

Title of Session: EuroLang Forum - Job Swap

Moderator: Bee Dieu

Guest Speaker: Kajetan Rodak

Title of File: 20030413el

Date: April 13, 2003

Started recording in After School Online Room
(#1460)[TappedIn] at Sun
Apr 13 12:39:25 2003 PDT.
BJB drops 2003/04/13 EuroLang - Job Swap
(recording).

KajetanZR says, "Hi, this is Kajetan from Sweden"

BeeD says, "Hi Kajetan...it's me Barbara..."

KajetanZR says, "Hi Barbara"

BeeD says, "I am your host tonight for the Euro
Language Forum...I suggest we wait a bit for people
to log in"

KajetanZR asks, "Am I at the right place?"

KajetanZR says, "Let's wait"

BeeD nods

BeeD asks, "Tell me...how are your students
enjoying the Classroom Twinning?"

KajetanZR says, "They enjoy it a lot, and me too,"

BeeD asks, "Good...mine have started
answering...are you going to allow yours to go
online on their own?"

KajetanZR says, "they were wondering about the
strict upbringing"

BeeD asks, "What do you mean about the strict upbringing...yours or ours?"

KajetanZR says, "Under certain circumstances, yes but it is complicated in Sweden"

KajetanZR says, "your students said in brainstorming that the Swedish kids receive strict upbringing"

BeeD this is an image for you to dispel :-)

KajetanZR says, "I will let my students reply to your students images"

KajetanZR asks, "How old are your students?"

BeeD says, "The 13 to 15 are in the lower English forum while the 15 to 18 are in the Upper English"

BeeD asks, "How old are yours?"

KajetanZR says, "those involved with yours 16"

BeeD asks, "Why is your school called Media? Is it a special course?"

KajetanZR says, "Yes it is , as I described in the school's profile: web design, journalism, foto ..."

BeeD asks, "I see... but it is a high school nevertheless right?"

KajetanZR says, "all Swedish teenagers: 16-18 attend a high school, it's unlike any other country"

BeeD listens attentively

KajetanZR says, "formally, all students from high school are qualified - formally - for university"

KajetanZR says, "The Swedish school system is one big experiment"

BeeD asks, "Do you have a national curriculum in Sweden?"

KajetanZR says, "absolutely, this is an experiment too, because the curriculum is very general"

LaurenceB has arrived.

LaurenceB's personal recorder (recording) has arrived.

KajetanZR says, "the objectives are very broad, everything is very free"

BeeD asks, "I see...aren't the results very heterogeneous?"

BeeD wave hello to Laurence

LaurenceB exclaims, "Hello!"

KajetanZR says, "yes they are, as is the whole school reality"

BeeD says, "So Kajetan...as we have some audience...let's officially start the Euro Language Forum.."

KajetanZR says, "Hello Laurence"

BeeD says, "We normally start with introductions"

LaurenceB asks, "Hello, I didn't check the programme tonight... ???"

BJ [Helpdesk] says, "I'm a teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for TAPPED IN"

BeeD projects Bee's intro.

Barbara Dieu is Coordinator of Foreign Language Dept. and EFL teacher at the Lycee Pasteur, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

LaurenceB says, "I'm a teacher of English as a second language in Martinique, French West Indies."

BeeD asks, "Kajetan?"

KajetanZR says, "I am a teacher in Stockholm Sweden"

LaurenceB exclaims, "long distances!!!"

KajetanZR says, "and supposed to tell you tonight sth about my projects"

BeeD says, "Kajetan will be telling us how he swapped jobs with an Austrian colleague for a week"

BeeD says, "Tell us how it all started"

LaurenceB asks, "you mean via the internet or in person?"

BeeD says, "Kajetan...althought there are not many people present tonight...the transcript will be recorded and emailed to the whole community"

KajetanZR says, "I had a project with my Austrian colleague, we exchanged quizzes about our countries via internet"

BeeD asks, "Is she a teacher of English as well?"

KajetanZR says, "in the quizzes we asked the other side about our mutual countries to find out what they know not know - yes she is"

BeeD listens attentively

LaurenceB asks, "Did the teachers create the quizzes or did the students get in that part ?"

KajetanZR says, "and the objective was to carry out a student exchange"

BeeD asks, "Virtual or real?"

KajetanZR says, "it is the own work of the students after certain guide lines"

KajetanZR says, "the exchange was to be done for real"

BeeD asks, "Austrian students in Sweden and vice-versa?"

KajetanZR says, "yes, exactly"

KajetanZR says, "but it failed because of differences in the timetable"

BeeD asks, "School calendar?"

LaurenceB says, "that's the question I was about to ask..."

KajetanZR exclaims, "so, we decided to exchange ourselves instead!"

LaurenceB says, "I don't think so Beed, just time zones"

BeeD says, "Time zones? But if it is real...no problem with time zones..."

LaurenceB asks, "Where had you met the other teacher?"

KajetanZR says, "yes, when the Austrians were free to travel our students had holiday, when we could travel the Austrians had exams..."

BeeD exclaims, "This is a problem!"

KajetanZR says, "we co-operated in a European project"

KajetanZR says, "it involved the German language first but I found more quality with English"

BeeD asks, "So, once you decided to swap jobs how was this organized at school level?"

KajetanZR says, "the good thing was that beaurocracy was minimal, I and the other teacher fixed all the planning"

KajetanZR says, "since we took over each other's students the principals did not need to worry about substitutes"

BeeD says, "/think when things are left to teachers with no admin involved...it usually works"

KajetanZR says, "and of course the principals endorsed our ideas, they liked it"

BeeD thinks Kajetan is lucky to have principals who like innovation and back it up

KajetanZR says, "my week in Vienna was a great success, the students loved the variation and the info about Sweden"

LaurenceB says, "Different way of seeing like Bee...."

LaurenceB says, "LIFE"

BeeD asks, "What was it like to step into a different classroom...and have a completely different group of students?"

KajetanZR says, "to be honest, the organization in Sweden is very liberal, the teachers are autonomous"

BeeD exclaims, "What a bonus!"

LaurenceB says, "we're far from it in the French system..."

BeeD says, "This is the least you can say...lol"

KajetanZR says, "it was worse for the Austrians, their system is very conservative - but in this particular case their principal was in favour of the idea"

LaurenceB says, "Mind you, I suppose it would be OK as long as it only involves teachers for most principals."

JeffC has arrived.

Mrcrecorder (recording) has arrived.

Ikarus Recorder 1 (recording) has arrived.

KajetanZR says, "well, I am an experienced teacher animal so I had no problems :)))"

BeeD greets the newcomer

BeeD asks, "Were your students and the ones from Austria in the same level at school?"

JeffC waves.

KajetanZR says, "It was worse for my Austrian counterpart - she needed to adjust to a new school culture - where students and teachers are on the first name basis ..."

LaurenceB asks, "Are Austrian kids taught English as early as they are in Sweden?"

BeeD . o O (no problem here in Brazil...this is how we function as well)

KajetanZR says, "more or less yes"

BeeD asks, "What were the main differences you noticed?"

KajetanZR says, "1. communication between the teachers and students it was very nice and full of respect in Austria"

KajetanZR says, "2. discipline - everybody was well behaving in Austria"

KajetanZR says, "3. traditional methodology - lecturing , school books, grammar in Austria"

LaurenceB asks, "Were your students better-behaved when your partner taught them?"

BeeD asks, "How big are the classes in Austria?"

BeeD asks, "and how big are they in Sweden?"

KajetanZR says, "no, no you cannot change the behaviour for one week - the Austrian society is Catholic and patriarchal more than the Swedish"

KajetanZR says, "in Sweden the classes are nominally 30 students -but in reality we can make project groups as we wish"

LaurenceB asks, "what level were the students? What age?"

KajetanZR says, "and we change the so called classes very often - the longest period the class stays together is one year"

BeeD asks, "How many hours of English do they have? Is it fragmented or can you take your hours as you wish depending on the project you are on?"

KajetanZR says, "16 years - they learned English for 6 years"

KajetanZR says, "the course has 90 hours per year - yes we can maneuver with the hours"

BeeD . o O (I would say this would correspond to a French lere)

KajetanZR says, "there are no homogenous groups in Sweden so there are all kinds of students in one class -that's a disadvantage"

KajetanZR says, "you know the Swedish equality - everybody has to enjoy the same chances :)))"

BeeD says, "Our classes are not homogenous either...but this has nothing to do with equality...lol"

KajetanZR says, "there are no special classes or schools in Dweden - with certain exceptions es of courses"

KajetanZR says, "the similarities between Austrians and Swedes was the global popular culture"

BeeD listens with interest

KajetanZR says, "and pride of the own nation :)) especially in winter sports ..."

KajetanZR says, "and of course the mutual stereotypes ..."

KajetanZR says, "the stereotypes are ever existing ..."

BeeD wonders what these were

BeeD asks, "Kajetan , do you have anything online about this project you could show us?"

KajetanZR says, "for the Austrians the Swedes are blond, get drunk all the time and the queen"

KajetanZR says, "of course I will paste the site but some material is in German"

BeeD asks, "anything in English?"

KajetanZR says,
["http://www.mediagymn.se/kajetan/tfe/"](http://www.mediagymn.se/kajetan/tfe/)

KajetanZR says, "enjoy this self-irony of my students"

KajetanZR says, "9 Reasons for being Swedish:"

KajetanZR says, "1. Hard pressure on everyone"

KajetanZR says, "2. Volvo"

KajetanZR says, "3. Blond girls"

KajetanZR says, "4. Computer in every home"

KajetanZR says, "5. Everyone think they are in Switzerland"

KajetanZR says, "6. Caviar and hard bread"

KajetanZR says, "7. Meatballs"

KajetanZR says, "8. We have very good pop music produces"

KajetanZR says, "9. Vikings"

BeeD asks, "May I project Kajetan's site?"

KajetanZR says, "By: Mikael Svensson and Elin Dun"

KajetanZR says, "10 REASONS FOR BEING SWEDISH:"

KajetanZR says, "1 You get to meet a Viking on the way to your local store."

KajetanZR says, "2 Everyone drives a Volvo."

KajetanZR says, "3 All the girls are blondes and got blue eyes."

KajetanZR says, "4 The nature is public property. Do whatever you like with it."

KajetanZR says, "5 You get to put moisture tobacco under your upper lip, so called snuff."

KajetanZR says, "6 Santas home country."

KajetanZR says, "7 Meatballs and potatoes is an everyday meal."

KajetanZR says, "8 Everytime you cross the street you'll see a polar bear."

KajetanZR says, "9 All the houses are red with white edges."

KajetanZR says, "10 Rotten fish is a delicious meal, once a year."

KajetanZR says, "SWEDEN"

KajetanZR says, "10. Its fun to have a Systembolag."

KajetanZR says, "9. Its fun to have the movies 6 months later."

KajetanZR says, "8. You can have a teabag filled with dirt and call it Snus."

KajetanZR says, "7. One word: Smorgasbord."

KajetanZR says, "6. 8 million blondes, and counting"

KajetanZR says, "5. We can go ice-skating on the roads."

KajetanZR says, "4. Old citizens TV-favourite: Lasse Kronr."

KajetanZR says, "3. Watch out! Theres a polar bear on the street."

KajetanZR says, "2. You can jump around a tree like a frog, without being stupid."

KajetanZR says, "1. The all-time favourite tourist attraction: Elk-sign-hunting."

BeeD exclaims, "Ouch!....we can project it Kajetan!"

BeeD projects the URL:
<http://www.mediagymn.se/kajetan/tfe/>

BeeD asks, "Where should we click?"

KajetanZR says, "since you will receive a transcript of this chat you can read it later on"

BeeD asks, "We can also project the page...did your projection page open?"

KajetanZR says, "yes I see my tfe site"

BeeD says, "Good...this is one of the great resources Tappedin offers...projecting"

KajetanZR says, "projection is wonderful"

BeeD asks, "What were the main difficulties your colleague faced?"

KajetanZR says, "she could not establish a working relationship with the students too big differences"

KajetanZR says, "the swedish pedagogics is based on free exchange - the teacher has to know how to take the students"

BeeD asks, "Could you give us an example of such work?"

KajetanZR says, "my colleague is a great person - and I briefed her a lot on how to handle my

students but she succeeded to crack the code first towards her week"

KajetanZR says, "towards the end of her stay at the Swedish school"

BeeD asks, "How do you plan your work? What are the objectives set and how do you go about it?"

KajetanZR says, "the planning has to be very flexible and open"

KajetanZR says, "we have to ask and listen to the students all the time"

BeeD asks, "What themes do you work on?"

KajetanZR says, "but of course the last word belongs to the teacher"

KajetanZR says, "topical events, books reading, some texts, creative writing, foreign countries like the twinning for instance"

BeeD asks, "And how do you assess them?"

KajetanZR says, "I use a lot material from cnn and bbc"

KajetanZR says, "I assess their written productions - that's very objective and I listen to how they speak English all the time, and of course I assess the quality of the contents of their work"

BeeD asks, "So..all in all...in a nutshell...what were the main benefits of this project and job swap for your students and for the teachers involved?"

KajetanZR says, "if sb writes intelligent questions to the Brazilians it will give very good if there are superficial ones it will give only pass ..."

BeeD smiles

KajetanZR says, "the teachers experiences a teaching in a foreign school culture and language, the students learn sth about the other country and did a lot of self-reflecting on the own country"

KajetanZR says, "Austria is a close European country but for me it was a unique pedagogical adventure"

BeeD says, "This is also very important...reflecting on what you take for granted"

BeeD says, "Thank you Kajetan for sharing this special experience with us."

KajetanZR says, "absolutely"

KajetanZR says, "my pleasure"

BeeD exclaims, "We will not have any more sessions here in April as we will be on holidays...but will be back in May!"

KajetanZR exclaims, "I appreciated the invitation and the talking. See you in May then!"

BeeD exclaims, "I hope you can join us in the future sessions...now that you know the way!"

KajetanZR says, "I certainly will"

BJ . o O (perhaps the future sessions will be in TI2)

KajetanZR exclaims, "Good bye to Brazil!"