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Tools workshop during Eurocall in Gothenburg

**Languages:**

- Arabic
- Basque
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Gaelic
- German
- Greek
- Irish
- Italian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Spanish
- Turkish



Hop on board and join the pools teams



The TOOLS team members outside the university in Gothenburg

In August 2012 the Tools project teams had a wonderful opportunity to present the fruit of their work to the international community of language teaching professionals. This happened at the annual conference of EUROCALL which this year was hosted by University of Gothenburg (Sweden). It had been initially decided in the Tools work plan that some of the team meetings would coincide with EUROCALL conferences. This way we will not only reach a huge number of the end users, but will have a good chance to collect their feedback in order to develop and improve our tool- Clilstore, and continue to refine it for end users



TOOLS workshop in Gothenburg with presentation of Clilstore

What else could be more pleasing to the heart of a language teaching professional than getting to know colleagues with the same

passion for CALL? The tools team was delighted to see that more than 30 delegates had registered for the TOOLS workshop which, according to the normal format for Eurocall conferences, took place on the first day of the conference. No matter how modest we would try to look, we must admit that the workshop was a success! Language teaching/CALL professionals from many European countries as well as from China, Chile, USA, Canada, Japan and others attended the training for the clilstore tool.



Caoimhín O Donnaille presenting Clilstore and getting direct feedback from the target group

At the same time members of Tools team interviewed the conference delegates during the breaks between sessions and presented the clilstore for additional 100 or more language teachers. Their opinions and feedback are very important to us. Many expressed their wish to continue testing and using the tool and we will contact them at the next phase of the project. It was amazing to observe the numbers of teaching units in Clilstore grow with every day of the conference!

Join the project from its FaceBook page:

[www.facebook.com/tools4clil](http://www.facebook.com/tools4clil)



## Clilstore warmly received at St Patrick's College, Drumcondra

One of Ulster's first full Clilstore training workshops was recently delivered to members of Roinn na Gaeilge at St Patrick's College, Drumcondra. St Patrick's College is a college of Dublin City University and is "a vibrant and innovative centre of excellence in Education and the Humanities. It is one of the largest such institutions in Ireland with approximately 2,500 students enrolled on a range of undergraduate, post-graduate and doctoral programmes." The new national 3<sup>rd</sup> level syllabus for Irish based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (available at [www.teagascnagaeilge.ie](http://www.teagascnagaeilge.ie)) was conceived at a symposium organised at St Patrick's College in 2008 and the subsequent project which led to the publication of



the three year syllabus and supporting sample materials was also based there. The new syllabus, which was completed in January 2011, is currently being implemented at third level institutions throughout Ireland and one of Clilstore's potential applications will be to allow teachers who are following the syllabus to create bespoke multimedia teaching and learning materials which help their students achieve the various learning outcomes detailed in the syllabus. During the workshop Roinn na Gaeilge ("Irish Department") staff were

introduced to the Tools project and were given a demonstration of Clilstore's key functionality before registering and trialling the service themselves. Following the workshop the participants were asked to provide feedback on the workshop and Clilstore. The seven participants unanimously agreed that they were given a clear and informative introduction to the Tools project and Clilstore, that sufficient time had been set aside for them to register and get hands on experience, that any questions they had had been adequately addressed and that ultimately the workshop had provided them with the knowledge and competence to use the online system confidently. The participants' replies to the two free response questions were most encouraging and gratifying. Responses to the question 'What I liked best about the workshop/ the software' included:

*"...is the versatility it allows for; its adaptability; the ease with which excellent learning materials can be created with it"*

*"potential for developing language learning resources & sharing them. It is easy to use - user friendly & uncomplicated"*

*"The opportunity to try out various options available for creating resources under supervision. It was wonderful to be able to develop a teaching unit during the workshop and avail of Caoimhín's expertise each time the need arose"*

Responses to the question 'What I think could be improved' included:

*"No suggestions for improvement! Following the workshop I'm eager to create some new material for current courses, míle buíochas"*

*"One-to-one periods of instruction would greatly enhance the possibility of individuals acquiring the requisite capability..."*

*"The interface could be updated to indicate the full potential & uniqueness of the resource"*

*"Tá mé ag súil leis an dearadh nua ar an suíomh a fheiceáil" (Trans. "I'm looking forward to seeing the site's new design")*

The above feedback reflects the breadth of Clilstore's appeal and validates the Tools project's intensive programme of dissemination and training. The suggestions for improvements also give us food for thought e.g. the user interface has been a matter of intense discussion among the Tools partners and plans are in place to address this issue within the coming year, however, new users will expect to see the promised improvements being delivered and the project teams will need to ensure that new users stay onboard as the improvements are carried out. While it is intended that new users who have benefitted from a Tools workshop will be able to use Clilstore confidently, and while new users are encouraged to contact us if they require any further assistance, follow-up meetings or repeat workshops for key user groups may be necessary or desirable in order to ensure that the service has been fully adopted and exploited.



## Latest news: TOOLS teams will present the project outcomes and objectives during EfVET 2012 [www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org)

On the last day of the Eurocall conference Kent, our coordinator, invited Philip Hubbard, a well known language teaching professor from the University of Stanford (USA) to participate in Tools project meeting and to share his ideas about computer assisted language learning methods he uses with his students as well as to comment on Clilstore tool. It was a pleasure to receive positive comments about the tool from Prof. Hubbard and to hear his intention to use the tool in the future.

The Tools project team is glad to see the Clilstore family growing all over the world.



No Eurocall without singing and dancing:-)

Scotland's Gaelic College, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, plays an important role in the TOOLS project as it's where the principal software programmer, Dr Caoimhìn Ó Donnaille, is based. Caoimhìn teaches a number of modules for full-time students at the college, but alongside his teaching commitment he has a crucial responsibility for developing the Clilstore platform in response to feedback and demands from project partners and other users.

The college is not new to co-operation with European partners. Indeed, another of its success stories, the award-winning bilingual "Island Voices/Guthan nan Eilean" project was first started as part of the 2005-2007 POOLS project. Following POOLS it took

on a life of its own, expanding its stock of online video clips for language learners more than three-fold to an impressive total of over 150.

Caoimhìn has now transferred all 150 clips (75 English and 75 Gaelic) onto Clilstore, which means that you can now watch any video while accessing a transcript on the same page which will link any word you care to select to an online dictionary of your choice. A "unit info" button will give you additional summary information, such as a description of the contents, and notes about the language used, as well as a Short URL for posting as a link elsewhere, for example in your blog or on Twitter or Facebook.

Ceòlas-Sgoil Shamhraidh



Ceòlas-Sgoil Shamhraidh, one of the 75 new units in Scottish Gaelic: <http://multidict.net/cs/711>

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The Island Voices project continues to grow, though the focus has moved away from staff-produced videos to wider community engagement in the production of user-generated content in both audio and video formats, as well as written texts. This involves a lot of grassroots dissemination work in the Hebrides through all available means - including Facebook! A newly created Facebook page, at <http://www.facebook.com/GuthanVoices>, is proving useful in spreading the message, with a fast-growing number of "likes" from

people (all over the world!) who want to follow the progress of the project.

As the project develops its crowd-sourcing approach to "language capture" we can look forward to more and more authentic community-based materials finding their way onto the growing Clilstore archive!



Next time you can meet TOOLS team members is during the EfVET

2012 conference in October where team members will present the project and introduce those who are interested to the main product: Clilstore. Clilstore is an easy way to create innovative exercises and tasks, which can be done using smart phones, iPods or iPads, for your language students. Clilstore is based on using multidict, i.e. it is connected on-line to a large number of English, Danish, Portuguese, Lithuanian, Gaelic-Scottish and Irish, Spanish, Arabic, Turkish and other dictionaries, which makes reading a text with many unfamiliar words quite an easy task.

You don't need to wait until October- visit our homepage [www.languages.dk](http://www.languages.dk) (or directly [www.languages.dk/tools/index.htm](http://www.languages.dk/tools/index.htm)) to read more about the project or go straight to [www.multidict.net/cs/187](http://www.multidict.net/cs/187) or [www.multidict.net/cs/297](http://www.multidict.net/cs/297)



We have until recently been able to use Google translate as one of the supported dictionaries. It was a valuable resource for learners of Arabic (e.g. <http://multidict.net/cs/380>)

Using Google translate for our purpose will now apparently mean that we have to pay for it, but out budget does not allow that.

Google Translate used to work as a "dictionary" in Multidict. Even though it is not really a "dictionary" it was very useful, especially for languages such as Arabic where good online dictionaries are scarce, and especially also for languages with a rich morphology.

Back in March Caoimhín O Donnaille wrote to a friend Kevin Scannell, who is a professor of computing in the US, he is quite an expert in this kind of thing, and has good contacts in Google. His reply was in Irish, but here is a translation:

"I'd say you should use Google's API [official programming interface] rather than scraping information from their pages.

\*However\*, Google put an end to their free service last year (reportedly because it was being abused by spammers).

As far as I know, you now have two choices Use the commercial service Or else a version intended for academic researchers, which is free, but limited to a maximum of 1000 requests per day."

Caoimhín O Donnaille was hoping that we would qualify as bona fide academic researchers and would be able to use the free service. However, "The program may be used only by registered researchers and their teams, and access may not be shared with others." Which of course is no good to us because we want Multidict and Wordlink and Clilstore to be usable by anybody. As well as that and the 1000 request per day limit, that access is limited to a two year period, although you can re-apply after that.

For the paid version, Google charges \$20 per million characters, which Caoimhín O Donnaille works out to be roughly \$1 per 6000 words.



As can be seen Google translate no longer works in Multidict

We have mailed and faxed Google with a plea for a solution of the problem with using Google Translate as one of the Multidict supported dictionaries. We hope to be able to write about a good solution in the next newsletter.

Generally we get lots of support from the ICT industry, one example is iPadio.com: The TOOLS webmaster wrote as a comment to an audio recording that only Latin characters were supported in the text fields. Half an hour later we received this reply: "Yes sorry about that - how very imperialist of us - I'll take a look and see if we can add. Mark (ipadio)"




### Guided Tour - Authoring in Clilstore

**Introductory stage**  
This is a step by step guide demonstrating how to make a online unit with video and text where all the words are linked to a variety of online dictionaries. The unit demonstrated is found at <http://multidict.net/cs/780>



A guided tour through Clilstore based on an example found at: <http://multidict.net/cs/780>

One of the things we learned during Eurocall was that there is a need for a quick guide on how to use Clilstore and what the system can do. A very first guide is

now available from <http://languages.dk/archive/tools/ClilstoreGuidedTour.pdf>

Some of you may have noticed a big new batch of Clilstore units has appeared over the last few days: 75 in English and 75 in Scottish Gaelic (Gàidhlig) based on the videos from the Island Voices project: <http://guthan.wordpress.com/about/>

If anyone else has similar collections available, which might make good candidates for Clilstore units, let us know because it might be possible to semi-automate the process and take some of the toil out of it.



Learn Slovenian with Clilstore

One of our end users, Morgan Nilsson from Sweden has made extensive use of Clilstore, he has prepared 24 units for learning Slovenian as well as units in Russian and other languages. Try his first unit for Slovenian: <http://multidict.net/cs/451> please note that the Clilstore unit has been integrated into his existing online lessons.

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