

ConBaT+ Workshop

24-26 September 2008

Tuesday 23rd September

Preparation meeting: 9 am – 11.15 pm

Present. Dr Peter MacIntyre, Dr Fernando Trujillo, Dr Mercè Bernaus, Sofie Jonckheere, Dr Áine Furlong

Apologies: Martine Kervran could not attend this workshop due to imminent submission of her doctoral thesis.

The agenda was examined in great detail and revised very carefully, some changes were made, additional short presentations were prepared and materials were reviewed.

Suzanne Silvensky paid us a visit and suggested that close attention be paid to recent European Council publications, e.g the white paper on intercultural dialogue.

Dr P. MacIntyre's and Dr F. Trujillo's input was discussed and their contributions during this preparation meeting were invaluable.

At 7.30 pm we welcomed the participants informally at Livinio's restaurant. However, due to the heavy work load of the team, we had to return to ECML premises at 8.30pm.

Wednesday 24th September 8.30 am – 11.15 pm

Participants arrived between 8 am and 9 am.

At 9 am the workshop started and participants were welcomed both by the team and by Michael Armstrong on behalf of ECML. After warming-up activities, participants' expectations and concerns were elicited by means of a simple questionnaire ("my suitcase"). The project overview and rationale were presented in the morning. After lunch awareness-raising activities were conducted. These activities were followed by two presentations on content-based teaching in Canada and Belgium. The proceedings were highly interactive.

In anticipation of the European day of languages, participants were asked to supply Fernando Trujillo with favourite words and corresponding translations. The day was evaluated by the participants very positively. The day concluded with a very successful multi-cultural party at 11.15 pm.

Thursday 25th September 8.30 am- 9pm

The team provided the results of "my suitcase" and the evaluation of the previous day. The kit materials designed by the team were distributed among the participants. Six groups were formed to enable the evaluation of the materials by the participants. Evaluation guidelines as well as indicators of quality were provided. A plenary followed with participants' critical reviews and suggestions. The day proved to be very constructive, both for the participants and the team. This approach was highly valued by participants. Once more, the day was evaluated very positively. After lunch participants had two free hours.

Friday 26th September 8.45- 4.30 pm

Participants were greeted with a specially created web site <http://combat.blogspot.com> which projected the words collected on the first workshop day accompanied by a corresponding picture. The previous day's evaluation was presented. Groups were formed once more after the explanation of the template for the design of materials. Participants developed content-based activities which incorporated a plurilingual approach. These activities were presented and discussed by the team and the group. Based on participants' activities and responses, the team believes that the concept underpinning the aims of ConBaT+ was successfully grasped by the majority of participants.

The action plan along with tasks for the next stage: between October and December 2008, the team's activities are to be piloted and evaluated by teachers and learners by means of a questionnaire. By the end of February 2009, participants will submit their own activities for primary and/or secondary learners(3-6hrs long approximately).

The project web site was presented. Most of the proceedings of the entire workshop were filmed and excerpts will be uploaded on the web site as well as all the presentations made.

The final evaluation of the workshop for the team and for the ECML was conducted with very positive results.

Michael Armstrong and the team closed the proceedings. combat+ is very grateful for the reception hosted for the participants and the team at the Stdtmuseum. The team is also grateful for the support of the ECML staff throughout these days.

Suggestions

The team would need 2 days for preparing the workshop and it would be good to have an extra day for the workshop too.