

ELS @ Work: New Technologies for Language Learning

Elisabetta Delle Donne

Pixel

Firenze (Italy)

E-mail: eli@pixel-online.net

Abstract

The "ELS @ Work: New Technology for Language Learning" project is a successful example of an effective application of elearning in the field of language education and training.

The project has been funded by the European Commission in the framework of the Life Long Learning Programme Leonardo da Vinci – Transfer of Innovation.

The ELS @ Work project has improved and is fostering the use of the ELS Internet Portal for the learning of 5 different languages in a business context. As an integration to the distance language courses, nine different courses on business culture are also available.

Introduction

The knowledge of the foreign languages is a key element for a good employability. New Technologies can make the language learning process more user friendly and enjoyable.

Practical simulation and role plays can be developed using appropriate interaction multimedia tool.

Language students should have the opportunity to learn using these new tools which are based on the combination of different media. Language teachers and trainers should have the possibility to acquire the skills to use teaching strategies and material that are based on an effective application of new technologies.

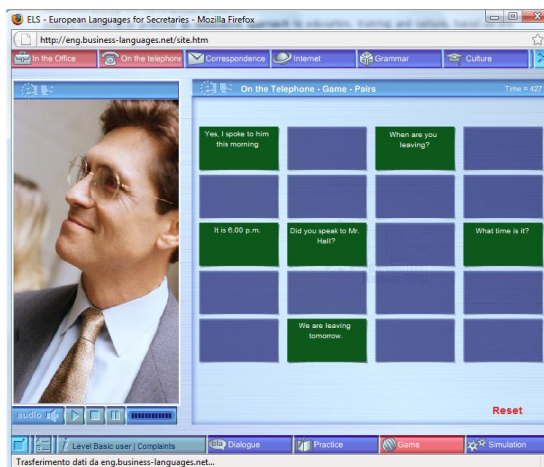
In this context the European Commission has financed the ELS@Work project in the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme (Leonardo – Transfer of Innovation)

The project is coordinated by Pixel in cooperation with partners from Belgium, Germany, Italy and Spain.

The main objectives of the ELS@Work project are the promotion of:

- Online learning of 5 European languages (English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish)
- Knowledge of European Business Culture

The project has also the goal of encouraging the inclusion of the ELS portal in the systems of vocational training and education in the partner countries.





Project Target Group

The direct target group of the ELS@Work project are:

- 140 users in 4 European countries representing the beneficiaries in the world of work (secretarial and administrative staff) .
- 120 users in 4 European countries representing the beneficiaries in the school education sector (particularly students in vocational and technical schools).

Project Objectives

The main objectives of the ELS @ Work project is to further improve the [ELS Portal](#) and to make it available to other entities (schools and businesses) not involved in the ELS project, in 4 different European countries.

The specific objectives of the ELS@Work project are the promotion of:

- **Online learning of European languages** (French, Italian, English, Spanish and German)
- **Knowledge of European Business Culture**
- an innovative language teaching tool based on **e-learning**
- a **virtual community of language teachers and trainers** at European level
- the inclusion of the ELS portal among the officially recognized tools for education and training

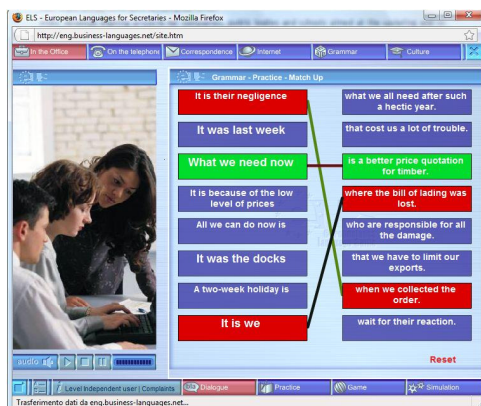


The Main Project Activities and Results

The main activities of the **ELS @WORK Project** are:

Development of online Course "Business German for Secretarial and Administrative Staff"

The course foresees two levels: Basic (A2) and Intermediate (B1). Each level is structured in 10 lessons focused in a Business Environment. Each lesson is articulated in different situation: In the office, On the telephone, Correspondence, Internet, Grammar and Culture. Each situation foresees different activities: Dialogue, Practice, Game, Simulation



Completion of online Course "Business French for Secretarial and Administrative Staff"

The course foresees two levels: Basic (A2) and Intermediate (B1). Each level is structured in 10 lessons focused in a Business Environment. Each lesson is articulated in different situation: In the office, On the telephone, Correspondence, Internet, Grammar and Culture. Each situation foresees different activities: Dialogue, Practice, Game, Simulation



Technical Improvement of the ELS portal

New tools and services has been created:

- a forum for each target language, that allows the interaction among students and among tutors and students
- virtual classroom system, that allows the school teachers to manage their students and check their performances

Inclusion of the ELS portal in the public training and education systems in the partner countries and certification of skills acquired

The ELS portal has been included among the officially recognized tools for education and training at regional and/or national level in the partners countries.

The ELS portal got the official recognition of the skills acquired from public authorities in charge of education and training, and in particular with those in charge of issuing official certifications.

Experimentation of the portal in the schools and in the companies in 4 European countries.

The ELS Portal has been experimented by more than 120 secondary school teachers and 160 people employed in European Small and Medium Enterprises.

References

[1] <http://www.business-languages.net/>

[2] <http://elsatwork.pixel-online.org/info/index.php>