



THE TILA PROJECT

TILA introduces intercultural telecollaboration as a key topic for secondary school language teacher education. The project offers conceptual clarifications, training models and contents, as well as opportunities for hands-on practice and experience. It promotes professional development by addressing pedagogical, technological and organisational concerns for the successful integration of telecollaboration practices in intercultural language education.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The TILA project focuses on the following objectives:

- to innovate and enrich language teaching at secondary schools by pedagogically integrating intercultural telecollaboration activities between peers from different countries and cultures;
- to help language teachers and teacher trainers improve their ICT literacy skills and develop the organizational and pedagogical competences necessary for intercultural telecollaboration;
- to develop, implement and evaluate models and materials for intercultural telecollaboration tasks facilitating experiential learning and teaching;
- to carry out teacher training workshops in five project countries – France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain and UK – with a focus on telecollaboration for intercultural communication and learning;
- to pilot intercultural telecollaboration course units and study their pedagogical potential for motivating and effective natural language learning and intercultural competence development among younger learners.



AUTHENTIC INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Today, the internet offers a variety of engaging environments for real-life communication, interaction and collaboration. So why not use these facilities to give your students the possibility to practice their language skills in authentic interactions with peers from other countries.

VIDEO-WEB COMMUNICATION AND 3D VIRTUAL WORLD INTERACTION

Video communication tools like BigBlueButton, Skype or Google Hangout enable students to communicate with peers from other countries; and 3D virtual worlds like Second Life or OpenSim offer game-like opportunities and can be used for immersive collaborative and task-based learning activities. Learners can meet and work together on collaborative tasks or engage in role-plays in stimulating learning environments.

Synchronous life interaction between peers can be supplemented by written communication and collaboration in forum, blog or wiki activities or social media.



TEACHER TRAINING

Teacher training workshops will take place in France, UK, Germany, Spain, and The Netherlands. For more information, please visit the TILA website.

The face-to-face and online workshops will cover the following topics:

- Intercultural communicative competence and language teaching
- Advantages of telecollaboration for intercultural language learning
- Criteria and models for task development
- Organisation of telecollaboration activities
- Ethical and internet safety issues
- Skills for moderating telecollaborations
- Assessment and evaluation of telecollaborations
- Information and training on telecollaboration tools

TELECOLLABORATIONS BETWEEN STUDENTS OF PARTNER SCHOOLS

From October 2013 until December 2014, students from the partner schools carry out telecollaborations using a dedicated 3D environment in OpenSim, the video conferencing tool BigBlueButton and tools for written collaboration (wikis, forums, blogs or social media). They interact and collaborate using a second language in a functional and authentic way.



A STUDENT'S CREATIVE INPUT TO TILA

A student of our partner school in France visualized his personal view of the TILA project:



TILA PARTNERS

The TILA project consortium comprises universities, teacher training institutions and secondary schools from six European countries: France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, the UK, and the Czech Republic.

- Utrecht University, Coordinator (NL)
- Berlage Lyceum in Amsterdam (NL)
- 3DLES (NL)
- University of Roehampton (UK)
- The Godolphin & Latymer School (UK)
- Steinbeis Transfer Center Language Learning Media (D)
- Gymnasium Saarburg (D)
- Universidad de Valencia (E)
- IES Clot del Moro (E)
- Université de Paris 3 (F)
- Collège La Cerisaie (F)
- Palacky University (CZ)

Associate partners: 42 teacher training institutions and secondary schools in the Netherlands, UK, Germany, France, Spain, Poland, Portugal, and Italy.

If you wish to take part in TILA telecollaborations or teacher training measures, please contact us:

tila@uu.nl

For further information, please visit the TILA website and the TILA Moodle site:

www.tilaproject.eu
www.tilaproject.eu/moodle

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www.tilaproject.eu



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