



Developing online teaching skills (DOTS)

(Weiter-)Entwicklung von Online-Lehrfähigkeiten

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Medium-term project 2008 – 2011

Working languages: English, German

Project website: <http://dots.ecml.at>

Aim

Will develop a training kit for distance teaching.

Abstract

The project will develop an online platform for delivering teacher training at a distance using an approach based on sociocultural and constructionist theories, in terms of pedagogy and technology. Moodle has been chosen for the virtual learning environment as it is based on constructionist principles. Promoting innovative, technology-based approaches necessitates a close consideration of the real life context of language teachers. Therefore, the DOTS project will include the needs of teachers working part-time or freelance.

DOTS will bring together a group of specialists in teaching languages to adult learners of all backgrounds. Their pedagogic expertise will ensure that the products are focused on best practice in the application of ICT, using technology as a means to support the development of communicative and intercultural skills. The network of institutions will build on its experience in a) the teaching of different languages, b) open and distance learning, c) supported online language tuition, and d) teacher training, in order to develop training materials.

Expected results

This project will encourage new forms of teaching and learning languages and improve the quality of online language education. It will:

- identify teachers' ICT training needs by enquiry and observation;
- evaluate bite-size training materials by participants and experts;
- collect reflective activities (website);
- disseminate DOTS materials, cascade results and training experience.

Products:

- guidelines for writing training materials;
- training kit: DOTS project website with bite-size activities for online language teaching.

Targeted sector: tertiary level

