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**Swim the Language.
Language Learning at
European Swimming
Events**

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Aim of the paper:

- to present the project Swim the Language Challenge
- to stress on the importance of the language learning material for intercultural education and language for specific purposes learning

The project Swim the Language Challenge

- Swim the Language Challenge was a project supported by the EC Lingua Programme to promote language learning at international swimming events (2007-2008). The Challenge was an online language race to win a trip with accreditation to the swimming finals of the Beijing Olympics 2008.
- Project partners: [LEN: Ligue Européenne de Natation](#), [Budapest Business School](#), [University of Primorska](#), [Leader Comunicare Interculture](#)
- <http://www.swimthelanguage.org/meet.htm>

The project Swim the Language Challenge – the Methods

- Participants enter the race in the virtual pool at European Swimming Championships and on the website. The race is in four European languages: Finnish, Hungarian, Italian and Slovenian.

- The language pool covers:

Visiting and Hosting

Socialising

Swimming

Meeting cultures

- Language swimmers have access to the training sessions presenting:
language games,
quizzes,

multiple choice activities in the languages they choose.

- When they are ready, they swim the language race in up to two languages, they gain scores and access to the following leg of the relay. The sum of the scores gained in the four legs gives access to the Finals of the Challenge in Malaga, 2008.

The project Swim the Language Challenge was promoted at Swim the language pool at the international swimming events set by the programme of the project Swim the Language:

- August 2007 European Masters Championship-Kranj
Presentation of the "Swim the language" Challenge
First Leg – Visiting and Hosting
- December 2007 European Swimming Championship (Short course)-Debrecen
Second Leg – Socialising
- March 2008 European Swimming Championship (Long Course)-Eindhoven
Third and fourth Leg – Swimming and Meeting Cultures
- July 2008 European Water Polo Championship in Malaga
Swim the Language Challenge Finals
- August 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing
A trip to the Swimming Final Competitions
- The participants thought it was very useful.

The project Swim the Language Challenge was presented and used also:

- by the participants of the 15th and 16th Summer Courses of the Slovenian Language in 2008 and 2009
- by Erasmus students at the University of Primorska during their individual learning
- by the students of the Slovenian Language as the Third Foreign Language at the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literature at the University Ca' Foscari in Venice
- by the students at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Primorska as a part of two courses: Sociolinguistics and The Slovenian Language as the Second/Third Language
- by the students of the Faculty of Education Koper at the University of Primorska

Example:

- A: I would like a ticket to the city.
- B: Single or return?
- A: How long is return ticket valid?
- B: A week. How long are you staying in town?
- A: Six days.
- B: You can get a ten trip ticket. It is valid on the bus, train, tram and underground.

Conclusions

- The participants thought the race was very useful.
- The race represents very useful teaching and learning materials for teaching foreign languages, languages for specific purposes and for intercultural education.