Ongoing Pools projects: Clil4U, Pools-3, and Methods

The final Methods conference took place in Morne à l’Eau, Guadeloupe with discussions on how education tourism could be coupled with the results of the Methods project. Teachers took part in the Methods workshops together with other people from the island Guadeloupe, where many discussions, shared best practice and change of ideas took place.

The EFVET team also disseminated the Pools-3 project by handing out more than 50 Newsletter and as well as leaflets to the participants.

The Pools-3 partners during a workshop in Brno

Pelican, the Czech pools-3 partner reports that the impact of the project in the Czech Republic can be measured easily through the translated, localized, and tested project materials, 20 new videos for teaching of Czech as a foreign language, 3 workshops, 34 trainees and one cooperating vocational school. The participants from Pelican also very much appreciate the fact that the project outcomes enabled them to use the newly-gained knowledge to increase the quality of other ongoing projects such as VIDEOforALL.

The Clil4U Guidebook has since February 2015 been downloaded more than 36,706 times. The website log files, unfortunately, only cover the top 30 downloads each month, this means that we do not know about the figures from e.g. March - and that it is currently only possible to see the number of downloads for the versions in English (16,585), Italian (14646), and Spanish (5475).

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Since 2014 Methods has invaded MCAST. It started slowly due to our commitments at our College, but really kicked into high gear after Joseph Bonello’s trip to Slovenia! We have disseminated to lecturers at IEEE, our sponsoring Institute, and held workshops to allow them to experience different types of Simulation and the power of TBL, to name a few. We are pleased that all material has been translated into Maltese! We have written several articles for the newsletter, and MCAST Link magazine, posted on Facebook. The MCAST team has met and discussed Methods to the Department of Education Professional Development Unit and provided a workshop to teachers interested in upskilling. We are pleased to have disseminated to the MCAST Coordinator of Teacher Training as well, and look forward to future workshops. We are also pleased with the MCAST Learning Support Unit who have embraced the Methods promotion and we have now delivered workshops to all LSU lecturing staff who are using these Methods to the student’s benefit. We feel the project is successful and look forward to ongoing promotion and encouraging teachers to use our materials and guidebooks in English - and Maltese, too!

METHODS: An enriching partnership. The teachers of LGA implemented the TBL method in their classes and presented all the methods to their colleagues. The climax of the dissemination process in Guadeloupe was reached on July 2nd with the final conference which gathered local and regional authorities, teachers, representatives of the Board of Tourism, Headteachers of Vocational High Schools, representatives of the Academy of Guadeloupe, employers, « gites » owners, almost 150 people. Even if, we are now at the end of the two years dedicated to this project, the teachers will continue using the methods and manuals for the benefits of the students and the improvement of the teaching and learning processes.

When the teachers of Gerty Archimède Vocational High School (LGA) were offered the opportunity to be involved in the project, they never expected to live such an enriching experience. The team work with the different partners was very efficient:
- the adaptation of the TBL method
- the translation of the manuals
- the dissemination process
- the travels in Malta and Slovenia

The Slovenian team participated in all project tasks common to all partners like translations of the METHODS materials, meetings, implementation of pilot courses, dissemination activities etc. Besides, the team was responsible for some particular tasks: adaptation and update of the Simulations Manual and the International Work Placement Guide (IWPG). Due to great changes in the programmes co-financed by the European Commission the IWPG was re-written and expanded by two new chapters (Tips for coordinators and Tips for mentors in host companies. Additionally, the team created a new supportive tool for international work placements, too: the International Work Placement Portfolio (IWPP). The project results were disseminated and exploited on the regional, national and international level through presentations, pilot courses, participation in different events, conferences, seminars as well as regular posts on the social media (school web page, the METHODS Facebook page, blog and Tweeter). In the second project year our team particularly focused on dissemination and piloting of the IWPG and IWPP. The general feedback by the participants of the previously mentioned events was very positive and

Slovenian students benefitting from the updated Methods manuals on how to prepare for a successful work placement in other countries.
Two years ago EfVET decided to be a dissemination partner in Pools-3. We believed in the way the project aimed to transfer innovation between all the involved institutions, which we consider one of the greatest benefits of the project. EfVET disseminated project materials, video for teaching at a European level. It has been very important for EfVET that the value of learning more languages is clearly demonstrated through the project results.

Two years ago Stucom was invited to take part in Pools-3 project. When we had our first project meeting in Brussels we realized from the very beginning that this project was going to be a real success because of
1. The experience of the partners.
2. The good communication and positive attitude in that meeting and in the ones that were held later.
3. The innovation and quality of the products.

And after these two years we can confirm that our feelings were right. Our teachers and the ones who have been trained by us as well as those teachers from Spain, Malta, Turkey, Lithuania, Portugal, and Norway where we have disseminated the project have found the project very useful and of high quality.

For one the final dissemination events of the Pools-3 project, Caoimhín Ó Dónaill of the Ulster team gave a presentation on the creation of CALL resources using Clilstore for the benefit of 50 language teachers and teacher trainers, representing third level institutions throughout Ireland, at a special one day conference in St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra, Dublin. The aim of the conference was to share and discuss good practice relating to the delivery and assessment of the CEFR based New Third Level Syllabus for Irish (www.teagascnagaeilge.ie). The community of practitioners which uses the Syllabus is characterised by its dedication to sharing expertise, and taking collective responsibility for the creation and evaluation of courseware. Caoimhín updated the delegates on the recently developed synergy with RTÉ and Foras na Gaeilge whereby radio recordings from the RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta’s archive, and transcriptions prepared by Foras na Gaeilge as part of its new English Irish dictionary project, will be transformed by the Pools-3 team at Ulster into Clilstore units featuring high quality authentic native speech. Since this initiative was originally reported on in the last newsletter, RTÉ has launched a new national strategy for increasing the visibility of Irish language programming on their mainstream English medium TV and radio channels. The strategy highlighted how digital CALL resources produced in conjunction with Ulster would support the new target audience.

In October 2012 Gordon Wells approached Pelican with an offer to participate in the Pools-3 project. The process of the project application development suggested how an effective, straightforward and rewarding cooperation it would be. The progress of the project convinced us that this was a real ‘transfer of innovation’, in the form of products of exceptional quality, developed in previous Pools projects. Very transparent, effective and efficient way of managing the project motivated us to bring our knowledge and experience to the project and its outcomes. The cooperation and interaction enabled the transfer of innovation between all institutions involved, which we consider one of the greatest benefits of the project.

Carmine Colajezzi from Pescara in Italy, working through a Gaelic short story in Wordlinked form which he needs to read and understand for his course

Carmine is a full-time member of the college housekeeping staff at SMO, only semi-fluent so far in Gaelic but working half-time on the Cùrsa Adhartais Gaelic immersion course, the part-time version of the Cùrsa Comais. Becoming fluent in Gaelic will help Carmine with his job and give him better prospects of promotion. He spent about three hours(!) in total working on the story with the help of Wordlink, which he found much more convenient than the paper copy and paper dictionaries.

The Pools-3 teams are planning post project activities
Latest Clil4U News: Visit the website in October and watch the new CLIL promotional videos recorded in Italy and Malta by SUPSI

In September two representatives from ICMG Bussero, Albalisa Azzariti, principal, and Patrizia Maida, teacher participated in the EM&MITALIA2015 e-Learning, Media Education & MoodleMoot Conference with a web session titled "CLIL4U Main Course" and during the three conference days a poster demonstrated the project outcomes to the participants.

Clil4U was showcased during a one day event at EXPO Milano 2015. 14 speakers from Infant, Primary and Secondary schools from ICMG Bussero presented different reflective and practice contributions and experiences realized by the students and the teachers of ICMG during the last two years and selected by the headmistress Mrs Azzariti both for their innovation and quality and for their connection with the EXPO theme "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life".

During the conference members of the Clil4U Italian staff illustrated their exploitation of results activities and scenarios created by the Clil4U partners both for primary school and VET. The event took place in the "Classroom of the Future" at the EXPO Coop Future District.

The main SUPSI contribution to the project consists of the promotional videos, a work package which will be completed by the middle of October 2015. In addition to this, SUPSI has completed and participated in a number of different work packages since the start of the project: prepared 2 scenarios for vocational schools, given feedback and proof read scenarios from the other vocational schools and primary school, given feedback on CLIL Book and on CLIL course, completed the required financial and biannual reports, translated the CLIL book into Italian, translated SUPSI scenarios into Italian, conducted one CLIL course for teachers (one completed, three more to run), translated video subtitles into Italian, filmed and edited 6 promotional videos. Outside the project, but related to it, the team has collaborated with colleagues from the SUPSI Marketing and Business studies Department, assisting them in the preparation of CLIL material for their classes. This collaboration will continue in the coming academic year.

Students from a SUPSI CLIL course.

The involvement on the Clil4U project has been a very positive experience for CECE and Zola school. Although Zola School used CLIL as a tool in its curriculum before getting involved in Clil4U project, teachers have been benefited from it. Some of the positive aspects have been to share, to work and to implement the scenarios prepared by the partners, improving the friendship and collaborative actions. All these aspects have emphasised the European dimension and future collaboration among partners.

During June 2015, Zola organised a workshop for teachers, related to the implementation of Clil4U project. Several Primary classes of Zola school have been involved in the project. The interactive methodology facilitates the improvement of listening and speaking skills, which are a priority in Primary.

The Italian team at ICMG Bussero focused on dissemination/exploitation activities in this period. We had the opportunity to introduce the project outcomes and Clil4U Main Course to a group of teachers from Trentino Alto Adige and Lombardy primary schools. They started their online work on the 10 modules of the Clil4U Main course during their summer holiday and will complete the PAPER in the next few weeks. This course was designed to help both content and language teachers learn about the CLIL approach to teaching. At ICMG Bussero the course has been delivered choosing the "Face-to-face with CLIL introduction followed by online modules" modality.