



newsletter

2009
VOL 4
OCTOBER



MAIN ARTICLE: VIDEO PRODUCTION



THIS PERIOD OF BECULT EXTENDED HAS INCLUDED LOTS OF LAUGHS AND WORK WHEN ALL THE PARTNERS HAVE BEEN OCCUPYING THEMSELVES WITH THE VIDEO PRODUCTION OF THE SCRIPTED WORK SITUATIONS IN RETAIL AND TOURISM FOR OLD PARTNERS AND WITH HOTEL, RESTAURANT AND SERVICE VIDEOS FOR THE NEW BECULT PARTNERS. A LOT HAS BEEN FILMED AND THE TEAM WILL TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THEM DURING THE CATANIA MEETING

changed. In this particular case with Finland, there was for instance a need to change the script that was to do with selling wine in a supermarket, which in Finland is not the case due to Finnish alcohol legislation. The student actors did they job really well and the atmosphere was fun and relaxed throughout the video shoot. Of course there was some tension in the beginning, but that was to be expected. The professional approach by the PIRAMK video team was extremely helpful in order to provide a superb quality material for the BECULT website. The similar shoot in tourism was also supervised by Pirkko Karvonen and performed by the lovely cast of PIRKO students of tourism shot by the students of audiovisual arts in Lempäälä.

The image above was taken during the Finnish team filming of retail in the town of Virrat a few weeks ago. For the Finnish team, a subcontracted assistance was acquired from Pirkanmaa Polytechnics audiovisual production unit which is situated in the same building as PIRKO. Teacher Tarja Manner attended the video shoot from the beginning by choosing and tutoring the participating student actors, then checking

and re-checking the spoken dialogue manuscript made by the Dutch partner ROCASA. The whole structure of the video shoot was that one partner scripted an English version as a bridge language to be then culturally translated for other partners. Cultural translation means that in addition with actual lingual translation the substance teacher also made changes to the native language version if there werre some culturally related items that needed to be

IN THIS ISSUE:

PAGE ONE: Video production

PAGE TWO: Turkish educational system, Half Baked Software

PAGE THREE: Hot Potatoes Suite

PAGE FOUR: ELP and Can-do-statements





BECULT PREDECESSOR: EASY 2

Easy2 is a web-based language learning environment, that uses audio, tools, exercises and games for learning foreign languages. The project has a strong and modern pedagogical frameset. Easy2 can be used for a tool when getting to know the language and culture of a country for example for job placement or class excursion purposes. Project included a team consisting of PIRKO, Pirkanmaa polytechnics and University of Tampere from Finland, CNOSFAP from Italy as promoter, Bildungsmarkt from Germany and CFA from Perpignan, France. The project was funded by Socrates Lingua.

The main idea was to create a trans-european language village. The purpose of this was to introduce basics of 5 languages in the form

of a virtual learning environment. A set of typical situations (cafe, disco, shopping, party, first day at work) were created with students, scripted and recorded as audio files. In addition, glossaries, games and grammatical toolboxes were created to support learning. Manuals for both learners and trainers were also written. A single user can start living in his or her own virtual apartment with radio stations and a personal diary to write assignments such as shopping list in a desired language. Some interactive elements such as a shoutbox and forum were also created to support a more personal approach to learning. Easy2 is an excellent tool for also than language teachers. It can also be used for studying native language of a new home country for immigrants. You can find Easy2 at www.easy2.org.

Hot Potatoes 7 is likely to become commercial entity while the developers continue work towards new release two years from now

HOT POTATOES BECOMES FREWARE

Provider of Hot Potatoes and Quandary programmes, Half Baked Software has announced that the sales of Hot Potatoes and Quandary have ended. This means that both programmes are considered as freeware from September 1, 2009 onwards. Also the technical support for Hot Potatoes and Quandary ended on August 31, 2009. Yahoo groups which currently provide support for Hot Potatoes and Quandary will continue, but after August 31 the software developers are not under any obligation to answer questions on the groups. This is the direct consequence from the fact that Half Baked Software is now fully committed to write the successor to Hot Potatoes 6, and they cannot do that while we're simultaneously handling the existing tech support load. Although the software are free, they are not open-source due to copyright issues involved. When it's finished. We have no idea when that will be. We have clear ideas about what it will look like, but we haven't actually written any code yet, so it will be at least two years away. The release date of "Hot Potatoes 7" is not been set, but according to Martin Holmes the writing of code has not yet started and the preliminary estimate of the progress time schedule pushes the release of "HP7" back at least two years.



CATANIA MEETING

PROJECT GROUP HAD A WORK MEETING IN SUNNY AND SOMETIMES STORMY CATANIA. THE RESULT WAS A MIX OF GOOD WORK AND GOOD FOOD.



Our wonderful host in Catania, Francesco Majorana in his new house

Workpackage 4, which has been for production of the online test version, meeting was held in Catania, Italy from 30th Sep - 3th Oct 2009. After a very pleasing dinner at "Il Sale Art Caf ", next morning at Hostel Don Bosco facilities right at the Meditarreanean sea began with presentation of the agenda. After that, the group discussed about outcomes of the production phase and had presentation of results with some feedback on production and production quality. First produced videos were to be seen by all. The common consensus was that the teachers and students had done

a very good job with the video production. After lunch followed a presentation and feedback on subcontracted programming, future technical planning and actions. Also feedback was given on the planned new flash intro page and its modified design. Before finishing the day, there was a presentation of the new SCORM-assisted learning path methodology for the final website.

Next working day begun with a short walkthrough of remaining production, concentrating on video production and its subtitle issues, exercises and quandary game production. The technical experts showed illustrative presentation of the issues in hand. The very intense work session ended with look into the valorisation plan and design and production of dissemination products and activities such as local stakeholder workshops. New logo design was presented and accepted with minor changes. Finally, the meeting work was evaluated and new deadlines given before the group started they journey homewards.

On the cultural side, the group

experienced some of the stormier weather fronts in memory. Unfortunately there were casualties in the neighbouring city of Messina. Overall, the group seemed very pleased on how the production phase had progressed. However some "force majour" incidents occurred leaving a couple of members with some repetitive work due to missing equipment and files.

Catania meeting showed that the group had been very active and that the decisions dealing with subcontracting for some of the production phase had been correct. Overall the feeling is that the group can pull this project off with flying colors. A lot has been achieved but still a major bulk of the work including a lot more filming and material editing awaits the international production team before the next work meeting in sunny Spain in March 2010.





WHAT IS EUROPASS?

Europass is a way of helping people to make their skills and qualifications clearly and easily understood in Europe. Whether a person is planning to enrol in an education or training programme, looking for a job, or getting experience abroad, it is important to be able to make his skills and competences clearly understood. Europass consists of curriculum vitae, language Passport that the applicant can fill in himself and

three other documents (Europass Certificate Supplement, Europass Diploma Supplement and Europass Mobility) filled in and issued by competent organisations. Europass is supported by a network of National Europass Centres.

The Europass Language Passport allows a person to describe their language skills, skills that are vital

for learning and working in Europe. It consists of three documents: the Language Passport, the Language Biography and the Dossier. The described language skills are derived from European Language Portfolio which aims at helping organizations to describe the levels of proficiency required by existing standards, tests and examinations in order to facilitate comparisons between different systems of qualifications. For this purpose the Council of Europe has developed a European Framework with common language skill reference levels. These levels are: Basic User (levels A1 and A2), Independent User (B1 and B2) and Proficient User (C1 and C2). Such a simple "Global Scale" makes it easier to communicate the system to non-specialist users and will also provide teachers and curriculum planners with orientation points.

However, in order to orient learners, teachers and other users within the educational system for some practical purpose, a more detailed overview is necessary. Such an overview is presented in the form of a Self-Assessment Grid showing major categories of language use at each of the six levels.

A helpful tool to create consensus for the self-assessment are so-called "Can-Do-Statements". These are general skill descriptions in form of statements such as "I can understand basic instructions". These statements form a skills grid that the person filling the the self-assessment form can use. Becult Extended project uses the Can-Do-Statements in a professional context.

CONTACT THE BECULT EXTEND TEAM



Mats Landgren
becult@bildungsmarkt.de
www.kiezkuechen.de

Mikko Turunen
mikko.turunen@pirko.fi
www.pirko.fi

Guy Pacouill
guy.pacouill@perpignan.cci.fr
www.perpignan.cci.fr

Francesco Majorana
f.majorana@cnos-fap.it
www.cnos-fap.it

Eveline Van Der Most
eemt@asa.nl
www.rocasa.nl

Hele Liiv-Tellmann
hele.liiv@teeninduskool.ee
www.teeninduskool.ee

Altug Erbil
a.erbil@pnt-grp.com
www.pnt-grp.com

Maria Marinoso
fase@fase.net
www.fase.net