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XV. Hungarian Language and Culture Summer University, 2014

There are a couple of underlying principles along which the Hungarian Language and Culture Summer University is organized:

- The five-stage training structure ensures the learning of the language from a basic communication level to an advanced level (Breakthrough (A1), Waystage (A2), Threshold (B1), Vantage (B2) and Effective Operational Proficiency (C1) Hungarian.). Those students who have already had some experience in learning Hungarian may find their place among the different levels after a placement test and an interview.
- The groups are made up of a minimum number of 4 and a maximum number of 10 students.
- Our teachers are professional, dynamic and experienced teachers.
- It contains 30 language lessons a week.
- After the course and taking the final exam students are given a certificate (transcript of records) with ECTS credit points earned at the course, moreover, they have the opportunity to take the accredited, international ECL language exam at the Foreign Language Centre of the University of Pécs.

The Hungarian Language and Culture Summer University is a 2- or 4-week-long course but it can be attended for two or three weeks as well. This time it is going to start on 27th July and last until 10th or 24th August, 2014. The language teaching focuses on communication, laying stress upon the use of the language, profiting from the opportunities provided by the Hungarian language environment. A group can learn with the help of three teachers.

The 30 contact hours per week are complemented by consultation hours which provide students with the possibility

- a) of discussing their individual questions and problems with their teachers,
- b) phonetic exercises,

The Hungarian Language and Culture Summer University provides cultural seminars, too. They let one have an insight into present-day Hungarian affairs, as well as into the spiritual and material values and traditions of the Hungarian culture. The cultural seminars are not compulsory; their goal is to provide one with some general cultural information. Moreover, they can be perceived by students

of the basic level as well since they are held in English. The topics focus mainly on culture, history, arts, and science.

The teachers of the Hungarian Workshop, ISC developed a program package, which aims at transforming the cultural modules of the courses with the help of the fun-based learning and teaching model.

The renewed curriculum tightens the connection between classroom language teaching and the cultural programs/fieldtrips. By this, the two forms of the teaching-learning process complement each other, ensuring a real out-of-classroom everyday language experience. In case of teaching Hungarian as a foreign language, the preliminary test teachings and programs proved that students' real-life-experiences make language acquirement more effective. The authors are well aware of the fact, that objective, conceptual processing in classroom environment is inevitable for effective funbased learning.

The projects develop numerous skills and abilities (communication skill, speech comprehension, assessment of information, etc.), offer the possibility to take part in communication situations, which otherwise would appear only after a 4-5-month-long period spent in the target language environment. Direct everyday experiences allow students to examine language facts from different point of views. Didactic language teaching prepares students for real-life communication situations, and after gaining real-life language experiences, analyzing and processing takes place in the classroom again.

The results of fun-based activities are specific products (posters, photos, lists of useful expressions, comparative analysis between target language and the source language, situation games, etc.). Students encounter real tasks and problems. During the projects language skills and intercultural skills develop side by side; students approach Hungarian language from logical, linguistic and psychological point of view.

Projects:

- ♣ Pécs and the Zsolnay-heritage
- ♣ Hungarian and international gastronomy
- ♣ Hungarian folk music and folk dance
- ♣ Handicraft
- ♣ Villages, towns, people and traditions
- ♣ Classical music: the Kodály Center – the newest and the most up-to-date concert hall in Hungary
- ♣ Services (shopping, seat reservation, making an appointment, etc.)

