

English, The Saint James Way project.

Pilot test of the on line english course in Busturialdea-Urdaibai

Contacted all the private tourist associations and public tourist establishments in the region on initial introductory meetings about the project and the english on line course created for them, they are offered to take part in the pilot test of this english specific course.

This offer is not only made by meetings with associations, it was also sent an e-mail to every accommodation in the region offering them directly the participation on the course for free.

From Urremendi it was suggested to have an initial introductory meeting with the final accommodations that wanted to take part in the course, to explain them how to use the english platform and solve all the doubts it could be before starting the course.

But they decided it was not necessary the introductory meeting, that they had enough information about the course and the platform use in the students manual sent them by mail. And so we started.

22 people were registered to begin the course pilot test.

Some of them wanted to make the course in basque and some others in spanish.

Students in Basque Pilot Test <http://tsjw-eu.conexia.es> :

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The Service and Tutorial Sessions

The 18th October we started the pilot test in both languages, using for that two different platforms; one in spanish and the other one in basque. The official beginning of the course was on Friday 21st October.

As it was sheduled 48 hours after the official beginning of the course (we did it after 72h as weekend was in the middle), the tutor telephoned each of the participants to find out if they had been able to start the course successfully, and to encorage the ones who did not started to do it. At this point only one of the students had tried to enter the course, but found technical problems because of the computer.

One week after the beginning of the course, it was held the first tutorial session, by telephone. From 22 students only 2 had begun the course from Open Guided and 1 did it from Review, getting to unit 3. But we had to ask this last one to start again fom Open Guided, as it was the right way. Being things like that, the tutors call helped to solve doubts, encourage them to continue or start the course, reminding them they only had 3 weeks to finish the course.

In the cases that students had not begun the course for technical reasons, we contacted the technical team of Conexia to solve the problems.

The second tutorial session was held at the end of the second week, in that moment more than a half of the students were still working in unit 2 and two students had finished the whole course. Seeing the slow progress on the course of the students, we decided to extend the course till the end of november. Giving them like that one month and one week to complit the course, in spite of the stipulated three weeks.

One week before finishing the course, the 21st of November, was held the next session. 8 students were still working in the middle of the course and 10 had not even begun. They answer the tutorial calls saying they would have finished for the last week.

The 28th of November was the last day of the pilot test course in Busturialdea-Urdaibai and only 3 more students were added to the list of those who had successfully finished the course 15 days ago, the 14th November.

All the course participants were informed that the course was over.

The students who had finish the course received the tutors phone call to finish with the pilot test. The Checking Questions were used to ascertain the level of assimilation of the English language contents.

Once finished the course, we requested the participants to complete a satisfaction questionnaire about all aspects of the course and the service, via link, giving them the possibility of filling this questioner in basque or spanish.

Results of Pilot Test in Busturialdea-Urdaibai:

22 students give their names to begin the course.

5 students have completed all the course (11 units):

- Idoia Mallea
- Alicia Lauzirika
- Arantza Ibañez
- Alesander Picó
- Arantza Herrera

4 students reached to the half of the course (units 4-5).

2 students stopped in units 1 and 2.

11 students have not even begun.

Technical Considerations and Improvements

There are some answers where we should accept more variations, e.g. words synonyms, with or without “the” before the noun, etc.

The sound of some audio tracks should be improved.

Languages Learning Considerations

Being a distance learning they are essential two figures in the course:

- 1) The Technical Assitance
- 2) The Tutor.

The Technical Assitance helps students to access the activities when they have technical problems or need to install new versions of navigator.

The Tutor is completely necessary for the assimilation of the contents, to solve any kind of doubts of the course and to motivate students to finish the course.

**Los datos de los establecimientos y personas recogidos en éste documento, se remiten con el único fin de cotejar y comunicar la difusión realizada desde el destino Busturialdea-Urdaibai de las características y fines del Programa Leonardo da Vinci (English, The Saint James Way).
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