iTILT newsletter
May 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

Welcome to our new iTILT newsletter, a quarterly publication aimed at keeping you informed as the project develops.

ABOUT iITLT

The European project iTILT (www.itilt.eu) explores ways to integrate the interactive whiteboard into communicative language teaching, offering research-based resources in several languages including tips for language teachers, training materials, and examples of activities for learners of different levels and ages. As the project progresses, our website will offer classroom illustrations including class video clips with teacher and learner comments and related teaching materials.

About Interactive Whiteboards (IWBs)

Interactive whiteboards may look like normal whiteboards, but can significantly transform the language classroom. For this to happen, teachers need to be given adequate training and support in how to use the tool communicatively, to be aware of strategies and procedures for designing effective IWB materials, and to have the opportunity to reflect on their own practice.

In this newsletter you will find a summary of what we have been doing so far, and of IWB-related reports that you can read more about by going to our website.

iTILT project progress

We have recently completed the first draft of the training handbook and criteria for IWB materials design, which will be the basis of the project training (to take place later in the year). We look forward to working with our associate partners and receiving feedback on this very soon.

The iTILT website

As you know, shortly after the beginning of the project in January 2011, the iTILT website (http://itilt.eu) was launched. This is how you can keep more closely up-to-date with what we are doing.

We also have a very strong social media presence, in order to connect with as many educators interested in and using IWBs as possible. You can follow us on **Twitter** (http://twitter.com/ITiLTeu), become our friends on **Facebook** (http://tinyurl.com/itilt) and connect to us via **LinkedIn** (http://tinyurl.com/itilteu)

You can also find out more by listening to our podcast (available on the website). The first three episodes include interviews with some of the project partners talking about their views on IWBs and why they think the iTILT project is important.

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NEWS FROM OUR BLOG
On our blog, we hope to keep you informed about the most important developments regarding IWB research and practice. Below are just some of the latest stories we have been writing about.

NL study on usability goals & design criteria for IWB materials
a recent NL study on usability goals & design criteria for IWB-materials, especially related to Primary teaching, has come up with a very useful set of guidelines relevant to all teachers using this technology.Read more here:http://itilt.eu/node/19

European research on technology and language learning
At the EuroCALL Teacher Education and CMC SIGs annual workshop, held recently in Barcelona, research was presented on teacher competences for teaching languages with technology. The conclusions favoured an integrated approach to training which includes language learning awareness, technology training, and practical experience, including examples of classroom practice.
Read more here: http://itilt.eu/node/17

Research on using the IWB to support classroom dialogue
Other recent research which may be of interest is that conducted by the University of Cambridge. One of the conclusions suggests the use of the IWB as a 'digital hub', drawing together different technologies for dialogic learning and teaching. Read more here: http://itilt.eu/node/14

We hope you find the information in the newsletter of interest, and very much look forward to further contact in the near future.

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Education and Culture DG
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