

BACKBONE

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This project addresses language teachers and teacher educators in secondary, higher and vocational education with a focus on content and language integrated learning (CLIL) and e-learning.

The overall project objective is to offer language teachers and teacher educators in CLIL settings pedagogic corpus and e-learning solutions involving authentic, subject-specific spoken interviews. With its "do-it-yourself" orientation, BACKBONE seeks to provide for lesser taught languages as well as regional, socio-cultural and subject-related varieties.

More specific project objectives include

- creation of pedagogically annotated and enriched web-based corpora of video-recorded interviews in English, French, German, Polish, Spanish, Turkish and English as a Lingua Franca;
- development of pedagogically designed tools for corpus transcription, annotation and search;
- pedagogic evaluation of the BACKBONE approach, corpora and tools in Moodle-enhanced CLIL courses in secondary, higher and vocational education;
- dissemination of the BACKBONE results and outcomes with a special focus on online dissemination support and a European BACKBONE conference;
- exploitation of the BACKBONE results and outcomes through teacher training workshops and an online exploitation service.

The project consortium consists of 8 partners from 7 European countries: France, Germany, Ireland, Poland, Spain, Turkey and UK: 6 HE institutions, 1 VE institution and 1 consultancy company. Together they represent CLIL-specific language teaching needs and pedagogical experience, linguistic and computational know-how, pedagogic evaluation competence, as well as dissemination and marketing expertise.

The methodological approach combines desk studies and empirical research, software and website development, e-learning design and blended language learning (BLL) implementation, corpus compilation, evaluation studies, workshop and conference organisation.

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