



**Testing phase
Amber International
Uk & Ireland**

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Author/Organization Amber International

Country Italy

Countries where the test took place: Uk and Ireland

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Context

Describe the context where the testing phase took place, the specific entities and the type of persons involved in the testing and other significant points you retain helpful to understand the general conditions of the testing context. Please provide also an idea of the number of persons involved and the number of events organized.

The pilot phase took place between November the 18th 2015 and December the 22nd 2015. An extensive promotion phase of OPEN has been executed using several communication means (websites, LinkedIn, word of mouth, etc.) and exploiting the mailing list prepared within the project OPEN in order to capture the attention of relevant Institutions interested in the field of didactical tools for language Education for deaf people. In the end, four Institutes were selected in UK and Ireland area for the piloting phase:

Oracle Training Consultants Limited
Doncaster, South Yorkshire, UK

Local Enterprise Office
Dublin, Ireland

Imperial College London
London, England

University of Sheffield
Sheffield, South Yorkshire, UK

Three out of four are directly involved with the development of Educational material (Oracle Training Consultants Limited, Doncaster, Imperial College London and the University of Sheffield) and have deaf people among their students. Local Enterprise Office has a dense network of enterprises with some of these having deaf employees. In all cases, all institutions could reach deaf people as target group. Other institutions have expressed their interest but could not participate to the piloting phase, due to little time and staff available.



Figure 1: Map of the institutes participating to the pilot phase

For assessing the platform, a google questionnaire has been prepared in English. A brief introductory guide has been prepared in English to briefly introduce the project and help users go through the questionnaire. The template of the guide is attached to this document.

Before delivering the questionnaire, Amber had a “Get-to-Know briefing” with each Institution. Informal skype meeting were useful to prepare the Institutions to the piloting phase with specific instructions on the aim of the pilot, the target group to reach and the questions to be answered via the questionnaire.

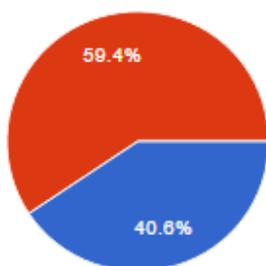
Internal staff of the Institutions then delivered the questionnaire to:

- Deaf students
- Teachers/Professors/Technical staff involved in the field of language education
- Deaf people

Numerical indicators

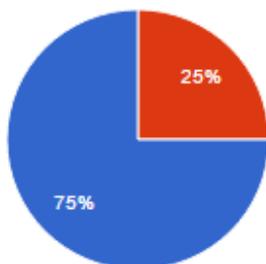
A total of 64 persons participated to the testing phase. The feedback was collected via a Google Form questionnaire. 64 questionnaires were filled in, by participants ranging from 19 to 60 years old. 51 of 56 persons that filled in the questionnaires belong to the deaf community. All levels of CEFR competencies have been tested, as well as International Sign.

Gender



Male	40.6%
Female	59.4%

Are you a deaf person?



Yes	75%
No	25%

Test scenarios

Indicate which sign languages and which learning units were tested indicating also the number of questionnaires, interviews and focus groups implemented for each learning units.

All levels of CEFR competencies (from A1 to C2) have been tested, as well as International Sign.

Satisfaction level

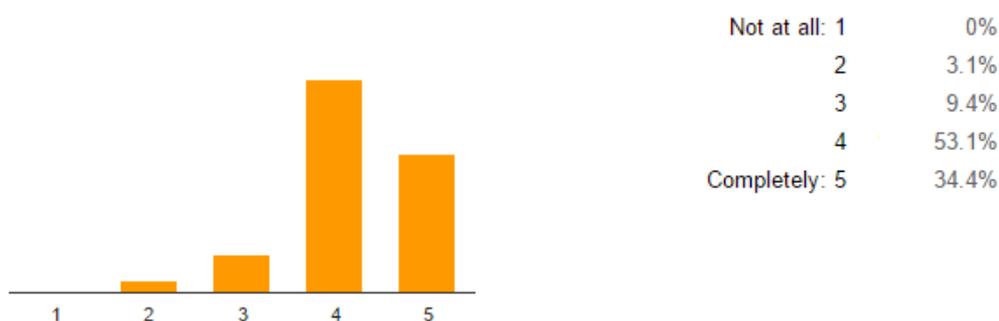
Describe the general level of satisfaction with the platform, as emerged during the testing phase (questionnaires, focus groups, interviews). You could also use graphs and tabs, elaborated from the questionnaires database, or the interview and focus group documents. If significant, please compare the different satisfaction levels with respect for instance to age and gender.

Usability

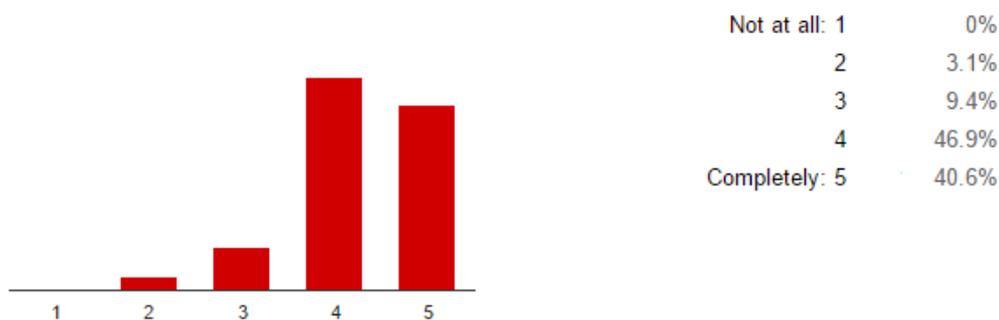
Describe if users found the platform easy to use and navigate. You could use also graphs and tabs, elaborated from the questionnaires database, or the interview and focus group documents.

Regarding the level of usability of the platform (if it's user friendly , if it's easy to understand its functions, etc.) Level of satisfaction reached very good results, with the vast majority of the sample (over 90%) being either very satisfied or completely satisfied:

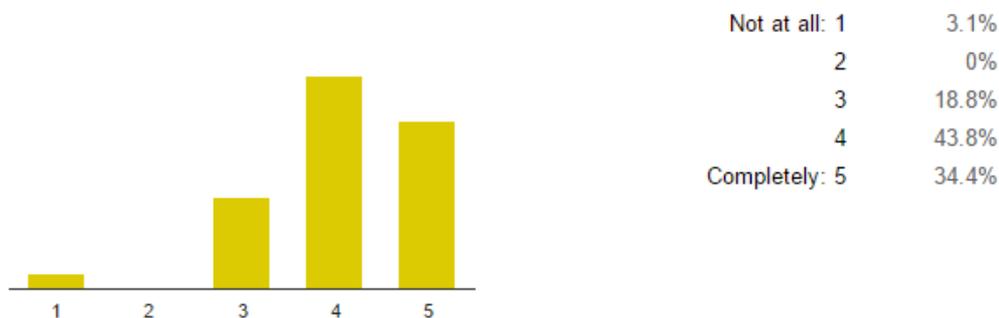
The platform is interesting to use. I like it



The platform is enjoyable to use



The platform controls are easy to use

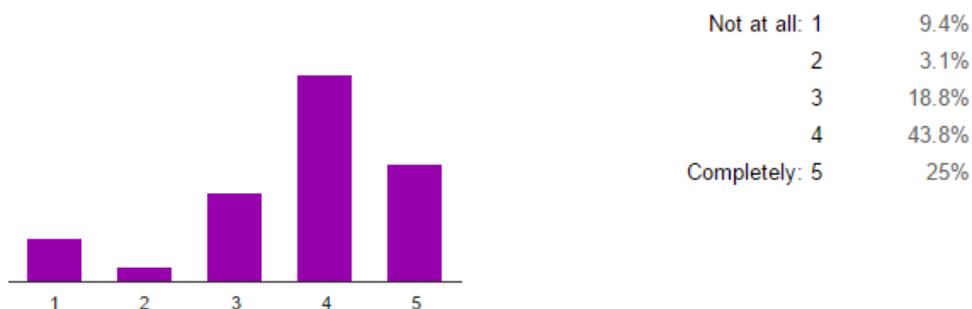


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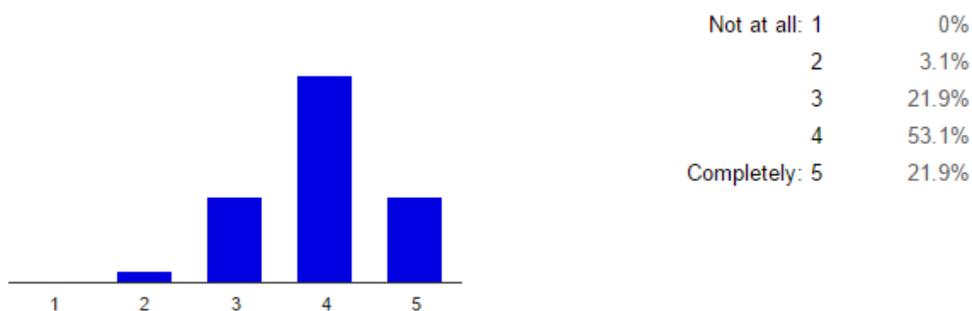
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In this field, the respondent rate is distributed mainly between 3 and 5 on the 1-5 scale, with over 50 % of the users that find the platform very easy to navigate (4 out of 5). A little controversy on question 1 where the question “if there are errors in the platform” generated confusion among the respondents with almost 10% answering “not at all” probably meaning the opposite

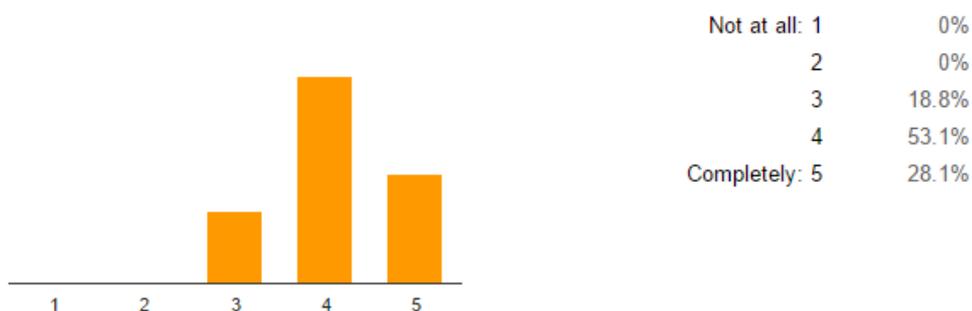
There are no errors in the platform



The technology used makes the learning environment realistic



The platform is customizable enough for my learning needs



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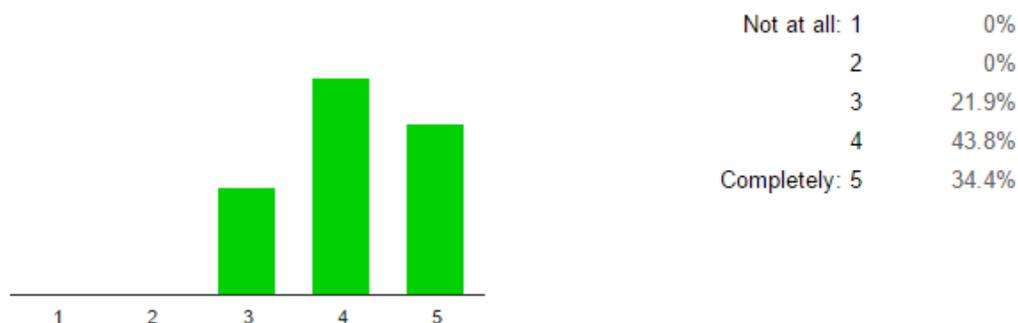
Pedagogical aspects

Describe if the platform facilitates the learning process. You could also use graphs and tabs, elaborated from the questionnaires database, or the interview and focus group documents.

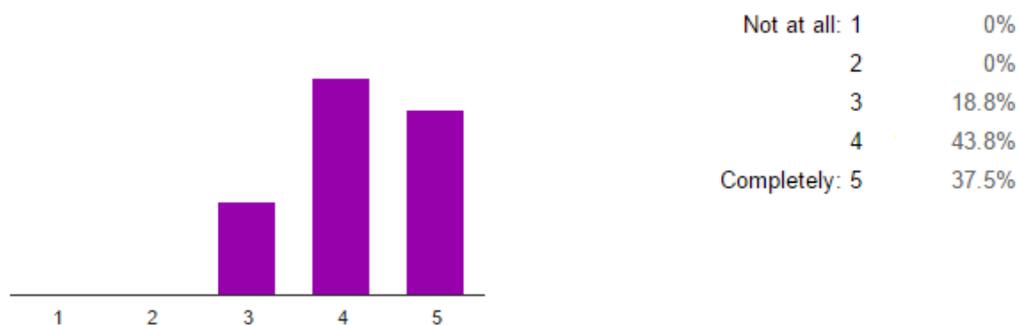
In this area of investigation, the respondent rate is distributed mainly between 4 and 5 on the 1-5 scale, with over 40% of the users that find the platform very easy to navigate (4 out of 5) and completely satisfactory (above 35%). All answers given were positive.

The only negative aspect concerns the capability of the platform to improve English language skill which, given the fact the target group is mainly English mother tongue, is irrelevant.

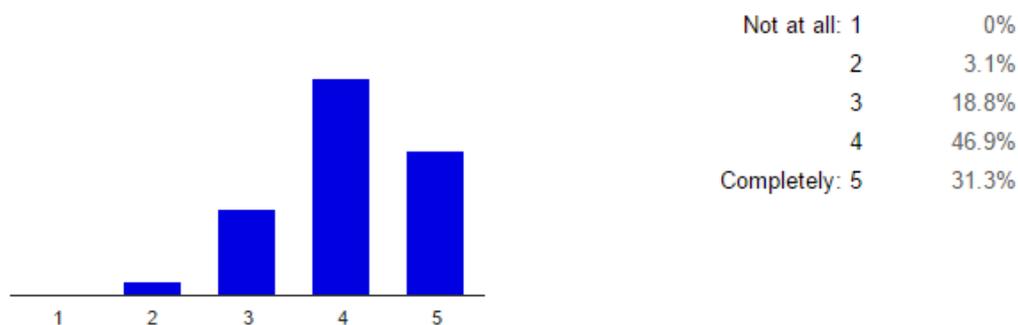
The quantity of the materials usable in the platform is sufficient



The contents covered by the platform are interesting in terms of learning

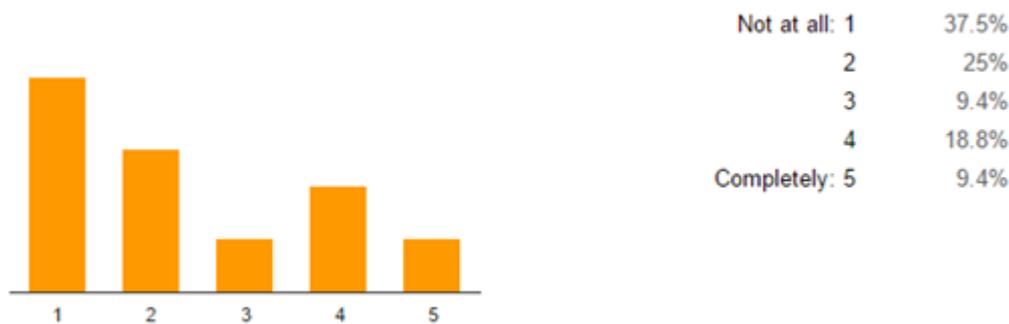


I think the platform could improve my general language skills

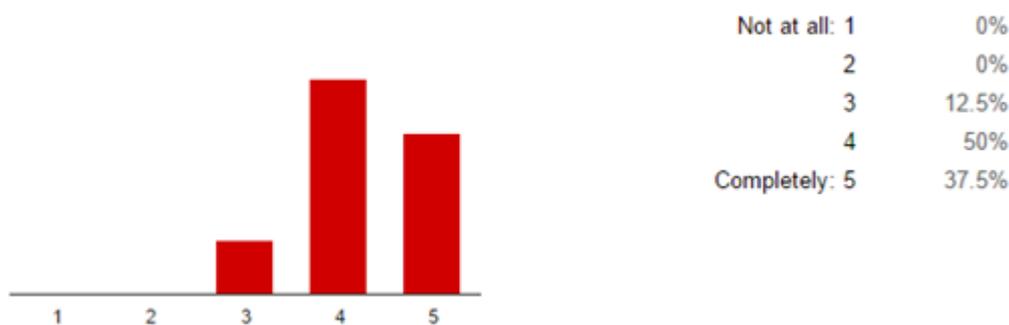


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I think I could learn more about English using this platform



I think I could learn more about International Sign Language using this platform



Regarding international sign the sample shows a very good feedback: 50% of the respondents find that they could learn more IS while 37,5% find it completely useful: so an overall 87,5% of the sample find the platform useful for learning IS.

Conclusions

Describe suggestions to implement or modify the platform as emerged during the testing phase. Bring your conclusions about the platform and the WP.

During the testing we have gathered feedback of all users that have tested the platform, as follows the most common suggestions made by the participants:

- enlarge the existing content available, especially at the advanced level (C1 and C2 levels)
- introduce new topics (e.g. at a job interview abroad, behaviour in emergency situations - ambulance, police, in a pharmacy, etc.)
- add other sign languages
- introduce more interesting/pertinent background of the videos
- introduce the slow motion function of the dialogues and the labial reproduction

Annex 1: Template of the brief introductory guide in English sent to the Institutions in UK and Ireland

Within the project, the gamma version of the [OPEN e-learning platform has been created](#). The platform will contain the courses of the 6 different sign languages/systems: Greek, Italian, Polish, Spanish, Swedish and International Sign. Videos will be subtitled and structured in units where different ‘everyday life’ situations will be reproduced in order to provide access to the most useful words and expressions. All units will be divided by level of proficiency according to the CEFR (A1-C2) which has been recently adopted by most of EU sign languages as well.

You can now enter the platform and follow the course needed. The platform is still under construction to reach its final form so **that’s why we need your help!**

We kindly ask users (deaf people, teachers, pedagogical material developers) to navigate the platform and provide a feedback through an online questionnaire:

<http://goo.gl/forms/9YtNP3a5ZL>

The questionnaire is short (it takes up to 10 minutes!) and anonymous, although **we kindly ask you to fill in a “participation sheet” to prove that you have participated**. (Find attached the participation sheet). **Therefore please, after filling the questionnaire, return the presence sheet signed and scanned to: andrea.rossi@ambergroup.org**

Overview on the questionnaire:

The **Open On line Questionnaire** was designed to be a self-administered screening test aimed at detecting areas of improvement in the OPEN PLATFORM. The questionnaire was designed to be easy to administer, acceptable to respondents, fairly short, and objective in the sense that it did not require the person administering it to make subjective assessments about the respondent. It aimed at detecting those areas of improvement, which may have relevance to a learner/user in the condition of navigating through the platform for the first time.

How to use the questionnaire in 3 steps:

- 1) Navigate through the platform, testing all levels you may find useful in all sign languages that meet your interest: All units will be divided by level of proficiency (A1-C2) which has been recently adopted by most of EU sign languages as well. take your time and feel free to spend more than 1 day on it if you want to.
- 2) Go to the link <http://goo.gl/forms/9YtNP3a5ZL> and open your satisfaction level questionnaire . You don’t need to sign in, the questionnaires are anonymous.

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- 3) Provide your feedback answering the multiple choice questions, expressing your level of satisfaction from 1 to 5. All multiple questions are mandatory, while there's additional space available for free commentary
- 4) Click submit when you are done!

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

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