

## НАУКОВЕ ЖИТТЯ

Liudmyla Usyk

### Y-JUSTLANG COST PROJECT – A CHANCE FOR THE YOUNG TO OVERCOME INVISIBLE DISADVANTAGE

COST Action «Justice to youth language needs: human rights undermined by an invisible disadvantage (Y-JustLang)» was launched in October, 2023 in Brussels (Belgium) by European Cooperation in Science and Technology, the organisation that funds research and innovation networks by connecting researchers and innovators across Europe and beyond to boost research, innovation and careers. This Action has united over forty practitioners and academics from over twenty countries in the pursuit of the policies that will enable young people to participate in justice proceedings effectively. Criminal justice proceedings are based on highly verbal processes that require a level of verbal ability that is rare – or totally unlikely – among young offenders. The empirical evidence suggests that there is a prevalence of language impairment among young offenders and, if undiagnosed and untreated, it increases the risk of re-offending. Secondly, some syntactic abilities are still under development during pre-puberty, and the abilities to connect language to context may be underdeveloped even after the age of eighteen. Finally, the ability to manage structurally complex language is low when academic attainment is low, which is also common among young offenders.



Therefore, the international team of the Action will attempt to assess the situation at European transnational level and to propose specific measures to identify language needs of children and young people from different education backgrounds, including those with disabilities, who are multilingual, or who are deaf or hearing impaired.

The kick-off meeting for the management committee members in Brussels launched the Action formally on October 23<sup>d</sup>. At the meeting, they were briefly introduced to the rules and the tasks of the project by Dr. Rossella Magli, Science Officer at COST Association, voted for the Action Chair Prof. Maria J Arche (University of Greenwich, London, UK) and the Action Vice Chair Prof. Josep Quer

(ICREA-Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain). Most importantly, the meeting attendees were introduced to each other and started to build the project's communication network since the success of any COST action, and this Action is no exception, strongly relies on teamworking and relationships between the project's actors.

Olena Pchelintseva, Doctor of Philology, Professor, Head of the Department of Ukrainian Language and General Linguistics, and Liudmyla Usyk, PhD of Philology, Associate Professor at the Department of Foreign Languages and International Communication, represent Cherkasy State Technological University in the Action. They both attended the kick-off meeting in Brussels, and both are members of the Management Committee.

Six working groups will approach the problem from different perspectives to offer a multi-faceted and exhaustive overview and, in the end, collectively propose effective solutions to ensure protection of human rights of this vulnerable population. Working group 1, chaired by Prof. Caterina Donati (Université de Paris Cité, Paris, France), will work on identification of linguistic phenomena key to youth justice. The second work group will attempt to work out and offer a blueprint of language screening tools for the youth justice system. The leader of this group is Prof. Karen Bryan (York St John University, UK). The third work group will devise an inventory of language abilities tests for youth offenders and will be led by Dr. Philippe Prevost (University of Tours, France). Workgroup 4, chaired by Dr. Ljiljana Jeličić (Research and development institute – Life activities advancement institute – Gospodar Jovanova, Belgrade, Serbia), will direct their efforts towards studying the epidemiology of youth offending. Workgroup 5 is to define the legal frameworks for the youth justice system and is led by Dr. Lana Peto Kujundžić (High Criminal Court in Republic Croatia, Zagreb, Croatia). The sixth workgroup, the leader of which is Dr. Alexandra Perovic, will be responsible for training and dissemination.

The Action has just taken off and will be gaining momentum in a couple of months. The greatest achievement that the Action has set as a goal, is not about the number of publications issued on the topic, is not about the number or level of the conferences and trainings organized, but mainly about improving young people's lives and giving a better chance to those whose rights have been compromised by global ignorance and unawareness.

## **Резюме**

**Усик Людмила**

### **ПРОЕКТ Y-JUSTLANG COST – ШАНС ДЛЯ МОЛОДІ ПОДОЛАТИ НЕВИДИМУ ЗАВАДУ**

У жовтні 2023 року в Брюсселі (Бельгія) організація European Cooperation in Science and Technology – Європейське співробітництво у сфері науки та технологій – розпочала проєкт COST «Справедливість щодо мовних потреб молоді: як невидима завада порушує права людини (Y-JustLang)». Судочинство базується на інтенсивних, складних для розуміння дітей та підлітків

мовленнєвих процесах, а недостатній рівень розвитку мовлення часто стає причиною порушення їх прав. Шість робочих груп лінгвістів, психологів, логопедів, юристів, медиків, педагогів досліджуватимуть проблему, щоб запропонувати багатогранний і вичерпний аналіз і, зрештою, колективно запропонувати ефективні рішення для забезпечення захисту прав цієї вразливої групи населення. Найбільше досягнення, яке поставлено за мету в цьому проєкті, полягає не в кількості виданих публікацій на цю тему, не в кількості чи рівні організованих конференцій і тренінгів, а в покращенні життя молоді та наданні шансів на розвиток тим, чий права були скомпрометовані глобальним невіглаством і необізнаністю.

**Відомості про автора**

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