

THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – ICT FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING, FLORENCE 20-21 OCTOBER 2011

Ligia Sarivan, PhD*

For several years *PIXEL Firenze* has been the host of international conferences on the use of ICT in language learning. In October 2011, the fourth event of this series took place in the capital of Tuscany - a very inspiring setting! (see Fig. 1) - under the effigy of Michelangelo's David (see Fig. 2) as if to remind us that human endeavour can lead to perfection!

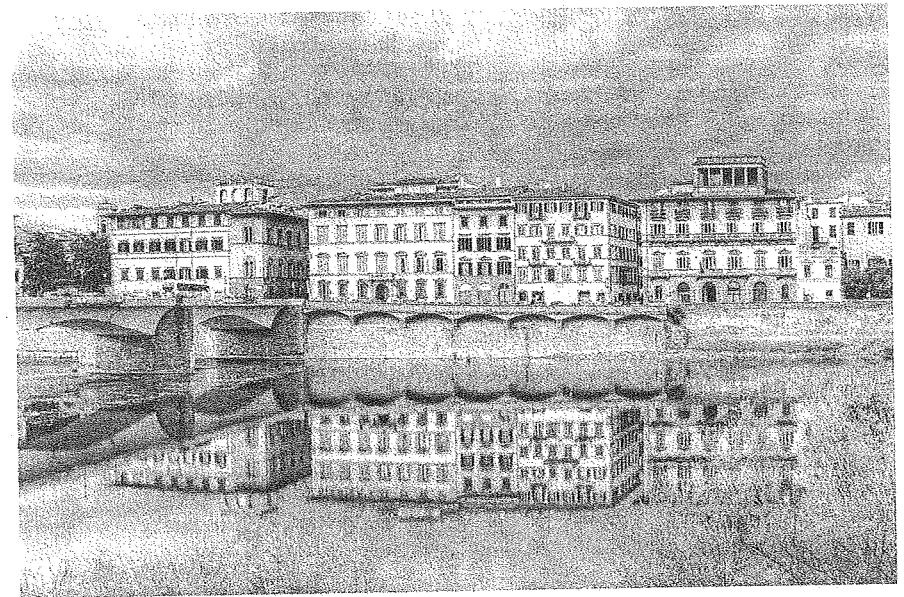


Fig.1. Florence inspiring setting

The 4th edition of the "ICT for Language Learning" conference had the aim to promote and share good practice and transnational cooperation in the field of the application of ICT to language learning and training. The conference also represented an excellent opportunity for the presentation of previous and current language learning projects funded by the European Commission and by other sources.

* Senior researcher, Institute for Educational Sciences, Bucharest, Romania
ligia_sarivan@yahoo.com

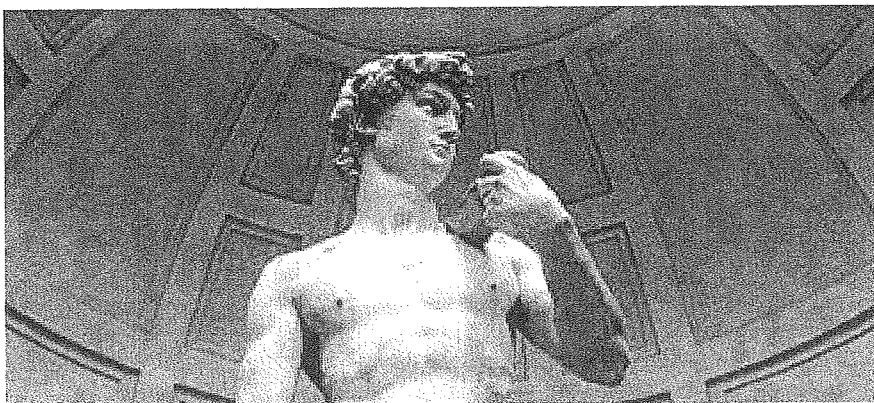


Fig.2. The conference emblem

The 4th "ICT for language Learning" reunited a large number of participants from all over the world: many coming from Europe, but also from the Middle East, the Far East as well as North America, Africa and Australia.

The following topics have been addressed during the conference:

- Collaborative Language Learning.
- Content and Language Integrated Learning.
- ICT Based Language Teaching Solutions.
- ICT-enhanced Language to Support Mobility and Integration.
- Innovative Language Teaching and Learning Methodologies.
- Integrating E-Learning in Classroom Based Language Teaching.
- Language for Business and Vocational Purposes.
- Studies on Second Language Acquisition.

The participants presented their work in oral sessions (see Fig. 3), in poster sessions (see Fig. 4) as well as in virtual presentations that were uploaded on the conference website before the beginning of the event.

Interaction among the participants has been encouraged: the oral sessions alternated presentations and questions whereas the poster sessions allowed the participants to talk to the presenters as well as among them.

Throughout the conference, the atmosphere was intellectually challenging and professionally fruitful. Many of the participants have been quite often challenged to make difficult choices to prioritize one of the three parallel sessions that took place simultaneously.

The variety of the topics as well as the diversity of the participants' cultural backgrounds transformed the conference in Florence into a remarkable encounter among the continents and a fresh cognitive perspective of what intrigues, propels and holds together language educators all over the world.

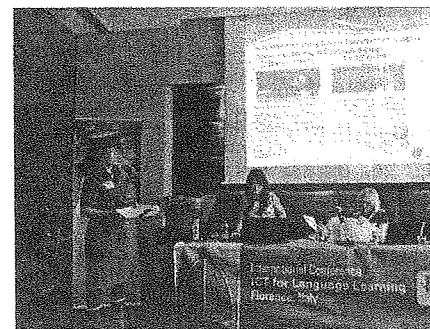


Fig. 3. Oral session

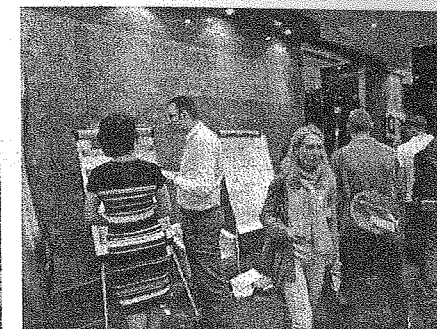


Fig.4. Poster session

Thanks to the excellent organization of *PIXEL – Firenze*, hundreds of language experts could share experiences on digital solutions they tested, integrated projects they developed, innovative approaches they implemented, multicultural networks, CLIL and so on.

The full papers as well as the speakers' profiles are uploaded on the conference website <http://www.pixel-online.net/ICT4LL2011/index.php> while the proceedings of the 4th edition of the ICT for Language Learning have been published by Simonelli Editore, University Press.

The author of the above presentation could participate in the Conference thanks to a Grundtvig grant from the LLP program.