

## **The report on the didactic project 'Top Skills Language Academy' of the Department of Foreign Languages at WUST.**

The 3rd edition of the project was held from 9 April to 28 April 2025.

The organiser and originator of the project was the Department of Foreign Languages.

The Top Skills Language Academy of the Department of Foreign Languages at WUST is a series of webinars in English, consisting of six online meetings organised by the Department of Foreign Languages at Wrocław University of Science and Technology with the substantive support of the Faculty of Management. The project aimed at familiarising participants with both theoretical and practical aspects of soft skills development, including communication, learning strategies, feedback in personal and professional development, as well as negotiation techniques and intercultural competences. The Language Academy supported the linguistic preparation of students for work in an international environment. The project developed English language skills and demonstrated their usefulness in everyday professional communication.

Six webinars were held as scheduled:

- 9 April 2025, 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm - *Effective Communication as the Most Crucial Soft Skill* - Katarzyna Martynowicz, M.A., senior lecturer of English at the DFL, WUST,
- 11 April 2025, 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm - *How to Become a Design Thinker?* - Agnieszka Licznarska, PhD, senior lecturer of English at the DFL, WUST,
- 14 April 2025, 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm - *How to Negotiate Without Going Crazy* - Anna Maria Kamińska, PhD, Faculty of Management, WUST,
- 23 April 2025, 5.15 pm – 6.45 pm - *There is Nothing Obvious - a Few Thoughts on Cross-Cultural Communication* - Toyotaka Ota, PhD, senior lecturer of Japanese at the DFL, WUST,
- 24 April 2025, 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm - *The Art of Creativity: Techniques to Spark Your Imagination* - Magdalena Kondro, M.A., senior lecturer of English at the DFL, WUST,
- 28 April 2025, 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm - *Master the Art of Networking: Skills and Language for Building Connections* - Alicja Mazurkiewicz, M.A., senior lecturer of English at the DFL, WUST.

The project was coordinated by Anna Kania and the webinars were moderated by Magdalena Hołowko.

The recruitment was conducted by means of a Google enrolment form which required a justification of one's wish to participate in the project. The DFL website also included a webpage tab with a detailed description of the project, along with the regulations and timetable in Polish and English.

Thanks to an intensive information campaign – mailing all WUST students, the number of participants in the project reached **156**. The participants could sign up for selected webinars or for all events. The webinars were held on the Zoom platform, thanks to the webinar licence of the Wrocław University of Science and Technology. On the technical side, the project was prepared and coordinated, together with the DFL, by the WUST Remote Learning Support Team (coordinator: Magdalena Lisowska).

The Remote Learning Support Team prepared a detailed summary of attendance and survey results based on the data generated after the webinars.

Webinar Title	Speaker	Participants (attendance register)	Number of completed surveys
<i>Effective Communication as the Most Crucial Soft Skill</i>	Katarzyna Martynowicz, M.A. (DFL)	79	56
<i>How to Become a Design Thinker?</i>	Agnieszka Licznarska, PhD (DFL)	67	35
<i>How to Negotiate Without Going Crazy</i>	Anna Maria Kamińska, PhD (Faculty of Management)	66	32
<i>There is Nothing Obvious – a Few Thoughts on Cross-Cultural Communication</i>	Toyotaka Ota, PhD (DFL)	54	28
<i>The Art of Creativity: Techniques to Spark Your Imagination</i>	Magdalena Kondro, M.A. (DFL)	58	27
<i>Master the Art of Networking: Skills and Language for Building Connections</i>	Alicja Mazurkiewicz, M.A. (DFL)	47	24

After each webinar, participants filled in a prepared short questionnaire with three points:

1. Did the webinar meet your expectations?  
(the scale: 1 - definitely no, 2 - no, 3 - partly, 4 - yes, 5 - definitely yes)
  2. Would you recommend this training to others? ( the scale as above)
  3. Feedback, comments.
- Very good scores and positive comments prevailed in the surveys.

#### **Webinar 1**

Question 1 – 4 and 5 rating points – total: 94%

Question 2 – 4 and 5 rating points – total: 91%

#### **Webinar 2**

Question 1 – 4 and 5 rating points – total: 59%

Question 2 – 4 and 5 rating points – total: 66%

#### **Webinar 3**

Question 1 – 4 and 5 rating points – total: 91%

Question 2 – 4 and 5 rating points – total: 91%

#### **Webinar 4**

Question 1 – 4 and 5 rating points – total: 90%

Question 2 – 4 and 5 rating points – total: 92%

## **Webinar 5**

Question 1 – 4 and 5 rating points – total: 96%

Question 2 – 4 and 5 rating points – total: 89%

## **Webinar 6**

Question 1 – 4 and 5 rating points – total: 92%

Question 2 – 4 and 5 rating points – total: 92%

After the last webinar two more questions were added about the whole project.

### **I. How would you rate the usefulness of the whole Top Skills Language Academy project?**

1 - worthless 2 - of little value 3 - partly useful 4 - useful to a large extent 5 - very interesting and useful

Ratings points: 4 and 5, total: 79%, rating point: 3 - 21%

### **II. Open question:**

**Would you like to take part in the next edition? If so, which topics, or deepening of which areas would be of value to you?**

Dozens of answers were given confirming the interest in the topic of soft skills. Among the proposals submitted, the following appeared several times: development of creativity and learning techniques, deepening the subject of soft skills in practical tasks, project work, the issue of personal and psychological development and specialist English for the IT industry.

## **Conclusions and summary**

According to the Regulations, the students who participated in at least 4 webinars were awarded Language Academy Certificates. A total of **46** Certificates were awarded in the English language version. Anna Kania, the coordinator on behalf of the DFL, sent out the Certificates on 15 May 2025.

The Santander Top Skills Language Academy project has been highly appreciated by the students who are interested in participating in training courses combining the topics of personal and professional development and language competences. The webinars were interestingly conducted by the speakers, who incorporated various interactive tools in their presentations, such as tasks in the worldwall application, AnswerGarden, kahoot, the webinar chat feature. We are very satisfied with the cooperation with the Faculty of Management and recommend continuing the project on the basis of the developed procedures.

I would like to thank my colleagues from the DFL for preparing the workshops of very high content value, for sharing their knowledge and passion with the participants of the project and Magdalena Hołowko for her organisational support and moderating all the webinars, and Piotr Reizer, M.S., from the IT section, for preparing the necessary forms, tools and information on the DFL website.

The report was prepared by Anna Kania, M.A.

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