News

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Project activities preparing recordings of video pools

Languages:

Basque
Danish
Dutch
English
Gaelic
German
Lithuanian
Romanian
Spanish

The project teams are still on course and now even ahead of schedule.

A student preparing for acting in a pools video

The pools project teams are busy recording and editing videos to be used in the digital pools. The main purpose of the digital pools is to prepare materials to be used for the language teachers during software development courses, but feedbacks from our website visitors show that the materials are already being used for language teaching.

To show how the materials can later on be used by language teachers we have made some sample units for teaching English for specific purposes. The units make use of materials from the digital pools, the units are based on an English text where all words are linked to online dictionaries in ten languages:

An example "Safe Working in the Electrotechnical Industry - Frequently asked questions about the Electrotechnical Certification Scheme" can be tested at: www.languages.dk/online/electrician/ECS-FAQ/

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If you know of online dictionaries in other languages than the above then please mail ka@ots.dk

Three of the pools teams met in January in Hoorn for a video workshop. Similar workshops are planned for all pools teams prior to starting the video productions. Some of these workshops (in Germany and Lithuania) were originally planned for the autumn, but they are now being moved to May and June because the teams are impatiently waiting to get started producing videos.

Anny interviewing a student for a Dutch pools video

Hans preparing an interview in Hoorn, the Netherlands

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Leonardo da Vinci

Latest News: The first Danish and English digital materials are now online in the digital pools area: www.languages.dk/digital Exercises for teaching English are online in the materals area: www.languages.dk/materials.html

The Dutch pools members busily editing their first videos

Flemming from the Danish team demonstrating the editing software

Screen dump from the Danish video "Jul i Danmark"

The pools digital area is quickly expanding and contains videos, audio, transcriptions, translations into English, and comments like language and cultural notes for the materials.

The videos cover a range of topics and areas spanning from a dentist's assistant, cooks, and bike thefts to Yule traditions in Denmark

A Danish class approached pools to share a project video recording - as a thank to the pupils pools has sponsored the production of 50 DVDs

Not all recordings go like planned. In Hoorn we wanted to record a video showing a girl who had bought a cheap bicycle, her friends would then tell her that at that price it was probably a stolen bike.

We had to borrow a bike from a bicycle stand, unfortunately the real owner showed up in the middle of the recordings and claimed back her bike:-)

Another pools aim is to cluster with like projects to ensure maximum impact and avoid reinventing the wheel. We have already made contact with several projects among these are EUROVOLT: www.languages.dk/clusters/eurovolt.html and in January 2005 VIA, an Internet-based grammar training program for eight languages: via.id.cbs.dk/viamain_en.php

If you too have a language project then you can make use of the pools website to disseminate your project results etc. The service is free.

In the near future you can download videos with commentaries in German, Danish, and English showing production of windpower stations in the North Sea and videos showing a 400KV cable project the videos and texts are used with permission from Energinet.dk

We have received similar permissions from several official bodies like SJIB, and the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting - NICEIC in the UK. If you know of materials that we may use then please do not hesitate to inform ka@ots.dk

Conference announcement: We are looking into the possibility of arranging a conference on Skye in possible cooperation with clustering projects. We expect to have lodging facilities for 80 participants.