

Contact:
Kent Andersen
ka@sde.dk
www.languages.dk



POOLS
receiving the
Leonardo da
Vinci silver
medal in
Prague

Languages:

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



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

POOLS and POOLS-T was presented in Prague at the Innovation and Creativity in the Lifelong Learning Programme conference. POOLS was awarded the silver medal in the category of "innovative outstanding European projects or actions which will serve as a good motivating example to wide public."

The medal was handed out by the Czech Minister of Education, Youth and Sports Ondřej Liška and the European Commissioner Ján Figel'. Both visited the POOLS stand at the exhibition and received DVDs, brochures and the project newsletter.



Ondřej Liška and Ján Figel handing out the silver medal at the POOLS Stand

The Innovation and Creativity in the Lifelong Learning Programme conference had 350 participants from all over Europe. Alison Dix and Kent Andersen took the opportunity to ensure that all participants had a the latest project newsletter and brochures on their tables when they entered the conference room.

During the exhibition 150 discs were handed out with the latest version of the POOLS-T software (The Web Page Text Blender), the POOLS do it

yourself DVD, and the Island Voices DVD. We also handed out lots of the POOLS-T brochures in Danish, Dutch, English, Gaelic, German, and Italian. The English version was on all the tables in the main conference theatre.



Roberta Manoni (The EACEA pools-t project officer), Kent Andersen, and Alison Dix with the Leonardo da Vinci silver medal.

The two software tools (Wordlink and Text Blender) being developed in the project have been thoroughly tested and evaluated in four departments of SUPSI, the University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland. From the project website you can download a summary of the tests with teachers' comments or the full evaluation with teachers' and students' comments. Comments



and feedbacks from the tests are now becoming the base for the new version of the tools.



Latest news: POOLS-T to be presented in September during the EuroCall 2009 conference and during the EDT event in Flanders



Elizabeth Antoniadou, Evangelos Liropoulos, Frans van Schaik, and Ellen Ejerskov debating CLIL

From April 26th to May 1st the Dutch and Greek POOLS-T teams met in Alexandroupolis, Greece

The teams worked to get as much information about CLIL as possible, from websites, magazines, brochures to a long and interesting phone call to the European Platform in Alkmaar, The Netherlands. The idea was to find out what information is available and whether the concept has already been introduced into secondary vocational (VET) education at all. If so, what can we learn and apply without reinventing the wheel? Finally, if our research proves that CLIL is still a virgin area in VET education what can interested staff find and do if they wish to introduce CLIL into their teaching? What is CLIL and who is it for?

CLIL is the acronym for Content and Language Integrated Learning. It is a tried and tested educational approach in which languages and skills of communication are given an important role within a curriculum. In the Netherlands almost 100 Pre-University Schools and Higher General Education Schools (12-17/18 year olds) have introduced CLIL

courses in their education. In contrast, only 1 VET school for 16-19 year olds has taken a CLIL initiative in Dutch VET education. Interestingly there are more and more primary vocational colleges (12-16 year olds) that develop CLIL courses.

CLIL is about language learning, not language teaching. It is about creating a need to learn in students. It gives students the opportunity to think about and develop how they communicate in general, also in the first language. Learning to use language works best when contents and approach are consistent and, thus, constantly given attention across the curriculum.

After studying the information on CLIL in Europe and The Netherlands available and discussing the pros and cons of introducing CLIL into VET education for 16-19 year olds, the Dutch and Greek team aim to develop a short manual with information, tips and guidelines, sources and interesting examples for those VET teachers that are open for a CLIL initiative.

The EDT (European Day of Languages) is a concept in Flemish education. Since 2003, every second year EDT has been celebrated with an EDT congress to work with policy makers, language experts, school leaders, coordinators, enthusiastic teachers, supervisors and inspectors to consider the future of foreign language in Flanders.

Kent Andersen, POOLS-T coordinator has this year been

invited to give a keynote talk on "Innovative ways of language learning and innovative means of exchange". He will present trends in computer assisted language learning. Kent Andersen will also demonstrate the two tools being developed by the POOLS-T project. Free exchange of knowledge and materials is the heart of his projects. Sharing materials will thus be a central theme of his talk.

The event takes place on September 25th in Brussels at Hendrik Consciencegebouw - Koning Albert II laan 15, 1210 Brussels



The POOLS-T proposal entitled "Tools for producing CLIL (content and language integrated learning) materials", submitted to EUROCALL 2009, has been assessed by the EUROCALL 2009 Programme Committee and has been accepted for inclusion in the Conference Programme.

This means that you can meet team members from POOLS-T at the EUROCALL 2009 conference in Gandia. The presentation will be given by Kent Andersen.

For more information please visit the Eurocall website www.eurocall-languages.org

CLIL: the acronym. A piece of poetry sent from the POOLS-T workshop in Alexandroupolis. Main suspect: Frans van Schaik

Dearest teacher creature in creation:
 Explaining CLIL is quite a sensation
 Is it Content-based Instruction or CBI
 Or Content-based Language Instruction (CLII), but why
 Not Content-based Language Teaching (CBLT)
 It doesn't make much sense, would you agree?
 Others say, it's Integration of Content and Language (content & language, ICL)
 But you might say this is all very well
 And claim that Content and Language Integrated Classrooms (CLIC)
 Is what the proper term should be!
 You also hear about the following (equally odd):
 Such as the English-enriched Content Teaching method
 Or Content-enriched English Teaching
 English-focused Content Teaching
 Content-focused English Teaching
 Content-centered English Teaching
 English-centered Content Teaching
 Content-driven English Teaching,
 Let's get our breath and temporarily stop
 Before we happily move on and hop
 To English-sensitive Content Teaching
 Content-sensitive English Teaching
 Or is it for Content-oriented Language Learning
 We are by now desperately yearning?
 Oh, there are many, many, more of a similar kind,
 So bear with me and allow me to be so kind
 As to mention Content-infused Language Teaching
 theme-based Language Teaching
 Topic-based Language Teaching
 A tour through Discipline-based ESL Instruction
 May provide a clear and helpful induction
 Into the challenging world of CLILL
 But at the end of the day still
 New terms pop up out of nowhere like weed
 I ask you do we really, really need
 Fancy titles such as Sheltered Subject Matter Teaching
 Teaching Content Through English
 Teaching English Through Content
 Doesn't the mere choice drive you go round the bend?
 Finding the right acronym can be a curse
 Tell me honestly, could you find anything worse
 than Foreign Language Medium Instruction (FLMI)
 Or Foreign Language Mediated Learning
 Let's get sophisticated and include
 Four-handed foreign language instruction
 (Doesn't that sound a kind of rude?)
 I give up and ask you to judge for yourself
 After all, It's what you teach that counts and not an acronym on a shelf!