



POOLING our TOOLS in CLIL

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On Tuesday 2nd March 2010 Frans van Schaik and Ellen Ejerskov presented the TextBlender and Word link to Dutch CLIL teachers at a CLIL conference workshop.

Onno van Wilgenburg opened the 4th CLIL conference:



The conference was attended by close to **600 enthusiastic CLIL teachers** from secondary and higher general education schools which provide education for students between 12 and 18 years old. In the Netherlands there are over 110 primary, secondary and higher general schools which offer CLIL education!



In the first plenary session **Professor David Marsh**, the 'guru of CLIL teaching', gave a presentation about studies which showed neurolinguistic proof of the benefits of CLIL teaching: not only does it provide learning in the second language, it also focuses students more on their first language. Besides

this the studies showed that CLIL teaching makes the mind more flexible, creative and thus stimulates more intercultural sensitivity. In other words, CLIL teaching is the way forward for all educational systems in which students will be able to support learning by using multi-media tools simultaneously.



*Frans makes an appointment with **David Marsh** to meet in Jyvaskyl, Finland on 19th April 2010*



Our workshop was attended by representatives from **16 higher general schools** who taught subjects like Biology, geography, physics, chemistry and languages.

After showing the PowerPoint presentation on the function of the TextBlender and Word Link, we

answered many questions on the complexity of the tools and their applicability in education. We ended up with a list of names of teachers who were willing to start testing the tools.



However, it wasn't until after the second round of presentations that we were approached by teachers who had been told by our workshop participants *that the POOLS-T project* had interesting educational software to offer! And copyleft and all!



At such conferences you feel on top of the world again! *Ellen and Frans* thoroughly enjoyed participating in the conference, the speeches, the enthusiasm of the (in general) young staff and the CLIL philosophy.

In short, the outcomes of the conference are:

- . More knowledge about CLIL education and valuable pointers for the manual.
- . Contacts with CLIL practitioners and their willingness to test the tools;

- . An appointment with Professor March on 19th April in Jyvaskyla, Finland
- . A contact at Leiden University who is willing to check the progress of the CLIL manual
- . Dissemination of the POOLS-T project through the handing out of DVDs (Scotland/DK) and brochures and T-shirts!

During the 2nd plenary session in the afternoon Ellen handed out some 300 CDs and POOLS-T brochures, so we think that in many ways this has been a very valuable conference! We can't wait to see the first test results come in!

Frans van Schaik / Ellen Ejerskov-van Schaik