



21st January 2019

PRESS RELEASE

Inspiring language of maths education project made possible after securing Erasmus+ funding.

Rzeszow, Poland

Rzeszow-based Danmar Computers Ltd is part of a transnational partnership that has been successful in gaining EU Erasmus+ funding for the Mathspeak education project.

Project Information

Danmar Computers Ltd is acting as project partner to the Mathspeak education project, which the Erasmus+ programme announced, at the end of December 2018, had received its funding.

The Mathspeak project aims to provide non-native language speaking students with the means by which they can do maths better. When students study mathematics in a foreign language, the language itself adds layers of difficulty to something that is already abstract and opaque. Research shows that students don't perform at mathematics as well as they could. This is because they need words and grammar to discuss and understand the mathematical terminology, such as the functions and operations.

The learning materials will help tackle academic underachievement, alienation and disaffection, which can lead to students leaving school at an early age.

The target groups are students are in Years 8-12 at secondary school, or in further education, who have intermediate and pre-intermediate levels of competence in a foreign

language. They could be immigrants, international students in foreign language speaking institutions, students in a country or institution where the language of maths instruction is not the mother tongue, or students in their home countries learning a foreign language.

Participating students will improve both their foreign language skills and their performance in mathematics. As a result, their motivation will increase, and this will bring them more academic success. The students' improved linguistic and mathematical skills will also help them when they start work or move onto tertiary level education.

Work is now underway to develop the Mathspeak training modules, with the two-year project due to be completed in September 2020. When the project has been completed, schools around the European Union will be able to download and use the free educational materials that have been developed.

Erasmus+ is the European Union's (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport, with the EU committing £12 billion to the programme between 2014 and 2020. In the UK, the programme is managed by the Erasmus+ UK National Agency, a partnership between the British Council and Ecorys UK.

The project is funded under Key Action 201 Strategic Partnerships project of the programme. Strategic Partnerships are transnational projects designed to develop and share innovative practices and promote cooperation, peer learning, and exchanges of experiences in the fields of education, training, and youth.

This activity funds schools to work with partner schools and organisations across the Erasmus+ Programme countries on projects of shared interest. In the case of the Mathspeak, the project partnership comprises: Cherryleaf Ltd (UK), Idris Education Limited (UK), Ioan C. Ștefănescu Technical College (Romania), Istituto Statale d'Istruzione Superiore "E. Mattei" (Italy) school, PGO "Nedka Ivan Lazarova" school (Bulgaria), the Viva Femina Foundation (Poland), and Danmar Computers (Poland).

Project Manager Małgorzata Mikłosz said: "We are delighted to have been successful in Erasmus+ and are looking ahead to starting the project. It is expected that between 100 and 150 teachers and students will take part directly in the various Mathspeak project activities. Taking part is a great way to test and implement new ideas for developing important numeracy skills and driving innovation and improvements in teaching and learning. We hope

dropout rates will reduce significantly and all the key target groups will benefit tremendously.”

For more information about the Mathspeak project, visit <https://mathspeak.erasmus.site/>, or use the hashtag #epluspeople to see what other projects are doing across the UK.

For more information about funding opportunities visit www.erasmusplus.org.uk, or use the hashtag #epluspeople to see what other projects are doing across the UK.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Mathspeak

The Mathspeak project is a partnership between European educational practitioners and the creators of educational materials. Funded by the European Commission, this project aims to provide non-native language speaking students with the means by which they can do maths better.

Further information from: www.mathspeak.erasmus.site

Twitter: @ Mathspeak_EU

Contact: Ellis Pratt, mathspeak@erasmus.site or call 020 7100 4513.

About Danmar Computers

Danmar Computers is a private company delivering training on Information Technology and developing ICT solutions designed to meet the needs of specific target groups.

Danmar Computers will create and manage the project website, share technical expertise in the process of delivering final results, as well as contribute to dissemination activities.

Further information from: <https://danmar-computers.com.pl/>

Twitter: @DanmarComputers

Phone: +48178536672

About Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport for 2014-2020. It significantly increases EU funding (+40%) with an overall budget of €14.7 billion (£12 billion) for the development of knowledge and skills and aims to increase the quality and relevance of qualifications and skills. Two-thirds of its funding will provide grants for more than 4 million people to study, train, gain work experience or volunteer abroad in 2014-2020 (compared with 2.7 million in 2007-2013). The period abroad can range from a few days up to a year. In the UK, it is expected that nearly 250,000 people will undertake activities abroad with the programme. Erasmus+ aims to modernise education, training and youth work across Europe. It is open to education, training, youth and sport organisations across all sectors of Lifelong Learning, including schools education, further and higher education, adult education and the youth sector. Erasmus+ provides funding for organisations to offer opportunities to students, teachers, apprentices, volunteers, youth leaders and people working in grassroots' sport. It will also provide funding for partnerships between organisations such as educational institutions, youth organisations, enterprises, local and regional authorities and NGOs, as well as support for reforms in Member States to modernise education and training and to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and employability.

The programme is managed in the UK by the Erasmus+ UK National Agency, which is a partnership between the British Council and Ecorys UK.

Further information from www.erasmusplus.org.uk

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