



Department of Education and Skills

Marlborough Street

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Ireland

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Dear Sir/Madam

The Mathspeak project courseware is now available for schools to use

I'd like to tell you about a new free teaching resource that is now available to secondary schools – the Mathspeak project

I also request you tell the secondary schools and other relevant parties that this resource is available for them to use on the <https://mathspeak.erasmus.site/> website.

About the Mathspeak project

The Mathspeak project is a partnership between European educational practitioners and the creators of educational materials.

Funded by the European Commission, this project aims to enable students to perform mathematics in a foreign language at the same level they do in their native language.

What Mathspeak provides

The Mathspeak products will enable students to:

- verbally express mathematical concepts appropriate to their age groups,
- put number problems into words, and
- handle mathematical terminology with confidence.

The ten courses enable students to perform mathematics in a foreign language at the same level they do in their native language.

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Why this project is needed

Because mathematics is usually communicated in symbols, you might think it doesn't require a lot of language skills.

When students study mathematics in a foreign language, the language itself adds layers of difficulty to something that is already abstract and opaque. Research shows that students don't perform at mathematics as well as they could.

You may be able to write sums in symbols, but you need words and grammar to speak them and understand them when they are spoken.

Benefits

The learning materials help tackle academic underachievement, alienation and disaffection, which can lead to students leaving school at an early age.

The benefits for students are:

- They improve both their foreign language skills and their performance in mathematics.
- As a result, their motivation will increase, and this will bring them more academic success.
- Any success will also have a positive influence on non-participating individuals in the target groups.
- The students' improved linguistic and mathematical skills will help them when they start work or move onto tertiary level education.

Schools and teachers get:

- Free teaching materials they can use in their lessons.
- An awareness of the linguistic issues that are frequently at the heart of resistance to the mathematics.

Course modules

Mathspeak contains courses on:

- Numbers
- Arithmetic
- Algebra
- Probability & Statistics
- Graphs
- Geometry
- Proofs
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Finance

Available languages

Mathspeak is available in:

- English
- Bulgarian
- Greek
- Italian

Templates are available if any organisation wanted to translate the materials into another language.

Student target age groups

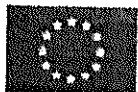
Our target groups are students at intermediate and pre-intermediate levels of competence in a foreign language. They are in Years 8-12 at high school, or in further education.

They are either:

- Immigrants
- International students in foreign language speaking institutions
- Students in a country or institution where the language of maths instruction is not the mother tongue, or
- Students in their home countries learning a foreign language. For example, the materials could be used in English (as a second) language lessons.

This is an Erasmus+ project

The project was awarded a grant under the 2018 Erasmus+ Key Action 201 Strategic Partnerships project.



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Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

About the Mathspeak partners

The project is a partnership between European educational practitioners and the creators of educational materials. Between 100 -150 teachers and students took part in developing and testing the Mathspeak course materials.

The partners are:

- Cherryleaf Ltd (UK)
- Colegiul tehnic "Ioan C. Ștefănescu" (Romania)
- Danmar Computers sp z .o.o. (Poland)
- Istituto Statale d'Istruzione Superiore "E. Mattei" (Italy)
- Idris Education Limited (UK)
- PGO "Nedka Ivan Lazarova" (Bulgaria)
- The Aristotle School of Serres / Αριστοτέλειο Εκπαιδευτήριο Σερρών (Greece)
- VIVA FEMINA (Poland)

For more information

The website is:

<https://mathspeak.erasmus.site/>

You can also contact me via ellis@cherryleaf.com

Yours truly,

↳ Ellis Pratt

Director

Cherryleaf