



ICT for Language Learning Promoting Migrant Community Integration

Diana Farrelly, Carolyn Davidson

Southern Regional College in Northern Ireland (United Kingdom)

farrellyd@src.ac.uk

Abstract

Voice is a project developed to promote migrant community integration which incorporates an accredited training programme delivered by Southern Regional College(SRC). It also uses ICT to facilitate Language learning. Between February 2009 and January 2011, 110 participants completed a Level 2 Mentoring Practice Qualification. The course was entitled "Providing language support for non-English speakers" and was completed over two day sessions"

All participants were required to have experience working with non-native English speakers in a voluntary, community or professional capacity. The course taught participants how to teach English conversational skills to non-native English speakers. Improving language skills for migrants is considered a vital step in improving their social integration and quality of life.

Aim of the Course

"To promote migrant community integration through the provision of support materials and the effective training of community representatives who currently work with migrants to help improve their English language skills and to help them build social networks on a voluntary basis."

The course was set-up in response to the need of migrant workers and their families. It is believed that this is the first such course in Northern Ireland. Trainers had to design and develop course outlines and materials including interactive online materials from scratch.

Each participant was also given interactive Flash based training resources (available via DVDs). This was developed by SRC staff and provides users with a number of materials, games and exercises which they can then use to improve migrants English.

Use of Technology

Developing interactive flash based assets provides SRC with the ability to use these for other internal and external programmes. They can be incrementally developed and produced on different formats. Therefore this project uses technology to meet the Language needs of the migrant community.