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Abstract Title: EUROMOBIL language training and information programmes promoting student mobility

Sub-Theme: E-Learning, Collaborative Learning and Blended Learning

Target Educational Sector: Higher Education

Abstract (Poster, Wed 5 Sept 2007, 20.00-22.00):

The EUROMOBIL multimedia language training and information programmes were developed for 9 European languages with the support of the European Commission and will be available in autumn 2007 at www.euro-mobil.org. They are intended to promote university student exchange into the following countries: Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and the United Kingdom. These nine EUROMOBIL programmes are not mere variations of one master programme in different languages but individually developed applications reflecting the needs of exchange students in the countries in question. As such, they are based on needs analyses carried out in partner countries, and differ in content and form. However, they all provide language training along with socio-cultural information on the target countries and universities. Three programmes are intended for advanced learners - DE, EN and FR - as exchange students in these countries are expected to study in local languages. To prepare exchangees for various academic situations in DE, EN and FR universities, authentic video recordings are used along with language learning tasks. Further, the French programme offers tasks on two lower levels (beginner and intermediate), taking into account differences in FR language skills among incoming students. Programmes in the remaining six less widely used and taught languages (CZ, FI, HU, PL, PT, and RO) develop and train "survival" skills for coping with everyday situations as the need for acdemic communication in the target language is less pressing. The topics and vocabulary reflect the survey and analysis of students 'needs as well as internal evaluation of pilot versions with exchange students. The EUROMOBIL programmes provide intercultural learning in new environments (not only an offline application, but also an online plurilingual discussion forum for exchanging views and experiences) and can be used in autonomous as well as in blended learning. They will be presented both in Poster and Show and Tell format.

Keywords: Independent Learning; Intercultural Competence; Language Skills; Learner Autonomy; Learner Support

Biography:

Dominika Benešová Grundová started her career as lecturer of English for medical purposes and of Czech as foreign language at Charles University in Prague in 1995. Her CALL projects include the online course of Czech for English speaking medics (www.lf3.cuni.cz/cestina) and Czech for exchange students for www.euro-mobil.org.