iTILT newsletter
October 2012

Dear Sir or Madam

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

iTILT project piloting phase
We are now at the website piloting stage of the iTILT-project. All of the classroom video clips have now been uploaded and reports written to support these clips, with supporting information and comments from teachers and learners.

During the pilot, the classroom illustrations that the iTILT project want to make public will receive feedback from teachers about the value of the information presented. The classroom illustrations will be tested and piloted twice: once with the associated research partners and a second time with the project´s dissemination partners. Following this, a new version of the website, with the video clips will be made public.

iTILT Website
The final website (www.itilt.eu), which will be launched in December 2012, will offer a repository of over 250 learning objects (class video, audio commentary, IWB files) in 6 languages (English, French, Spanish, Dutch, Turkish, Welsh), for different sectors (primary, secondary, university and vocational education).

The website also aims to provide language teachers with a place to go to for professional development, training and support, with:
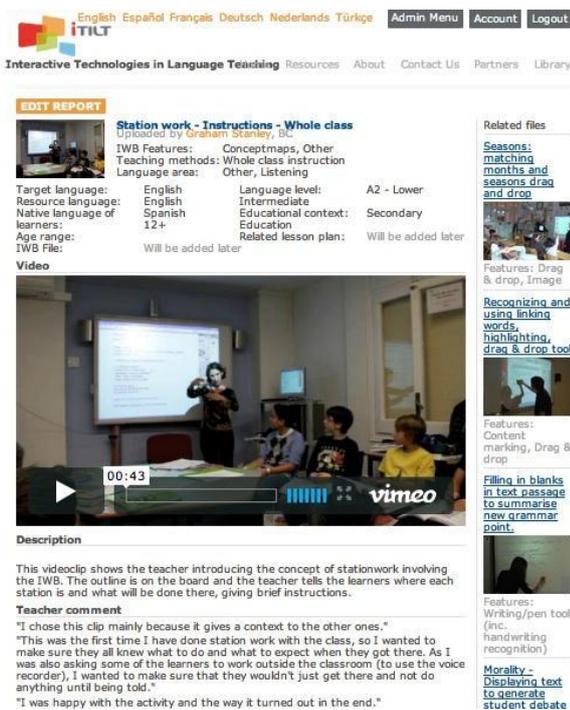- information about how best to use the IWB in language teaching
- example videos of teachers using the interactive whiteboard effectively in the language classroom
- an online community of educational experts and language teaching practitioners who are using the interactive whiteboard
- guidelines and support for teacher trainers
- resources for teachers (lesson plans, open source IWB files etc.) supporting the teaching of a range of different European languages, such as Spanish, French, English, Dutch, Welsh and Turkish
- interviews with teachers and learners about using interactive whiteboards
- a library with references to relevant research and links to external collections of IWB materials

About iITLT
If you are new to the project, iTILT (www.itilt.eu) is a European project which is exploring 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.

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NEWS FROM iTILT

Below are just some of the latest stories from the iTILT team. Read more on our blog: http://itilt.eu.

Data collection

The French team is happy to report that the data collection procedures are now complete and that we have exceeded our targets in terms of the number of teachers filmed and clips selected from each. In the end, we filmed 42 teachers in 7 countries. We currently have over 250 video clips online and are finalising our "practice reports." These reports consist in a webpage for each video extract, with information about the language, proficiency, and age of learners, the type of teaching method and objectives used, as well as the IWB tools and features to be observed (see image on the left).

Website development

Users of the website will be able to search the iTILT repository in order to find and to watch clips of teachers from different countries in different educational contexts using a range of features of the IWB. We also thought it important to group videos of clips from the same lesson, so once a particular clip is viewed, it will be possible to view related videos of the same teacher and learners, and read the participants' comments about each episode in the lesson. You can see an example in the image above.

iTILT cooperation with IWB companies

iTILT representatives have been in contact with both SMARTboard and PROMETHEAN to discuss possibilities of cooperation. Both companies agreed to reward the iTILT-teachers participating in the data-collection with further adequate tools or training to exploit the full potential of the board. Both companies are also involved in the iTEC-project of European Schoolnet. During a meeting in Brussels in September 2012 further synergies between iTEC and iTILT were discussed.

Quality Assurance: Next Steps

The UK partners are leading the processes for quality assurance in the project. To date, anonymised questionnaires have been administered to project partners to evaluate the quality of our face-to-face meetings and, during our Cardiff meeting, one of our external evaluators, Dr Sara Hennessey, attended the meeting to offer advice and feedback. As our 4th project meeting in Barcelona is approaching this November, the UK partners have designed a template for the quality assurance representative in each country to state the key achievements, challenges and ways to overcome such challenges throughout the project in a report. The UK partners will collate the reports into one which will be given to our second external evaluator, Professor Steve Higgins, prior to his attendance at our Barcelona meeting. This report along with other project documents will allow him to offer the project team advice and feedback.

Project meeting in Barcelona
The penultimate project partner meeting will take place in Barcelona on 19th & 20th November. We will be discussing the new website as well as planning for the final stage of the project. Look out for a report on our blog.

Dissemination activities
iTILT members have been involved in a number of dissemination activities.

Shona Whyte from the University of Nice gave 2 conference presentations which also appear in published proceedings and she has been working locally with several masters' students on iTILT data, as well as collaborating with Euline Cutrim Schmid and Sanderin van Hazebrouck Thompson in Germany, and Gary Beauchamp and Emily Hillier in Cardiff on further research activities. Shona was also interviewed at the annual Eurocall conference for the EU project Web2 for Lifelong Learning (http://www.web2llp.eu/) in recognition of our project's exemplary dissemination strategy.

In June, the UK partners attended the British Educational Studies Association (BESA) conference in Hull. This conference was attended by over 200 delegates from over 30 different universities across the UK. They presented the findings from the pre-training questionnaires and also an initial analysis of the video data across the different countries. The presentation was well received by academics and encouraged a discussion about the use of the IWB in different educational settings.
Additionally Emily Hillier attended the Cardiff School of Education staff research seminar group to present the iTILT project to members of staff and PhD students at Cardiff Metropolitan University. As many of the PhD students were international students and also studying the use of ICT in education, the presentation prompted a discussion about the way the IWB is used in different countries outside the EU.

Margret Oberhofer from the University of Antwerp gave a presentation in July at the IOIW Research Day in Antwerp on "Het IWB als medium voor communicatief taalonderwijs" and will be giving another presentation along with Ton Koenraad at the Levende Talen annual conference on 2nd November in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

More about iTILT
Find out more by going to our website (http://itilt.eu) or by dropping us a line at info@itilt.eu . We also use **Twitter** (http://twitter.com/ITiLTeu), **Facebook** (http://tinyurl.com/itilt) and **LinkedIn** (http://tinyurl.com/itilteu) as well as posting IWB news and links to relevant resources using **Scoop It** (http://www.scoop.it/iwbs-language-teaching).

The iTILT team
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