



ANNUAL 2022- REPORT 2023



**HERITAGE
LANGUAGE
EDUCATION**
NETWORK



A YEAR'S OVERVIEW

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Can you believe that this year marks the the 45th anniversary of Eindhoven Chinese School Han Tang and the 35th anniversary of the Polish School of Eindhoven? The CLO (organizer of De Carrousel Spanish lessons) and the Russian Language Center "Buratino" Eindhoven each celebrated their 23rd anniversary this year as well. Eindhoven can be so proud of the many successful heritage language (HL) programs that operate here.

Heritage Language Education (HLE) Network has been bringing these and other HL programs together since 2019, and we registered as a foundation in 2021. The 2022-2023 school year was the fourth year that we have given voice to the common issues faced by HL programs. We also raise public awareness about the societal benefits when multilingual children are supported by these supplemental education programs.

The board has four members: Diana Angelova, Geert Simons, Philippe Soulard, and Anne van Buul. Managing Director Gisi Cannizzaro carries out the day-to-day management.

The Dutch tax authority recognizes us as an "[ANBI](#)" (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling), which means our efforts are almost entirely committed to the public benefit. We are also registered with [Geef.nl](#), which facilitates monetary donations. Since December 2022, the activities that we have registered with the KvK (Dutch Chamber of Commerce) include "[Outreach Services](#)" in the form of presentations and workshops. This year, members of our team have attended informational sessions and individual consultations about non-profit financial management with experts from Stichting Supportpunt Eindhoven. On our website you can find HLE Network's [policy plan and financial overview](#).

How did our organization develop during the 2022-2023 school year? We saw quite some growth! We gained newsletter subscribers and followers on LinkedIn. We have welcomed a few [volunteers](#) to help out with various projects, as well as a [new member of our Advisory Council](#), Dr. Sabine Little. We organized numerous [events](#) with local and international partners that included opportunities for networking, professional development, and community engagement.

We started the new year in September 2022 with a [Meetup at Pand P](#), with attendees from ten different language groups. This school year was important because pandemic restrictions were lifted and the HL programs could try to re-build momentum. HL programs that are affiliated with our network started sending updates for their profiles in our directory, which is [now searchable by region and language](#). We also gained a few [newly-affiliated programs](#). In order to report and nicely display all of the goings on in the world of multilingual children and HL education, we revamped our website's [News page](#). It's really worth checking out!

In the pages that follow, we give more detail about our achievements in the areas of reading in the HL, outreach/visibility, and international collaborations. We also share some statistics. We sincerely thank everyone who helped make this a successful year!

Looking ahead, we will kick off the new school year by celebrating our [5th annual HLE Networking Night](#). Through our participation in "[Brainport voor elkaar](#)," we intend to make sure multilingual children are not forgotten in the region's new social agenda. The theme of the [FOHLC Europe 2023 Conference](#) will be "Harvesting support for HL education: How to seek and maximize resources." So stay tuned for what is to come!

READING IN THE HOME LANGUAGE

We continue to carry out projects that stimulate reading in the home language. *See also the topic of the FOHLC Europe 2022 conference on the page about "International Collaborations"*



CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Since September 2022, children's book collections in Korean, [Spanish](#), [Japanese](#), and Turkish, were added to the [International Children's Book Collection at Eindhoven Library](#), with German and Indian languages expected later in 2023. The participating language groups were active: the picture to the left of Spanish books was taken at a [celebration by De Carrousel](#); Stichting Drio organized monthly book readings in [Turkish](#); and the [Romanian School of Eindhoven](#) and [Bulgarian Book Club "Lezen is Leuk"](#) also organized lovely events.



RAISING AWARENESS

We organized a talk in September 2022 by award-winning children's book author Marit Törnqvist called "[Moedertaal en Vaderland](#)" (in Dutch), about the importance of having children's literature available in multiple languages. We worked with Eindhoven Library's marketing department to create a Dutch and English flyer for the international collection. The library followed our suggestion to start putting information about the collection their [Dutch-language newsletters](#). Our "[Reading in the Home Language](#)" flyer has started to be translated into other languages.



NATIONAL READ ALOUD DAYS

In total, fifteen languages (including Dutch) were showcased between January 25 and February 4 during the [National Read Aloud Days for Multilingual Children](#). Most groups held individual readings, except for the six languages that held the joint event on the first Saturday (with an estimated 60 children attending). This event was advertised in [HowDo #32](#) (a two-page spread, pages 26 - 27), via the Expat Center social media channels, and by the library's marketing department. Local Eindhoven news outlet [Studio040](#) covered the Japanese reading with a two-minute video.



VISIT FROM STATE SECRETARY

On May 15, 2023, we [met State Secretary Gunay Uslu](#) at Eindhoven Library as part of an event to celebrate a new federal subsidy scheme. Two members of HLE Network's organizational team introduced the International Children's Book Collection to Secretary Uslu and many other partners of the library from across the Netherlands. The message was: the collection is not merely a set of foreign-language books on the shelves: it is an impressive example of community cooperation and engagement!

OUTREACH AND VISIBILITY

Positive attitudes about linguistic diversity are necessary for it to thrive. We have spread this message both within and beyond Eindhoven this year.

OUTREACH SERVICES

We kicked off our "[Outreach Services](#)" by publishing a comprehensive infographic in English and Dutch that debunks [9 common misconceptions](#) about HL education. We distributed the flyer at the Cultural & Creative Winter Market at the Evoluon (where we were [interviewed by Radio 4 Brainport](#)) and at [International Women's Day](#) at the Park Theater. The infographic was [translated by a Persian HL program in London](#), which caught the attention of an online news site *Kayhan London*, which reported about it to Iranian communities world wide. A Tamil translation is in the works.



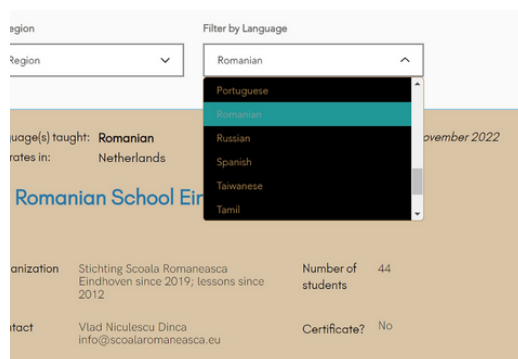
REACHING DUTCH TEACHERS

We contributed an [article](#) to *MeerTaal*, a national print magazine for Dutch mainstream teachers. We spread flyers at two local events about multilingualism for Dutch mainstream teachers organized by the "regieteam Sprong Meertaligheid" and at an "[Inspiratiemarkt](#)" organized by Brainport. Our "[Thuistaal Toppers!](#)" [book recommendation activity sheet](#) was suggested as a tip for mainstream teachers in a Cubiss "[Inspiratiegids](#)." We gave the [keynote talk](#) at a networking meeting for mainstream schools in Brainport with a diverse student population.



DIRECTORY SPOTLIGHTED

Our directory -- [now searchable by region and language](#) -- is promoted twice per year in two guide book publications of Holland Expat Center South (and in advertisements about the guide books, [see page 20 here](#)). Some HL programs from the directory ([Chinese](#), [Romanian](#), and [Portuguese](#)) have been featured in Expat Center newsletters and social media posts this year. In *HowDo #35*, to appear in July 2023, the directory will be promoted in an article we have written about HL education and volunteering.



EXPERTISE SHARING

HLE Network is increasingly recognized for its expertise in the area of HL education. We have been added to Brainport's [list of professional development training options](#) for Dutch mainstream teachers. For research being carried out by Holland Expat Center South's "Living In" program about the integration of newcomers, we were interviewed, as well as asked to invite representatives from several language groups to participate in a focus group. We took part in a session involving numerous local educational stakeholders to brainstorm how to address the needs of multilingual residents in Eindhoven/Brainport.



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

We value our partnerships with our international contacts. Working together with them allows us to have an impact on a global scale.



FOHLC EUROPE

Together with international partners in Iceland, Ireland, and England, we organized the [second FOHLC Europe conference](#) (November 2022), with the theme "Multilingual Children and Multilingual Libraries: Cultivating Reading Habits in the Heritage Language." We were thrilled to have Professor Stephen Krashen as one of our keynote speakers! We received 100% [positive feedback](#) about the conference (from 21 respondents). This year the FOHLC Europe team has also expanded activities to include running a [new blog](#), and [presenting our initiative](#) at other conferences.



GLOBAL THINK TANK

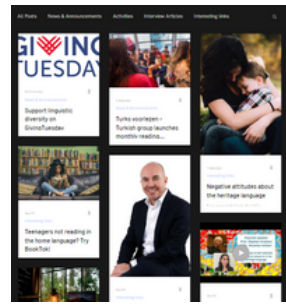
January 22, 2023, marked the [first virtual meeting](#) of a Global Heritage Language Think Tank. More than thirty professionals involved in heritage language education from across the world came together to generate ideas about how to improve the recognition, visibility, vitality, quality, and sustainability of Community-Based Heritage Language (CBHL) educational programs worldwide. HLE Network is proud to have helped start up the Think Tank and host the webpage that [lists its participants](#).



PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES

Since 2021, there is a set of guidelines to help HL programs worldwide, co-authored by HLE Network: the [International Guidelines for Professional Practices in Community-Based Heritage Language Schools](#). The document was [presented by HLE Network and our partner in Iceland](#) in October 2022 at the 9th annual CBHL Schools Conference in the U.S./online. The document was also presented by several of its North American authors at the [NHLRC's 4th International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages in June 2022](#) in the U.S./online.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



16

There were 16 attendees of the [Meetup in September 2022](#) at Pand P, representing 10 languages. In agreement with the organizers of the regular *HowDo* magazine launches, we have started inviting leaders of the different language communities, which gives them additional opportunities to connect with other organizations in the region.



44.2%

From September 2022 to June 2023, we had an average open rate of 44.2% for our [monthly newsletters](#). Our click rate (for clicking on a link in the newsletter) is between 5 and 10%. Over the course of the 2022-2023 school year, the number of newsletter subscribers increased from 200 to 250. Be sure to [sign up](#) if you haven't!



>1200

We had more than 1200 flyers printed. Holland Expat Center South helped us with the printing of the [Myths infographic](#) and the [Reading in the Home Language large bookmark](#). Eindhoven Library helped us with the design and printing of the advertisement of the International Children's Book Collection. Many thanks for this support!



964

Between September 2022 and June 2023, we had 964 unique visitors to the website, with an average visit of 9 minutes. 94% of the unique visitors were new and 6% were returning.



44

Between September 2022 and June 2023, we added 44 news posts to our site. The top three posts were

- "[9 Myths about HL Education](#)" from December 2022 (182 unique visitors)
- an interview by HLE Network with Dr. Miglena Hristozova entitled "[Fighting for educational equity for multilingual children in Germany](#)" from February 2023 (114 unique visitors)
- "[Enriched by engaged language communities: Eindhoven Library welcomes De Carousel's Spanish books](#)" from April 2023 (83 unique visitors)



+200

We gained 200 followers via [LinkedIn](#), going from 140 followers in September 2022 to more than 340 followers by June 2023. During this period we also had almost 400 reactions, 20 comments, and almost 50 reposts. We had 174 unique visitors to our LinkedIn page.