The course has been set towards cooperation and sharing of results

If you are part of a language project (or have already completed one) then please consider clustering your results with other language teaching projects. Through cooperation we can reach out to our end users and thus cause a significant impact. By sharing information and results we avoid reinventing the wheel.

Pools is a Leonardo II supported project developing teacher training courses based on pools of materials for nine languages; Basque, Danish, Dutch, English, Gaelic (Scottish), German, Lithuanian, Romanian, and Spanish, but it is also a main objective to cluster with other language projects.

Let the pools website serve as a portal to your results. From the website you also have access to copyleft language teaching materials and methods manuals that you may include in your own projects.

To join the pools teams please e-mail ka@ots.dk
Needs documentation: In 2000 a survey among teachers in the EU countries “The European Language Learning Materials Survey” showed that teachers of less taught languages have little pedagogical and methodological training and the course materials for these languages were rarely communicative in nature. The survey emphasized the need for improvement in this area. This was in 2002 followed up in a report to the EU Commission “The Training of Teachers of a Foreign Language: Developments in Europe” (Revised Report, August 2002) which in its recommendations p. 75 states that “All teachers should be trained in the use of ICT approaches for interactive use with pupils in the classroom” and p. 79 “More efforts needs to be made to make initial teacher training modules and in-service course content available online and in other distance learning forms”.

It is the aim of pools to address the above documented needs by creating pools of online copyleft resources (Copyleft is a way to license a work so that unrestricted redistribution, copying and modification is permitted, provided that all copies and derivates retain the exact same licensing) and to develop, test and disseminate flexible competence based teacher training course modules. The course modules, also “copyleft”, will deal with ICT approaches and development of ICT based teaching resources for teachers of less taught languages like Basque, Danish, Dutch, Gaelic, Lithuanian, and Romanian.

The project will build on results from a previous project (BP-BLTM) as well as results from other ICT and LA projects, the partnership will seek to cluster with these projects to ensure exchange of expertise and results and achieve broader impacts through joint dissemination.

The project target group is teachers of the less taught languages in technical colleges. Due to the limited range of ICT materials for these languages the teachers often have to develop materials themselves if they want to exploit the many advantages of eLearning. The final products will be:

1. Pools of online copyleft materials to be used during in-service teacher training courses and in teaching.
2. Flexible competence based language teacher course modules on ICT methodologies and development of ICT based teaching resources. The modules will be developed for in-service, distance, and blended courses
3. A DVD with step by step instructions and examples on how to create multimedia online material.
4. A course book (downloadable .pdf file) with description of language teaching eLearning materials and methodologies
5. A website, which will serve as portal to clustering projects and other ICT and LA projects. The site will contain all of the project materials, videos, discussion area and e-mail lists.

The project website is www.languages.dk/methods a website which already has +13.000 individual visitors per year (and when searching for “language teaching materials” the site is well positioned on page one in Yahoo and Google). The European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training will as a partner ensure dissemination to decision makers in hundreds of vocational institutions across Europe.