

The role of **The Live Teacher (TLT)** in the language and cultural heritage of the Hungarian Nation's Diaspora.

- Hungary Live -

The **Hungary Live** program of **The Live Teacher** (www.theliveteacher.com/hungary_live), produced by H-Net Language Center (www.h-net.hu) of Budapest, familiarizes Hungarian heritage, history, culture, and our roots, including the Hungarian language. The program will be available in both Hungarian and English. The system utilizes Ustream (www.ustream.tv), a Hungarian internet technology used worldwide.

1. Hungarian Diaspora, The Objective:

The Diaspora Council is the common forum for Hungarian communities abroad, supporting Hungarians living all around the world by focusing on their special needs and interests. It creates an independent representation in accordance with the principles of engagement for the unified nation laid down by the Hungarian Government.

In the charter (foundation document) of the Hungarian Diaspora, the Hungarian Government is committed in taking responsibility for the unified nation including the diaspora as well. The document claims that the Hungarians living in the diaspora - twenty years after the system change - must receive adequate attention in national politics at last.

The TLT (www.TheLiveTeacher.com) through its program **Hungary Live** regards it, as a mission to help disseminate Hungarian culture, its heritage and language to Hungarian descendants living throughout the world and the world in general, to increase awareness of Hungary, supporting the government's foundation document of the Hungarian Diaspora.

TLT is unique, in providing an online interactive technique and thematic which can help Hungarians nationals and Hungarian descendants including second and third generation Hungarians living abroad to become more familiar with their heritage, Hungarian culture and roots including the Hungarian language. The TLT system utilizes Ustream, a Hungarian internet technology to be able to give live interactive conferences (sessions) anywhere in the world with

an internet connection, eliminating the distance and borders, by providing reliable communication.

By simplifying communication and being able to communicate interactively in real time, it helps to greatly facilitate communication between Hungarian descendants and Hungarian nationals living abroad. It can also facilitate Hungarians who have recently left Hungary but still having a strong national identity to maintain their knowledge of the Hungarian language and follow current national cultural events.

2. Why the the **Live Teacher**, www.TheLiveTeacher.com?

We have the experience and methodology to teach and transmit to an audience anywhere in the world. This means that teachers, physically in Hungary can teach an audience such as a group or one on one, in any geographical area with an internet connection. The methodology has been developed by H-Net Language Center. This complex, interactive communication training and examination method is the only one in Europe based on Ustream technology, a Hungarian internet technology.

It contains:

- video conferencing
- video broadcasting to multiple (more than 100) viewers (live or recorded)
- content management tool
- searchable content
- a library of educational texts, videos and audio materials
- chat service
- interactive tests with instant evaluating function
- files (.doc, PDF, mp3 and video formats) organized into categories and courses
- online assistance standing by on request (helpdesk)

To date our most significant reference is connected to the selection of civilian personnel of the American air base in Afghanistan (Kandahar) by STANAG military language exams. H-Net Language Center carries out the language examination via the interactive online system of www.TheLiveTeacher.com from Budapest, while candidates from Kenya, Cape Town, Namibia, Romania and Kandahar are being tested online in real time.

The following reference was written by Bob Pratt, Managing Director & Branch Manager ATCO Frontec Europa Kft: *„I cannot speak highly enough of H-Net; since being contracted to provide services to us they have proven themselves to be extremely professional and thorough whilst at the same time remaining flexible to our needs, especially in view of the difficulties of carrying out web testing in different time zones worldwide, to personnel of differing nationalities. Their agreement to carry out testing for a period on the ground in Afghanistan was immensely helpful to us and our staff in Kandahar was effusive in their praise of the service provided and the attitude of the H-Net personnel involved. I unreservedly recommend H-Net to future customers with similar requirements to our own.”*

3. Thematic plans for application of www.TheLiveTeacher.com: culture without borders and teachers without borders.

- “A Nation Lives in its Language”

Hungarian language courses, given live, interactively, in individual or small groups. Courses of different levels emphasise the present, living language usage mixed with elements of literature and everyday life as well.

- “National Heritage”, Hungarian Interactive Café Without Borders

Literature, history and art history lessons are not only for children but anyone with an interest. The moderator of the course, guides us through a given topic with explanations, original movies and audio recordings in such a way, that the audience, our compatriots living abroad are able to get a valuable and real picture using the interactive TLT, providing participants with the ability to comment during the course, providing valuable input, therefore getting a more comprehensive understanding. Courses can be designed upon request to include commemorations of famous musical or sport events as well.

- “Uniquum Hungaricum” - Made in Hungary

Using the official support and facilities of the diaspora, local Hungarian communities can watch a live video broadcast transmitted from Hungary like a TV program in topics such as current literature, music, fine art, theatre, cinema and even sports. The audience can actively participate such as in a talk-show, making discussions more interesting and engaging. For example during a broadcast, invited guests could include composers, artists, famous Hungarian speakers, so that they can describe their work and discuss it with the Hungarians living abroad.

- “Current Events Calendar”

As the people in the country used to look up the calendar for getting current information, the Hungarians of the diaspora can watch daily broadcasts of current topics, where they can interact with the hosts of the program with their questions, ideas and observations. The objective is to involve and engage Hungarians living abroad, in the life of Hungarians in Hungary. The possibilities are immense and may include any type of topic and programming such as agriculture, education, sports, horse–breeding, transportation, economics and investment. The possibilities are endless. The most important aspect is to create an interaction with Hungarian nationals, Hungarian descendants living abroad and people interested in Hungarian affairs, to get them engaged and have them understand the value of their Hungarian roots, to use it to their advantage.