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Category: none

Abstract Title: Learning 9 European languages with EUROMOBIL programmes in preparation for studying abroad

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

Target Educational Sector: Higher Education

Abstract (**Show and Tell, Wed 5 Sept 2007, 19.00 – 19.30**):

EUROMOBIL programmes for 9 European languages are being developed with the support of the European Commission for exchange students who want to prepare themselves for their studies in one of the following countries: Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and the United Kingdom. They are designed on the basis of a needs analysis survey amongst exchange students in all the target countries. Accordingly, the 9 programmes are not identical copies of one master programme but differ in content and form. This presentation of EUROMOBIL programmes will show how hybrid multimedia material is designed to suit the specific needs of target user groups. We chose to apply "just-for-you" and "just-in-time" approaches to delivering a specific content for the training of communicative skills and socio-cultural competences in the target countries and universities. Three programmes are intended for advanced learners of DE, EN and FR as exchangees in these countries are expected to study in the local language. These programmes focus on academic discourse training and use videos recorded in authentic study situations at DE, EN and FR universities. Furthermore, the French programme offers tasks on beginner and intermediate levels as well, taking into account differences in FR language skills among incoming students. Programmes in the six less widely used and taught languages (CZ, FI, HU, PL, PT, and RO) develop and train survival skills for coping with everyday situations, including orientation at a university in the host country. The offline programmes are linked to the project website and to the online forum that can be used either for supervised discussion tasks or for autonomous exchange of views and experiences between former, current and prospective exchange students. Consequently, the EUROMOBIL programmes can be used in autonomous as well as in blended learning.

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

Biography:

Sabine Ylönen is a senior researcher at the Centre for Applied Language Studies, University of Jyväskylä, Finland. Her research interests are German as a foreign language, new media in language learning and teaching, text and discourse analysis, and communication for specific purposes.