Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL) and the Project Moblang

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Abstract

Today's world and job market require excellent linguistic competences. At the same time average people have not the time to attend a real language course. The solution is using the technology provided by a mobile phone or another handled device with a new method called Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL). This new methods has lot of advantages. First of all it is accessible because everybody has a mobile phone. Furthermore it allows studying and learning a new language in any occasion, because everybody takes the mobile everywhere. It is possible to use any dead time, as waiting for somebody or for the bus, learning new skills, stopping and starting again in every moment. Moreover this technology allows the creation of a real language course with vocabulary, exercises and games.

This method is still largely unknown, but a partnership between seven associations from four European countries decided to use it for teaching minority and/or less frequently used and less-taught European languages (LWULT). This project, called MobLang - Intercultural Dialogue & Linguistic Diversity via MobLang, has been founded by the Longlife Learning Program of the European Commission. It aims to develop an open-source mobile learning environment and a prototype micro language courses for teaching Greek and Turkish in Cyprus, Albanian and Turkish in Greece, Basque in Spain and Irish in the United Kingdom. Additionally the project aims to integrate the minorities that speak these languages in the society, so it takes into consideration the two biggest challenges the MALL has to face, namely "the limited social interaction" and "the lack of cultural context". At the end of the two years of the project, the users will have a language course in their phones and will benefit of language cafés and live tutors.