# INCLUSIVE FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING THROUGH DIGITAL TOOLS

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# LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE NEEDS TO BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS

• LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES, IN PARTICULAR ENGLISH IS THOROUGHLY A NECESSITY FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL LIVING IN OUR CONTEMPORARY WORLD. ALTHOUGH A WIDE VARIETY OF LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN IN EUROPE, AND IN THE WHOLE WORLD.

ONLY A FEW OF THESE ARE STUDIED IN SCHOOLS AS FOREIGN LANGUAGES DUE TO THE ROLE THEY HAVE IN OUR DAILY PROFESSIONAL, CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE. THE SOCIETY IS MORE AND MORE GLOBALIZED AROUND A MAIN LANGUAGE, WHICH, NONETHELESS, REMAINS ENGLISH. IN AN ERA DOMINATED BY THE WEB, THIS IS UTMOST TRUE AND ANY INDIVIDUAL IN ORDER TO LIVE ACTIVELY NOWADAYS NEEDS TO REACH A GOOD LEVEL OF COMPETENCES IN A SECOND LANGUAGE AT LEAST, ENGLISH IN THIS CASE. NONETHELESS, THIS SHOULD BE GRANTED TO ALL STUDENTS EVEN THOSE WITH LEARNING DISORDERS OR DIFFERENT LEARNING NEEDS, ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN ABILITIES.

## DIFFERENT LEARNING STYLES DIFFERENT SKILLS



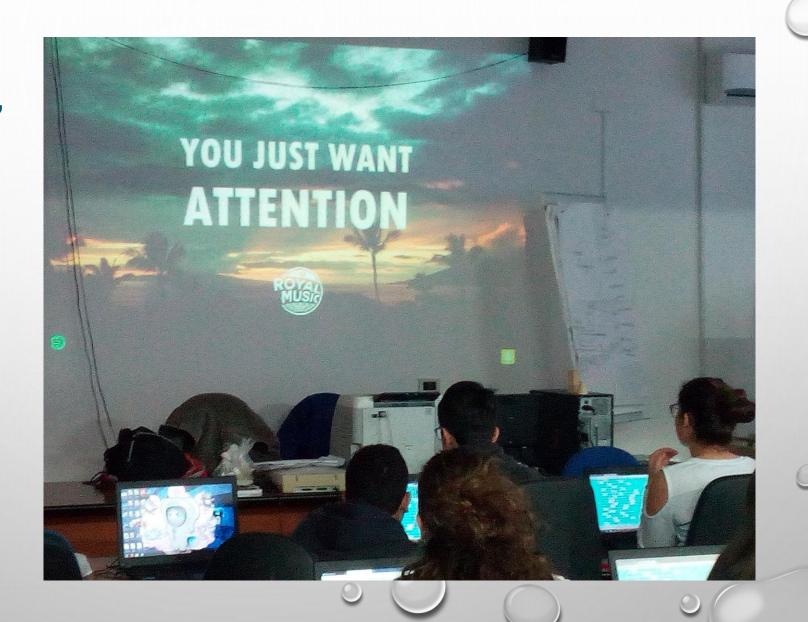
## M&ICT LAB- METHODOLOGIES AND INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY LAB

• IN A LAB LIKE THIS, EQUIPPED WITH LAPTOPS, SMARTBOARDS , WIFI INTERNET CONNECTION, **TEACHING FOREIGN** LANGUAGE HAS BEEN THE **MOST INCLUSIVE AND** ADAPTIVE ONE IN ORDER TO PROMOTE IN EACH STUDENT, ONE AT HIS OR HER OWN PATH, THE ACQUISITION OF A **BASIC COMPETENCE IN** FOREIGN LANGUAGE, WHATEVER THE STARTING LEVEL, THE LEARNING STYLE, OR DIFFICULTIES COULD BE...





An approach based on audio and visual learning styles, using for instance movies and cartoons in order to focus the students' attention, sometimes both in native and second language, small clips and songs with subtitles ,thus implementing reading and listening skills. In this sense the employ of YouTube supported by comprehension exercises to acquire vocabulary, correct spelling and pronounce using specific software and digital tools is really effective.



Some of the most valuable free software in my experience proved to be the following ones: to create "fill in the gap" matching vocabulary word exercise, Hot **Potatoes** (https://hotpot.uvic.ca) or Learning Apps (https://learningapps.org), -for online tests, Edmodo www.edmodo.com , a virtual class platform allowing the creation of quizzes ) and Kahoot ( www.kahoot.com).

They all provide a light, inclusive methodology, a flexible and game based approach.



Moreover, these methodologies allow creating unique materials. Learning becomes easier, possible and fun; students learn with pleasure and become aware of their progressions, avoiding frustration or that sense of being "different" from the others or "not capable". Moreover, the digital tools allow the teacher to provide different types of approach to cope with the styles or languages any student can have. For SLD students the use of the following tools have been very effective: word text writing with spellchecker, text to speech, audios and videos which fostered the abilities of communication. In addition to that, adopting the PBL (Project Based Learning) approach gives them the chance to practice real communicative and experiential tasks.







#### DIGITAL STORYTELLING

• ANOTHER TOOL, WHICH REVEALED TO BE EFFECTIVE IN INCLUSIVE LEARNING, IS DIGITAL STORYTELLING, A TOOL THAT IS AFFORDABLE AND EXPENDABLE WITH STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISORDERS. IT MIXES, ACTUALLY, VISUAL, AUDITORY AND KINESTHETIC PRACTICAL LEARNING STYLES. AN EXAMPLE IS THE FOLLOWING DIDACTIC PLAN, AN ACTIVITY CARRIED ON IN A CLASS OF 20 STUDENTS IN GRADE SIXTH AMONG WHICH 6 STUDENTS WITH COGNITIVE DIFFICULTIES, IN PARTICULAR, SLIGHT RETARDATION IN LANGUAGE SPEAKING AND CERTIFIED DYSLEXIA. ALL STUDENTS WORKING IN PAIR OR IN GROUPS WERE ABLE TO FOLLOW THE STEPS OF THE PLAN

Story telling Didactic plan taken from EUROPEANA www.teachwitheuropeana. org

#### **Pre Reading:**

The teacher chooses a text (. "King Arthur and the Sword on the Stone") and introduces the main characters and the main story reading the title and locating the events on a map in the interactive board.



- Step one: The teachers read the story aloud.
- Step two: The students, to reinforce reading watch the Disney's cartoon movie "The Sword in The Stone", in second language (English) with subtitles in Native Language to facilitate the global comprehension.
- Step three: A digital multiple
  questionnaire based on matching
  images and sentences on topics, events
  and characters of the story read(www.
  kahoot.com )is proposed to the students
- Step 4: The students are divided into groups and create in a cooperative way a storyboard for story telling.
  - Step five: The students put in order the images with their captions and prepare the storyboard on paper guided by the teacher





 Step six: The students in group retell the story orally following the storyboard reading short sentences.





- Step seven: The students take picture or scan the images and prepare the digital storyboard in a collaborative book using a digital tool to produce their ebook ( www.storyjumper.com ), rewrite the captions and read them recording their voice. The ebook is ready. It can be read, seen and listened to.
- Step eight: Final multiple choice comprehension questionnaire on the text ( www.kahoot,com)



#### Work in progress and a page from the final book

oryjumper

FRONT COVER

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Great Chamberlain: you are guessing, of course, how, why and how long we are here, in this place so amazing but so different from our beloved Britain. Therefore you have to know that my master, wounded in an ancient battle against his nephew Moderd and the allied Childercih, leader of the Saxons, decided to leave his throne and search for retirement among these woods. Far from human envy and from the poisons of power. So we have been residing here for long long time and King Arthur, God may have pity for him, suffers the misfortune of his lonely life, so painfful as there is no chance to heal from the suffered wounds, both of soul and body.



Artù venne sfidato del duello la spada ripararla.



















BACK COVER >

Digital tools allow the most inclusive approach in order to foster and promote skills in students for whom sometimes a traditional approach can represent an issue. As educators, we are claimed not to leave anyone behind and it is still an open question which kind of educational opportunities individuals with different abilities do really have within the Global school system and which ones they really can have.



The acquisition of equal educational opportunities and in particular Second Language as well as Digital Competences is a right for everyone in order to be an Active Citizen of this world.



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### THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION