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Photos from
the Alkmaar
Workshops

Languages:

- Basque
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Gaelic
- German
- Lithuanian
- Romanian
- Spanish

The funded part of the POOLS project has ended. The project is now continued on a grassroots basis

The EU co-funded part of POOLS finished with a language teachers' conference in Alkmaar. The conference was coordinated by Horizon college assisted by different language project teams from the EU and beyond. A total of 132 language teachers from 16 different countries took part in the conference. Learn more about the many workshops and download the handouts from www.languages.dk/archive.html which hold all the official documents from the project.

The POOLS partnership is now compiling the Final Report for the EC, the report will be available from the above address which holds all the official documents from the project.



A keynote speech from the Alkmaar conference

The results from the funded period can be summarized as matching / exceeding the originally planned outputs and all products are available from the website, i.e.:

310 Videos in nine languages with texts to be used e.g. for content development courses these can be downloaded from the digital areas

The course book in five languages which can be downloaded from the materials area

The DIY videos on materials production is available as a DVD with subtitles in nine

languages and can be downloaded as a DVD image file, as .wmv files, and as mp4 files (iPod) from the materials area

The methodology course resulted in a sequence of pilot tested modules described in the "Methodology Manual" which is available in the nine project languages from the materials area

The content development course resulted in a sequence of pilot tested modules described in the "Materials Development Manual" which is available in the nine project languages from the materials area

Sample ready to use learning materials / units with video or audio for language teaching, these can be accessed from the materials area

The 310 POOLS videos can now be downloaded as iPod videos. The downloads are available in zipped collections, one for each language, or individually from the digital area of the POOLS website: www.languages.dk/digital

It is also possible to order DVDs with the nine languages by e-mailing the project webmaster



The iPod collections can be ordered on DVDs by e-mailing ka@ots.dk



Latest News: The Scottish POOLS partner has been awarded the European Award for Languages 2007

M ainstreaming the Hebrides

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Scottish partner, is planning to build on its video and training work completed for POOLS by launching a larger "Guthan nan Eilean: Island Voices" project. This project will aim to significantly increase the size of the bilingual resource bank with a Scottish and Highland cultural and vocational relevance, for the benefit of learners of both Gaelic and English. Training, based on the frameworks established in the POOLS project, will also be offered, and learners as well as teachers encouraged to develop new media and computing skills.



Wildflowers on the Hebridean machair: a unique environment

This work will bring in new local and regional partners, and so help to mainstream the results of the POOLS project. A funding bid has been submitted, and news is expected by the New Year. It is expected that environmental themes will have a particular prominence, given the geographical location of the Hebrides and current local developments in biodiversity, renewable energy, and environmental sustainability.

Gaelic college, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, working with Cothrom Training Ltd of South Uist, has received a prestigious European award for its bilingual video project

reflecting the lives of a Hebridean community. The materials started as a language resource for Gaelic learners but the project has quickly evolved into an interactive library where participants contribute video clips them-selves.



The European Award for Languages judges said of Guthan nan Eilean (Island voices), 'From its origins as a resource addressing the need for technology-assisted language teaching for lesser used languages it has developed into a way of empowering learners to develop their own films and consequently raise their own ICT and language skills'.

Local Co-ordinator, Gordon Wells, said 'The Island Voices project aims to reflect the naturalness of bilingual life and work in the Hebrides. The project could not have succeeded without full community participation and it's wonderful to have everyone's contribution recognised through this award'.

Winners will receive their award at a high profile prize-giving ceremony at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff on 20 November 2007. The project is one of three Scottish projects to receive the Award this year.

Who are our users and project members? First of all YOU can become a POOLS member, just e-mail ka@ots.dk. One of our latest new members is Patrice Kelly, who introduces herself: "I have done some volunteer work in Mexico, Spain and Canada with conversational English, but am interested in taking training to better prepare myself to assist others to learn English.

I have many years of experience working with a First Nations population and providing training in cognitive restructuring – but would like to transfer some of those skills into language acquisition. There are so many programs on the market. I would like to involve myself with a credible organization that promotes ethical standards as well as language instruction.

At this point, I am not producing material, however, I have written cognitive skills programs specific for an adolescent delinquent population. Once I have learned the foundations of language instruction, hopefully I can also contribute."



Become a member of POOLS and help other teachers by sharing your experience and materials

Another new member is Níall Tracey: "I am working as an English teacher in the Basque country, and intend to use the Pools' material in my teaching (some of my classes are in a major vocational training centre). My contract makes no claims to copyright for any materials that I produce, which means I will be able to feed back transcriptions and worksheets."