Activity Number: Language\_AT\_Lesezentrum\_1

Title: EXPLORING GREETING WORDS

Designed by: Lesezentrum

Area(s): (i) Cultural Contexts/ (ii) Encounters with Difference/ (iii) Language

Objectives:

16. Identify and read commonly used words, phrases, and structures in stories written in another European language.

17. Appreciate Europe’s linguistic diversity as linguistic richness.

18. Identify some of the European languages when they hear them.

19. Identify some of the European languages when they see them in written form.

Appropriate EUMOF stories: Roman Ghosts

Materials needed:

Sheets of paper with a grid:   
horizontally: names of languages (open list), vertically: greeting words (open)

Poster

Age level(s): 10-12

Step-by-step description of activity:

1. The story is read or told to the children.

2. Question: Can you greet in another language than your native language(s)?

3. Greeting words in as many different languages as possible are collected in the class.

4. Children try to fill in the grid on their sheet of paper.

5. Children (in groups of two or three) are sent out to ask their parents, neighbours, friends, … to help them fill in the grid. They should try to get into contact with people from different linguistic background.

6. The greeting words can be grouped: formal/informal (i.e. within the family), according to the time of the day (morning, midday, afternoon, evening, night), meeting/departing

6. The findings are copied to the poster.

8. Possibly a little prize for those children who could find out words for greeting in most languages

Notes to the teacher:

The same activity can also be done with tourists, not only with migrants.

Be aware that some languages are not codified and that there are many subvarieties; there is no single solution, especially not for languages which are rarely written e.g. for Kurdic or Romany. There might also be different forms of transcription (e.g. in the case of languages written in other writing systems like Arabic, Chinese).

Lists of basic vocabulary for many languages can be found in the Logos Children's Dictionary (<http://www.logosdictionary.org>).

Suggestions for follow-up activities:

The pupils are asked to use the greeting words as often as possible in school, when meting foreigners or migrants.