



## Mother Language Day

# Mother Language Day

## Section 1: Presentation

This good practice is a tradition at First English Language School in Sofia. This is one of the best schools in Bulgaria, where not only Bulgarians learn, but also children of diplomats and economic migrants. At this school, pupils learn intensively English and choose a second foreign language between German, Spanish, French and Russian. Because it is a language school, each native language at First English Language School is important. The event takes place every year in February when the International Mother Language Day is celebrated.

Teachers present folk tales or literary works written in Bulgarian (in host country language) to migrant pupils. They have enough time to get acquainted with the works in detail. Foreign students choose pieces they most enjoy and translate them into their native language. Each migrant student works with a group of local students who help him/her by explaining the meaning of different words. This group of pupils also prepares a dramatization of the selected piece. The preparation time is several months. On the Mother Language Day each migrant pupil presents his/her translation. After that other students play the snippet in the original language.

The good practice involves preserving oral traditions of the migrants' countries and performing to a diverse audience in a public space. It is based on the premise that storytelling can improve communication skills, relationships, stimulate language learning and promote social networks. At the same time, migrants are also faced with stories and traditions from our country, enriching the intercultural exchange process.

## Section 2: Resources

To implement this good practice, you will need:

- Extensive reading books
- Dictionaries
- Rooms
- Computers
- Internet access
- A stage
- Stage costumes

- A sound system
- Human resources (teachers in local language and literature; local students; a director; a sound operator; audience)

### Section 3: Duration

This good practice should be implemented once a year to have students enough time to get acquainted with the literary work and to prepare for the stage performance.

### Section 4: Expected results

By implementing this good practice, you will:

- Stimulate the learning of the host country language.
- Promote intercultural exchange.
- Deepen the migrants' sense of belonging.

### Section 5: Evaluation

#### **How can we adapt this good practice to our context?**

What competences should the teachers in local language and literature have?

Do we have the space needed (rooms, stage)? If not, where we can find this space?

Do we have the media needed? If not, who can help us?

Do we find the professionals needed (a director, a sound operator)? If not, who will do this?

Will our local students help migrants with the preparation?

How can we include this good practice in the school plan of activities?