Issue 33

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TOOLS tools for CLIL language teachers POOLS-2 Producing Open Online Learning Systems 2 POOLS-M POOLS of communicative language teaching Methods



News











Tools in action during the kick-off workshop in Brussels

Languages:

Arabic Basque Danish Dutch English French Gaelic German Greek Irish Italian Lithuanian Maltese Portuguese Romanian Hop on board and join the pools teams i.e. Tools, pools-2, and pools-m

Eurocall 2012 Betherburg 27:25 August

M eet all the TOOLS teams during the Eurocall conference in Gothenburg from August 22nd to 25th

Eurocall is one of the project partners and you can participate in a preconference workshop arranged by TOOLS where you will learn how to make online units with all words linked to dictionaries in more than one hundred languages.

During the Eurocall conference TOOLS will have a project stand at the conference exhibition, you will have the opportunity to speak to members of the TOOLS team who will be keen to capture your feedback and get your views on how the online service Clilstore can best serve you.

Register for the Eurocall conference at: <u>www.eurocall-</u> languages.org



new and old POOLS partners submitted a

proposal for a Life Long Learning - Key Action 2 project (transversal language projects).

The project title became POOLS-C (POOLS for Clil teachers), as is suggested by the title the project aims at implementing CLIL (Content and language integrated learning) with a holistic, 360 degree approach.

We intend to develop the following: 48 ready to use scenarios for CLIL in primary schools,vocational colleges; demonstration videos of exemplary CLIL teaching based on the scenarios; Language teacher courses on CLIL methods; and information packs for parents to involve them CLIL teaching at primary school level. In addition to this, we will set up a consultation framework in order to gather feedback from local enterprises regarding subject related content, AND offer language certification courses for content/subject teachers.



One of the new units in Arabic

OOLS was publicised at the coordinators' conference in Brussels in mid-February. Kent Andersen, the tools coordinator and webmaster distributed 150 brochures and newsletters and had a small exhibition of posters including large QRs which several coordinators scanned via smartphones thereby linking them directly to the project website.



TOOLS exhibition and the QR posters in the background



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Latest news: The TOOLS teams are testing the online system a.k.a. Clilstore and are creating ready to use online learning materials

e need your assistance in M finding the best online dictionaries. We have selected dictionaries based on user input and Internet searches, but some are rather limited and do not properly cover the claimed language. We need you to both suggest dictionaries and to propose which dictionary is best for particular language combinations, this will help us rank the dictionaries by making the most popular ones default or by having them appear first in the menu list. Please mail your suggestions to caoimhin@smo.uhi.ac.uk



TOOLS Kick-off workshop, Ana Gimeno presenting CLIL strateqies

he project website has been moved back to Europe. In January an

investigation of the logfiles clearly showed that our hosting service was off-line several days every month. A hard disk crash in January resulted in the loss of two weeks data because the hosting service (justhost.com) apparently had not made regular backups. The move in February caused a few days interruption, but the log files now show significantly more visitors, the answer times became almost 30 times faster, and strangely we now receive lots of registrations for newsletters from the website.

If you visit the website www.languages.dk and get the message that a file is missing (Code 404) then please mail ka@sde.dk telling me which file is missing. Some files may have been lost during the back-up procedure in January



Rasa presenting the TOOLS project in Lithuania hen a user starts one of the online units from Clilstore the url can be read in the browser address line, but it is very long (typically 100 characters). If you want to refer to such an address you are at the moment advised to use a service like www.shorturl.com to shorten the address. Reducing these long urls to something like alturl.com/u6pxc both improves the appearance of the link and makes more portable and easier to share e.g. via Twitter. We plan to incorporate url shortening into our online service in the near future but for now you can use shorturl.com



lilstore and audio: The media embedding option in the clilstore tool allows you to insert audio material as well as video. This is often an attractive alternative. Sometimes teachers may want

their students to concentrate on listening alone, without visual aids or distractions. Often it is easier and quicker to create audio materials on the fly - especially if you use a platform like www.Ipadio.com

TOOLS partner SMO intends to fully explore the audio option in its new community engagement project. This page http:// alturl.com/thhbe was quickly created, using the online invitation found at http://alturl.com/zqz5a issued to community members to take part in the new project.



An exemplary unit in Clilstore prepared by Gordon Wells with embedded audio



The TOOLS team members decided

and Calture DG

that none of our aims is too high Lifelong Learning Programme to reach



he online service (www.multidict.net/ clilstore) which is being

developed by the project teams now contains ready to use exercises in 17 languages: Arabic, Basque, Danish, English, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Irish, Italian, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Romanian, Scottish Gaelic, Spanish, Swedish, and Turkish. Several of the units are followed by exercises like crossword puzzles, gap-fill, drag-and-drop, and multiple choice. The above variety of languages demonstrates that the service is now being used on a wider scale for compiling language learning units. You too are welcome to experiment with the tool and develop new materials, it only takes a few minutes (or seconds) to register as an author and then create a unit



Caoimhín playing the fiddle and entertaining the teams

D uring the TOOLS kick-off workshop the teams had their first hands-on experience with the new online service and created several units in the project languages. It also became evident that several team members have musical talents beyond the coordinator's expectations. A local pub lent us room for nightly sessions of great song and music (two whistles and a fiddle).

O ur development of the online service (for now called Clilstore, clilstore or just cs) is set out step by step in a transparent to-do list: <u>http://alturl.com/5iqyk</u> we are also looking for suggestions regarding the name of the service. If you think it should be Clilstore or cs or have other suggestions then please visit our Facebook page and vote in the online poll www.facebook.com/tools4clil



Concentration during the presentations

e claim that the TOOLS project is "social media friendly". The claim is based on our use of Facebook www.facebook.com/tools4clil, a Twitter account www.twitter.com/tools4clil which is reflected in the project webpage, and a blog http:// tools4clil.wordpress.com We welcome and invite you to take part in the debate through these media, this way you can point us in the best direction and assist us improving our outputs.



The CLIL guideline group during their first meeting

T f you use the online units
from multidict.net/
clilstore or languages.dk
for language teaching then
please assist us by getting
your students fill in an
evaluation form: <u>http://
alturl.com/2sb62</u>

In Denmark a class of 12 electricians have recently evaluated the tool. While this is admittedly a small sample size, they all responded very positively to the proposition "The software allowed me to manage more effectively the time available to read the text" (on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is the most positive, all 12 selected 4).



Signing of the Copyleft agreement in Brussels

A ll the TOOLS outputs will be Copyleft, this means that everything the teams produce as part of the project may be used for free AND may be edited for other purposes - as long as also the new versions remain Copyleft



Clilstore also works with Hindi



Bells, whistles, flutes and fiddle in action "all" night in the Mini Louise Pub

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therein.

Electrice and Catare OG Lifelong Learning Programme