

Index of common scenarios and interview ideas

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Purpose of this compilation

During the first workshop in Brussels it was decided not to have a compulsory common list of interviews and scenarios to be recorded in all project languages. This is due to differences in national needs and cultures. It is, however, important to ensure that the partnership covers the defined target groups (these were at the meeting extended with travel and tourism).

This list serves as inspiration during the video preparations and recordings, the videos will be developed using students and will be based on the students' own inputs and suggestions, only this way is it possible to reflect real content and youth culture.

Planned Results

The content will be audio / video recordings with transcriptions to facilitate easy adaptation into eLearning. The transcriptions will be translated into English

Target and content

The content will culturally and content wise target students from:

- ✓ Electronics
- ✓ Catering and tourism

- ✓ Healthcare
- ✓ Media studies.
- ✓ International Trade (agreed on at the Brussels workshop)

The target groups are language teachers of LWUTL (Less Widely Used and Taught Languages) including minority and regional languages and ultimately their students who will benefit from the products developed by their teachers based on the material pools.

Example of content could be traditional apprentice jokes like a first day apprentice being sent to the store for “a long stand” or a tin of elbow grease.

Level / categorization

The materials will be categorized according to the Common European Framework of reference and the European Language Portfolio, the core parts of the materials will be suitable for students at levels A1 through B2 (Understanding, i.e. listening and reading).

For each set of materials (recording with transcription) there will be a table with:

- ✓ Short summary / description
- ✓ Estimated student level needed for understanding the content as is
- ✓ Estimated student level needed for using the content (adapted through help sources etc.)
- ✓ Cultural aspects covered
- ✓ Professional areas covered (e.g. electronics)
- ✓ Age group

Interview or scenario?

Interviews will be used where scenarios cannot serve the purpose. Scenarios will be the first choice wherever possible.

Suggestions of content suitable for scenarios

Job interviews

Recordings of students applying for a job. The scenario should include two or three characters, the employer (job interviewer) should be an adult. At best the scenario can reflect a typical meeting between an applicant and an employer.

The stolen bike

Originally a Dutch suggestion. A student discovers his/her bike stolen and discusses this with another student. Several cultural aspects can / should be covered like police, insurance, likeliness of having a bike stolen, etc.

At a medical clinic

Several aspects of culture can be revealed in a scenario replicating a visit at a medical clinic, e.g. bureaucracy, insurance, cost of medicine, etc.

Dining out

Several scenarios suggested by the partnership in Brussels dealt with situations like making a reservation, ordering at the table etc. A scenario can also include a small dialogue at the table between the guests. The scenario can in several ways reveal cultural aspects like suitable time for an evening meal etc.

Professional areas

Presentation of work related product

This scenario is well suited for targeting the chosen professional areas. A student tells about a product he / she has made

Installing broadband network

Language teaching points: Explaining things, making lists

Subject relevance: Electronics

The engineer from the local authority educational technology department drives up to a small rural school in her van and starts unloading boxes, cables, computer screens, keyboards etc. The school janitor pokes his head out of the door and asks her what she's doing. The engineer explains she's come to install the new broadband computer network to connect the school to the national grid for learning, and shows him all the equipment she's got, telling him what it does. The janitor looks thoughtful for a while, and finally says that that will be very helpful - especially after the electricity board have finally connected the school up for electricity - due to happen next year. He blows out his candle, locks the door, and shuffles off.

Constructing a bilingual website

Language teaching points: Translation between languages

Subject relevance: Media Studies, possibly Electronics

Keen young students in a college media studies department are gathered round a computer. One is typing in text. They discuss how to translate "homepage", "internet", "e-mail", "website" etc into their home language. They are pleased with their work and how good their language skills are. The typist says his granny would be proud of him. He returns home to find his granny at work on his computer at home, full of enthusiasm for it, and producing a punchline using all the loanwords from English that the students have just been painstakingly translating or creating neologisms for in the home language.

Granny finishes off with something like "Carson nach tuirt rium thu gun robh *computers* ceart cho *cool!*?" (Why didn't you tell me that computers were so cool?)

Work placement with a Tourist Information Office

Language teaching points: Negotiating a service
Subject relevance: Catering and Tourism

Lots of visitors stop at the office to ask where they can find local music. The trainee fixes up with a local bar/hotel for an informal music session, and she negotiates for the musicians to get free drinks. It is agreed that they should start playing after the European Cup final finishes on the TV in the bar. However, the match goes to extra time, and then penalties, so the musicians continue drinking. When the match is finally over, there is only time for one tune before the bar has to close, but the musicians are "too tired" to play anyway, slumping onto/under the table as they try to play.

Work placement with daycare centre/old people's home

Language teaching points: Narrative, conversation strategies
Subject relevance: Healthcare

Earnest young student on placement is asked to encourage patients to reminisce. He is very anxious to help "the poor old folk" - very attentive, very encouraging when they speak, possibly to the point of being painfully patronising. This could be played straight with plenty of repetition of conversation elicitation strategies from the student, plus narrative language from the patient. Alternatively, it could be played for laughs with the patient relating a story that has a crude or shocking punchline that startles the student.

Television company

Language teaching points: Giving suggestions, swapping opinions, agreeing/disagreeing
Subject relevance: Media Studies

A small team of three enthusiastic new recruits is required to dream up a visual title sequence for a new children's cartoon. They are working over a large sketchpad that the camera can't see. They discuss the requirements - arresting/attractive, funny, easy to understand, colourful etc - and are very busy scribbling on the pad with their felt tip pens. After several disagreements and additions/deletions they finally agree and place the pad on the table so the camera sees the final result – an ugly mess.

Making a national dish (e.g. Houtspot, a Dutch dish)

Scenario showing how to make a national dish. Recordings in a kitchen with possible recordings of shopping before cooking.

Apprentice jokes

Scenarios with traditional jokes, e.g. the first day apprentices who are sent for elbow grease, bubbles for the spirit level, left hand screw drivers, etc.

Production of a music video (media studies)

The scenario gets behind the scene of a music video production and shows the producers and the musician himself (Richard Grey) who himself used to be a student at the college

First day on the new job

Scenario with employee / apprentice being presented with where everything is, e.g. lockers, tools, bathroom, etc.

Social rules

Small scenarios showing how to greet different people. The scenarios should reflect the social rules, e.g. the use of “Sie” in German (“De” in Danish). A Danish version could be two guests meeting another some time after a party, according to Danish social rule they are required to thank one another for last time together (even several months later).

Mistakes☺

Scenarios built on mistakes. E.g. a group of student looking for the “Farewell” restaurant and not realizing that farewell is not the name of the place.

Asking the way

A realistic scenario from real life where a person asks for the way to a place in town.

Sales person / client dialogue

Scenarios with costumers ordering, e.g. a holiday, or requiring information. N.B. this type of scenario can result in language above our target areas A1 to B2

Non native students

This scenario idea can be a mix of interview and scenario. In one of the planned Danish scenarios there is a meeting with a Chinese girl who tells about what she finds strange in Denmark (the other students!), the scenario takes form of an interview, but uses inserted photos and video clips to illustrate / demonstrate the content.

Youth culture

Street dancers

Scenario with presentation of a group of street dancers, the scenario may include interviews of the dancers.

Travel and Tourism

Tourist guides

Scenario showing planning of visit from students from another country. What to do and what to see, the recording could include footing of touristy scenes.

Booking a place on a summer camp/school

Language teaching points: Exchanging basic information, selling

Subject relevance: Catering and Tourism

A student phones the summer camp administrator. The administrator explains:

- what activities are available - language classes, music classes, outdoor activities
- what the accommodation range is - hotels, B&B, hostels, camping etc
- what the price is and what it includes

The administrator is good at selling and the student is impressed, so the administrator asks for the student's details to send him the brochure. The student gives his name and address, and it emerges he's calling from USA. The administrator has to explain that fees for non-EU students are higher, BUT that non-EU students also get a free pencil with an EU flag on it. The administrator asks for the student's telephone number, and the student says "Thank you, don't call me. I'll call you."

Suggestions of content suitable for interviews

Food

National food habits

How would you describe traditional Lithuanian cuisine?

What are the main ingredients used in Lithuanian cookery?

Which is the most traditional Lithuanian drink?

Do Lithuanians have any traditional Christmas dishes? What is special about them?

What food is cooked for Easter?

Which catering establishments serve traditional Lithuanian food?

Is traditional Lithuanian food healthy? Why?

What do you need to make *Cepelinai*?
How do you make them?

Food preferences

Who does the cooking at your place?
What is your favourite food?
Do you like Hutspot? (or other national meals)
What is your favorite meal on cold winter day?
What is the role of likes and dislikes in food choice?
How does climate influence our food choices?
What is the role of money in choosing what and where to eat?
What do we pay attention to when buying food?
What do you know about fast food?
Why do a lot of people choose fast food?
Who enjoy fast food restaurants most of all? Why?
Do people have enough knowledge about healthy eating habits? Why?
How does time available for eating influence our food choices?
Do you like homemade food? Why?
Do you like to cook? Why?

Dining out

At what age did you start going to restaurants on your own? (with friends or dates)
If you want to have a meal in town with some friends, which type of restaurant would you go to?
Which time would you prefer for dining at a restaurant
Is it typical to share the cost of the dinner
Do you tip the waiter? If yes, then approximately how much, Is it a percentage or do you round up the bill?
Do you usually stay at the restaurant after the meal or do you go elsewhere?

Party time

Do you usually go to private parties or do you prefer discos and bars?
At what age do young people start going to parties
Do you drink alcohol at parties?
At what age do young people in Denmark typically start drinking alcohol at parties
Which day of week is the usual “party day”
At what time does the typical party start?
How much money do you spend on parties every month

Dating

How old are you
How many girlfriends/boyfriends have you had?
Do you have a girlfriend/boyfriend at the moment?

If yes, where did you meet your partner? I.e. At a disco, in school, at work, in a sports club

Where have your friends typically met their partners?

At what age do young people in Denmark start dating?

Please give an example of a typical first date (how to get in contact, some good scoring tricks:-)

If you want to ask a date out to a restaurant would you then pay the bill?

At what age do you expect to have a set partnership? Do you expect it will be a marriage?

Would you prefer to have finished your education before a marriage?

Which age is the best for getting children?

Going to a cèilidh/dance

1. What time might it start, and how long might it last?
2. Is it appropriate for all ages (a family event) or just some?
3. Will refreshments, including alcohol, be available? Is the sale of alcohol likely to be restricted?
4. Are the dances easy to learn, or do you need to know them before you go?
5. Might you be expected to have a "party piece" that you yourself could perform?

Camping/hillwalking

1. Can you only camp at registered sites, or can you pitch your tent anywhere you like?
2. What restrictions are there on walking across land in private ownership?
3. How changeable is the weather, and how do you get the latest forecast?
4. Where can you get the best maps/guides?
5. Are there particular precautions you should take before setting out on a walk or climb?

Staying with a host family

1. Should you help around the house?
2. Should you expect to join in with all family activities or just some? If the latter, then which ones?
3. Should you be prepared to eat the same as everyone else, or could any special dietary preferences/ requirements you have be accommodated?
4. If you want to go out, should you invite members of the host family to join in social/recreational activities you're interested in, eg cinema, dancing?
5. Are there particular religious customs, for example sabbath observance, towards which you might wish to show sensitivity even if you don't share them?

Working holiday (eg on a croft/smallholding or farm)

1. What are the normal expected working hours?
2. How flexible might they be?
3. What standards of cleanliness/hygiene/Health & Safety awareness are expected, and whose responsibility is it to ensure adherence?

4. What kind of physical fitness is expected/required?
5. What degree of knowledge/experience (eg of agriculture) is expected?

Churchgoing

1. How many/what different denominations are there, and what are their distinguishing characteristics?
2. Are you expected to wear any particular type of clothing?
3. What kinds of service are there, and how long might a service last?
4. Are children expected to attend a full service, or is there likely to be a "Sunday school" arrangement?
5. Is there likely to be a collection?
6. As a visitor are you likely to be invited to introduce yourself to the congregation?

Personal safety / thefts etc.

- Have you ever been robbed/mugged?
How did you find out?
Did you report the incident?
Did you get your property back?
What kind of forms did you have to fill in?

Career decision

- How old were you when you decided to be a _____?
Who gave you the advice that made you decide to be a _____?
Please name some people who are important when young people decide what they want to be (parents, friends, teachers, student counsellor).
Did you have a practice period in a company before you made up your mind?
Have you considered other professions?
Is it likely that you will continue to work as a _____?

Educational path / jobs

- How many years do you expect your education / training will take?
How much of that time is schools periods?
Is there a mix of school periods and practical work in a company?
Please describe the apprenticeship structure (block course, sandwich courses, day release courses).
Which subjects do you have in school?
How many exams do you have to go to before you have completed your education / apprenticeship?
Did you have to have a contract with a company before you started in school?
Do you have to pay for going to school?
Do you have to pay for transport yourself when you are at school?
How do you get paid while you are at school (loan, wages, grant etc.)
Do you receive wages during your practice periods?

Employment

Do you have work?
What do you do?
How much do you earn per hour?
What are your working hours?

Documents needed for the new job

Questions asked by the staff manager about personal documents required in e.g. Germany for an apprentice:

May I have a look at your ID card?
Did you sign up for an international health insurance?
Have you already applied for an income tax card at the local tax office?
Did you register with the federal office for statutory pension insurance provisions?
Did you hand in copies of your leaving certificates?
Did you do any internships relevant for this job?

Job interview

Questions asked by the human resource manager:

Why have you applied for a job with us?
What kind of work experience have you had so far?
Do you have family?
In case the applicant is female: Are you pregnant?
What is your desired salary?
Do you like travelling?

First day on the new job

Questions asked by a new employee:

Is there a locker room?
When do we start working or do we have flexitime?
Do we have to work overtime?
What exactly are my duties?
Where can I find the copy machine, coffee machine, powder room etc.?

Travelling

Which places of Lithuania are the most popular among foreign tourists?
What do foreigners enjoy about Lithuania most of all?
Which time of the year is the best to visit Lithuania?
Are there any resorts? What can you tell about each of them?
How can foreigners enjoy their life in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania?
Where do local people spend their weekends and vacation?
What are the most popular forms of entertainment?
What leisure activities do different age groups enjoy?

Why is rural tourism becoming more and more popular among local people?
Is it expensive to spend your vacation in Lithuania?

Healthcare

Who is responsible for our health? Why?
How can we help ourselves to stay healthy?
What knowledge do we need to help ourselves and other people to stay healthy?
Which foods help us to feel well and be healthy?
Which foods do we have to avoid?
How does smoking influence our health?
How would you describe a *healthy way of life*?

Seeing a doctor

What has brought you along today?
Where does it hurt?
What's the pain like?
Is it continuous or does it come and go?
How long does it last?
When did it start?

A flu

What's the matter with you if you've got a sore throat, aching muscles, runny nose and sore eyes, you cough and sneeze and your temperature is high?
What causes a flu?
Where should you apply for help?
Who can help you?
Can you help yourself? If yes, how?

Media studies

What is media?
What forms of media do you know?
What is the key role of all media forms?
What forms of media are the most popular today?
Why do people buy fewer newspapers these days?
Why are parents worried about their children watching TV so much?
Which is your favourite media form?

Becoming a professional in media

What personal qualities are necessary for media people?
What knowledge and skills should a media professional possess?
Where do you have to study to gain necessary knowledge and skills?
What is the role of computers in the media world today?
Is multimedia a type of media or not? Why?

National press

What can you say about press of Lithuania nowadays?
What are the most popular newspapers and magazines?
Do you buy any newspapers or subscribe them?
Are newspapers and magazines expensive?
What articles interest you most?
What foreign newspapers and magazines can you buy in your country?
Which media form is the strongest competitor of the press?

How to find accommodation

Does the company help me find a room?
Are there classified ads for flats in the newspapers every day?
What's the public transportation system like? Do the buses and trams run regularly?
Is it cheaper to rent a flat in the suburbs?
Would you recommend a flat in the city centre?

Social rules

Do always shake hands when you meet?
Do you embrace when you meet friends?
How are you supposed to react to somebody sneezing?
What do I say when I happen to step on somebody's foot?
When do I use "Sie" or "Du" when addressing someone?

Waste separation

Why do the dustbins in your town come in different colours?
How often is the general garbage, the waste paper, the bio-degradables and packaging waste collected?
How do I know when to put the green bin in front of the door?
Why are there yellow plastic bags next to the bins?
Do I tip the dustmen?

Suggested questions to be asked in the partnership countries

The questions below are based on requests from students in Germany and Lithuania

General questions

Where do students get their money from?
How much money one need to live in one or other country?
What are the night clubs like?
Which type of communication do young people prefer, virtual or face to face?
Where do you swim in summer time?
Is it easy to find a job/get employed in your country?
What is the most popular sport?
Do girls care about their appearance? How much time do they spend for it?
Do students get scholarships? How big are they?

When can one get the driving licence?
How much time do students spend for studies(possibly, they want to learn about lectures and homework assignments)?
Are people polite?
What is the climate like?
What are the houses like?
How much does beer cost?
What is the minimum salary?
What values do people share?
What are the most popular informal movements among young people?
Do young people use drugs?

Denmark

What do you do in your free time ?
What is your favorite drink (beer)?
What are you doing at weekends?
What do you know about Germany and Germans?
Do you have some traditional stuff?
Do you like, dislike Germans and why??
What is the great dream of a Danish??
At what age you get your driving license?
What is your favourite holiday country?
What do you think about the German school system?
At which age you can drink alcohol?
How much is the beer in Denmark and how good is it?
What is your favourite sport?
Do you have sport clubs?
Do the Danish girls like the German boys?
Why are most of the Danish people blond?
Do you think that the Germans are alcoholics?
Have you ever travelled to Germany?

Lithuania

Which language is your preferred language?
Is your language as difficult as ours?
How is the social cohesion in your country?
What are the benefits of learning your language?
What is the history of the flag?
How do the people especially the students live in Lithuania?
What does a normal day look like? I would like to detect common interests and differences between Lithuanian and German students.
What are the problems of students in Lithuania, for example, if it is difficult to get a job after your education?
Can you choose what kind of job you want to do? Are there limited vacancies?
Do the people in Lithuania feel European and what do they expect from the EU.

Romania

What are famous sights in Romania?

Tell me more about castle „Bram“ and the home of „Duke Dracula“

What about your coast line?

What are popular holiday resorts?

What are famous trading towns / harbours?

Basque Country

We have learned Spanish at school for two years now, but unfortunately we don't know much about the Basque country, its traditions and customs. Which customs do I have to consider, when I will travel to the Basque country?

How do I welcome other Basques?

Are there special Basque phrases or sayings or expressions?

At what time people go out in the evening and which cultural program do they prefer?

What are typical Basque beverages, which are drunk on fiestas?

Spain

Where is Santander located in Spain?

Is there something traditional in your lifestyle?

What are your favorite dishes?

What do you do in your free time, especially on weekends?

What is the weather like in summer/winter?

Do you have special (sport-)activities in your town?

What is special about your school?

How many lessons do you have every day?

What about short brakes or lunch brakes?

Have you got school in the afternoon or on Saturdays?

Are there any special subjects which you are taught in your school/town/country?
(e.g. chemical/electrical engineering)

Scotland

How do you brew Scottish Whiskey?

What is the background of your Kilt?

Was Highlander really a Scottish?

Is there something extraordinary about Scottish history?

Where in Scotland can you spend good holidays?