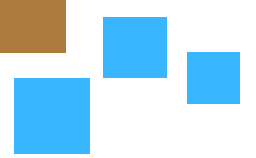
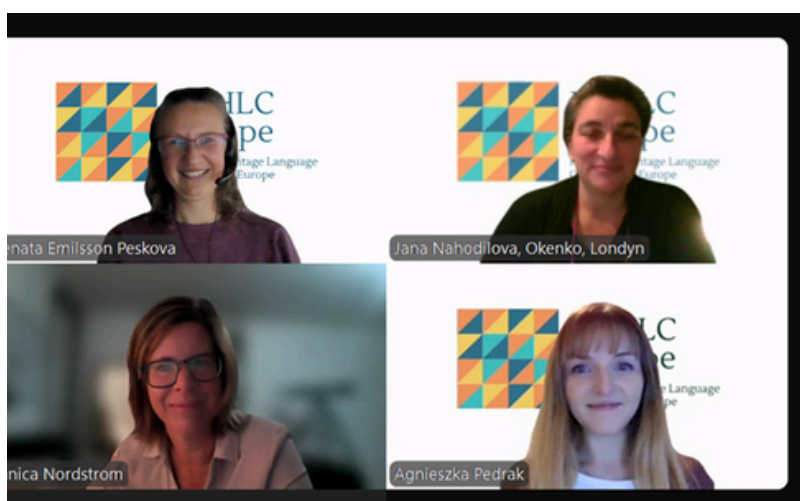
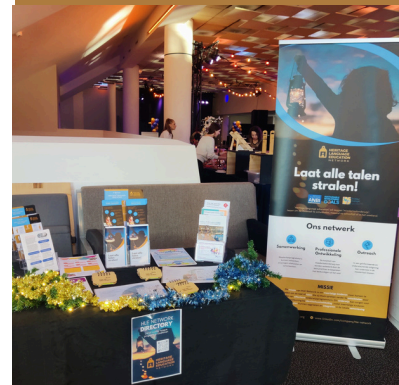


ANNUAL REPORT

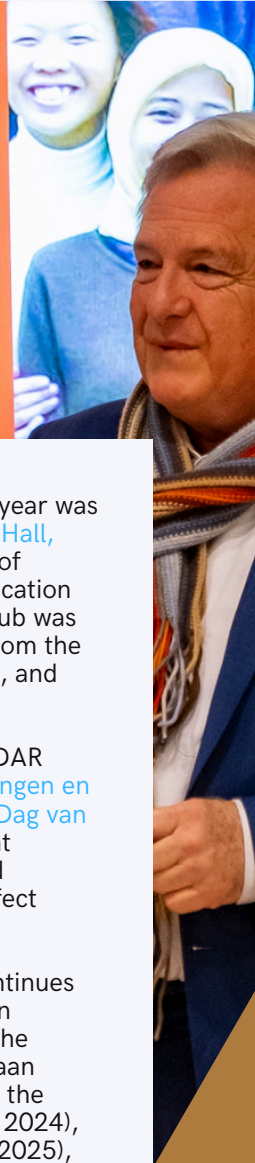
2024-2025



A YEAR OF POWERFUL MOMENTS

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Ken Cruickshank
University of Sydney
Australia



Heritage Language Education (HLE) Network supports multilingual children by giving a collective voice to the heritage language (HL) programs that educate them. Since 2019, we have been bringing HL programs in the Eindhoven/Brainport region together. With each new year, we achieve greater impact, and our message reaches a wider audience.

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](#), [Bright Funds](#), and – since this year – the [Brainport Geefwijzer](#). On our website you can find our [policy plan](#) and [financial overview](#).

The board of HLE Network includes Diana Angelova, Philippe Soulard, and Anne van Buul. [Geert Simons](#) was our original Vice Chair, but stepped down after three years of incredible service. Award-winning linguist [Kristel Doreleijers](#) stepped into the role in October 2024. Managing Director Gisi Cannizzaro carries out the day-to-day management. We have received volunteer support this year from Doesny Boutisma, Alcira Bojórquez Segura, Gemma Hodgson, and Katja Lumme, and we have added a [volunteer appreciation gathering](#) to our annual calendar. This year, members of our team attended several informational sessions and individual consultations about non-profit management, with experts from [Blooming Projects](#), Erac, PWC, CBRE, Ergon, ASML, and Trion Opleidingschool.

We are grateful that the municipality of Eindhoven has kept us as a member of its "Coalitie Inclusief Samenleven": the city has extended our subsidy for two years (2025 and 2026) and specifically names our outreach and networking activities in its *Uitvoeringprogramma Inclusief Samenleven 2025-2026*. The document was officially launched at an [Anti-Discrimination Day event in March 2025](#), where our team had the honor of meeting Rabin Baldewsingh, the Dutch National Coordinator for Anti-Racism.

This annual report outlines our accomplishments from academic year 2024-2025. We always start the school year with a networking event in honor of the European Day of Languages. This year our [6th Annual HLE Networking Night](#) was held at the DOMUSDELA in Eindhoven, where we piloted professional development sessions (September 2024).

Arguably the most memorable moment of the year was our [groundbreaking event at Eindhoven's City Hall](#), with guest speaker [Ken Cruickshank](#), founder of Sydney Institute of Community Languages Education (SICLE) (December 2024). Alderman Samir Toub was among the guests, as well as representatives from the city council, the national Ministry of Education, and Stichting NOB.

A webinar that we organized together with RADAR Antidiscrimination Bureau, entitled "[Taalhoudingen en Identiteit: Een gesprek voor de Internationale Dag van de Moedertaal 2025](#)" (February 2025), brought attention to the topic of language attitudes and language loss. How can negative comments affect children's identity development?

Our [newsletter](#) is now issued quarterly and continues to gain subscribers, and we now post weekly on LinkedIn. We have reached new followers via the events of partners, such as the [i-Start/St@rtbaan parent information evening](#) (September 2024), the [Cultural & Creative Winter Market](#) (December 2024), the [CLO's International Women's Day](#) (March 2025), and the [Brabant International Expo](#) (April 2025).

Overall, this year has marked a solidification of our vision, with the publication of several powerful public statements (available in Dutch and English), namely, [A collective vision for heritage language education in Eindhoven](#), shared with policy makers, educational institutions, and corporations in our region (May 2025); [Imagine it: the professionalization of "informal" language education](#), a post on the national *Taalwijs* blog (April 2025); and, [Empowering informal education while ensuring accountability](#), which is our reaction to a law proposal by the Dutch education ministry (January 2025). We were also [invited to a national meeting by the Onderwijsraad](#) to share our view (January 2025).

In the pages that follow, we give more details about our activities and results from this year. We sincerely thank all who contributed to our achievements this year!

Looking ahead, we will start the new school year with our [7th annual HLE Networking Night](#), featuring a presentation by a special guest from a teacher training college in Switzerland. We are also planning to host the February 2026 national, biannual DRONGO Partnerbijeenkomst. 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!

HERITAGE LANGUAGE EDUCATION NETWORK

12
NON-PROFIT
HL PROGRAMS
RESPONDED

**2024-2025
SURVEY**
HERITAGE LANGUAGE PROGRAMS
IN EINDHOVEN/BRAINPORT

Most common:
<4 teachers <50 students <12 years old

Biggest strength
**Positive identity
development**

**HLE NETWORK
ACTIVITIES**
with most
value & impact

SHOWCASING THE PROGRAMS

In September 2024, we put on display “[HL Highlights](#)” from the HL programs over the previous school year. Examples of news items from the programs this year are: the [French](#) and [Korean](#) program attended professional development at conferences in France, the [Korean](#) program hosted a national professional development conference in Eindhoven, and the [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#) programs each celebrated 25 years. In April 2025, we [published results from a survey](#) that twelve HL programs in our region completed, with interesting insights into their current strengths and challenges.

micro-workshops | snacks & drinks | new connections

**6th Annual
HLE
Networking
Night**

for Brainport Eindhoven's
Heritage Language
Educators & Partners

September 26, 2024
DOMUSDELA, Eindhoven

17:00 - 19:30 Professional
development (EN/NL) | 19:30 - 21:00 Professional
networking

STRENGTHENING THE PROGRAMS

At our [6th Annual Networking Night](#), we offered workshops about stress management, bridges to science, and background checks. This year, we matched a few larger programs with smaller ones for informal mentorship, and we assisted those looking for a new location. Thanks to our membership in Samen voor onze Regio, we were able to distribute donation boxes of teaching supplies to twelve HL programs (via a Coovels Smits Stichting grant and an anonymous donor), and [one laptop each for five HL programs](#) (via Woonbedrijf). We also sponsored the Romanian School's Spring [STREAM Festival](#) where three HL programs collaborated.



NURTURING THE NETWORK

Throughout the year, we have maintained our relationships with various partners. We attended meetings of the municipality's “Coalitie Inclusief Samenleven,” we congratulated Samen voor onze Regio at their 12.5-year jubilee, and we were represented at a Brainport voor Onderwijs partner meeting. We [helped RADAR get in touch with Asian-language programs](#) to advertise a survey monitoring discrimination, and we fostered new connections with EU Direct, Stichting NOB, EU Plan, E-Reo, Vluchtelingenwerk, and Mercator. With pleasure we attended the [25th anniversary of the Brainport voor Elkaar match-making dinner](#).

Rethinking incentives:
How to bolster the
motivation in heritage
language (HL) education

www.hlenet.org/events/fohlc2024

EUROPEAN CONNECTIONS

In November 2024, we held our [4th annual \(free, online\) professional development and networking conference as part of the FOHLC Europe initiative](#). Over two days, attendees received practical tips about how to fuel motivation. One workshop leader proudly represented the Korean School of Eindhoven, giving guidance about how to implement project-based learning and theater techniques. We published a review of the conference: [Cannizzaro, G., & Emilsson Peskova, R. \(2025\). Review of FOHLC Europe 2024 Conference: Rethinking incentives: how to bolster the motivation of students, parents, teachers, and other stakeholders in heritage language education. Educational Role of Language Journal. Volume 2024-2\(12\). Beliefs in Linguistic Education, pp. 61-62.](#) With the FOHLC team, we also helped organize two online “FOHLC Cafes”: one in [February 2025](#) with Portuguese guest speakers and one in [May 2025](#) with French guest speakers.



OUTREACH & VISIBILITY

In addition to the numerous outreach events and publications mentioned in the introduction, we have further encouraged positive attitudes about linguistic diversity with the following activities:

REACHING MAINSTREAM

Our "9 Myths" infographic was identified as a valuable tool in teacher training in a book by Dr. Julie Waddington (University of Girona) entitled *Questioning the Native Speaker Construct in Teacher Education: Enabling Multilingual Identities and Decolonial Language Pedagogies* (2024). Locally, we have reached mainstream teachers by sharing information at a stand at the Grenzeloos Goed Onderwijs Conference (November 2024), as well as by giving workshops at Hogeschool de Kempel to 3rd year pabo students (November 2024), at the *Conferentie Begrijpend Lezen* (February 2025), and at *Grenzeloos Goed Samen Opleiden* (May 2025).



GLOBAL REACH

We meet quarterly with the HL Global Think Tank, which we helped form and with whom we published the Global Call to Action for HL Education last school year (February 2024). This year we created a 3-minute video summarizing the Call to Action as well as an accompanying checklist, which has been translated into Dutch, German, and Icelandic. We also published an in-depth interview with Constantine Ioannu from the Think Tank (April 2025), who has pioneered support for HL education in Ontario. Our Managing Director met with a Think Tank representative from the U.S. Coalition, in Washington, D.C. (April 2025). And thanks in part to support from members of the Think Tank, HLE Network was nominated for the 2024 Linguapax Award (February 2025).



RECOGNIZED EXPERTISE

In addition to being invited to attend the *Onderwijsraad meeting* (January 2025), we were also invited to participate in a round table discussion about education in Eindhoven organized by RADAR (May 2025), to be on a panel at a VATT event (May 2025), and to give our feedback at an Eindhoven Top 40 event organized by the municipality (May 2025).



GENERAL VISIBILITY

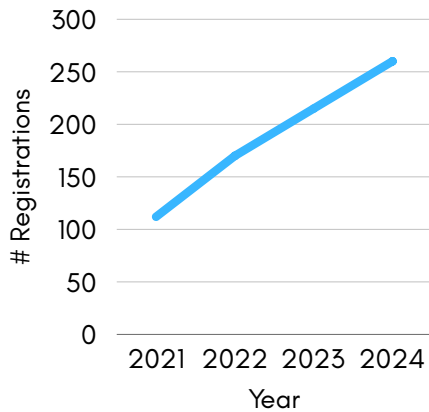
Information about HL education appears biannually in the *Holland Expat Center South's Expat Guide and Living In Guide*. This year we placed an advertisement in *Onze Taal's Taalpost* (December 2024) which reaches thousands of readers nationwide. Our Managing Director was featured in an interview article in a local neighborhood paper, the *Iriskrant*. Our Networking Night in 2024 was mentioned in a news article in Korea entitled "Why are children in smart cities so serious about learning their native language?" And finally, we have included our profile in the renewed *Platform Brainport voor Onderwijs* (search "HLE Network").

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



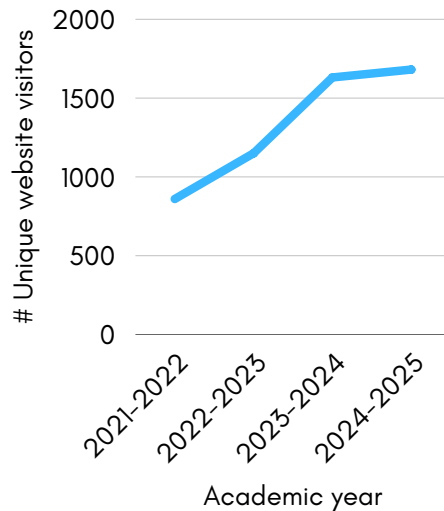
+132%

There were over 260 registrations for the FOHLC Europe 2024 online conference, from 40+ countries, representing 50+ languages. This is a 132% increase in registrations since our first conference in 2021.



+96%

Between July 2024 and June 2025, we had 1681 unique visitors to our website. This is a 96% increase in unique visitors since the 2021-2022 school year.



200

glue sticks donated, as well as 360 pens, 500 folders, and 3300 sheets of craft paper, and much more!



+250

new LinkedIn followers, with our page receiving 29,715 impressions, 1274 reactions, 136 comments, and 38 reposts.



35

news posts, with 613 unique views of the "1.5-minute film about forgetting your first language" by Korean-Canadian director



49%

average newsletter open rate, with an average 12% click rate