

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



HERITAGE LANGUAGE EDUCATION NETWORK

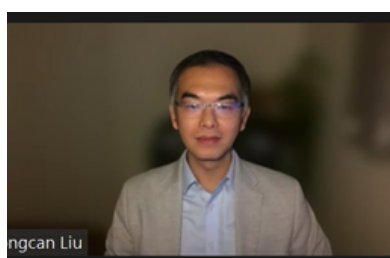
Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling
ANBI



PANEL

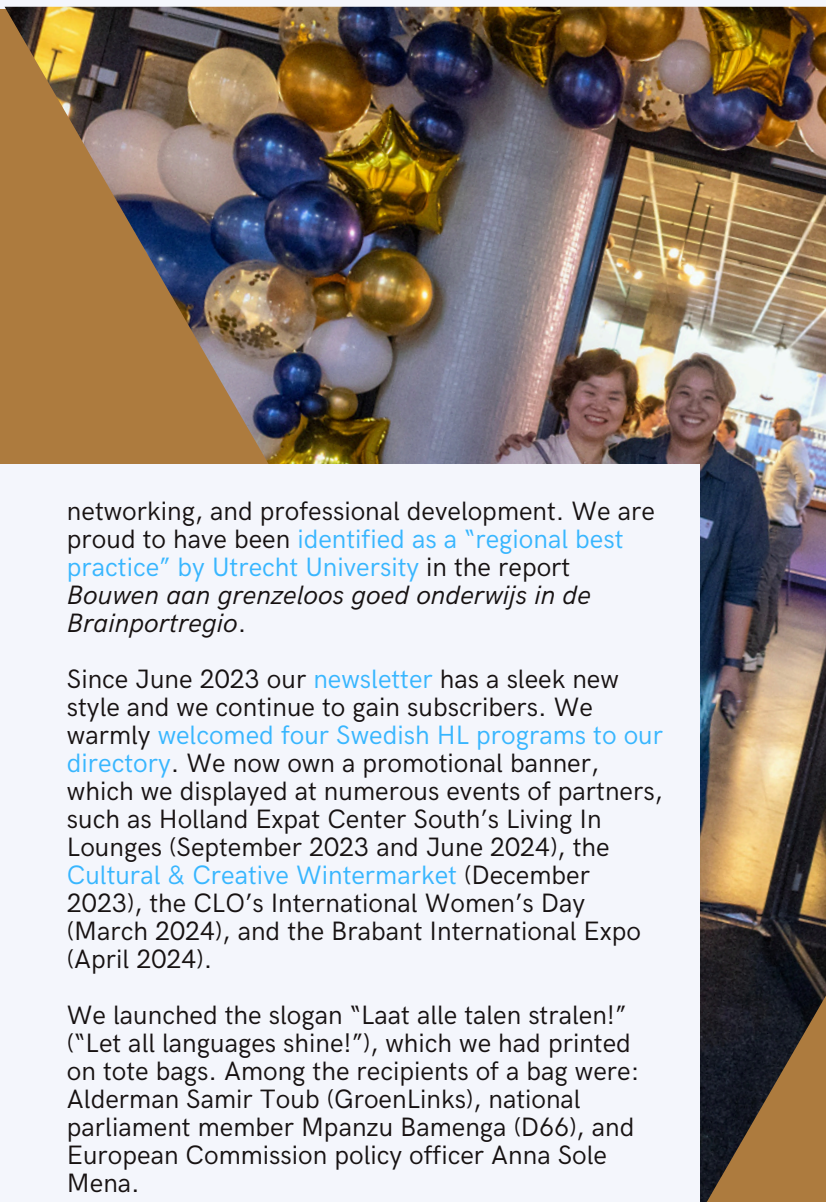
Anna Kijak, PhD Poolse School Eindhoven
Sandy Barkowsky Holland Expat Center South, Living In Program
Maaïke Verrips, PhD Drongo, platform meertaligheid
Krisel Doreleijers Meertens Instituut
Alfonso de Jong afgestudeerd aan de Carrousel Spaans programma van het Centro Latinoamericano de Orientación (CLO)

Gemodereerd door:
Senna Bouteba, oprichter van Blooming Projects



A YEAR WORTH CELEBRATING

GROWING RECOGNITION



Heritage Language Education (HLE) Network supports multilingual children by giving a collective voice to the heritage language (HL) programs that educate them. We have been bringing these programs in the Eindhoven/Brainport region together since 2019. We are happy to see an increased appreciation for our mission to support the educators of multilingual children – a welcome development in the face of the region’s rapid growth in population and diversity.

In 2021, HLE Network was registered as a foundation. 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 registered with [Geef.nl](#) and [Bright Funds](#), which facilitates monetary donations. On our website you can find our [policy plan and financial overview](#).

The board of HLE Network includes Diana Angelova, Geert Simons, Philippe Soulard, and Anne van Buul. Managing Director Gisi Cannizzaro carries out the day-to-day management. We have received volunteer support this year from Chikako Nishiyama, Zoe Kang, Doesny Boutisma, Naoko Yamamoto, [Alcira Bojórquez Segura](#), [Gemma Hodgson](#), Scott Guymmer, and Ankelien Schippers. Members of our team attended several informational sessions and individual consultations this year about non-profit financial management and marketing, with experts from Stichting Supportpunt Eindhoven, Blooming Projects, Jouw Social Studio, and [Oranje Fonds](#).

This report outlines our accomplishments from 2023-2024. We kicked off the school year in September 2023 with a memorable celebration of our [5th annual HLE Networking Night](#), sponsored by Brainport Development. We welcomed over 60 guests from 45 organizations to compete in an awareness-raising quiz about multilingualism hosted by “Number 42.”

This year we have seen a steady gain in recognition of our network. The municipality of Eindhoven has welcomed our network as a member of its “Coalitie Inclusief Samenleven”: the city awarded us a subsidy in 2024 and named us in [Eindhoven’s Uitvoeringsprogramma Inclusief Samenleven 2024](#) (implementation plan) in Actielijn 3 and 6 for knowledge sharing,

networking, and professional development. We are proud to have been [identified as a “regional best practice” by Utrecht University](#) in the report *Bouwen aan grenzeloos goed onderwijs in de Brainportregio*.

Since June 2023 our [newsletter](#) has a sleek new style and we continue to gain subscribers. We warmly [welcomed four Swedish HL programs to our directory](#). We now own a promotional banner, which we displayed at numerous events of partners, such as Holland Expat Center South’s Living In Lounges (September 2023 and June 2024), the [Cultural & Creative Wintermarket](#) (December 2023), the CLO’s International Women’s Day (March 2024), and the Brabant International Expo (April 2024).

We launched the slogan “Laat alle talen stralen!” (“Let all languages shine!”), which we had printed on tote bags. Among the recipients of a bag were: Alderman Samir Toub (GroenLinks), national parliament member Mpanzu Bamenga (D66), and European Commission policy officer Anna Sole Mena.

At our event [Meertaligheid van Eindhovense Jeugd in Beeld](#) (May 2024), we raised awareness via a star-studded panel discussion about the societal benefits when multilingual children are supported by HL education. The event was inspired by the [Global Call to Action for Heritage Language Education](#) that we helped launch in February 2024 and had [translated into Dutch](#).

In the pages that follow, we give details about our activities and results from this year, covering the areas of “Supporting HL educators” and “Outreach & Visibility,” both of which include continued international collaborations. We sincerely thank all who contributed to our growth this year!

Looking ahead, we will start the school year with our [6th annual HLE Networking Night](#) with newly added “micro-workshops” for professional development. The theme of our free, annual, online [FOHLC Europe 2024 Conference](#) will be “Rethinking incentives: how to bolster the motivation of students, parents, teachers, and other stakeholders in HL education.” We are also planning a visit from a special guest from Australia. So stay tuned for what is to come!

SUPPORTING HL EDUCATORS

A major aim for us is to support people involved in heritage language education since most of them are volunteer groups who benefit from support, appreciation, and recognition!



ANNUAL NETWORKING NIGHT

Our event in September 2023 to celebrate 5 years of networking was a success! It was opened by Alderman Samir Toub, people got to know each other during an engaging quiz, and we provided packages of markers to mother tongue programs to show appreciation for their work. This event was made possible by Brainport Development and Holland Expat Center South, with additional sponsorship from Eindhoven Library, SWP Publishing / Marinella Orioni, Ririro, LAPPA Books, and Wingzzz. See [full coverage \(with pictures!\) in English](#) and a [Brainport article in Dutch](#).



MAKING CONNECTIONS

HLE Network [joined Utrecht University's Multi-STEM NWO project](#) to ensure that the role of HL educators is considered. As a part of the collaboration, we helped Multi-STEM researchers find HL programs to participate in BA research. HLE Network joined [Samen voor Eindhoven](#) and [attended a "Brainport voor Elkaar" dinner](#) that led to two corporate matches: one with Eindhoven Airport that resulted in a [donated laptop](#) and one with DELA that led to [free prints for six HL programs](#). We also officially connected more than 15 HL professionals with Eindhoven Library's VATT project.



DE NATIONALE VOORLEESDAGEN
VOOR MEERTALIGE
KINDEREN 2024

Het Prentenboek van het Jaar wordt in meerdere talen voorgelezen in de Bibliotheek Eindhoven, Witte Dame, tussen Jan 24 en Feb 3. Iedereen is welkom! Zoek "voorlezen" in de bibliotheekagenda voor de meest actuele planning.

Op zaterdag 27 januari (14.00 - 16.15)

Bulgaars, Oekraïens, Portugees, Duits, Spaans en Roemeens

Op andere dagen in het: Chinees, Engels, Nederlands, Japans, Pools, Frans, Italiaans, Perzisch, Hongaars, Turks en Koreaans

Laat
alle
talen
stralen!

NATIONAL STORYTELLING DAYS

You may remember that in 2023 we organized readings of the national picture book of the year in 15 languages. In January 2024, we surpassed this, with [17 languages](#), thanks to the participation of groups involved with HL education! At least 200 children attended. The event was covered nationally in [Dutch News](#). We extend an extra thanks to Gulsah van Dijk who read in Turkish both at the Witte Dame and in the new neighborhood library in Tongelre -- and who organized a [fantastic celebration of the Turkish book collection](#) in December 2023.



Theme 2023

Harvesting support for
heritage language (HL) education:
How to seek and maximize resources



FOHLC
Europe

Forum of Heritage Language
Coalitions in Europe

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In November 2023, we held our 3rd annual (free, online) professional development and networking conference as part of the FOHLC Europe initiative. Over two days, attendees received practical tips and examples of how to find funding, lesson materials, partners, volunteers, and other means of sustaining HL educational programs. We published a review of the conference with [Emilsson Peskova, E., & Cannizzaro, G. \(2023\). Review of FOHLC Europe 2023 Conference: "Harvesting support for heritage language education: How to seek and maximize resources". Educational Role of Language Journal. The Emotional Role of Language and of the Linguistic Education. 2023-2\(10\), 157-159 https://doi.org/10.36534/erlj.2023.02.14.](#) We also organized two online "FOHLC Cafes": one in [February 2024](#) about positive values and one in [May 2024](#) about our Global Call to Action.

OUTREACH & VISIBILITY

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

EXPERTISE SHARING

Our Managing Director was in the panel at a [Drongo event](#) in January 2024, [presented at U.S. coalition conference about outreach materials](#) in October 2023, ran two workshops at the [Trion/SILFO studie-dag](#) in January 2024, and gave the keynote talk at the opening of the EU project "Your Language Counts" in March 2024, entitled "[Countless ways to support HL educators](#)," which is available for viewing. In 2024, we gave a talk at an [Expat Center event about Mental Health, at the library about reading for pleasure in the home language](#), and for the [International Women's Club of Eindhoven](#).



GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION

On UNESCO's International Mother Language Day in February 2024, an action group of the HL Global Think Tank, led by HLE Network, launched [a list of recommendations](#) to help improve HL education for multilingual children worldwide: [Anderson, J., Argyri, E., Ashtari, N., Cannizzaro, G., Egnatz, L., Emilsson Peskova, R., Hristozova, M., Little, S., Mehmedbegovic-Smith, D., Nahodilova, J., Paulovicova, N., & Wahlin, M. \(2024\). Global Call for Action for Heritage Language Education. Heritage Language Global Think Tank.](#) The [response one month in](#) spanned the globe.



FURTHER PUBLICATIONS

Information about HL education appears biannually in the Holland Expat Center South's *Expat Guide* and *Living In Guide*. In September 2023, a clip from a previous interview with HLE Network was played in a *Kletsheads* episode "[The benefits of heritage language education \(complementary schools\)](#)" [Season 3, Ep. 6]; quotes from HLE Network appeared in a [Japanese publication](#); and a previous Dutch News interview with HLE Network and the Polish School of Eindhoven was published in Dutch: [ITV: Eentaligheid is niet de norm: het stimuleren van tweetaligheid in Nederland.](#)

HERITAGE LANGUAGE EDUCATION NETWORK FOR MULTILINGUAL CHILDREN



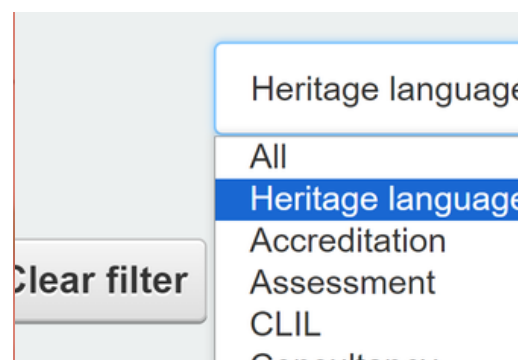
Check out our website

www.hollandexpatcenter.com/hlenetwork or go to www.hlenet.org

FURTHER VISIBILITY

Thanks to the efforts of HLE Network and our partners in the FOHLC Europe team, we [had "heritage language" added as a theme/filter to the ECML list of language associations](#). We also provided the ECML with numerous HL coalitions/associations to add to their list.

HLE Network's 2022 campaign "The Joy of Reading in the Heritage Language" was nominated for the public prize of European Talenlabel, but unfortunately we did not win. You can view our [submission video](#).



THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



>200

There were over 200 registrations for the FOHLC Europe 2023 online conference, from 40+ countries, representing 50+ languages. At two of our local events (HLE Networking Night in September 2023 and Meertalige Jeugd in May 2024), we had at each: 70+ registrations, 60+ guests, and 40+ organizations represented!



42.1%

From September 2023 to June 2024, we had an average open rate of 42.1% for our [monthly newsletters](#). Our click rate (for clicking on a link in the newsletter) is 8%. Over the course of the 2023-2024 school year, the number of newsletter subscribers increased by 108 for a total of 370. Be sure to [sign up](#) if you haven't!



3500

Thanks to our [match made with DELA](#), we arranged the free printing of 3500 sheets for 6 different language groups. The prints included promotional flyers and educational worksheets. Over the course of the year, we had over 1800 copies of our own promotional materials printed for sharing at events and workshops -- thanks in part to DELA and Holland Expat Center South.



1471

Between September 2023 and June 2024, we had 1471 unique visitors to our website. 93% of the unique visitors were new and 7% were returning.



34

Between September 2023 and June 2024, we added 34 news posts to our site. The top two posts were

- "[Sparking large-scale change in heritage language education: A Global Call to Action](#)" from February 2024 (169 unique visitors)
- an interview by HLE Network with Dr. Anne Reath Warren entitled "[Impressive but imperfect: Sweden's model of teaching heritage languages](#)" from September 2023 (145 unique visitors)



350 x 2

We doubled our number of followers via [LinkedIn](#), going from 350 followers in September 2023 to 700 followers by June 2024. During this period we also had over 560 reactions, 39 comments, and 41 reposts. We had 174 unique visitors to our LinkedIn page. During this period our posts/reposts were seen by over 15,000 LinkedIn users.