Second Partner Meeting

The second partner meeting was held in June in Malaga. This was an intense working meeting which covered a range of management and development issues, including the sharing of the project Quality plan, a checklist on deliverables and agreement on initial dissemination activities.

This was the first opportunity for partners to discuss some of the technical and presentational issues underpinning the iPortal. The coordinator Future 21st Century Foundation gave a demonstration of Second Life and the initial website was prepared.

Partners also shared their initial findings from the Needs Analysis and how the needs would inform future developments. English Unlimited, the Polish partner responsible for the Needs Analysis gave an informative presentation on the data collected and produced an agenda for the further work required to provide the analysis.

We were very grateful to our Spanish partner hosts, IPF, whose oganisation was excellent.



The project team at the 2nd partner meeting

**Did you know…..????**

**13%** of the people who now live in Germany, UK, Spain, Poland, Bulgaria and Turkey were born in another European state

Needs Analysis

The first major outcome of the iPortal project is an analysis of current provision and needs. The report, which was coordinated by the Polish partners English Unlimited, is the result of a survey of specialists and desktop research in all partner countries. Questionnaires were completed by VET professionals, ICT experts, a range of learners from school age to adults, and teacher trainers.

The final report is supported by 15 detailed appendices providing information on each of the six partner countries, UK, Poland, Germany, Spain, Bulgaria and Turkey.

The conclusions identified particular needs that will be addressed through iPortal. These include:

* the differences of provision in different education systems
* the particular needs of young people, especially those leaving school after compulsory education
* the large number of migrants and their children who have lost touch with their mother tongue and need to improve their skills.
* disabled learners who are not adequately provided for in currently available online materials and tools
* the lack of a consistent approach to teacher training and in-service professional development
* The report and appendices are available on the iPortal website [www.iportal4languages.eu](http://www.iportal4languages.eu)

**50%** of those questioned have never heard of Second Life, and of those who have, hardly any have used it for teaching

**Did you know…..????**

Technical Developments

The iPortal has been dependent on a high level of technical skill, which has been outsourced.

Much of the work in recent months has focused on identifying appropriate sub-contractors and tender processes. All subcontracts have now been awarded and progress on the technical work is on schedule.

An initial project website was developed early in the project and this has now been revised. The project also has its own Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/iPortalForLanguageLearning>

Work is now underway on the development of the Portal itself and the structure of the Second Life elements. An initial home page has been designed for the iPortal.

The home page will have a sign-in section for learners, providing access to the virtual classroom; it will enable learners to identify resources which address their own particular needs and also provide access to 3D virtual scenes and language learning radio.



iPortal homepage

**Did you know…..????**

**65%** of e-learning courses referred by language learners consisted of **READING** materials and **55%** of **ON-LINE TESTS**

External Evaluator

A tender process has been undertaken to appoint an External Evaluator. This was carried out by our Spanish partner, Iniciativas de Proyectos de Formaciòn, as part of their role as leader of Quality Assurance. The appointment process is underway and an appointment will be made soon.

Language learners rate the use of video as the most useful e-learning resource, whereas teachers rate the use of audio as most useful

**Did you know…..????**

Advisory Groups

Each partner has established small groups of professionals to offer advice and support. There are three advisory groups in each country. They are language professionals, ICT specialists and language learners.

If you are interested in joining one of these groups, please contact the partner organization from your country. You will find their contact details on the iPortal website.

Next Steps

2014 is going to be an exciting time for the project. The next steps will be to:

* complete the technical work on the iPortal
* finalise the Second Life structure
* develop audio and video content
* undertake initial trials
* gather feedback from the trials
* start to develop a training package

Learn more about the iPortal Project

* Visit our website

<http://www.iportal4languages.eu>

* Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/iPortalForLanguageLearning>

* Contact the iPortal team c/o Raychin Rachev F21 Foundation [raichin@mail.bg](mailto:raichin@mail.bg)

We would like to thank you for your interest in the iPortal Project and wish you a happy and prosperous 2014!