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Activities during EFVET 2008 in Vilnius

Languages:

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



Hop on board and join the pools-t teams (and of course pools) e-mail ka@ots.dk



October 2008 Kent Andersen presenting the POOLS-T project in Vilnius during the EFVET conference

P OOLS-T (Producing Open Online Learning System - Tools) coordinated by Odense Tekniske Skole (soon to change name to the South Danish Vocational College Odense-Vejle) will in the project period, October 2008 through September 2010, develop software tools that can support teachers and their students working with CLIL (content and language integrated learning) including the LWUTL (less widely used and taught languages).

One of the tools is a desktop application which will convert texts and web pages to html pages where all words are hyperlinked to online dictionaries covering many combinations of European languages. The application will have support for audio, video and graphics to enrich / support the text content.

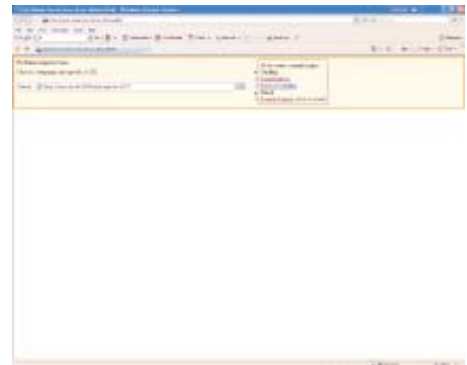


An experimental browser based version of the tool

The application produces standardized html documents / web pages that do not require any plug-ins or software installations for the end users. The application itself will be CopyLeft with documented and commented open source which enables portability to other operating systems, further development, and ensures sustainability.

The application will have interfaces and online DIY videos in Danish, Dutch, English, and Greek.

To support CLIL the project consortium will produce a guide for the CLIL method demonstrating the application in a pedagogical context.



A very first version of a "Babelfish" type of tool is now being tested

T he software developers will also seek to make a version with functionality like "Babelfish" (see the website babelfish.altavista.com or Google.com/language_tools?hl=en), i.e. a web based application which can convert webpages to pages where all words (like the outputs from the desktop application) are linked to online dictionaries. The resulting webpage will word by word be linked to online dictionaries (i.e. not just translated).



The EU funded project period of pools-t has started. Please visit the project website www.languages.dk to learn more about the project objectives and proposed outcomes.

Needs documentation: The need for a free tool is based on several sources, e.g. EURYDICE 2006 „Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) at School in Europe“.

CLIL and LWUTL teachers depend on developing own resources (EURYDICE 2005 report „Key Data on Teaching Languages at School in Europe“). The proposed application will automate part of this process and will also enable students to convert authentic technical materials into language learning / supporting units.

The need is also documented in the ICC report (2003) „The Impact of New Information Technologies and Internet on the Teaching of Foreign Languages..“ which concludes

„There will be a shift from passive consumption of ready-made programmes to independent building of content, tailor made for specifics groups or individuals“

The project was disseminated in Vilnius during the EfVET 2008 conference with two round table presentations and brochures (120 were handed out) as well as posters to create an interest in the project.



Pools-t roundtable presentation as it can be seen from the EfVET website www.efvet.org



pools-t brochures, also available from the project website in Danish, Dutch, English, Gaelic, and Greek

The digital area of the pools website is still growing: E.g. we have recently received transcriptions and comments for some videos in English from one of our registered end users Niall Tracey, have a look at the video vault in www.languages.dk/digital/

Development: Two partners, OTS and SMO are responsible for software engineering. Kent Andersen (EU Language Label in 1999), OTS is the programmer behind the alpha version (desktop) of the tool and has through 20 years developed a wide range of software solutions. Caoimhin O Donnaille will lead the software development at SMO, he is an experienced software engineer with a long history of producing online tools and dictionaries. One of his tasks is to examine the feasibility of an online tool with functionality like „Babelfish“ where the resulting webpage will word by word be linked to online dictionaries (i.e. not just translated).

Test, evaluation and guide: Language learners and teachers of Danish, Dutch, Greek, and English from the partnership will test & evaluate the different versions of the tools being developed to ensure functionality and suitability for CLIL target groups. Gordon Wells (EU Language Label in 2007), SMO is responsible for testing and evaluation with the Gaelic community /

network. Horizon and Athena will produce the final CLIL guide for using the tool

Dissemination: EfVET is the dissemination hub for direct access to vocational colleges across Europe. Through the biannual meetings of the national reps EfVET is responsible for dissemination of the results to 2000+ vocational language teachers. EfVET also ensures project presentations at annual EfVET conferences and through the EfVET website and quarterly newspapers. OTS is responsible for the website dissemination. Athena, SMO, Horizon, and OTS disseminate through their national networks.



The project website has been restructured

We have tried to open the project blog for online registrations, but spammers forced us to close again. So please e-mail ka@ots.dk to register



Original version of the desktop tool