



Workshop 2

Workshop 2, coordinated by Gemma Delicado (Associate Dean of International Affairs. University of Extremadura. GexCALL group), Paula Ferreira Da Silva (teacher at the Official Language School of Almendralejo) and Noelia Plaza Fernández (research intern. GexCALL group), was intended aimed at the educative sectors of Preschool, School and Higher Education and Teacher Training. It was hold in English and had Ms. Maria Ellison as a guest, presenting her ELL awarded project “S.Te.P.S – Up” (Porto University).

The workshop was structured as follows:

- First of all, the coordinators welcomed participants, explained the dynamics of the activities and delivered the handouts to be used later on.
- Each coordinator presented an awarded practice related to the aforementioned educative sectors: *ALEHOP: Programme for the development of communicative skills* (Spain, 2011) and *LOA: Learning from/with one another* (Portugal, 2009).
- Guest Ms. Maria Ellison, from Porto University (Portugal) gave a detailed presentation on the project *S.Te.P.S – Up*, which was awarded the ELL in 2008.
- Participants were divided into five groups of five or six people in order to discuss, improve or adapt an existing project or develop a new one. While doing this, they posted their comments on the “case studies” section on the Nellip portal.

Every participant took an active part in this debate and they all appreciated the opportunity to share their opinions and experiences. Below, is a list of points they agreed on for promoting teaching quality:

- More cooperation between universities and schools
- In relation to the previous issue, more coherence between what is studied in teacher training and what is done in the schools, that is, the educational reality
- Institutional support



- Visibility of good projects that have not been awarded any prize but are worth knowing and implementing somewhere else
- Better dissemination of initiatives like the European Language Label. This one, for instance, is still unknown to many professionals in the field of education
- Participation of families in the students' academic life, as well as any other members of the educative community
- Collaboration among professionals in interdisciplinary projects
- Use of a variety of resources, giving freedom to the teachers to use those materials they think are more appropriate for their students
- To support and encourage foreign language learning from the different sectors of society
- To promote conferences, round tables and events that allow to share experiences and work together with partners from different educational backgrounds and cultures

As far as the participants' operative proposals are concerned, this is a summary of their ideas. Deliverables can be found as an attachment.

➤ **Group 1**

Adaptation of an existing project: *Language Awakening* (Official Language School of Salamanca, Spain, 2011).

Main objective: to enlarge the range of activities and topics and adapt them to all learning stages.

Topics include sports, music, monuments, weather, geography... from different countries. Besides, the programme is not only addressed to School Education but for higher stages too. Even adults could benefit from this initiative, specially taking into account the increasing need for lifelong learning and working mobility that exists nowadays.

➤ **Group 2**

New project: *It's time to sing*



Main objective: to connect different languages with songs

Children's songs would be used in order to teach specific vocabulary in a variety of languages. Computers, pictures or karaoke would make language learning and enjoyable and motivating activity for students.

➤ **Group 3**

New project: *Week of languages: English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.*

Main objective: to promote culture and language awareness.

This project involves teachers, students, parents and any other members of the educative community, who take part in conferences and workshops so as to give visibility to the initiative. These events would be international and include traditional games, recipes, original version films, expositions... The results would be published in a special issue of the school magazine.

➤ **Group 4**

Adaptation of an existing project: *Promoting foreign languages from a global perspective* (Spain, 2008)

Main objective: to motivate students

This improved project includes teachers, students and families. The latter would have access to an English course as well, so as to enable them to help their children and motivate them to learn a foreign language. Project dissemination would be essential, so the school website would be used for that purpose. Besides, new approaches regarding assessment would be introduced.

➤ **Group 5**

New project: *Social inclusion through sports, cultures and language learning.*

Main objective: to achieve social inclusion by means of a new sport practiced in the framework of a foreign language and based on common rules that respect individual cultural aspects.

The idea includes teachers, students, families and social and sports associations from five European countries. The main aim of the project is the design of this new sport and its rules within the cultural context of each language. In this way, people



from outside the educative community would become aware of the importance of learning a foreign language. At the end, there would be an international competition in a host country, in this case Spain.

Finally, with respect to the comments on case studies, they were posted on any case study participants liked. For this reason, bearing in mind that there were three different workshops taking place at the same time, it is very difficult to identify the comments that belong to each group. However, in general, it can be said that the comments were positive, since the attendees found the projects very inspiring and would use them as a source or ideas for their own teaching. As far as the teacher training students are concerned, they were delighted to see the ways in which they could improve language learning in the future.