

iPortal Newsletter

// **March 2015**

No:5

Fifth Partner Meeting

For the fifth partner meeting the project team together with the external evaluator Angelica Bucur had the pleasure to meet at the Europe House in London. During the three-day meeting, the partnership made great progress in the development of teaching materials for the different languages.

All partners presented their materials produced so far and shared their evaluation of the iPortal platform and the functionality of the various tools. The developers will take the feedback from the partners to update the platform.

The Bulgarian partner from the Future 21 Century Foundation demonstrated how the iPortal island in Second Life has been used for language teaching and what were the outcomes of the first tests. Afterwards the partners discussed exemplar scenarios to be used on the iPortal island.

We were very grateful to our UK partner, edEducation for the excellent organization of the meeting.



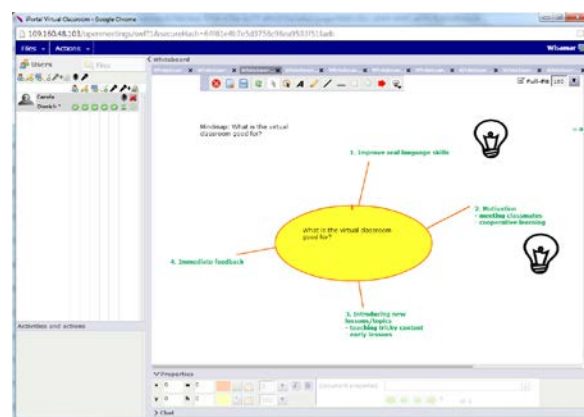
The project team at the 5th partner meeting

“Online learning is not the next big thing, it is the now big thing.”

Virtual Classroom

What can you do as a teacher with your students in the virtual classroom? You will see that the virtual classroom enables you to teach a language class like in a traditional classroom: you can communicate with your students, write important facts on the whiteboard, show a presentation or a video. In addition you can give your students permission to use the whiteboard themselves with interactive exercises like:

- mindmaps
- painting or guessing vocabulary
- writing stories/ dialogues in teamwork
- matching exercises
- text puzzles
- scrambled words



The virtual classroom within the iPortal

The virtual classroom will motivate the students through cooperative learning and the possibility to meet their classmates. As a teacher you are able to introduce new topics or grammar and you will get immediate feedback.

iPortal island in Second Life

The iPortal island in Second Life is very useful for the communication part of a language course. Before getting to the session in Second Life, the reading, writing and listening parts can be taught using the iPortal platform and the virtual classroom. On the iPortal island the students are able to improve their communication skills through role plays in different settings.



iPortal island in Second Life

At the moment you can find the following settings on the iPortal island:

- Bistro
- Railway station
- Bus station
- Police station
- College
- Hospital
- Hotel
- Shopping mall
- Exhibition hall
- Conference center
- Disco



Hotel on the iPortal island



Bookshop on the iPortal island

Next Steps

The project will be finished by the end of 2015. The next steps will be to:

- develop further materials for language teaching through iPortal
- finish the text and video tutorials as guidance how to use the iPortal platform
- undertake tests and trials of the iPortal platform, the virtual classroom and the 3D environment in Second Life
- train teachers on how to use the platform for language teaching

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.”

Nelson Mandela

Learn more about the iPortal Project

- Visit our website
<http://www.iportal4languages.eu>
- Test the iPortal platform
<http://demo.iportal4languages.eu/portal>
- Like us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/iPortalForLanguageLearning>

Thank you for your interest in the iPortal Project!