

Newsletter Issue 4, December 2014

Advancing Vocational Competences in Foreign Languages for Paramedics -2013-1-PL1-LEO05-37769

Welcome!

The MEDILINGUA project (2013-1-PL1-LEO05-37769) is almost half way through its duration and partners are continuing their hard work for the creation of the LMS platform and the training content. At the moment the second training unit, whose topic is “Children with respiratory problems”, is being developed. Partners are expecting the third transnational meeting which will be held in February 2015 and will be a forum for discussion of the next important steps under MEDILINGUA (recording of podcasts and testing phase). The Mid-term Dissemination report was prepared by Center Runi. The report contains information about the effectiveness of the dissemination of project results and the key conducted activities in this field up to this date.



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Examples of using podcasting in education

The University of Bergamo, Italy (<http://www.pluriversiradio.it/>)

Podcasting methodology was applied during the second semester of the academic year 2005-2006 for two undergraduate courses on multimedia communication and human computer interaction at the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy of the University of Bergamo.

Podcasting was used first of all for recording additional learning materials, to extend or integrate the theoretical lessons and the textbooks. The podcasts, lasting from five to fifteen minutes, did represent summaries of the lessons or debates on a single, specific topic.

Moreover, students also took part in the creation of podcasts. This aimed at introducing students to basic elements of graphics and to the management of audio files for extending the communication capabilities of web pages.

The course instructors helped the students by providing task assistance, handling technical problems and encouraging students' teamwork skills. Students communicated with each other through a forum provided by

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the university's e-learning platform, where they could post questions and answers and exchange learning experiences. The forum was regularly monitored by the instructors, but the students were prompted to answer by themselves to the questions posted by their colleagues.

The University of Manchester, United Kingdom

During the past few years, The University of Manchester has been testing various mechanisms allowing for recording not only lectures but also other group-based learning activities. The university uses podcasts in order to provide learning materials to be reviewed after the lecture. They used podcasting methodology also to address various learning styles and provide support to those students who have different educational needs. During the pilot run that began in 2011, students questioned expressed themselves very positively about the idea of using podcasting in the learning process.

The University of Manchester has used a highly automated system which enables teachers without video production experience to make recordings of their lectures. No video cameras are used by the teaching staff, but instead the system directly records the output of the projector and theatre microphones. The podcast system has demonstrated to be easy to use and popular with students, with 91% of them reckoned that they would reach better examination results after having used the podcasts, 94% would like podcasts to be more widely available and 88% pointed that lecture capture availability increased their satisfaction from the learning process. Data from an early trial of the podcasting methodology has also suggested a connection between the use of podcasts and increased examination performance.

First dissemination meeting in the United Kingdom

Despite of its specific partner status, Europe Evaluation Company managed to conduct a very fruitful dissemination meeting with Ian Teague, who is Assistant Director of Education for South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) NHS Foundation Trust (www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk). Ambulance Trusts are the largest employers of paramedics in England and Wales. SCAS covers the UK counties of Oxford, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, and Hampshire.

The Educational Development and Technologies Team at SCAS is using various new technologies for training, including pod(vod)casting and simulation. They have developed a mobile ambulance training simulator (called the Simbulance) which has been used for training of paramedics in all parts of the United Kingdom (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9uCnqml4D8>).

With language training and communication skills being a central feature of MEDILINGUA discussion between EEC staff and Ian Teague included the materials that are incorporated in the project scenarios. The point was made that the nature of communication can vary between people with different languages; not just linguistically but also contextually and non-verbally. This discussion was useful in order to see that the scenarios should be adapted to the cultural differences in partner countries.

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Mr. Teague was very interested in the project activities and expressed his desire to be kept involved with its developments. He also affirmed that he would very much like to establish contact and links with paramedic partners to explore possible developments, exchange of experiences, good practice, and maybe even personnel.

What's next?

The next steps of the project work are related to the third partner meeting which will be organized on the 10-th and 11-th of February 2015 in Sofia, Bulgaria. At the moment partners are working on the preparation of the Interim report that will be available in the end of February 2015. Also the development of the platform and the training content are underway and the partnership is trying to adapt them to the needs of paramedics. Partners will organize the second round of national dissemination workshops in the beginning of March 2015 and during them target group will receive detailed information about the project progress and check the latest version of the platform. The testing phase which is crucial for the implementation of the project will start in May 2015. Before that period partners are supposed to start the recording of podcasts that will be added to the training units.



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If you want to find more about the project and its activities, please, follow the project website and social media channels above!



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