

HITZARGIAK – Languages illuminating each other

Stichting Ons Bildt

GENERAL INFORMATION

DATE: 28-04-2016

1	Name	Stichting Ons Bildt
2	Language	Frisian
3	Working area (education, communication, teaching, leisure, administration...)	Education on primary schools
4	Email and phone number for contact	Froukje de Jong-Krap Representative of the Stichting Ons Bildt in the EBLT-board (chair) froukjedejongkrap@gmail.com
5	Social networks (Webpage, Facebook, Twitter...)	Website: http://www.stichtingonsbildt.nl/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stichtingonsbildt

DESCRIPTION OF GOOD PRACTICE

1	Description of the practices	Stichting Ons Bildt
2	Brief description of the practices	<p>The Bildts language is still used by approx. 6.000 people, most of them living in the municipality het Bildt, which is in the North West of Fryslân.</p> <p>At the moment there is a group of approx. 20 people voluntarily working on and with the Bildts language and history. There is a small museum that shows the history of the region, language and art (approx. 60 professionally working artists are living and working in the municipality).</p> <p>Due to the fact that the Bildts language has to do with little financial support coming from the municipality and the province of Fryslân a lot of work is done by volunteers. Stichting Ons Bildt publishes books mainly for adults in and about the Bildts language and the municipality, but also has made sure a dictionary was made. This is used as the official spelling of the language.</p> <p>There is always a lack of books for children. Because making books is too expensive the most popular children's books in Dutch, Frisian or English are translated into the Bildts language. The translations are glued on top of the original texts, this enabling to make a small number of copies for primary schools. This way each year a number of books is translated for use.</p> <p>There is also every two years a book of the Afûk "Tomke" series (for children of 2-4 years old), translated in several language, translated in the Bildts language.</p> <p>Teachers often come from outside the municipality and are hesitant to use the language in class during Bildts lessons, simply because they do not know</p>



(correctly) how to speak, read and write the language. Therefore grandfathers and grandmothers are asked to come to the schools and read from the storybooks to the children or support the teacher in class.

Beside the materials made, also articles of the local paper in the Bildts language are used for the lessons.

A special poem was written around an imaginary insect “Bob de Krob”. All primary schools were asked to make digital drawings of the special places the insect could go to in the municipality, e.g. the church the world famous painter Rembrandt got married. A story writer makes stories from these places every year and so a complete original digital story book with a puppet for the schools was made for the children of approx. 6 – 10 years old.

A series of stories has been written for the multilingual lessons. A local song/music writer was invited to make songs to the stories. They are recorded in the Bildts language by a special choir consisting of primary school teachers that do speak Bildts. The stories, music and a CD-recording are presented to the schools for the children of 10 – 12 years old. Every year a few new stories and songs are produced. By using the CD it is not absolutely necessary for the teacher to speak the language.

Afûk has made digital learning ready in EduFrysk lessons for adults. On a question from the Bildt they also made it possible for the Bildts language to upload lessons, music (there are some successful singers singing in the language), (oral) history, etc. in the program EduBildts. There will be a version for the primary schools made within the next 3 years as well.

Besides that 3 teachers are giving Bildts lessons to everybody interested, but also to personal of the nursing home. Teenagers started to use Bildts in their WhatsApp contacts in the past five years and there is an increasing number that wants to learn the written language each year. For them the EduBildts program will probably very interesting.

In 2018 Leeuwarden/Fryslân is also ECoC. Stichting De Bildtse Aardappelweken organizes a multilingual project called “Potatoes go Wild”, which is programmed in ECoC Leeuwarden/Fryslân 2018. One of the activities is also part of the program of Valletta 2018: a multilingual (Frisian/Bildts, Maltese, Dutch, English) literary poetry and children’s poetry project, connecting official bilingual Malta and Frisian through culture and economy.

3 **Precedents** (reasons, needs...)

Stichting Ons Bildt was founded in 1986. The reason was that the Frisian language became an obligatory language in primary school. In order to protect the Bildts language, a minority language within the Frisian minority language, Bildts schools were allowed to substitute the Frisian lesson hours (1-2 a week) for Bildts lessons. It was therefore necessary to develop study materials for the schools and also a start was made giving lessons in the language and history to adults.

In 2018 the municipality het Bildt will merge into a new municipality with four others, mainly Frisian/Dutch speaking. For the protection of the language it will be absolutely necessary to obtain the status of the Council. But also due to the merging already an increasing interest for the language is evident. It is also very necessary to prove what is going on.

4	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect and develop the Bildst language To teach and makes resources in Bildst language for primary schools
5	Main and close working areas	<p>The working areas are education on primary schools. A group of teachers and language “supporters” are making multilingual lessons (Frisian, Bildts, Dutch, English, for children of approx. 10-12 years old) each year, Bildts lesson courses are organized for native speakers as well as non native speakers.</p> <p>Also the municipality is working on a better use of the language in daily use with the support of several organizations.</p> <p>It is proved that tourists are charmed by the language. Because the language is closer to Dutch than Frisian it is easy for non speakers to understand it.</p>
6	Collaborating entities and their working areas	Collaboration is with Afûk, Lân fan Taal (project of Leeuwarden/Fryslân 2018), Stichting De Bildtse Aardappelweken and the education support organization Cedin as well as the EBLT-members
7	Implementation period	Since 1986 activities have been started up. Not all of them in the same year, but in phases, partly depending on the people that are active in the organizations

FILE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BEST PRACTICES

8	Expansion (number of influenced people, internal and external expansion...)	<p>With still 6.000 users the language is still alive, but the threat of the municipality merge and with that the possibility of no longer financial support is a threat everybody feels at this moment. Hopefully the politics will guard this in the merging process.</p> <p>Also due to the increasing digital roads and social media a larger number of speakers that do not live in the municipality anymore is reached. They prove to be a very interested and interesting group for the language.</p>
9	Investment (economic, time, people...)	<p>The Bildts organizations are financially supported by the province of Fryslân and the municipality for a total amount of approx. € 20.000,- a year in total. There is one paid office worker for 5 hours per week, the rest is on a voluntary base.</p> <p>The books are sold below the economic costs in order to make it possible for everybody to buy them. The missing amount is financial support as mentioned before.</p>
10	Results	<p>At the moment the number of users does not decrease, remains steady for quite some time already (research province of Fryslân 2014) although the number of inhabitants of the municipality does. A very positive development is the use of the language in the local paper (a lot of articles are sent by sports/cultural/political organizations, the paper only has 1 journalist) and the advertisements texts for birth, wedding, funerals are in an increasing number in the Bildts language.</p> <p>The Frisian broadcast station Omrop Fryslân has a very positive attitude toward the Bildts language and encourages speakers to speak in their own language.</p>

11	Documentation, reference material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The multilingual lessons can be found on www.meertalighyd.nl • The Stichting Ons Bildt can be found through the website www.bildtsaigene.nl Bildts Aigene is an umbrella organization of four different organizations concerning the Bildts language, history and future • Stichting the Bildtse Aardappelweken can be found on www.baw.frl • The Mercator Research Centre investigated the language and compared it to several other minority languages in Europe • More links: http://www.stichtingonsbildt.nl/index/links/
12	Presentation video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2aSYv2mGIWQ
13	Other relevant information	<p>Advice:</p> <p>There is always looked at and listened to the experience of other organizations in Fryslân, but also in the Netherlands (at dialects) and in Europe, e.g. Cornish, North Frisian. Best practices are noticed and used there where possible</p> <p>Languages in contact:</p> <p>There is contact with the Frisian, but also several minority languages through the contacts within the NPLD. February 2016 the Status 3 in the Council of Europe was applied for the Bildts language and a presentation was given in the Intergroup Minorities of the European Parliament as well as during a visit of the Committee of Experts of the Council of Europe</p> <p>Keys to success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most important lesson is to never give up! • Being creative proves you can do a lot with a little amount of money. For a small language it is very important to have a large group of volunteers in different fields that are prepared to do a lot of work for a shared goal and that are making others interested in the language as well • Make sure to reach the people in a low leveled way: through the children’s lessons the parents get in touch with the language as well • Having a band, that is popular in the teenage/twenties group is very helpful • But also: don’t get disappointed by the people who are absolutely not interested in your minority language. Get energy from the ones that are

