

Guide for Users – Aladin

What is Aladin ?

Aladin is a collection of educational resources designed for educators and parents who wish to teach heritage languages to children. Through playful and creative activities, Aladin helps children learn the language while also gaining knowledge about and appreciation for their culture and origins.

Aladin offers tools and inspiration to make language learning a fun, engaging, and meaningful experience, promoting both linguistic skills and cultural identity.



The Aladin method

As a working process, Aladin has also been a practice and knowledge sharing method among different heritage language speaking educators and learners. Based on the common exploration and share of existing practices of our own or discovered elsewhere in exhibitions, librairies, non formal education institutions, etc., we designed and tested new language specific teaching and learning practices, integrating methods and resources that we have learnt from each other or explored together in Berlin, Marseille and Paris.

Who Are We?

The Aladin collection was created by four organizations based in Paris, Berlin, and Marseille. Each of us is actively engaged in supporting migrants, refugees, and families living in exile, through initiatives that foster inclusion in local societies.

We believe that valuing one's culture and heritage language is an essential part of the inclusion process. By recognizing and celebrating cultural roots, individuals—especially children—can build self-confidence and develop a deeper appreciation for diversity. Aladin reflects this vision by offering tools that promote both language learning and cultural pride.



What does the Aladin online handbook contain ?

On the Aladin website, you will find a collection of activity descriptions that we have designed and tested through both international and local workshops with Arabic, Hungarian, Romanian, Polish, and Ukrainian-speaking communities living in France and Germany.

All Aladin resources are freely available and cater to learners of all ages—from early childhood to adulthood. The activities integrate elements from various artistic fields, mainly visual arts, but also performing arts and music, in two key ways:

Cultural Exploration: The learning activities are built around the exploration of visual and musical elements from Arabic, Hungarian, Romanian, and Polish cultures. This helps facilitate access to cultural heritage and reinforces a sense of identity.

Creative Learning Methods: Activities include crafting, manual skills, and body movement to transform the language learning process into a creative, engaging, and confidence-boosting experience.

Through this approach, Aladin aims to offer a positive, collective, and intergenerational learning experience—one that not only supports language acquisition but also helps strengthen language-speaking communities across generations.

Background research

If you wish to deepen your knowledge and understanding of the challenges, context, and significance of heritage language learning in France and Germany—whether as an educator or a parent—we invite you to consult our background study.

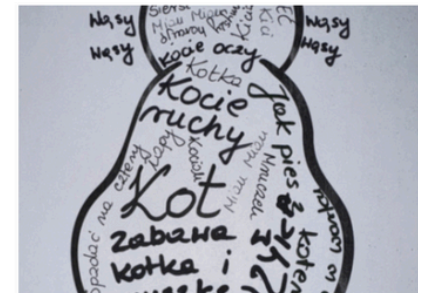
This study offers:

- A historical overview of heritage language education in both countries
- Case studies highlighting current opportunities and policies related to heritage language learning
- An abstract based on interviews with educators and learners, exploring their motivations, teaching and learning practices, and the difficulties they face.
- Additionally, the study presents inspiring examples of good practices in using art in language education, which can inspire you to develop your own creative activities—just as they inspired us.

How to use Aladin activity descriptions ?

In the Activities section, you can explore 24 creative workshop ideas to improve language skills and knowledge about culture of origin.

Activity descriptions on the website are in English, but you can also download printable versions in other languages such as German, French, Arabic, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian and Ukrainian. Available languages for activity descriptions are shown in the list of the opening page of the activities, and you can download them by clicking on the buttons on the right in each activity description.



Adaptation for different languages

The described activities were originally tested in the heritage languages spoken and taught by the Aladin project partners. Therefore, cultural references, vocabulary examples, and linked resources correspond to those languages.

However, most activities can be adapted to other languages, age groups, and proficiency levels.

To help with adaptation, each activity includes:

- Recommendations for adjusting the content
- Tips for practical setup
- Notes on possible challenges and useful resources

These are based on shared reflections and experiences of the project partners.



Additionally, you can also find specific recommendations for each activity on how to set them up, what challenges you have to pay attention to as well as useful resources.

Parents, families and community involvement in the language learning process

The particularity of the heritage languages we focused on in Aladin is that most learners are motivated rather by personal reasons than professional ones.

Therefore, to create occasions to practice these languages it is crucial to involve other members from the language speaking communities, for instance parents grandparents and other family members in the case of children. It is also important to make it in an effortless, playful and pleasant way that fosters the feeling of belonging to a community and consider one's own heritage language as an added value, as a source of cultural enrichment. This is why the Aladin activities were conceived rather as language learning creative games which can be also practiced or used without the presence of a professional educator.

Specific recommendations for parents have also been added to the activity descriptions to facilitate this process.