

Grundtvig Partnership Project: 'iTongue: Our Multilingual Future'

First Term Partners Report

Project start-up and Study Weekend

In November 2013, Executive Solutions Training Ltd (ESTL), the UK partner for the 'Tongue Project' participated in the first Partnership Meeting and Study Weekend hosted by Project Leader Germany with a group of nine mobilities, eight learners and one trainer. Before the weekend, however, the organisation held two workshops in London to provide an introductory session on neurodidactics and the iTongue: Our Multilingual Future Grundtvig Partnership project to interested persons. These workshops proved to be immensely useful in providing UK participants with greater insight into the project. The sessions gave participants the opportunity also to have some preliminary questions answered before they read the detailed handout on neurodidactics ahead of the study weekend in Wildberg, Germany (14th - 17th November 2013).

The Study Weekend gave the group not only further learning about neurodidactics and language decoding, but facilitated their direct involvement in creating audio and video clips of decoded phrases. As a result, two members of the group will share that new learning with others in an introductory workshop on 11th January 2014 in London. Also being explored through one of the learners attending the Study Weekend is the holding a similar 'Introduction to Neurodidactics' and Leisure Language Learning workshop with members of an Albanian community group in London. As yet, however, arrangements have not been agreed. What has been completed, however, is a handout on using the software Audacity® in the preparation of decoded audio and video clips of language terms and phrases.

Participants gained a good understanding of the principles of neurodidactics and how it informs good teaching and learning practice. They learnt more about the 'Mexican Hat' effect because of the way neurons transmit messages to influence information storage by the brain to enable timely and appropriate retrieval later. The fact that decoding was less applicable to more complex translations of content from one language to the next was a significant learning point from the weekend.



Two teams creating audio and video clips and translating decoded text



One team translating decoded text



UK group for Nov 2013 mobilities.

Taking forward the learning from decoding and neurodidactic learning approaches

Among changes that will be used in making learning easier and fun as a result of participation in the study weekend are:

- Using the 'Mexican Hat' in approach to teaching
- Framing statements in positive way to enhance learning experience
- Make more use of music in teaching/training
- Use technology much more in education work
- Pass on concept of neurodidactics training to others
- Ensure most important studying is done as the last activity at nights
- Continuing to learn about how audio can be used to make 'new media' resources for teaching

Because ESTL is one of the partner organisations keen to develop the proposal for development of the accredited programme for the proposed Job roles of Language Decoders, we are planning to build on the learning from the two Study Weekends in Germany and Portugal to run a four-day training workshop in London towards the end of April (29 April to 2nd May 2014). Initial discussions have been held with an organization in Spain to market the workshop to organisations. Additional potential collaborators to promote the workshop will be sought during the first six weeks of 2014.

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6th January 2014