreid over. Hoe het kan dat het aantal jongeren met twee Friestalige ouders in Leeuwarden zo klein is, kon Jongbloed niet aangeven.

Feitsma denkt dat in elk geval meespeelt dat Leeuwarden meer dan andere delen in Friesland mensen van buiten Leeuwarden aantrekt. Daarnaast wonen er relatief veel studenten in de hoofdstad.

In 2016 presenteert de Fryske Akademy een promotie-onderzoek waarin de verklaring wel te vinden moet zijn. Die studie moet aantonen in welke mate de huidige inwoners van Friesland het Fries schriftelijk en mondeling gebruiken.

LEEWARDER COURANT

24 juni 2014, pag. 22

LEEWARDEN

Mercator wil meer subsidie in toekomst

Mercator, het Europees Kenniscentrum voor Meertaligheid en Taallen van de Fryske Akademy, heeft in de toekomst 96.000 euro subsidie jaarlijks extra nodig. Dat schrijft het centrum in zijn visie op 2020, bestemd voor de provincie en de gemeente Leeuwarden. Mercator krijgt nu 200.000 euro van de provincie en weet daar zelf jaarlijks zo'n 170.000 euro aan inkomsten uit Europese projecten tegenover te zetten. De extra subsidie is nodig om de loketfunctie in Friesland te versterken.

Meertalig optreden op station

🕒 26 septimber, 2014 - 12:07  0  Lês Frysk berjocht

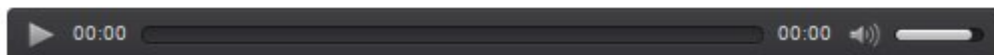
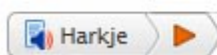


Live muzyk op it Ljouwerter stasjon fan Wiebe Kaspers en Florian den Hollander - Foto: Niels Lahuis

Reizigers die vrijdagochtend op het busstation in Leeuwarden kwamen, werden getraakteerd op live muziek van zanger en pianist Wiebe Kaspers en basgitarist Florian den Hollander. In het kader van de Europese Talendag spelen beide muzikanten op twee plekken in Friesland. 's Ochtends in Leeuwarden en tussen de middag op CSG Liudger in Waskemeer.

Op de Europese Talendag viert Europa zijn rijke verscheidenheid aan talen. Bijna de helft van de wereldbevoling is meertalig en er worden in totaal bijna 7000 talen gesproken op de wereld.

De Europese Talendag is een initiatief van de Council of Europe. De muzikale optredens in Friesland worden mogelijk gemaakt door een samenwerkingsverband van het kenniscentrum voor meertaligheid Mercator, het Europees Buro voor Kleine Talen, de Afûk en Friesland Pop.



Ferslachjouwer Dirk Baron op it Ljouwerter stasjon

Friesch Dagblad, 29 september 2014, pagina 20.



De herdenking van de Slach by Warns afgelopen zaterdag. Foto: Simon Bleeker

Meertalige school helpt Fries

• Leerlingen schrijven Fries op sociale media

 Bauke Boersma

Warns | Jongeren die meertalig onderwijs volgen, zijn over het algemeen positief over de Friese taal. Ze beschikken ook over een betere schrijfvaardigheid in het Fries dan anderen. Die vaardigheid gebruiken ze onder meer op sociale media.

Dat zei Lysbeth Jongbloed zaterdag tijdens de herdenking van de Slach by Warns op het Reaklif. Jongbloed is verbonden aan het kenniscentrum voor meertaligheid Mercator van de Fryske Akademy. Ze doet onderzoek naar het online ge-

bruik van de Friese taal.

Volgens de onderzoekster zijn juist het positivisme, de schrijfvaardigheid en het gebruik op sociale media belangrijke factoren voor het behoud van het Fries. „It útwreidzjen fan it tal meertalige skoallen yn Fryslân liket dêrom in hiel ferantwurde

Meeste jongeren skriuwe it Frysk fonologysk, dus sa't se it hearre

doel om op yn te setten foar de kommende jierren.”

Jongbloed plaatst wel een kanttekening. „De meeste jongeren skriuwe it Frysk fonologysk, dus sa't se it hearre. Se staverje net goed of fine it net nedich om goed staverje te kinnen. Harren beheinde wurdskat en it brûken fan Hollânske farianten fan wurden dy't ek yn it Frysk bestean, soargje allyksa foar in ferienfaldiging fan 'e taal.”

Naast Jongbloed voerde Hans Dijk van het Frysk Boun om Utens op het Reaklif het woord. Er waren muzikale intermezzo's van onder anderen het Krite Koar Lelystêd en het muziekkorps De Lytse Súdwesthoeke. De herdenking van de Slach by Warns vond voor de 69e keer plaats. Het thema was dit jaar 'Frysk ferbynt!'

LEEWARDER COURANT

29 november 2014, pag. 18

Laatste spurt naar 'folslein' Frysk Facebook

MARIA DEL GROSSO

LEEWARDEN Er was nog een laatste spurt nodig. Met inzet van vrijwilligers lukte het initiatiefnemer Wim Benes gisteren om Facebook 100 procent in het Fries vertaald te krijgen.

Zeven mannen zitten in een donker hoekje van café Van Buren, tegenover het station in Leeuwarden, gebogen over hun laptops. Tussen de snoeren ligt welgeteld nog één woordenboek. Het 'oersetten' van alle termen die op Facebook voorkomen, is ook meer een kwestie van onderling overleg dan van het woordenboek erbij pakken.

Het vertalen komt vooral neer op het overzetten van veel technische Engelse termen naar het Fries. Bedenk maar eens een goed Fries woord voor 'format', gooit iemand in de kring. 'Frame' wordt gezien als een goede optie.

Lang niet alle woorden zijn één op één in het woordenboek te vinden 'timeline' (tijdlijn) staat er niet als

zodanig in en wordt 'tiidline'.

Een van de deelnemers krijgt 'broken' voor de neus dat al vertaald is als 'kapot'. Maar 'stikken' is nog beter in het Fries. En het poppetje dat 'depressed' is, kun je niet vertalen als 'depressief'. „Want dat wurdt der krekt net mei bedoeld”, zegt taalkundige Hindrik Sijens van de Fryske Akademy. Hij maakt er 'somber' van.

Sijens krijgt als laatste controleur bijna alle suggesties nog onder ogen. Benes legt de vrijwilligers in tien minuten uit hoe ze mee kunnen werken. „Dêrnei is it in kwestje fan trochbuffelje.” Aan de Friese verta-

ling van Facebook wordt al vier jaar gewerkt. In totaal leverden 450 mensen een bijdrage. Dat varieert van een woordje vertalen tot hele zinnen. Daniël Hofstede zorgde in zijn eentje voor zeventienduizend zinnen.

Toch was in augustus van dit jaar nog maar 15 procent van alle termen vertaald. Benes vond het daarom tijd er een serieuze draai aan te geven. Met een 100 procent vertaling kan iedereen in zijn instellingen bij Facebook veel makkelijker op het Fries overstappen. Dat was tot gisteren een verborgen mogelijkheid. Op dit moment zijn er achtduizend gebruikers van de Friese versie.

Julian Muller van Facebook stond de vrijwilligers gisteren bij. „Op onze site doen mensen niets anders dan het uitdrukken van hun identiteit. Taal is daar een belangrijk onderdeel van. Wij stimuleren daarom het gebruik van de eigen taal. Ook in andere talen zijn vrijwillige gemeenschappen opgestaan om Facebook over te zetten. Wij willen zo veel mogelijk talen hiervoor de gelegenheid geven.”



‘Taal belangrijk onderdeel van het uitdrukken van je identiteit’



Vrijwilligers zetten zich in om Facebook volledig in het Fries te vertalen. Op de voorgrond rechts: initiatiefnemer Wim Benes en links Julian Muller van Facebook. FOTO NIELS WESTRA

Facebook tenei folslein yn it Frysk

28 novimber, 2014 - 19:22 0 Lees Nederlands bericht

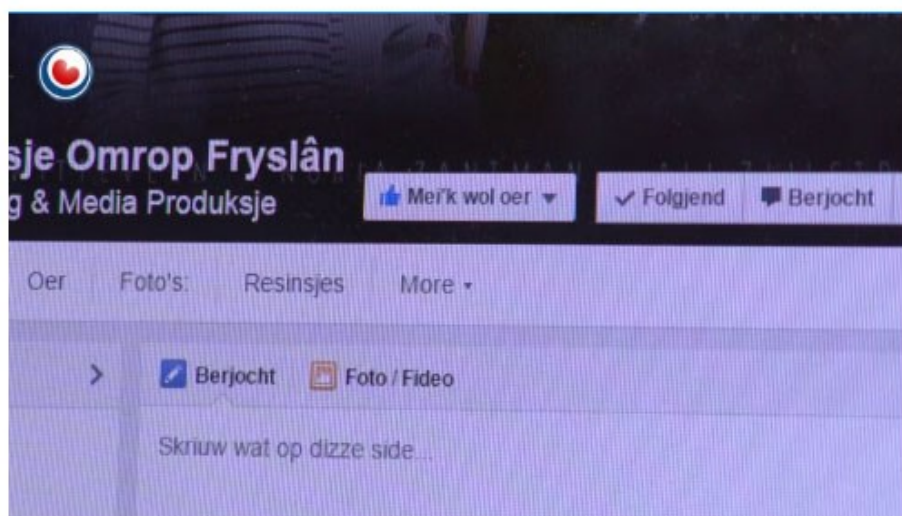


Facebook iPhone applikaasje - Foto: ANP XTRA

Facebook is no ek folslein yn it Frysk beskikber. It sosjale medium wie al in skoft diels beskikber it Frysk. Mar in protte standertsinnen en -útdrukkings wiene noch net oerset. Dêr is no feroaring yn kaam. In groepke frijwilligers hat freed op in spesjale oersetseinspurt yn it Oranje Hotel de lêste oersettings makke.

Under tafersjoch fan in lerske fertsjinwurdiger fan Facebook is de Fryske taal op Facebook no folslein makke. Sawat achttûzen minsken meitsje gebrûk fan de Fryske Facebook.

De Frysktalige Facebook is foarearst allinnich beskikber as je Facebook iepenje yn in bekende browser. It Frysk sit noch net yn de Facebook-app. Neffens Julian Möller fan Facebook soe dy app fierstente swier wurde as dy alle talen oanbiedt. Mooglik komt hjir letter noch in aparte app foar. De Facebook-oersetseinspurt fûn plak op de ynternasjonale konferinsje fan Mercator oer sosjale media en minderheidstalen. De resultaten fan de aksje waarden ek op de konferinsje presintearre.



Facebook folslein Frysktalich makke



Harkje nei Wim Benes

LEEWARDER COURANT

01 december 2014, pag. 2

De smartphone die een Zwitsers dialect spreekt

ASING WALTHAUS

LEEWARDEN Twee dagen hebben taalkundigen in Leeuwarden geconfereerd over sociale media en taal. Vooral een Zwitserse app trok de aandacht.

In Zwitserland spreken naar schatting 4,5 miljoen mensen Schwyzerdütsch. Een officiële spelling is er niet van, en het is eigenlijk ook niet echt een taal, maar een verzameling dialecten. Daar is nu een app voor, DialäktÄpp, van de universiteit van Zürich. Zwitsers kunnen hem gratis op hun mobieltje zetten en daarmee zowel hun uitspraak van woorden opnemen als die van anderen horen. Er zit informatie bij over waar een woord zo wordt uitgesproken. Zo

ontstaat geleidelijk aan een soort uitspraakkaart en tegelijk een toetssteen.

Psycholinguïste Mandana Seyfeddinipur uit Londen vond het een fantastisch voorbeeld van hoe sociale media iets kunnen betekenen voor 'bedreigde talen'. Ze was een van de sprekers op een korte conferentie in Leeuwarden over meertaligheid en sociale media van het SOAS (een instituut aan de Universiteit van Londen, dat zich richt op Afrika, Azië en het Midden-Oosten) en Mercator (een onderdeel van de Fryske Akademy).

Seyfeddinipur zit bij een onderdeel van SOAS dat geld geeft – geschonken door Zweedse weldoeners – aan projecten die kleine talen vastleggen. Dat zijn er nogal wat, reken-

de ze voor. De helft van de wereldbevolking spreekt de 25 hoofdtalen van de wereld (Mandarijn, Spaans en Engels vormen de top drie), maar dan zijn er nog bijna zeventuizend talen, waarvan dan weer de helft gevaar loopt te verdwijnen.

Het instituut is er niet om die talen te 'redden', vertelde ze meteen. Dat is aan de sprekers zelf. „Als ze de taal opgeven, dan geven ze de taal op”, zei ze. Het instituut is er wel om die talen vast te leggen.

In het midden bleef, of het de studie van het Fries, het Nedersaksisch of andere minderheidstalen in Europa verder helpt. Hier wordt al veel van vastgelegd. In elk geval sprak de Zwitserse app enorm aan. „Dat soe hjir ek wol wat wêze”, liet een van de bezoekers zich ontvallen.

APPENDIX V

Letter of the Basque Government ending the agreement, october 2014



Mr Hanno Brand
Director of the Fryske Akademy
Doelestrjitte 8
Postbus 54
8900 AB Leeuwarden

In Vitoria-Gasteiz, 17th of September 2014

Dear Mr Brand,

I, Arantza Aurrekoetxea Bilbao, viceminister of the Department of Education, Language Policy and Culture, first of all apologize for this delayed answer as well as for the coming announcement.

Due to the economic situation we are enduring, and even if the Government is not entirely to blame for this crisis, we have been compelled to revoke our Basque – Frisian agreement.

We thank you for these seven years of joint work and collaboration. But unfortunately, we don't foresee the way to go on with it in this critical juncture. Let us hope, nevertheless that there will be a suitable moment in the near future to reassume this relationship.

Sincerely yours,



Arantza Aurrekoetxea Bilbao
VICEMINISTER OF EDUCATION

