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## **PECULIARITIES OF LANGUAGE STUDYING IN PORTUGAL**

Language offers many advantages to people. For example, knowledge of foreign languages while traveling will help in any situation, because knowing the language one can talk to the locals, learn something, or ask for any service.

The problem of foreign languages preparation was a subject of interest of such scholars as A. Andrienko, N. Gez, S. Kozak, A. Pavlenko, N. Prudnikova, Yu. Fedorenko, N. Chernov and others.

Usually, in order to quickly and easily learn a foreign language, one must choose the right method to study the chosen language in easiest and the most pleasant way. To my mind, the most effective way to learn the language is to have individual sessions with a tutor. However, language schools and foreign language studying programs can be also very useful.

Doing internship in Porto (Portugal), we were offered several options to study Portuguese language for everyday communication, and later to participate in conferences and other scientific events that have taken place at the university. Observing these offered courses and programs we have seen advantages and disadvantages of each of them.

Portuguese courses mostly follow the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Portugal provides numerous language schools for foreigners to learn Portuguese. They are located mostly in the biggest cities, in the city centers or near metro stations for easier reachability. Most of the schools have highly qualified teachers with a degree in language teaching. The classes' capacity varies among different schools but mostly includes 5-15 people. The following language schools are the most attended and successful.

*Iberlinguas.* This school provides extensive (10 weeks, 40 hours) and intensive (2 weeks, 30 hours) courses. They follow the general programs and at the end of the course provide students with the certificate. The main advantage of these courses is main focus on one language learning, work with native speakers, and great learning atmosphere on classes. The teachers are friendly, eager to help with not understandable words and expressions. The communicative approach is mainly used here [1].

*Languages Abroad.* Students learn more about the culture of the country as well as its people's way of life as they attend intensive language classes. They are taught by native speakers, many of which have graduated from University or have already gained years of teaching experience. The advantages of Languages Abroad courses are following: the classrooms are equipped with audio visual equipment, computers, and a social area for students; teachers often use interactive materials in class to enhance the learning materials. In addition there are also excursions students can go on and explore the city with their classmates [2].

*Escola Europeia de Línguas (EEL).* Escola Europeia de Línguas is a Portuguese language school that specializes in providing Portuguese and multinational companies,

as well as professional individuals of all nationalities with Portuguese courses that combine teaching quality, flexibility and individual attention [3].

*International House Portugal.* The first IH school in Portugal was set up in 1963 in Lisbon with specific, clear-cut objectives: to offer the highest quality at all times, to ensure constant professional and teaching development and to respond to all customer requirements in an efficient and friendly manner. Since 1963 IH has spread to nine more cities in Portugal, employs over 150 people and has trained more than 200.000 students of English and other languages [4]. The main advantage of International House schools is that they only employ teachers with universally recognised qualifications, many of whom are specialists in particular teaching fields and renowned authors. Their teaching methods are highly respected and International House has become the leading provider of teacher training to the language industry.

*Margarida's School.* Margarida's School was started in 1981 by Margarida Alberty. Margarida has dedicated 20 years to making Portuguese lessons enjoyable for newcomers to Portugal. Going beyond the textbook material is what makes learning at Margarida's School unique. Everything started with her passion for mastering many languages; she is fluent in seven. At age 17, influenced by her mother, a Latin and French teacher, Margarida started to give Portuguese lessons to foreigners. She continued teaching while taking a licenciatura in Germanic Languages at the Faculdade de Letras in Lisbon. Over three decades later, Margarida's School has around 600 students a year, and 20 teachers teaching 18 different languages [5].

**Budget Academic Programs in Portugal with CSA.** This is high quality, non-profit programs held at Universities, Colleges, and Institutes. Specific dates are given upon request, and in confirmation documents. The participants of these programs are college students as well as adults [6]. The program's length can cover a year, a semester, a quarter (trimester) or summer. It also can be held monthly or weekly. They are able to experience different cultures and languages and gain a global perspective. They also learn to adapt to other cultures and become more diverse minded.

**Studying Portuguese with volunteers.** The universities and colleges also offer free courses with volunteer-teachers. They are native speakers but may not have a degree in teaching languages. The classes are held twice a week, each class takes 1h or 1h30. The topics vary due to students' needs and mostly cover general language knowledge. The advantages of such courses are: free language learning, involving less time for studying, interesting and individual approaches of each volunteer, different excursions and field trips for knowing country life better. To disadvantages we can include: no grammar rules, lack of a particular training program, chaotic studying process, no language certificate at the end of the studies.

Having observed each of the courses and language learning programs as well as working with volunteer teacher gave us opportunity to see advantages and disadvantages of each of them. In general it can be stated that the choice of any course and program should be made considering the following characteristics: place, intensity of the course, language level, purpose of studying and cost. The further investigation can include the analysis of language courses and programs for Portuguese people, their pros and cons, main purposes of teaching foreign languages.

## Literature

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