European CLIL Resource Centre for Web 2.0 Education: Early-to-Longlife Languages Learning

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Abstract

CLIL has already been established as a valuable approach to both teaching foreign languages and specific subjects since it creates a meaningful context for learning. However, recent research reveals that even though CLIL is gaining popularity across Europe, further work is still necessary on relevant methodological strategies and available materials. Therefore, it seems there is an urgent need for specific materials, resources and guidelines for implementation which guarantee excellence in language learning. To reduce the detected difficulties and shortcomings, we are currently developing a European CLIL Resource Centre for Web 2.0 Education (E-CLIL) to directly address the enhancement of communicating in foreign languages by creating motivational resources that will raise engagement and confidence. This project has been funded with support from the European Commission and aims at increasing children’s exposure to European languages and to improve the quality of teaching through the implementation of CLIL within the European demand for acquiring a mother tongue plus two foreign languages. E-CLIL falls within the European philosophy of long life learning programme. It focuses on language learning, learning strategies, multilingualism and multiculturalism. The approach used within E-CLIL involves CLIL and ICT as recommended pedagogical procedure and resources. E-CLIL is currently being implemented in Madrid and will be extended to Brussels in September 2011. Extensive implementation will progressively take place across Europe from autumn 2011 onwards. The project team is currently creating interactive activities, tasks and games, within a central storyline, for the use of CLIL teachers. These resources will be translated into the project languages to promote a multicultural dimension. The project involves teachers, learners and educationalists to interact and collaborate with each other. Therefore, there will be opportunities for educators around Europe to engage with the project through social network groups, by providing CLIL resources for evaluation and by using the resources produced by the project.