

# News

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Teachers from Italy testing the pools-m pilot course in Pistoia

## Languages:

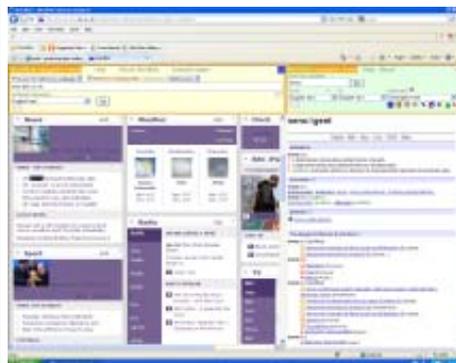
- Basque
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Gaelic
- German
- Greek
- Italian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Spanish
- Turkish



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

**P**ools-t which finished the EC funded project period on September 30th 2010 is still very much "alive and kicking". Teams from across Europe have started using the developed tools and some have shared their exercises with us, e.g. webpages created with the TextBlender with videos, texts, and exercises from Cyprus and Portugal.

**T**he engine behind the tools produced in the pools-t project has been further improved by Caoimhín Donnaile, he has just added a new small but possibly important feature to Wordlink It now \*marks\* the word in the document which you have clicked, and unmarks it when you have clicked another word.



WordLink after an update now also works with the BBC website. If you meet any website that does not work with Wordlink then please report it to us

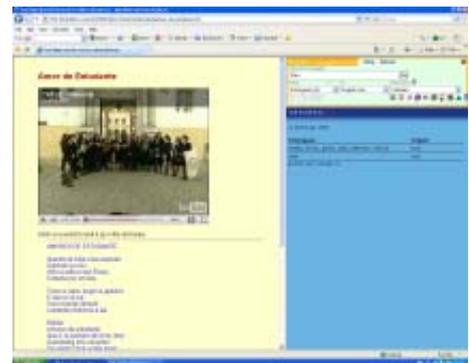
Hopefully the new feature will make it easy for users to cast their eye straight back and continue reading where they left off.

Have a look at it and see what you think. Caoimhín Donnaile would be glad of any feedback, or any reports of problems.

It would be easy to make Wordlink leave some mark on

\*all\* the words which you have clicked, but Caoimhín doesn't think that would be useful(?).

"Splitscreen" is now the default mode and by far the most popular mode, but in the other modes the new feature is probably even more beneficial because the word gets hidden by the dictionary every time and it is very easy to lose the place.



A webpage with video and text linked to dictionaries followed by exercises

**Y**ou can easily create your own online exercises like the one above. All you have to do is to follow the simple instructions found in [www.languages.dk/digital](http://www.languages.dk/digital)



Online DIY videos that demonstrate how to get a free website and how to create exercises that are ready to use by your students.



## Latest news: The POOLS-2 teams have started a series of free courses on how to make and apply materials for computer assisted language learning.

**A**s part of the ongoing teacher courses the Portuguese team has made new exercises for learning Portuguese. One example is Quem somos nós? (Who are we?) which has a video, text linked word by word to many languages (including, as can be seen below, Slovenian;-), and a sequence of exercises like cross-word, fill in the gap, and drag and drop exercises.



The exercise Quem somos nós? Can be tested from:  
<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/15568239/Quemsomosnos.htm>

**P**ools-2 was presented with three round table presentations in Lisbon at the EfVET 2010 annual conference. The presenters were Marian (ES), Maria (PT), and Massimo (MT). There was a positive interest in the upcoming teacher courses and the three presenters gathered several contacts to be used in the final project year.



One of the Pools-2 round table presentations



Maltese video showing a tailor at work

**T**he Maltese team has produced a series of videos that can be watched from the video area of the pools-2 website [www.languages.dk/digital](http://www.languages.dk/digital) as well as from Youtube. Each video has been graded according to the ELP and has a transcript and a translation into English. The videos display different aspects of Maltese culture and life.



Video and exercises developed by the Cyprus team

**I**n Cyprus the team has started the pilot courses and has for the courses prepared exemplary exercises for learning Greek. One example is the Tombs of the Kings; the video and script have been produced by the Cyprus team, the exercises were created making use of the TextBlender (a pools-t tool) and Hot Potatoes.

**P**ortrait of Maltese from Cesare from Malta: It is a Semitic language but it does not come directly from Arabic but from Phoenician. Probably when in 60 AD St Paul came to Malta and introduced Christianity he spoke this language which he knew. This language as you know was born in Lebanon in Tyre. Actually the Lebanese say that they understand us perfectly. So when the Arabs came to Malta (870-1000 AD) they already found a Semitic language here. Naturally they introduced Arab words.

With time however the language changed due to the various occupations we had. The almost 200 years of British occupation made our system of education British. Actually we have 2 official languages namely Maltese and English. I'm saying this to explain why in the clips we hear practically everybody using English words, because at school teachers often speak English.

Most abstract words are of Latin or Italian origin: divinita', modernita', lealta' etc (again to explain why sometimes some words sound Italian).

When it comes to colours, the pure ones are of semitic origin, abjad, iswed etc but the mixed ones are Italian, rosa, blu, viola etc.

## Latest news: The POOLS-M teams have started a series of free courses on language teaching methods

The pools-m teams met in November in Pistoia, Italy to test the developed materials before the final teacher courses in the second project year. A group of 12 teachers from across Italy had registered for the two days pilot course where they first hand experienced the strengths and possible weaknesses of each of the five language teaching methods that are portrayed by pools-m



Lego being used as part of a task based learning sequence

The teachers learned different Danish words and phrases taught through the PhyEmoC eTandem methods. They learned the different words for body parts, some prepositions and phrases needed to navigate even when blind folded.



Finding the way by following instructions in Danish from a fellow teacher

The 12 course participants evaluated the pilot course very positively. Download the evaluation forms from: [www.languages.dk/archive.html#pools-m](http://www.languages.dk/archive.html#pools-m)

Main issue to be improved was the compressed time with only two days for presenting five different language teaching methods.



Experiencing the simulation method with Ken Jones "Nine Graded Simulations"

Each of the five language teaching methods is now supported with videos that show the methods being used in real classes. The videos have subtitles in English, German, Italian, Lithuanian, and Turkish. The German subtitles are thanks to SUPSI, our Swiss "silent" partner.



One of the method videos showing a class learning Scottish Gaelic through a simulation "Back to St Kilda"

The pools-m team have finalized the five methods manuals: Computer Assisted Language Learning, Task Based Learning, eTandem Learning, PhyEmoC, Simulations and the student travel preparation guide. The materials can be downloaded from the project website [www.languages.dk/methods](http://www.languages.dk/methods) in English, German, Italian, Lithuanian, and Turkish.



Video on eTandem learning, here with Italian subtitles

One of the additional outcomes from pools-m is a board game developed by the Italian team. The idea behind the game is to prepare students for a work placement period in other countries. The students move round the board and have to answer different questions simulating possible scenarios and problems that may occur while being away from home. To order the board game, please contact: Stefano Tirati: [stefano@cscs.it](mailto:stefano@cscs.it) +39057350444 [www.cscs.it](http://www.cscs.it)



Board game that can help prepare students for a work placement period in a foreign country

Participation in pools-m courses is free, to register for a course please contact: In Italy Stefano Tirati

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