TILA Task Specification

Topic: Typically German – typically Spanish

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Title of TILA task	Typically German – typically Spanish
Partner team (schools and teachers)	• Inma Martín Porcar (IES L'Eliana, Valencia, ES) 17 students, age: 16-18, Level A2/B1 • Christina Bouwmeester (Hariolf-Gymnasium, Ellwangen, DE) 23 students age 16-18, Level A2/B1
Thematic description	Students think and talk about what they think is typical for their own or their partner's country and culture.
Target language	English
CEF level	A2/B1
Learning objectives (linguistic, communicative, and intercultural, ICT)	Intercultural objectives • Exchanging views and stereotypes about each other's countries • Find out what the others think is typical for the other country • Express views on your own country Communicative objective: • getting the students to talk to "real" communication partners (→ in class: many (half-) authentic speaking activities; now: real communication) Linguistic objectives: • (DE): no special preparation due to the limited time frame (this would be interesting for future projects, especially with regard to the obligatory "communication exam" in the final exam (Abitur)) ICT objective: • Becoming familiar with a video conference environment; using voice chat and written chat
Description of blended learning approach	Preparation in class: • Different materials (mainly text-based or picture-based (cartoons, etc.)) to get an idea about Britishness and Germanness → reading, speaking, writing // individually, in groups, in class talk … • Explanation of the TILA project • Group activities: preparation of possible topics they might

	talk about Synchronous or asynchronous online communication: • BBB meetings with the Spanish pupils or communication in Moodle forum Post task in class • pupils compare their experiences in small groups (see questions below), then present the results in class • general feedback discussion
Task outcome(s) (products produced by students)	Authentic communication with real partners from a different country and culture Awareness of similarities and differences between the two countries and cultures. Stimulate reflection on stereotypes
Technical specifications (tools that will be used)	BigBlueButton Moodle Forum

Preparatory Phase

Description of subtask(s)	• Introduction to the TILA project • Introduction the Moodle forum and BBB; • Introduction to the topic and discussion about possible questions students could discuss with their partners • Group activities: preparation of possible topics they might talk about • Getting in touch with a partner and arrange a time for a meeting in BBB
Learning objective(s)	ICT objectives: Learn to use a Moodle forum and become familiar with the video conference environment BigBlueButton Communicative and intercultural: Students know what they want to discuss with their partners.
Environment and tools (classroom, homework, forum etc.)	Classroom → texts, cartoons, discussions, …
Form of interaction (pair work,	In class: individual tasks, pair work, group work (group

small groups, teacher centred)	discussions), presentations, teacher centred discussion
Expected outcome(s)	Students know what they want to discuss Students have arranged a time for their meeting in BBB

Main Phase

Description of subtask(s)	Meet in BBB or in the forum and talk about things or find out about things that are typically German or typically Spanish
Learning objective(s)	Intercultural objectives • Exchanging views and stereotypes about each other's countries • Find out what the others think is typical for the other country • Express views on your own country Communicative objective: • getting the students to talk to "real" communication partners (→ in class: many (half-) authentic speaking activities; now: real communication) ICT objective: • Becoming familiar with a video conference environment; using voice chat and written chat
Environment and tools: synchronous (e.g. OpenSim, BigBlueButton) or asynchronous (e.g. forum)	Students were asked to use BigBlueButton or the Moodle Forum (some of the students, however, decided to use WhatsApp)
Form and organisation of telecollaborative interaction: Number and size of telecollaboration groups; other participant roles	• Students were matched in pairs of two or groups of three for their communication in BBB • Students arrange a time for their meeting in BBB • Students who were not able to use BBB were asked to use the **forum** instead; all other students were also invited to contribute to the forum exchange. • Students access to BBB or chat from home computer
Expected outcome(s)	• Spoken or written interaction about things that are or are not typically German or Spanish

Post Phase

Description of post task	Feedback session in class with group presentations **Task:** Work together in groups of 5: Talk about your experiences and prepare a presentation about the following issues (15 minutes!):

	(1) What where the topics you talked about with your partners? (2) What have you known about Spain / Germany before (was not new to you)? (3) What did you find out / was new / particularly interesting for you? (4) How did you like working on the TILA-platform? What did you like? Where did you have problems? (5) Would you use the TILA platform again? Why / Why not? a. in a future class-project b. on your own (e.g. because you liked talking / because you think this might improve your English, ….)
Learning objective(s)	• Sharing and comparing experiences with classmates (and the teacher) • Getting the pupils to talk in class • Encouraging the pupils for similar projects in the future
Environment and tools (classroom, homework etc.)	Classroom
Form of interaction (pair work, small groups, teacher centred)	Group work + presentations + classroom discussion
Expected outcome(s)	Discussions of experiences from the exchanges and presentation of results in class

Handout for students:

<u>Typically German – typically Spanish</u>

Preparatory phase:

- Explanation of the TILA project
- Introduction to the moodle forum and BBB
- Introduction to the topic and discussion about possible questions students could discuss with their partners
- Group activities: preparation of possible topics they might talk about

Activity 1: Explanation of the TILA project.

The TILA project has different partners in several European countries:

Spain, France, United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands and Czech Republic.

Students like you from all those countries and their teachers collaborate to promote communication across Europe.

In your case, you will have the chance to meet students from Spain/Germany and we have prepared some nice activities for you to do with them.

The students you will be telecollaborating with come from a school called IES L'Eliana in L'Eliana, a town in Valencia (Spain)/ a school called Hariolf-Gymnasium in Ellwangen (Germany)

Do you have any questions?

Do you like the idea?

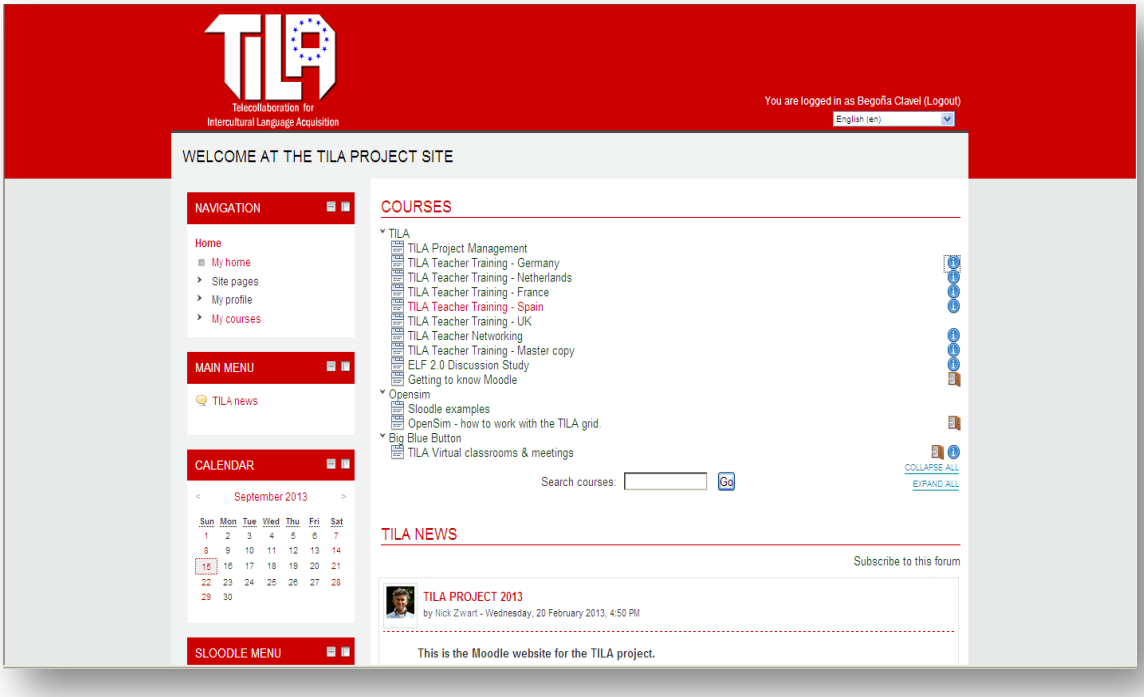
What do you think you are going to like most about this experience?

Activity 2: Introduction to the moodle forum and BBB.

Now we are going to access the environment where the telecollaboration sessions are going to take place.

You might be already familiar with Moodle because it is a platform that is being used in several schools across Europe.

This is what it looks like:



We have a class in Moodle where all of you and the Spanish/German students have been enrolled.

In the Moodle environment, we can also have access to the Big Blue Button platform. Here is where we are going to have the chance to have videoconferences with the students from the other school. We will see them, talk to them using the michrophone and we will also use the chat. Isn't that exciting?!?!

(At this point, the teachers can play a video with instructions on how to use this environment)

Do you have any questions?

What do you think you are going to enjoy more: the videoconferences or the chat?

Do you think it will be easy for you to use the platform?

Have you used similar platforms in the past?

Activity 3: Introduction to the topic: Typically German – typically Spanish

Take a look at the following pictures:

Where do you think those meals come from?

Do you know their names?

Have you ever tried them?

Can you name other meals from those countries?

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think about Spain/Germany?

Do you know the colours of the flags of those countries?

Here you are:

Can you name a famous person from those countries?

Activity 4: Topic preparation.

In groups, you have to prepare a list of topics that you will use in the telecollaborative session with the Spanish/German students.

Think about the type of things you want to know about them and their country, but also about the kind of things that they might be interested in about your country.

Discuss this in the group and then write a list.

Main phase:

- telecollaboration exchange

Post phase:

Activity 5:

Work together in groups of 5: Talk about your experiences and prepare a presentation about the following issues (15 minutes!):

What where the topics you talked about with your partners?

(1) What did you know about Spain/Germany before (was not new to you)?

(2) What did you find out/was new/particularly interesting for you?

(3) How did you like working on the TILA-platform? What did you like best? Where did you have problems?

(4) Would you use the TILA platform again? Why / Why not?

   a. in a future class-project

   b. on your own (e.g. because you liked talking / because you think this might improve your English, ….)