



An innovative ICT-Based “learning” methodology and content for second-language

Newsletter #4

Dear reader, actual and potential user,

This is our last newsletter for the Babelium project, promoted under the European Lifelong Learning programme.

Our European partner consortium met in October to celebrate the successful completion of the project with an international conference in Riga, Latvia, bringing together developers, educational staff, researchers, stakeholders and users to present results, exchange good practices and discuss further potential uses and applications for the project:

<http://www.babelium-project.eu/2015/10/babelium-conference-in-riga/>

Participants agreed that the Babelium approach – “Speaking only can be learned by speaking” – is an essential ingredient in the development of efficient oral expression skills.

After two years of work and revision using your valuable input and feedback, the learning platform has received a face-lift. It is now both easier and more attractive to practise your speaking skills in English, Spanish, German and French for free, wherever you have Internet access.

During the last weeks we have noticed a rising interest in using the platform to support linguistic

integration of refugees and immigrants. We are happy if we can contribute.

The teacher or learner can now choose between 400 videos on the training platform:

www.babeliumproject.com

Videos are classified by difficulty, exercise type and communicative situation.

The image shows two overlapping screenshots of the Babelium platform. The top screenshot displays the 'Exercises' page with a search bar and a grid of video thumbnails. A 'Filters' sidebar on the right allows users to filter by language (English), level (B1 Pre-intermediate), and exercise type (Conversation, Free context, Language practice, Other, Story-telling, Voice-over). The bottom screenshot shows a detailed view of an exercise titled 'Explaining a problem: At the optician's'. It includes a video player with a microphone icon, a 'Recording settings' section with options for 'Microphone only' and 'Webcam and microphone', and an 'Exercise details' panel on the right. The details panel lists exercise type, communication situation, communicative competence, linguistic aspect, descriptors, keywords, and license information. On the left, there is an 'erab2's evaluation' section with a star rating and a 'Video comment' field.

Once the video has been selected, the user can record him or herself using the microphone and/or webcam. Many models provide further support.

Try it out! You may have a look at one of the demo videos, they are available in the four target languages – <http://www.babelium-project.eu/2015/06/practicing-languages-with-babelium/>

Guides to assist you for doubts concerning practicing, how to evaluate results or how to create new videos are available here: <http://www.babelium-project.eu/de/documentation/>

Please share the Babelium platform with others and let them know about your experience with Babelium – our reward is the wide and sustainable use of the platform and the videos that we have produced for you.

The official end of the project is November 30th, 2015, but we are prepared to provide information and assistance in future.

This is also the moment to say thank you to all who accompanied us during the last two years with advice and assistance – in the research phase, the piloting teachers and learners, the technicians, stakeholders and practitioners ...

The Babelium Team.

More information:

<http://www.babelium-project.eu/>

<http://babeliumproject.com/>

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