

Meeting Minutes of the second meeting of the Best Practice – Best Language Teaching Methods Project.

Place: Pitesti Romania
Date: 19. May 2003 to 22. May 2003
Participants: Marian de Villanueva and Raúl Garcia
Frans van Schaik and Kees van Bruggen
Maria Jose Irastorza and Maite Garicano
Claudia Rühmekorb and Klaus Leonhardt
Sean Mehan
Lone Olsen and Kent Andersen
Mihai Braslasu and Gheorghe Banica and the Romanian team.

First working day, 20. May 2003 at the University of Pitesti.

Welcome speech to the project members by the vicerector of the University of Pitesti.



Facts about the University of Pitesti presented by Georgeta Chirlesan.



Present and future developments of the University of Pitesti presented by Bogdan Georgescu.

At approximately 11.30 the Romanian project group had planned for a demonstration of a Romanian lesson with a group of 12 exchange

students from different countries. The level of the lesson: beginner's level. Romanian was the only language used for the lesson. We were all impressed by the students and the energetic teacher.



During the lunch break all project members had the opportunity to discuss the demonstrated lesson, as well as teaching and training differences in general.



The afternoon programme dealt with status of the project. Project manager Kent Andersen presented the status report of the project, a general overview for everybody to comment on.

Kent Andersen went through the website, showed the latest updates and materials on the website. All materials, video recordings and dvd versions for the first methodology (Computer assisted language learning in context) were presented. Obligations and dead lines for the project were discussed within the group.

Kent also ran through the different web quests produced by each project group for the first work package, computer assisted language learning in context.



In addition, Kent Andersen gave a summary of the dissemination of the project so far. The project has been disseminated successfully in many countries through presentation of the project at national and international conferences such as World Call and European Label. There has also been successful dissemination through radio interviews, presentations at teacher colleges and ministries of education (Basque country). The email list for the project website has been extended with a large number of new names from many different countries and more than 300 project folders have been handed out at conferences. The website has had at least 5600 unique visitors. Several organisations and colleges etc. have on their own account chosen to link to the project website, among these are British Council and Apple Computer.

It was agreed that the funds allocated the production cost will be managed centrally to ensure the cheapest production prices, e.g. for new dissemination products and production of CD-ROMs and DVDs.

In addition it was agreed that every project country must write articles about the project for relevant local/national magazines.

It was noted that everything produced in the project is copyleft. Sean suggested to insert a proper licence text for this in order to prevent misunderstandings in connection to the copyleft. Sean promised to send such a text sample.

Finally, all project members were asked to do a brainstorm over night; ideas for a questionnaire for the volunteer project evaluators and for further dissemination over night were needed for the programme the following day.

20.00

Dinner at the Florica Villa, offered by the University of Pitesti.



The dinner meant an opportunity to continue the debate mixed with dance lessons and songs.



Second working day, 21. May 2003 at the Florica Villa, Stefanesto

10 o'clock.

Future activities of the project presented by Kent Andersen.
Next work package/methodology to work with: Task Based Learning.
The Basque and the German team are responsible for producing the description of TBL and the first teaching materials. However, every partner country must produce one set of teaching materials, ready to use, for the TBL work package.

Frans van Schaik made a detailed presentation of the Dutch web quest, because it was decided by all project members that the Dutch web quest, which deals with preparation for work placement abroad, must be tried out in a class in each country. It is very important with feed back from all project countries. The reason for this is that it was decided that a student's guide, preparing students for work placements abroad, must be produced as an individual product in the BP- BLTM project. All inputs will form the basis of the one final guide, which will be translated into all project language. The student's guide should be finished by mid-September 2003, however continuously open for suggestions.

Before the lunch break, the responsible groups for the next work package, the German and Basque team, gave an introduction of the

TBL methodology and a demonstration of how a TBL lesson could be planned and run.



Claudia and Klaus were responsible for the introduction to the ideas behind TBL. Their presentation was mainly based on the ideas of Jane Willis. The PowerPoint presentation can be downloaded from http://www.languages.dk/methods/documents/TBL_presentation.pdf



An easy-to-read and well structured handbook with the main guide lines for producing material in line with the TBL methodology was handed out to every project member.

Maria José and Maite from the Basque team ran a short lesson within the frame work of TBL. They more or less continued their lesson from Brussels in autumn of 2002, which was also a lesson demonstrating the TBL method. Ruled by the ideas of TBL, the team managed to build upon the vocabulary from the Brussels lesson and move the lesson into another area of content. All in all, a perfect starting point for the next term in the project.



In the afternoon the project members were split in two groups in order to work out suggestions for an evaluation out line. The work from the two groups will be rewritten and sent to Kent Andersen, who will then work the suggestions into one out line, which must be discussed again by the project members.

18.00.

Press conference for the local press was arranged to take place at the Florica Villa.



Interviews and recordings were made by different newspaper, radio and television stations.



20.00

End of another extremely successful and inspiring workshop of the BP-BLTM project, thanks to all project members, especially the Romanian team.

