

HLE NETWORK POLICY PLAN



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HERITAGE LANGUAGE EDUCATION NETWORK
SEPTEMBER 2023 - SEPTEMBER 2026



Introduction

Shining a light on heritage language education

HLE Network is a relatively new organization. Over the past years, we have confirmed that there is a need for advocacy in the area of heritage language (HL) education. In this document, we set forth a plan for the coming years, as our network steadily matures.

How we got started

Information about the various heritage language (HL) programs across the Eindhoven region was gathered in the 2018-2019 school year, culminating in a symposium in June 2019, at which nearly all of the programs gathered for the first time. Efforts began, to increase the visibility of and collaboration between the HL programs. Two years later, in July 2021, the Heritage Language Education Network was formed as a charitable foundation ("ANBI stichting").

Our first two years as a foundation

In our initial policy plan, we described a mismatch: there is convincing evidence that there are benefits when multilingual children have access to good quality HL education, yet there are also many documented obstacles in the way of achieving sustainable, quality HL education. One of the first steps in addressing these obstacles is raising awareness about the benefits of HL education and fighting against misconceptions about multilingualism. As documented in our annual reports, published online, we have met the majority of the goals set forth in our initial policy plan (September 2021 – September 2023).

A blind spot

There remains a great deal of work to be done. In this renewed policy plan (September 2023 – September 2026), we identify something in addition to the mismatch, namely a "blind spot."

What do we mean by blind spot? Right now there is a flurry of activity in the Netherlands surrounding the topic of multilingualism. We see that there is teacher training available to help mainstream teachers understand how to support multilingual children within their classrooms. We see that there are experts ready to support multilingual families with language planning through books, workshops, and personal consultations. We see that there are university projects that help multilingual children comprehend information shared in museums; organizations that support newcomer children with Dutch education; and region-wide networks that bring schools together with diverse student populations to share information about best practices. These are all wonderful developments that all contribute to making sure that multilingual children can grow up confidently and meet their potential with equal opportunities in education.

However, we notice that in these discussions, handbooks, workshops, etc., there is little to no mention of the role of HL education.



The tendency to ignore the role of HL educators within initiatives related to multilingualism is something that HLE Network will continue to address through public outreach activities and partnerships. We will remind the public what Dennis Wiersma wrote as Minister of Education in a parliament letter on May, 26, 2023:

"Education outside our regular education system also influences the way children approach each other, their environment and the rest of the world. Many informal educational institutions make a valuable contribution to our society. They help children develop social skills, self-awareness and identity, for example, by teaching them about their parents' or grandparents' language and culture. Thus, they contribute to children gaining confidence in themselves and finding their place in Dutch society."*

Essential themes

We will continue the multi-faceted approach outlined in our initial policy plan by carrying out activities in the five areas: visibility, community, quality, outreach, and partnerships. In addition to this foundational approach, we will also incorporate the following themes into our various activities.

Professionalism We will foster an atmosphere of collaboration, transparency, and inclusiveness among HL programs by promoting the values in document we co-authored in 2021: *International Guidelines for Professional Practices in Community-Based Heritage Language Schools*.

Economic benefits We will follow the example from other regions of the world who have succeeded in lobbying politicians and stakeholders with an economic rationale, highlighting how multilingualism contributes to a modern, skilled labor market.

United Nations We will align our activities with the values of the United Nations, including their 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, including the concept of intangible cultural heritage.

*Kamerbrief over de voortgang van de beleidsagenda informeel onderwijs, translated with DeepL.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to increase and improve opportunities for multilingual children to further develop the language(s) they speak at home through an effective educational program. This education should support them in their identity development so that they can grow up confidently and integrate into local society. We aim to promote and improve heritage language (HL) education in the Eindhoven region and beyond.



We envision a world where multilingual children have the opportunity to develop the language(s) that they speak at home through an effective education program. We will achieve our objective by:

- 1 Ensuring that accurate information about available HL programs is **visible** and easy to find
- 2 Creating a sense of **community** between HL programs, where achievements can be celebrated, appreciation can be shown for their work, and challenges can be discussed.
- 3 Organizing professional development activities or research projects with the aim of maintaining/improving the **quality**, success, and sustainability of HL programs
- 4 Informing and **reaching out to the public** about the importance of understanding, recognizing, valuing, and supporting HL education
- 5 Forming meaningful **partnerships** with other organizations

Strategic Plan

The following goals have been set with ambition to achieve them by September 2026. This policy plan applies thus to the school years 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 and is valid until October 2026.

VISIBILITY

- Appear in at least 12 publications (press, podcasts, magazines, expat guides)
- Have our website viewed by at least 200 new visitors each year
- Gain at least 300 new followers via social media
- Ensure that information about HL education appears in the city after-school activity booklet
- Ensure that key elements of the website and brochures are available in Dutch

COMMUNITY

- Maintain at least 15 HL programs as Affiliates in the HLE Network Directory
- Reach 375 newsletter subscribers
- Organize 3 networking events for HL teachers/managers
- Organize 3 events that promote reading in the HL
- Post 2 interviews with alumni from HL programs, to show how the education has contributed to their identity development and preparation for the job market
- Carry out at least one survey of HL programs

QUALITY

- As a part of a regular conference for HL leaders and teachers in conjunction with our European partners (the Forum for Heritage Language Coalitions in Europe, "FOHLC Europe"), run 2 to 4 professional development workshops for HL teachers/managers
- Promote the *International Guidelines for Professional Practices in Community-Based Heritage Language Schools* (for example, through presentations or incorporating it into training material - the latter pending subsidy)
- Support/mentor any new language groups who want to start a HL education program

OUTREACH

- Give 6 public outreach presentations to raise awareness about HL education (including its economic benefits) and to raise money to sustain the foundation

PARTNERSHIPS

- Work with Eindhoven Library to expand the International Children's Book Collection and to promote reading in the HL
- Partner with a university to supervise at least one student for a MA internship/thesis/service learning position
- Apply for a European grant with partners



Means of Fundraising

- fees for giving presentations (to schools or businesses)
- fees for access to some events
- fees for for-profit programs to appear in Directory
- subsidies
- sponsorships
- donations

Financial Management

The annual financial statements of HLE Network are published on the website. To date, activities have been carried out with a few anonymous donations, volunteer work, and contributions from /collaborations with partners such as Holland Expat Center South and Eindhoven Library. To date, examples of fixed administrative costs include banking costs, board liability insurance, and e-herkenning requirements. Other expenses include the website (platform and domain), postage, speaker fees, and small gifts for interns/volunteers/speakers.

Moving forward, we will strive to secure enough fixed income to afford things like: a webinar platform service subscription, part-time management personnel, volunteers with compensation, subsidized accounting and personnel services from Stichting Supportpunt Eindhoven, and equipment (foundation laptop) for interns/volunteers.

Board members are not compensated for their service on the board. Management may be compensated for carrying out executive functions (conforming with the Good Governance Code for Charities (Commissie Wijffels) if there are sufficient funds.



Partners

Organizations with whom we connect include governmental organizations, public libraries, educational authorities, school boards, mainstream school directors and teachers, parents, umbrella organizations for heritage language programs abroad, universities and research centers in the Netherlands and abroad, as well as non-profit organizations with similar goals and activities both in the Netherlands and abroad.

We have relationships with:

- 3M Meer Kansen Met Meertaligheid Project at NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences
- ALCE de Países Baños
- Alliance Francaise Eindhoven
- Brainport Development
- Brainport voor Elkaar
- Bulgarian Hub Eindhoven
- Bulgarian School "St. Kliment Ohridski", Eindhoven
- Coalition for Community-Based Heritage Languages, United States
- De Carrousel (Centro Latinoamericano de Orientación)
- Deutsche Schule Eindhoven
- Eindhoven Chinese School Han Tang
- Eindhoven French school "Francofilous"
- Eindhoven Italian School "La Lampadina"
- Eindhoven Library
- Eindhoven Persian School
- Holland Expat Center South
- Home Heritage and Community Languages Advisory Group, England
- HowDo Magazine
- Hungarian Weekend School in Eindhoven
- Indian Center in Netherlands (ICIN) Education
- International and Heritage Languages Association, Canada
- Japanese Book Club Eindhoven
- Japanese kleuterklas Eindhoven
- KidsRights Foundation
- Kletsheads Podcast
- Korean School Eindhoven
- Living In Project
- Meerhoven Internationals Platform
- Móðurmál - the Association on Bilingualism, Iceland
- PARVAZ cultural group
- POLH Semente (Portuguese)
- Radboud University Nijmegen
- Russian Language Center "Buratino" Eindhoven
- Rutu Foundation, Language Friendly Schools
- SALTO school group
- Stichting Drio, ADIM ADIM TURKCE (Turkish)
- Stichting Poolse School Eindhoven
- Stichting Romanian School in Eindhoven
- Stichting Supportpunt Eindhoven
- Sydney Institute for Community Languages Education (SICLE), University of Sydney, Australia
- Taal naar Keuze
- the Czech and Slovak School Okénko in London
- The Reading Pier
- Ukrainians in Eindhoven
- Utrecht University, Multi-STEM

See also www.hlenet.org/thinktank

The following individuals serve on HLE Network's board, Management Team, and Advisory Council as of September 2023. For bios and the most up-to-date information, visit www.hlenet.org/organization.

Board members



**DIANA
ANGELOVA**
CHAIR



GEERT SIMONS
VICE-CHAIR



**PHILIPPE
SOULARD**
TREASURER



**ANNE VAN
BUUL**

Management



**GISI
CANNIZZARO**
MANAGING
DIRECTOR



**CHIKAKO
NISHIYAMA**
VOLUNTEER



ZOE KANG
VOLUNTEER

Advisory Council

An Advisory Council is an external sounding board that gives non-binding advice to the Board and Managing Director of HLE Network. The Advisory Council is composed of internationally recognized experts in the fields of heritage language education, multilingualism, and non-profit governance. Members of the Advisory Council have no financial interest in the success of HLE Network and are not compensated by HLE Network.



**JOY KREEFT
PEYTON**



**ELLEN-ROSE
KAMBEL**



**KEN
CRUICKSHANK**



**FREDERIKE
GROOTHOFF**



**SABINE
LITTLE**



Organization

This policy plan was prepared by the Managing Director and was approved by the Board on 2023-10-11.

Name of foundation

Heritage Language Education Network
(*Stichting Heritage Language Education*)

Board

- Diana Angelova, Chair
- Geert Simons, Vice-Chair
- Philippe Soulard, Treasurer
- Anne van Buul

Management

- Gisi Cannizzaro, Managing Director

Details

- E-mail: hlenet.org@gmail.com
- URL: www.hlenet.org
- KvK number: 83309586
- RSIN: 862823699
- ANBI status since: 2021-07-05
- Bank account: NL67 RABO 0370523814