



The LeTS GO Project: Language eTeachers Services

Elisabetta Delle Donne

E-mail: eli@pixel-online.net

Pixel (Italy)

Abstract

New information technologies have changed training methodologies, introducing elements of innovation that have redrawn the role of teachers and trainers. This context, valid in general, is even more relevant in language teaching and training. Multilingual skills, in fact, are increasingly important to avoid exclusion from the dynamics of a social and economic system with increasing international vocation.

Therefore, for school language teachers and for trainers working in the field of business training, becomes crucial to develop skills that enable them to be autonomous in selecting and using these innovative educational products, also acquiring the ability to create their own.

In this context, the Lets Go project intends to promote the practical experimentation of the LeTS Portal (<http://www.leonardo-lets.net>) developed during the Lets project, funded by the Leonardo Da Vinci Programme (N°I/05/B/F/LA-154099).

The Lets Go project aims to transfer the LeTS project results, on the application of new technologies for language teaching and learning into three areas: school, business language training and adult education.

The LeTS Go project aims to enable school teachers and professional trainers to:

- *choose quality language teaching products identifying those that best meet specific educational needs.*
- *use the products available either as an alternative or as integration of traditional methodologies.*
- *create educational and training products that exploit the potential of new technologies.*

1. Introduction

Effective language teaching requires the teachers and trainers to possess particular personal resources and skills. The teachers should therefore have regular re-training opportunities, particularly on topics relating to the great potential offered by the application of new technologies to language teaching.

The advent of new information and communication technologies has created new teaching and learning methods putting the traditional role of the teacher and trainer up for discussion.

In the context described above, the LeTS GO project is addressed to language teachers and trainers who are specialised in the teaching of foreign languages in a professional context. The project aims to give these individuals the skills and motivation for managing changes and for taking up new challenges, through the creation of innovative training opportunities, which take into account the emerging needs of teachers and trainers.



2. The Project Objectives

The main objective of the LeTS GO project, been financed by the European Commission in the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme (Leonardo – Transfer of Innovation), is to promote the practical experimentation of the LeTS Portal (<http://www.leonardo-lets.net>) and therefore to update language trainers and teachers competences giving them the essential skills for offering quality language training, which is characterised by a high degree of flexibility and personalisation and that is delivered through the efficient application of ICT.

The LeTS GO project therefore has the aim to give language trainers and teachers who work in the professional training sector the skills for:

- identifying, evaluating and selecting the best e-learning products and methodologies for the teaching/learning of a foreign language in a professional context.
- using e-learning products and methodologies efficiently for the teaching/learning of foreign languages in a professional context, both as an alternative and integration to traditional training methodologies.
- creating their own e-learning courses for the teaching/learning in a “professional” context.

3. The Main Project Activities

The main activities of the **LeTS GO Project** are:

- 1) Identification of target groups
 - Creation of a virtual community of 300 language teachers and trainers
 - Exchange of experiences, competences and material for language learning
- 2) Upgrade and expansion of products and services available on the LeTS portal
 - Expansion of the e-learning experiences data base with new experiences described by the teachers and trainers involved in the project
 - Expansion of the e-learning products data base with new reviews described by the teachers and trainers involved in the project
 - Expansion of the training packages data base with new educational packages developed by the teachers and trainers involved in the project
- 3) Courses and Practical Experimentation
Delivery of training course to the teachers and trainers involved on the following topic:
 - Introduction to e-learning
 - Research and Evaluation of e-learning based materials for language teaching and learning
 - Effective Use of e-learning based materials for language teaching and learning
 - Planning and Creation of e-learning based materials for language teaching and learning
- 4) Experimentation with the students of the educational packages developed by the teachers and trainers



4. The Main Project Didactical Resources

The didactical resources created in the framework of the LeTS Project and improved in the framework of the LeTS GO Project are available on the LeTS Portal (<http://www.leonardo-lets.net/>):

- 1) **4 On-line training courses** on the following themes:
 - a. *Introduction to e-Learnig*. The general aim of this Course is to introduce a general outline of e-Learning from both a technological and an operative point of view.
 - b. *Research and Evaluation of e-Learning Material for Language Teaching and Learning*. This course provides language teachers and trainers with the skills to identify, evaluate and select the best e-learning products and methodologies for the teaching/learning of a foreign language in a professional context.
 - c. *Effective use of e-Learning products for Language Learning*. This course provides language teachers and trainers with the skills to use e-learning products and methodologies efficiently for the teaching of foreign languages in a professional context, both as an alternative and integration to traditional training methodologies. This training package also focuses on the potential of e-learning products which can be re-modelled and adapted in order to respond to different needs.
 - d. *Development of e-Learning Materials for Language Learning: Methodologies and Techniques*. This course provide language teachers and trainers with the skills to create their own e-learning courses for the teaching/learning in a "professional" context. This training package also concentrates on the practical methodologies to be adopted in the creation of an e-learning training package both from a methodological and technical point of view.
- 2) **9 on-line courses** developed by the teachers and trainers involved in the LeTS Go project. All the courses have been tested with students and the results of the experimentation activities are available on the LeTS Go project web site (<http://letsgo.pixel-online.org/info/experimentation.php>)
- 3) On-line **database of products for the teaching and learning of 20 European languages in a professional context**, selected and evaluated by language training experts. For each product a detailed description and evaluation form was completed which allow for language teachers and trainers to select the most suitable products to meet the needs for their target groups.
- 4) On-line **database of e-learning experiences carried out by language trainers and teachers**. Language trainers and teachers who have been involved in previous or current e-learning and/or ICT based language project described the experience carried out as well as its strengths and weaknesses also comparing the experience with traditional teaching methods.
- 5) On-line availability of an **Interactive form for the evaluation of e-learning products and technologies for language learning** and of a "ready to use kit" which contains a selection and review of technical tools and software for the production of e-learning material for language learning in a professional context.

References

Project web site: <http://letsgo.pixel-online.org>

Project Portal: <http://www.leonardo-lets.net>



Lifelong Learning Programme

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.
This material reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.