



## **Inter<sup>2</sup> - Promoting Digital Competences as a Tool to Overcome Cultural Barriers Among European Citizens**

**Dorinda Dekeyser**

E-mail: [dekeyser@cvoleuven.be](mailto:dekeyser@cvoleuven.be)

International Relations CVO Leuven-Landen (Belgium)

### **Abstract**

The Lifelong Learning Project Inter<sup>2</sup> started in September 2008 and ended in May 2010, as a collaboration between Finnish, Flemish, Italian and German adult education providers. We used the online platform Moodle to create virtual language classes in which learners from different countries and with different cultural backgrounds were able to introduce themselves and discuss some topics. In order to facilitate discussions we limited the number of topics to two, Cooking Square and Theatre Square.

Cooking Square basically is a forum where learners exchange typical recipes. They talk about the ingredients and the way to prepare it. Often a video shows the learners at work in the kitchen and commenting on what they do in the language they learn. Language learners in the partner institutions consult the forum, comment on the video's, ...

Theatre Square involved English learners who wanted to experience learning through acting. Each country choose a fairy tale typical for their region, translated it into English and sent it to one partner school. They exchanged their views on theatre, costumes, staging, ... The finale was an international theatre weekend in Tübingen (Germany), where each country staged the fairy tale from another partner.

We would like to show you how we integrated as much as possible the virtual classrooms in the "normal" classroom. The learners not only developed their communicative proficiency but also completed some activities in reading, writing and formulating their ideas. From a pedagogical point of view the Inter<sup>2</sup> project supported the ungoing teaching activities: teaching a (foreign) language is all about proposing methods and training skills to guide learners through the learning process.