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Images from the pools-t workshop in Hoorn where the teams evaluated the different project outcomes and finalized the project.

Languages:

- Basque
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Gaelic
- German
- Greek
- Italian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Spanish
- Turkish



Hop on board and join the pools teams i.e. pools, pools-t, pools-2, and pools-m

Pools-t has just finished the EC funded project period (October 1st 2008 to September 30th 2010) with a workshop in Hoorn, the Netherlands. The main item on the workshop agenda was evaluation and quality control of the project outputs. The team also worked on how to exploit the resulting tools and we are very pleased that we can document a substantial use of the outcomes in many countries outside the partnership:-)



A final check on the many deliveries made during the two years funded project period

One of the final events in pools-t was a workshop presentation at EuroCall 2010 in Bordeaux by Caoimhin O Donnaille and Kent Andersen. Caoimh n presented the two tools he has developed: Multidict and Wordlink, Kent Andersen demonstrated how the TextBlender can be used to create a webpage with video, graphics and text where all words are linked to online dictionaries in 114 languages (making use of Multidict).



Brochures, newsletters, CDs and DVDs were put on display wherever place was found

The pools-t workshop was well visited and during the workshop and conference a total of 300 DVDs with Do it yourself videos and 300 CDs with the TextBlender were handed out as well as newsletters and brochures from the three projects; pools-t, pools-m, and pools-2.



Participants at EuroCall waiting for the pools-t presentation. 17 pools-t-shirts were handed out to some of the lucky participants

Also the pools-2 team members were busy in September with the third workshop in 2010. Main item on the agenda was a pilot course where the participants learned about how to set up a blog, how to exploit the TextBlender, Wordlink, and Multidict tools as well as a task on preparing subtitles for videos. Also CALL methodology was on the agenda as the main outcome was that all teams should have a ready plan for the upcoming language teacher courses.



Pools-2 team members working in Malta in a converted stable at the FTZ headquarters



Latest news: The project funded period has ended. The TextBlender, Wordlink and Multidict tools have reached the final versions, but Caoimhin and Kent may add new functions based on YOUR input

The final pools-t meeting and workshop took place at the Horizon College in Hoorn, the Netherlands. Representatives from all the teams participated in the workshop where we had a final check on the outcomes matched with the original application. It was a pleasure to verify that all deliveries were ready for use and indeed are being used on a world wide basis:-)



The team members grouping outside Horizon College after the final quality check

During the course of the project the basic concept of a tool that enables the checking of any unknown words in a text in an online dictionary has been developed substantially. The original "Webpage Textblender", invented by Kent Andersen, is now complemented by Caoimhín Ó Donnáile's Wordlink and Multidict tools, and the range of languages supported has been massively expanded. To mark the completion of the project Gordon Wells has placed all 40 texts from Series One of Island Voices (20 English and 20 Gaelic) on WordPress platforms linked to Wordlink/Multidict. Although the funded period of the project is now over further refinements of the tools will continue, as more languages are incorporated and in response to comments from users. Interested readers are invited to take a look at the [Wordlinked Island Voices](#)

materials: <http://guthan.wordpress.com/series-one/> Please note that, while the default display is "Split Screen", there are alternative options, such as "New Tab" and "Pop-up". A choice of dictionaries is also available, depending on the language in question. Of course, dictionaries are by no means the answer to every language learning problem - and some dictionaries are better than others. But the facility to present online text with this added dictionary access function may be attractive to both teachers and learners. Comments are welcome on the blog, and will be relayed to the developers.



Wordlink put to action with video and text from the Island Voices by Gordon Wells

Caoimhín Ó Donnáile recently made a major breakthrough in getting Multidict to handle obstinate dictionaries, including the English to Lithuanian Vertimas dictionary.

YOUR task is now to visit Multidict (www.muldidict.net) and check if some useful dictionaries are missing and then e-mail the link to such dictionaries to Caoimhín caoimhin@smo.uhi.ac.uk so he can have a go at inserting them in Multidict (to serve outputs from Wordlink and TextBlender)



Caoimhin and Kent at EUROCALL 2010 in Bordeaux presenting the project tools

Exploitation of outcomes. The partnership continues to upload new materials developed with Wordlink and the TextBlender. Also teams from the sister projects pools-2 and pools-m are preparing ready to use materials in languages such as Greek, Italian, Lithuanian, Portuguese, and Turkish.

The final quality report from the evaluators Angelica Bucur and Gareth Long has been received with pleasure. It is for the partnership a very pleasant read:-) Download it from www.languages.dk/archive.html#pools-t

We especially cherish the final comments: The contribution of all involved, the inclusion of so many EU languages (including those less widely used) and the potential for Arabic to feature soon in the future means that the project has succeeded in making the words of Seneca closer to a reality: **"I am not born for one corner; the whole world is my native land"**

Latest news: The POOLS-2 teams in Cyprus, Malta, and Portugal are ready to launch a series of teacher courses.



Pools-2 members from Cyprus, Denmark, Malta, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland met in Sliema to prepare the future teacher courses

Pools-2 now has its own dedicated webpage www.languages.dk/pools-2 where all the outcomes will be presented. Of course the root of the website will continue to bring news about the project as well as the other sister projects pools-m and pools-t



The dedicated pools-2 webpage

The number of videos produced by the pools-2 team are steadily growing. Already by the end of October we expect to have more than 60 new videos, i.e. 20 in Greek (Cyprus), 20 in Maltese, and 20 in Portuguese, most of these are already online from the video area: www.languages.dk/digital/

For each of the videos there will be a transcript and a translation into English to facilitate use of the material in e.g. blogs, Wordlink and the TextBlender.



A view of the webpage with Portuguese videos

The teams worked through a massive agenda during the September workshop in Sliema, Malta. On the agenda were tasks like setting up a blog (based on Wordpress.com), how to use Dropbox as a webserver, development of online materials through Wordlink and the TextBlender, suitable methodologies for computer assisted language learning like CLIL and TBL, how to teach in a class with limited access to computers (like a single pc), how to cater for students with special needs (like deaf and visually impaired students), subtitling as a student task, and how to offer the upcoming teacher training courses on CALL.



Cesare from Malta preparing online exercises

After the workshop each of the teams from Cyprus, Malta, and Portugal have started preparing for the teacher courses that are the final objective of pools-2. The

courses will be offered with modules from the pools-2 course guide. The course may be in-service courses, online courses, or blended courses. It is anticipated that most courses will be blended with an in-service start-up period matching a three days course followed by development of materials and exploiting theses in classes monitored and supported by the pools-2 course teachers.



An exercise from Cyprus: The Tombs of the Kings

The Cyprus team from Intercollege has plans for exploiting to project outcomes also for teachers of Russian. Through the pools-2 courses such teachers will be able to develop or adapt materials for online learning. E.g by using combinations of blogs, Wordlink and TextBlender outputs combined with exercises made with Hot Potatoes.

This means that the Cyprus team will be developing ready to use learning materials in Greek as well as Russian

Latest news: The POOLS-M teams continue exploiting the developed materials and disseminate wherever possible



Amanda Lützhøft was one of the lucky winners of a POOLS-M shirt.(photo).

POOLS-M has been disseminated in Copenhagen. On Wednesday 1st September the national agency, The Danish Agency for International Education, had invited all technical colleges in Denmark to a start seminar for the Leonardo Partnership programme – a perfect place to present and inform about the POOLS-M project. The latest newsletter was handed out as well as the project folder and five T-shirts were given away to the five lucky winners.

The 2010-2011 academic year in Lithuania is announced as the year of creativity. Gintaras Steponavicius, the Minister of Education, in education news and guidelines foresees priorities: „to use creative methods and refuse formal practices – in lessons, at school, in qualification improvement, in state regulation“. He also suggests „For creativity and general skills improvement to use EU funds“.

In the meeting of Marijampole town English language teachers methodology council, which was held on the 24th September, 2010 at Marijampole Education

Centre, there were almost all English language teachers from basic schools, gymnasiums, VET and Adult Education Centres. The teachers discussed about students' previous state exam results, activities and guidelines of methodology council for coming academic year.



Pools-m brochures in action in Lithuania

During the meeting Jolita Lepsiene introduced pools-m. Participating in the project opens great possibilities for centre's and town teachers to learn how to produce creative English language lessons. Recently 6 manuals have been translated into Lithuanian. In December the English language teachers will be invited to take part in the courses where they will learn how to use the manuals and online resources. The project brochures with short information about „pools-m“ were delivered there too.



Italian pools-m activities and exploitation

CSCS have started making use of the Pools-M methods in Italian lessons. One of the last groups was a group of Spanish students, who stayed until the end of September. CSCS made use of the TBL and PhyEmoc methods, and saw that students had a great time and have appreciated these methods of learning.

We decided to make use of this type of exercises because their knowledge of Italian wasn't completely basic, and the similarity between Spanish and Italian permitted us to venture a little more. The results were very much appreciated.



For the TBL-method they used a tutorial on preparing a recipe, in this case the apple pie. Students were given a series of words related to stuff of the kitchen they would need (eg. spoon, blender..), to the basic ingredients (such as apples, flour, yeast..) and basic controls as "add", "cut", "mix". Since this was not a high number of terms to remember, 10 minutes were dedicated to a "memory" game, after which the class was divided into two groups and each group was given the recipe.