News

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The TOOLS teams met in Valencia to prepare the next project outputs

Languages:

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

Hop on board and join the pools teams

In July (10th -13th) the Tools Project will be represented at the 4th WorldCALL Conference which is being held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow (www.worldcall2013.org).

Caoimhín Ó Dónaill, Tools project coordinator at the University of Ulster, will deliver a paper on the benefits of Clilstore in L1 and L2 language learning and teaching, as well as an Educational Showcase which will provide an opportunity to give a more technical demonstration of how the three tools at Multidict.net work. As its title suggests, the conference will be attended by a truly international host of delegates and will provide an excellent forum for the dissemination of the work of the Tools Project and hopefully lead to even more language learning and teaching practicioners becoming Clilstore authors and using our ever expanding store of ready made Clilstore units with their students.

Between the 25th and the 31st of May The University of Salamanca welcomed more than 250 investigators of Portuguese Language and Literature: www.congresolenguaportuguesa.com

This congress saw the coming together of scholars from all the countries that have Portuguese as an official language. A presentation was made in Prezi which can be viewed by following the link: http://prezi.com/miss8pge743q/

Portuguese as a Foreign Language has been steadily growing in these few past years. There is a growing community interested in the learning of Portuguese. Several units were demonstrated, showing the features of Clilstore, such as the possibility of creating media rich webpages for the purpose of language learning with the possibility of linking every word in the text to online dictionaries.

Portuguese Language Teachers at University of Salamanca

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Lifelong Learning

Tools (2012-2014) a KA2 project

TOOLS results used accross Europe

Trilingual Trip: The recent short visit (see http://guthan.wordpress.com/2013/04/16/islanders-in-ireland/) by the Guthan nan Eilean/Island Voices project to Ireland generated quite a range of recordings in various formats and genres and in three different languages! A team from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig went over at the invitation of TOOLS partner the University of Ulster. The purpose of the trip was to introduce the project and its way of working to a Donegal community where the Irish language is still strong. This online table

guthan.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/tableofrecordings.pdf brings all the recordings together for ease of reference, with live clickable links to take you to the clip of your choice on the appropriate platform. That could be YouTube for video, or Ipadio for audio - or it could also be Clilstore if you want access to a wordlinked transcript while you watch and/or listen. Community members have been invited to feed their comments on the Clilstore units back to the project team..

Units of different levels in Lithuanian language are now available in Clilstore. The Lithuanian Tools team has been creating units for Lithuanian language learners. The first units were mostly in English as the members of the team and majority of our workshop participants are mostly teachers of the English language, who create CLIL exercises for their own work. Now the time has come to create something that will be used by teachers of the Lithuanian and anyone who would like to learn the language on their own. With a population of less than 3 million, Lithuanian in Lithuania is one of Europe's LWULs (less widely used languages), and most of the time the process is the other way round, i.e. Lithuanians study foreign languages. Until recently there were quite few new Lithuanian language learners, most of whom were either linguists, doing research on Lithuanian as one of the oldest Indo-European languages, or spouses of Lithuanians. However, this has been changing during recent years, mostly due to high emigration rates. Young parents living abroad usually have no means of educating their children in Lithuanian. Their kids very often learn languages other than Lithuanian as their first language. That's where Clilstore comes in. IT minded kids find the tool very attractive and easy to work with. Children of the emigrants' families coming to summer schools in Lithuania to learn their parents' and grandparents' mother tongue can now easily use exercises prepared by the Lithuanian Tools team and do their homework while visiting their grandparents in Lithuania, or waiting for their transfer in the airport. The topics are relevant for any new user; the speakers use simple language, using vocabulary that every immigrant would need; the transcript is very accurate and the diction of the speakers is very clear. The units can be used for teaching phonetics, as the phrases can be easily singled out. This is a generic approach to teaching vocabulary for practical everyday use and can be applied for every language.

The links to Hot potatoes exercises will support mastering the vocabulary. With additional presentation and explanation of new vocabulary the units can be used even for A1, A2 and B1 users. With the DIY videos now available in the languages of the project partners, the students and teachers can create their own units and use the ones available on Clilstore, using the language they understand.

An example of the new units in Clilstore helping children learning Lithuanian: www.multidict.net/cs/1118

Latest news: New design and videos in seven languages

The Tools project is moving towards its final goal - to create a free online service, where language teachers can author online multimedia learning units, where all words in a text are automatically linked to online dictionaries in +100 languages.

The system has been functioning for more than a year now, and the project team has been testing it with various target groups in their own institutions as well as in numerous international conferences, workshops and other events.

Part of the new Clilstore interface

The Clilstore interface has been the most important issue for several months. The project team has been aiming to make it user friendly - both functionally and visually. The software developer Caoimhín Ó Donnaíle (SMO expert on PHP and JavaScript programming) was compiling the website system layers mainly based on PHP coding with Javascript to enhance the user interface. Together with Lone Olstrup from SDE they have also been refreshing the design layout of the pages.

The final version of the interface design was voted on at the Valencia meeting by the Tools team. Now the system has acquired its final look, while at the same time Caoimhín is still polishing and optimizing the functionality. E.g. a problem with Arabic script had occurred, because the letters looked too small, almost impossible to read, this was due to using the "Times New Roman" fonts for all languages. But now it is possible to enlarge the font used for texts in Arabic.

With work having been completed on the Clilstore interface the time has come for Kent Andersen to create the DIY video, which has now been translated into partner languages. With this video, which is now available on Youtube and on project website, language teachers can easily learn how to create their own exercises.

Moreover, the course book/ teacher's manual is on its way and will be ready by the end of summer.

The DIY (Do It Yourself) videos were originally planned to be in English only with subtitles in Danish, Lithuanian, Portuguese, and Spanish. But during the project workshop last year in Gothenburg the teams proposed to make videos with voiceovers in the various languages instead of the more simple subtitles. The advantage is that the videos can be embedded in the eBooks, so e.g. the Danish eBook will have embedded videos in Danish to demonstrate the use of the outputs.

The Irish and Scottish teams have decided to make the videos in their own languages thus adding two more languages to the videos than we had planned for in the original application:-)

Screen capture of one of the two DVDs produced by the TOOLS teams

The videos have been shared on Youtube and can now also be watched online from the project website www.languages.dk/tools/index.htm#Tools_videos

The student tutor video demonstrating how students can make best use of facilities in the online units

The teacher video demonstrating how to make online units in just a few minutes

You can get the project DVDs by mailing ka@sde.dk. We have made 2,000 copies and as long as we have DVDs left we mail them for free. All you have to do is write which of the DVDs you want; the one with videos in Danish, English, Portuguese, and Spanish or the one in English, Irish, Lithuanian, and Scottish Gaelic. Both DVDs contain the videos for students and teachers.

The machine producing the 2,000 DVDs with print.

Join the project from its FaceBook page: www.facebook.com/tools4clil

Lifelong Learning

Project updates: Clilstore now includes a WYSIWYG editor

We are now more than half way through the EC co-funded project period. We have just received the feedback from EACEA about the TOOLS Progress Report covering the first 15 months project period. We are very pleased with the feedback where we have been graded an overall "9" (max score is 10). The feedback from the EACEA can be downloaded from the document archive here: http://www.languages.dk/archive.html

One of the comments from the EACEA evaluator was that we should consider not putting everything into the archive, in particular the confidential part of the Progress Report, it may or may not be wise doing so, but it has been our policy from the very beginning to have full transparency in the project. This was also described in the original application (which can be downloaded from the archive;-)

The Clilstore editor now features WYSIWYG

What You See Is What You Get (a.k.a. WYSIWYG). Authoring in Clilstore is now facilitated by a WYSIWYG editor. This means that authors can place videos, sound, and graphics wherever they want in a text without resorting to HTML coding. The only difference between videos embedded in the top line "Embed code for media or picture" is that video and audio embedded in the WYSIWYG part of the interface cannot make use of the "scroll text" option in found in "Float"

Formatting options found in the WYSIWYG menu

In the last number of the newsletter we described a visit to an Italian language school in Rome (Percorsi d'Italiano) where Kent Andersen gave a short course and walkthrough of the tools outcomes, namely Clilstore. One of the benefits from that visit was that the teachers suggested we should use some of the resources and dictionaries they find excellent for learning Italian. One of them is "The Corriere del Sera" (http://dizionari.corriere.it) which has now been included in the Multidict facility of Clilstore so now the following language combination are supported:

Italian<>English
Italian<>German
Italian<>French
Italian<>Spanish

"The Corriere del Sera" is one of the new dictionay options in Multidict

The TOOLS partners offer free courses on how to use the project outcomes e.g. Clilstore in a CLIL context. The courses are planned to reach 560 teachers during the last 12 project months. We plan to run the courses in Denmark, Ireland, Lithuania, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, and UK, but we also offer the free courses as part of conferences where we participate with workshops, e.g. Worldcall in Glasgow (UK), Eurocall in Evora (PT), and EfVET in Greece (EL). You are welcome to mail ka@sde.dk to get information on where the next courses are planned. Alternatively, collect a group of colleagues, offer us a cup of coffee and if we are reasonably near you we'll come and run the course.

Meet the TOOLS teams in Évora, Portugal at Eurocall 2013. You can read all about the Eurocall conference in ÉVORA, Portugal 11th to 14th September 2013 http://alturl.com/banzu where the TOOLS teams will run a half-day workshop on how to apply CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) with the support of the free software service which we are developing.

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