

## **Italymobility and Pools-M**

*Italymobility helps young people to participate in a mobility project. Their qualified consultants look after the whole process of the work placement to make sure that students have a very profitable, interesting and challenging experience. That's why, from the beginning, Italymobility helps the student to define with the tutor of the host company their tasks according to the competencies they want to develop.*

*Italymobility's slogan is "Your Development Our Goal" as its objective is that young people enjoy their stay in Italy and feel enriched not only from the personal perspective but also in terms of professional development. While they live in a different country they improve their language and social skills, as they get to know a different culture and different ways of thinking and interpreting life. The professional value depends on the so called "social capital", in other words, the ability to interact and establish good relationships with others. Going abroad is a very effective way to train ourselves in this dimension. Furthermore, by choosing ITALYMOBILITY.COM, students make sure that their work experience is focused and consistent with their vocational and technical skills.*

*Italymobility selects the company and defines the tasks of the work experience according to the own objectives.*

*During their stay, students have the possibility to learn more about Italian language. The first week they are in Italy they have 5 days of Italian course.*

*The Italian course uses a communicative language teaching method that is especially thought for those students who find themselves in the midst of work placement in other countries.*

## **Pools M teaching methods**

### **How do we use Pools M ?**

#### **SPANISH STUDENTS**

The Spanish youngsters coming to CSCS are here in Italy for a work placement: they are supposed to work inside companies whose activity field is the same they are studying in their own country. The main goal of their work placement is to experience a different way of working: different from the Spanish one and therefore enriching, both professionally and personally.

It is important to underline that learning Italian is not the main objective of the students in work placement; however, language is extremely important for their experience: working, socializing, having a good time depend on it.

CSCS offers an intensive course of Italian for a week (generally not as soon as they get here) and, afterwards, one lesson per week.

The students coming in Italy have, of course, various profiles; some of them consider learning Italian as very interesting and important, others do not feel the need of having a good grammar and appreciate less the idea of studying during their work placement. We therefore tried to propose classes focused on “doing” instead of “explaining”: we offer basic information and then try to apply the theory in practice – games, practical exercises, etc. help a lot this kind of approach. Grammar, of course, is there; but it is never proposed as main element of the course: we try to help students understand the rules by doing as a substitute for long explanations and “boring” rules.

The activities we propose in class are various: we show the students a short home-made video with “typical” scenes of real-life situations (for instance at the supermarket, breakfast with the family, at the bar, etc.), we first check their understanding of the dialogues and then we help them fully understand the dialogues. Afterwards, we try to create new dialogues within the framework of the situation presented through the video. Another exercise that works very well is the “puzzle” of a dialogue: students have to place the lines of a dialogue in the right order.

Listening to songs and finding the missing word is another exercise that students find funny and instructive.

Memory, find the hidden words or crosswords, are other games that students like when introducing, for instance, new “communication areas” (for instance “food”, or “parts of the body”, etc.).

## SWEDISH GROUP

A group of Swedish students with various learning difficulties came to CSCS in the month of February. We tried to organize a specific Italian course able to take into consideration all the issues involved and able to offer some Italian basics to the students.

One of the Pools M methods seemed the most appropriate: TBL

We asked the students to participate to different games – the group has been divided in two teams and each team received a certain number of points for understanding parts of a presentation in Italian. Other exercises created individual competition among students, on the same principle.

**Team games:** we showed students a video where an Italian family was having very clear and simple conversation; we asked each team to tell us the words they (thought) they recognized.

The team who recognizes the major number of words won.

Afterwards, we would write down the recognized words, asking the teams to try to understand from the context or deduce the right meaning.

Another team game, again connected to a video, consists in distributing to students the lines of a dialogue in an incorrect order. They have to recognize the sentences they hear in the video and place them in the right order. Then we try to also check understanding (from the context, words they recognize, help from the teacher, etc.)

During the classes we also tried to extend the vocabulary: words semantically connected to colours, numbers, food, etc. have been introduced through a “memory” game or through different techniques recalling the connection between image and word. For instance, we distributed drawings of food, or of parts of the body, or of numbers, etc.; and the corresponding words printed on pieces of paper.

The students were asked to pair correctly the pieces of paper (one drawing for each word).

Another game the students particularly likes was the bingo.