

The ILLIMITED Project – Implementing Language Learning Materials to Increase Teachers Education Development

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Abstract

ILLIMITED is the continuation of the Leonardo da Vinci project ALTSOLEM, which developed easy-to-use, flexible, and inexpensive e- and m-learning software for national language training in workplace settings. This was achieved by creating the Altsolem House, an online community-based learning environment for language teachers in applied contexts integrated in an adapted version of the Moodle learning management system (www.altsolem.net). The House is accessible in English, German, Bulgarian, Latvian, Estonian, Spanish, and Italian.

Within the EU Leonardo da Vinci project **ALTSOLEM** an easy to use, flexible, authorable, and inexpensive e-learning software for language training was developed: the Altsolem House. It is a place full of ideas and materials for using e- and m-learning to enhance language teaching. The available tools allow to create activities and courses, and the existing examples and practices can help teachers, tutors and students to find information, ideas, and share discussions on the use of ICT in language learning.

In the follow-up project **ILLIMITED** (2007-2009), the partnership focused on completing the language versions, now including English, German, Bulgarian, Latvian, Estonian, Spanish and Italian, increasing the number of available tools, improving user-friendliness, training people how to make best use of it, and spreading information to a larger audience.

In the Altsolem House teachers can try out the set of tools, including forum discussions, chats, quizzes, podcast maker, and much more. The House can be a place to develop and host an e-learning or blended learning course, and also test 'm-learning' activities, seeing how mobile devices such as mp3 players, mobile phones or digital cameras can be integrated into language learning settings.

In the House people can move in the Information Centre to find links to projects, organisations, and tools, as well as news about events; the Materials Library, hosting resources on ICT for teaching of foreign languages; the Teachers' Centre to learn about e- and m-learning; the ICT for downloading m-learning tools; a "Message Wall" in the Cafè to contribute to the topics discussions; the Classrooms to create and access on-line courses; the Laboratory where trying out and gather first-hand experience with the tools.



Fig. 1 – The Altsolem House

The Altsolem House is based on the course management system Moodle. The fact that Moodle is open source software gave an inexpensive solution and allowed to make adaptations to the product according to our needs. Moodle is extremely popular among teaching organisations around the world, which gives the Altsolem House an appropriate setting.

Further information can be found on the project website www.altsolem.net - Roberto Righi, Amitié, righi@amitie.it