



ARQUS PROJECT

“Arts and Creativity in the Foreign Language Classroom: Interdisciplinarity and Innovation in the Process of Teaching and Learning Slavic Languages”

Participants:

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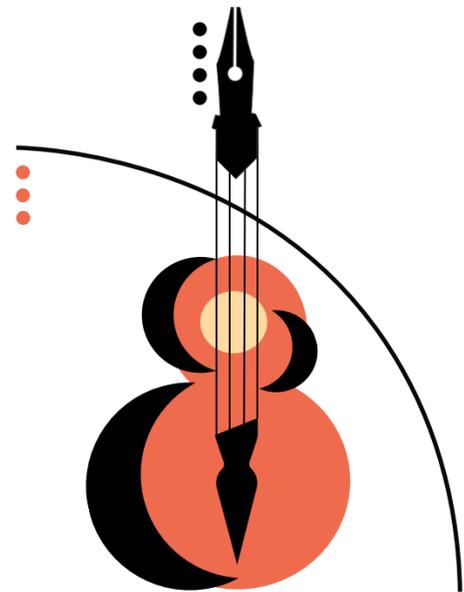
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1. PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES

University of Granada, Spain
University of Wrocław, Poland
Vilnius University, Lithuania

Coordinator: Department of Greek and Slavonic Philology of the University of Granada

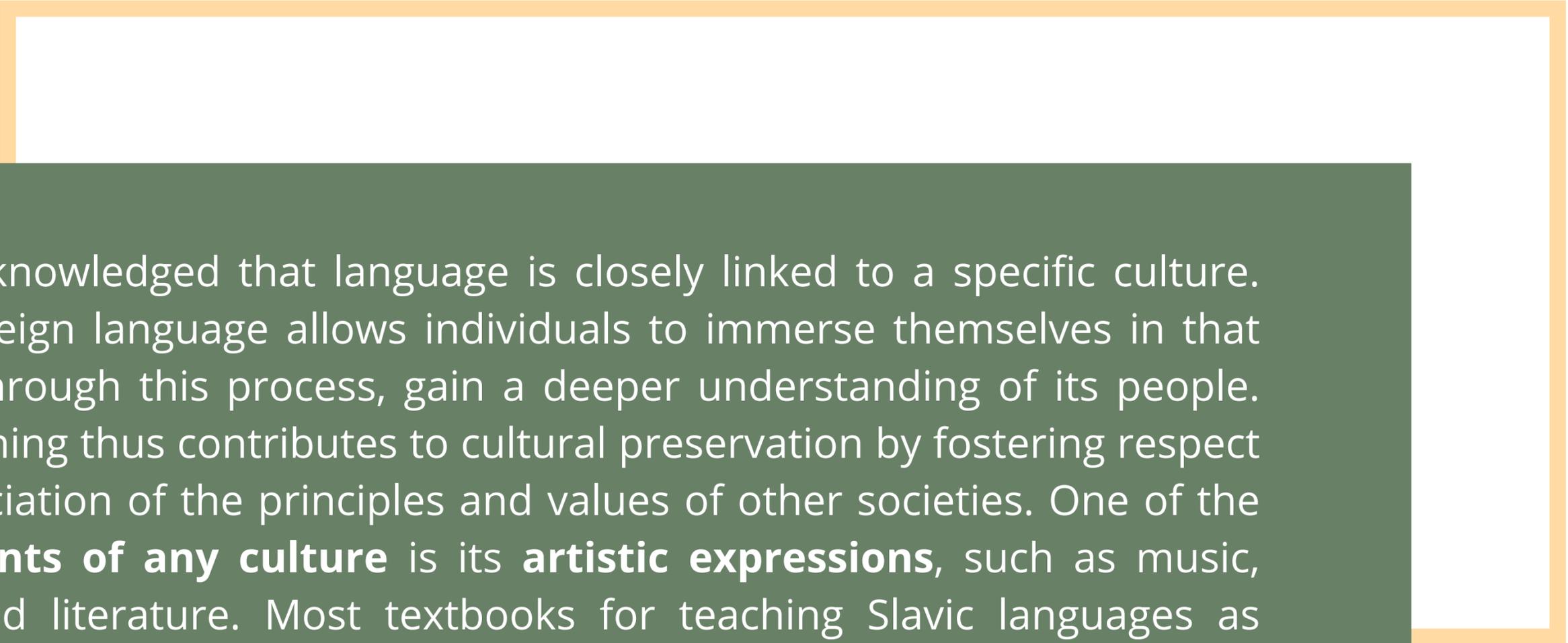
Start date of the funded initiative: 01/09/2025

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2. PREMISES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Slavic languages, although spoken by millions of people in Eastern Europe and beyond, are often regarded as minority languages in many European universities, where languages such as English, Spanish, or French dominate academic curricula. Despite their reduced presence, Slavic languages play a crucial role in preserving cultural diversity and in understanding Europe's rich history. These languages—including Russian, Polish, Czech, and others—provide key access to a vast heritage of literature, art, and traditions that have shaped European civilization.



It is widely acknowledged that language is closely linked to a specific culture. Learning a foreign language allows individuals to immerse themselves in that culture and, through this process, gain a deeper understanding of its people. Language learning thus contributes to cultural preservation by fostering respect for and appreciation of the principles and values of other societies. One of the **key components of any culture** is its **artistic expressions**, such as music, visual arts, and literature. Most textbooks for teaching Slavic languages as foreign languages include references to the corresponding cultural context. However, these materials often lack a comprehensive approach and creative exercises that enable students to develop their creativity and **practically engage with culture**, for example, through writing, painting, singing, or even songwriting.

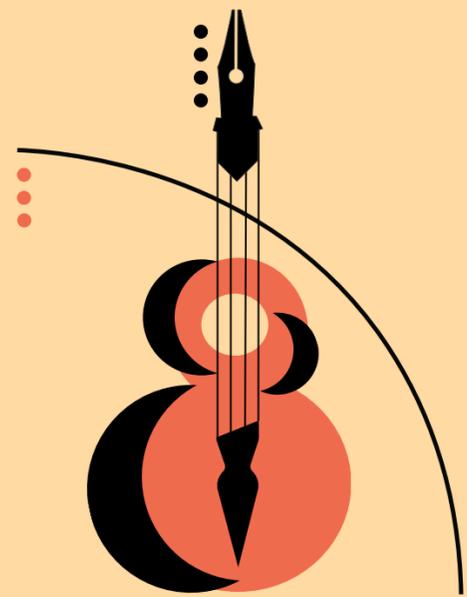
Studies conducted over recent decades highlight the **importance of creativity in the classroom** and its **positive impact on the teaching and learning of foreign languages**. Creativity fosters

- divergent thinking (Garcia-Ramirez & Hazir, 2015)
- problem-solving skills (McCracken, 1998)
- tolerance of ambiguity, a diverse range of interests, and self-discipline (Artola et al., 2012).
- positive impact of creativity on students' written expression, improving both fluency and creative thinking in the production of creative texts (Portnova et al., 2020)

Furthermore, research indicates that creativity promotes personal values that make individuals more flexible in their behavior. Therefore, creativity in language classes can be considered a tool for fostering students' personal development.

3. OBJECTIVES

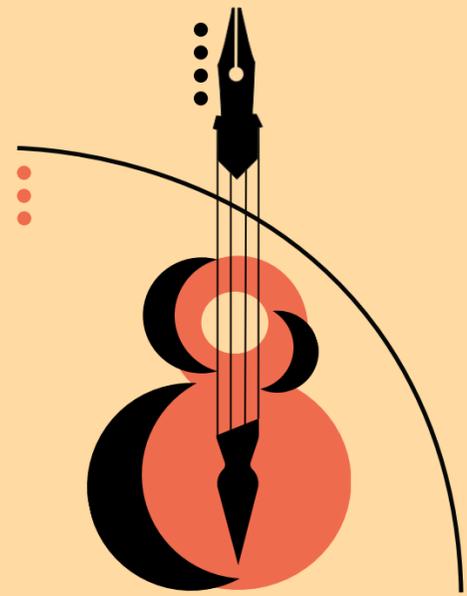
The main objective of the project is to broaden students' understanding of the target language culture and to foster their sociocultural competence by encouraging creativity in the foreign language classroom through the integrated use of music, painting, and literature.



ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES

to develop new teaching materials to promote students' creativity and expand their knowledge of the target culture

Jones and Richards (2016) point out that creativity in education can be observed at three levels: classroom creativity, curriculum creativity, and creativity in teachers' professional development. To foster students' creativity, it is not sufficient for students to be creative by nature. It is essential, on the one hand, that teachers are able to create a motivating environment that stimulates creative development and, on the other hand, that the curriculum provides adequate space for cultivating creativity in the classroom. The aim of this project is to develop new teaching materials to promote students' creativity and expand their knowledge of the target culture through the integrated use of music, painting, and literature. The project also proposes the organization of a workshop for teachers of Slavic languages, in which a methodology based on an interdisciplinary approach to language teaching and creativity will be applied.



ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES

to foster research on Slavic languages

The interdisciplinary approach to foreign language teaching through the application of arts-based methodologies aligns with the fundamental objective of fostering transformative disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and innovation. Moreover, in the context of learning a new culture, it contributes to the development of intercultural competence, another key objective of Arqus (enhancing intercultural competence, global understanding, and respect for diversity within our communities). In addition, the proposed workshops will focus on Slavic languages, which have received less attention in methodological development compared to languages such as Spanish, English, or French.



ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES

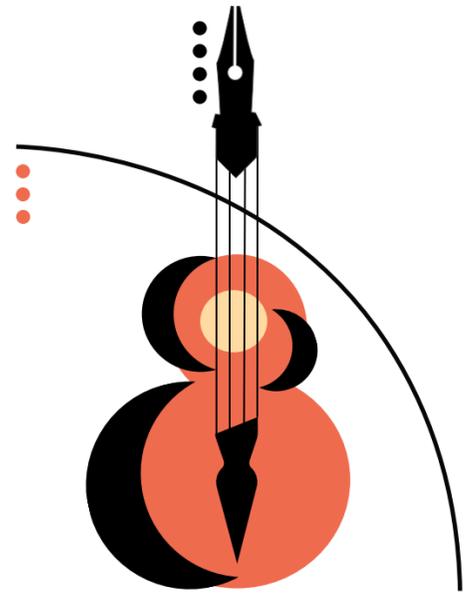
the exchange of good practices to better respond to emerging social challenges

Finally, the overarching objective of effective, barrier-free cooperation at all levels of institutional activity, as well as the exchange of good practices to better respond to emerging social challenges, is also reflected in this proposal. We aim to promote cooperation between teachers and students in the classroom to foster creativity at different levels and to integrate new technologies into arts education, using these tools as part of the educational experience.

4. LANGUAGES

1. RUSSIAN

2. POLISH





5. MATERIALS

All materials will be designed for the B1 level, as this remains the most in-demand level in foreign language learning. In total, at least 10 Russian lessons and 5 Polish lessons are expected to be developed. The topics of the teaching materials will be determined in accordance with B1-level standards, with particular attention to issues such as:

- Lifestyle (working hours, leisure activities, traditions, communication with colleagues and friends)
- Interests and hobbies (arts, sports, travel, etc.)
- The city (hometown, challenges of the modern city)
- Nature and humanity
- Prominent figures in art and culture

When addressing these topics, artistic materials based on works by Russian and Polish artists will be included.

6 . W O R K S H O P

This project includes a workshop titled 'Arts and Creativity Development in Slavic Language Teaching' (May 18, 2026) for Slavic language teachers, where a methodology based on an interdisciplinary approach to language teaching and creativity will be applied.

7. PROJECT TIMELINE

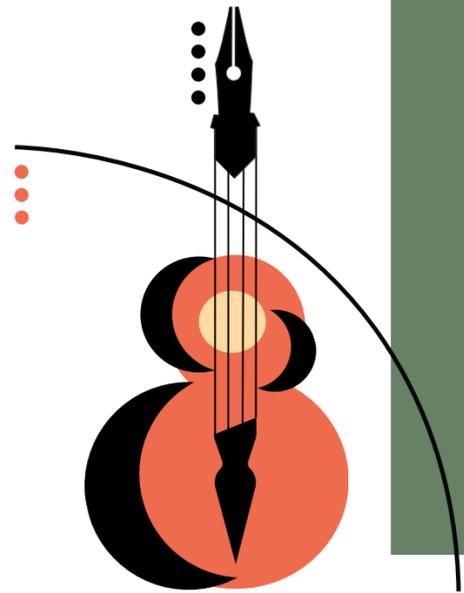
- **September 2025:** Coordination meeting at Vilnius University to finalize the methodology, thematic content of the teaching materials, and the schedule of monthly online organizational meetings.
- **October–December 2025:** Development of teaching materials for Russian and Polish as foreign languages; monthly online coordination meetings.
- **January–April 2026:** Testing and adaptation of the teaching materials in the course “Russian Language through Art”; monthly coordination meetings; presentation of interim results at the Seminar of the Association of Professionals of the Russian Language in Spain (February 2026); preparation of the workshop “Developing Creativity and the Arts in the Teaching of Slavic Languages.”
- **May 2026:** Workshop “Developing Creativity and the Arts in the Teaching of Slavic Languages” at the University of Granada (minimum of 10 on-site participants).
- **June–July 2026:** Project evaluation, preparation of an article on the project results, final online meeting, and preparation of the final report.

8. COORDINATION MEETING AT VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

Objectives of the meeting:
Organization and coordination of work within the framework of the project.

Participants:

- Irina Votyakova Chubukova, University of Granada
- Tamara Gorozhankina, University of Granada
- Tatjana Portnova, University of Granada
- Dorota Drużyłowska, University of Wrocław
- Julija Snežko, Vilnius University
- Anastasija Belovodskaja, Vilnius University



Topics discussed:

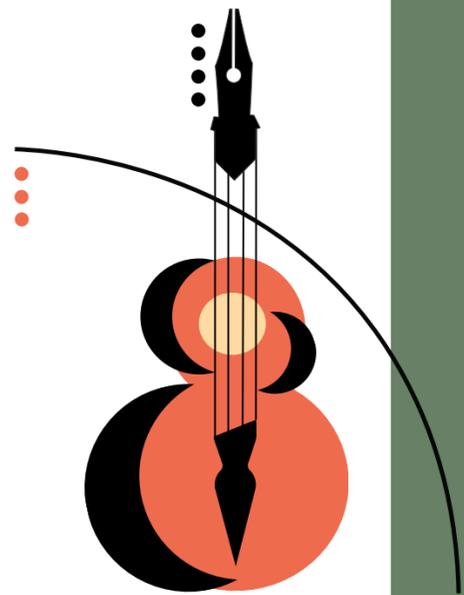
1. Work plan and project details.
2. Template for the project teaching materials.
3. Structure of the teaching units to be developed.
4. Task distribution.
5. Preparation of the May 2026 seminar.
6. Planning participation in seminars and conferences for project dissemination.
7. Planning publications derived from the project.

MEETING OUTCOMES AND CONCLUSIONS:

The meeting addressed issues related to the work plan and project development. The content and structure of the teaching materials were defined, and a design and content framework was proposed. Tasks were assigned to all teaching staff participating in the project. Upcoming meetings were scheduled in accordance with the project timeline.

It was decided that the seminar for teachers of Slavic languages would be held on 18 May 2026 at the University of Granada (the coordinating university of the project). During the seminar, the new teaching materials for Slavic languages (Russian and Polish), based on an interdisciplinary approach to language teaching and creativity, will be presented. The aim of these materials is to expand students' knowledge of the culture of the country whose language they are studying and to contribute to the development of their sociocultural competence by fostering creativity in foreign language classes. A timetable for the seminar was proposed.

In addition, a series of actions aimed at conducting research related to the project and the corresponding publication of results were planned.



THANK YOU!

