USES OF ICT TO GET COMPETENCY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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This activity provides training in the application of pedagogical principles in teaching languages with technology and promotes the effective use of ICT tools and open resources in support of quality language teaching and learning. The key reference tool is the "ECML inventory of ICT tools and open educational resources". The activity initiates local and regional clusters of multipliers promoting the use of ICT tools and open educational resources.

Language education is an area where open-access resources, online courses, virtual classrooms and social networks based on information and communication technology (ICT) are being increasingly used to give learners access to information, promote interaction and communication, and enhance digital literacy skills. However, the rapid development of tools and resources presents both opportunities and challenges. In order to maximize the potential of ICT in language teaching, it is crucial that it is used in a pedagogically sound way that corresponds to the individual needs of the learners. It is also important that the use of ICT is introduced and supported in a sustainable way and in a range of pedagogical approaches that promote lifelong learning.

Target groups

Language teacher

Teachers trainers

Language policy makers

Multipliers

Results and benefits

This initiative will benefit teachers, teacher trainers and other stakeholders involved in language teaching, who will be able to make use of the training activities and the training materials as well as other resources on the website. The workshops, for teachers and multipliers, will be based on a strong 'hands-on' approach. The online aspect of teaching will also be reinforced by involving remote ("online") participants in all aspects of communication and group work. This part-online delivery and the integrated social media (Twitter) will guarantee that the project reaches the largest possible number of teaching professionals, giving them hands-on experience of online learning and teaching and integrating them into a growing community of practice of European language professionals.

All participants will be required to take part in preparatory activities prior to the workshop (via the workspace), participate actively in the workshop itself and also take part in post-workshop activities (web involvement and dissemination within their own context).

Teachers will become aware that the effective blending of appropriate pedagogical principles with technology is crucial for creating successful language learning activities, and they will develop a set of skills necessary to do this on their own, in their own professional context.

They will become aware of their own needs in terms of continual professional development and will be shown ways of pursuing this l development in a self-directed way.

- Development and individualisation of training modules in the use of available ICT tools and open resources in language teaching and learning (An initial set of modules developed by the ECML expert team will be refined,based on workshop participant feedback)

- Initiation of local or regional clusters of multipliers promoting the use of ICT tools and open educational resources

Long-term benefits

- After the workshop participants will be able to support their colleagues in raising awareness of the importance of integrating pedagogy and technology, tackling obstacles that might currently hinder effective integration of ICT in their teaching context, while building on their own strengths and experiences.

- Multipliers and teacher trainers will be able to use the unique training program developed by the team and the freely available activities and training modules in their own delivery of workshops in the member state concerned, reaching a much larger audience. This will eventually have a cascading effect.

- Feedback from participants and local coordinators to language policy makers will raise their awareness of the needs of language teachers, teacher trainers and multipliers. Overall, this will lead to a more bottom-up understanding of the need for professional development and integration of pedagogy and technology in the area of ICT use, which will increase digital literacy.