

10. Fact-Finding Survey and Joint Research of the Educational Contents of Japanese Language Education Institutes in Central-Eastern European Countries

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(1) Purpose and Aim of Study

The purpose of this research is to survey Japanese language education institutions in Central-Eastern Europe and the surrounding regions concerning the state of Japanese language educational contents (supply, demand, developmental status, IT environment, etc.) and how effectively they are used by Japanese language teachers and students. Japanese language contents tailored to actual conditions can then be developed in line with the results of the survey.

Central-Eastern Europe was chosen for this research because it is thought that the region's lack of teachers and materials, as well as the geographical isolation, can be overcome through the application of information technology. Another reason is that the Japanese language researchers and teachers of the International Conference on Japanese Language Teaching have offered their assistance with this project.

(2) Outline of Research Results

- Below we introduce a new content of report presented at the International Conference on Japanese Language Teaching (compilation of papers) that was developed as result of this project.
- As of 2007, there are 17 such International Conference on Japanese Language Teaching reports from over the past 20 years. Reports from around 20 years ago are very valuable as they give insight into Japanese education in Central-Eastern Europe before that region of the world was democratized.
- Initially these reports included much content concerning Eastern Europe, but recently the content has dwindled.

- Content concerning Eastern Europe contains a great deal of information, including reports from Central-Eastern European institutions, papers and presentations regarding Central-Eastern European teachers and students, and papers and presentations regarding Central-Eastern European languages.