

## Integrating Finno-Ugric Studies in Europe

In the recent years a new teaching frame has appeared in Finno-Ugric studies. The core of this new methodology is to organize intensive study activities gathering together the students from all over Europe under the scope of an international program and cooperation among the institutes of Finno-Ugric/Uralic studies.

Since 2013 international winter schools have been organized every year by individual universities. Between 2013-2015 the program was supported by the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Commission. Between 2016–2018 it operates under the scope of Integrating Finno-Ugric Studies in Europe (InFUSE) financed by Erasmus+. Winter schools are not the only activities organized by InFUSE, but e-learning courses and summer workshops are also available. Since typically, the institutes of Finno-Ugric studies are small, these events are a more efficient way to teach Finno-Ugric linguistics. Currently the university of Vienna, Szeged, Munich, Hamburg, Tartu, Helsinki, Turku and Uppsala are in the program.

The aim of the presentation is to introduce the activities and benefits of International Winter Schools for Finno-Ugric Studies.

During winter schools the students have the opportunity to look into a small Finno-Ugric language, get acquainted to the basic structure and vocabulary. In the recent years the students were able to participate courses in Northern Khanty, Nganasan, Tundra Nenets, Mari, Kildin Saami, Komi and Moksha languages so far. The courses are held by native speakers and/or by an expert on the specific language.

The main frames of winter schools beside language education are the workshops organized in various and current linguistic topics such as introduction to fieldwork methods, corpus linguistics, syntax, cognitive linguistics, language revitalization and data analyzing. These topics are presented by specialists from different universities and guest lecturers are also regularly invited. In the workshops theoretical and practical knowledge are underlined equally.

At winter schools every student must prepare an active contribution. This can be a short oral presentation or a written essay related to one of the workshops. More advanced students have the opportunity to hold a presentation and have discussions about their own research with the lecturers and other students. In these sessions useful and valuable remarks are given. This colloquium ensures getting up to date information about the current researches in the Finno-Ugric world and also might be the hotbed of further international cooperation.

Beside the deepening of professional knowledge, winter schools have such advantages that are not closely related to Finno-Ugric studies but are utilizable in the academic life

generally, such as developing the ability of co-working, scientific writing, holding presentations, widening the perspectives and practicing languages. The participants can also integrate winter school activities into their studies at their home universities getting ECTS points.

International winter schools are fruitful and high level programs for Finno-Ugric studies that give deeper knowledge in specific linguistic topics while accommodate to the students' needs as well.

#### References:

Home page of InFUSE:

<http://www.infuse.finnougristik.uni-muenchen.de/index.html>

Homepage of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> International Winter Schools for Finno-Ugric Studies

<https://inter-finno-ugric.univie.ac.at/home/>