

Title of Session: EuroLang - Collaborative Projects

Moderator: Bee Dieu

Title of File: 20031130Elang

Date: November 30, 2003

Tapped In transcript for 2003.11.30 10:34:24

Room: After School Online

BeeD: Bonsoir all and thank you for being here with us. Brigitte Parry apparently has not arrived yet...something must have come up

BeeD: In the meantime I would like to show you a project she is organizing together with Cyberschool Bus for WSIS on December 10th-12th

BrigitteCa: great Bee go on

SusanneN: yes, good idea, then we're prepared when she arrives

BeeD: this is the cyberschool site

BeeD: <http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org/index.asp>

BeeD: and this is the project address

BeeD: <http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org/wsis/about.asp>

BeeD: There are several activities kids may engage in at school to prepare for the summit

BeeD: <http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org/wsis/activities.asp>

BeeD: and there is a community for teachers where they can meet, share their documents and discuss future partnerships

TeresaD: quite interesting, Bee. I'm looking at the activities now

DafneG joined the room.

JcbretoGst3 joined the room.

MarmoS joined the room.

BeeD: Good evening Marmo...welcome to the Euro Language forum

MarmoS: Hi! What's been happening?

VanceS doffs hat

DafneG: we have had a chatting day (this is our third meeting today)

BeeD: I think I will start then...and while we wait, we can perhaps share our experience in collaborative projects with students and institutional resistance...what do you think?

SusanneN: Yes, Bee, sounds reasonable

BrigitteCa: good idea

MarmoS: Fine! But I need to know when my FLASH MX 2004 workshop should start. Is it January?

BeeD: So welcome to tonight's Euro Language Forum

VanceS: starts in January

BeeD: Although most know each other...could you introduce yourselves for the record?

VanceS: I'm Vance, <http://www.vancetevens.com>

BeeD: Barbara Dieu teaches English at the Lycee Pasteur, a Franco-Brazilian school in Sao Paulo, Brazil and is also responsible for the Time Classroom Twinning activity for Time project

MarmoS: BTW, I am logging in from my home using dial up modem to check how fast/slow it is. Seems reasonable. My students will probably use modem at home as well.

TeresaD: I am an efl teacher in the Lisbon area, Portugal

DafneG: Dafne, from Venezuela, in Spain, ESP teacher, working on doctoral dissertation on e-course design and evaluation. A webhead since 2002.

BrigitteCa: Brigitte Cadaureille from France , I teach French & English in a vocational school

BeeD: Bernard?

BeeD: Jc?

BernardG: My name is Bernard Garcin. I am a teacher of marketing management and coordinator of WKTO mobile collaborative learning a project involving 1131 students and 45 teachers world wide. You can see a class working on the project on this web page : <http://www.ok.is/fast/?show=frettir&id=408>

SusanneN: I'm Susanne Nyrop. As a candidate student at the Danish University of Education here in Copenhagen, I had felt a strong resistance against letting us experiment with two-way online learning environments (a research project we wanted to do)

JcbretoGst3: Jean-Claude, teacher of English in a French High School and an IUT (Institut Universitaire de Technologie), webmaster and editor of <http://yougotthepoint.online.fr>

MarmoS: I am a courseware developer and director of Critical Languages Programs at Ohio University. I am finishing online courses for Indonesian and Swahili on CDs and for oral activities, we use Wimba. I will also experiment with this chat. Did anyone try the voice chat?

DafneG: We did in the EVO chat session we had earlier on today, Marmo

BeeD: Great! Good to have you here tonight. In the absence of Brigitte, who would be here to talk about collaborative projects, I would like to engage in some discussion about what are the challenges you have faced when trying to implement them at school

ChristinRR joined the room.

TeresaD: when I started out doing my email projects/exchanges, I didn't even ask the school board for permission, bec I considered them as a normal class activity. and nobody cared, anyway!

BeeD: Hello Christin!

TeresaD: I've never had any institutional resistance, though they only started getting more interested in these projects this year. better late than never!

BeeD: So your email projects concerned mostly English...they were not interdisciplinary

TeresaD: no, Bee, they weren't

ChristinRR: hello, everybody. Sorry to drop in the middle. I'm Christine Reymond. A special thanks to Brigitte for her work!

BeeD: or did not require any special arrangement in the timetable

DafneG: Well, so far I have not found any resistance at my institution. The problems I have had has been caused by the hardware and slow servers at the university

TeresaD: no, they were done out of class the first time and during class time the second and third times around

BeeD: Hello Christine...Brigitte apparently has not managed to come tonight...so we are discussing collaborative projects without her...hope you can help us

TeresaD: the extracurricular one mostly with school equipment, though I had to do a lot at home

BeeD: Bernard...you are leading a great number of teachers in your cartable électronique

DafneG: teachers have slowly adapted to collaborative work, and little by little more of them are trying to implement online components to their classes

BeeD: what are the main challenges you have faced?

ChristinRR: I was in Spring day that she organized last year. Do you know that there will be a spring day 2004. You can register now on the eun site.

BernardG: we have a collaborative project <http://www.ac-grenoble.fr/wkto>

DafneG: In Webheads we have carried out many collaborative projects with teachers and students all over the globe

BernardG: with project in German, English Spanish Italian languages

TeresaD: I'd say my main challenge has been trying to get other English teachers interested in this online world, bec the students generally go for it

TeresaD: other English teachers in my school, I mean

BeeD: I have faced some resistance...when trying to implement Time Project for which our school has become homebase

BeeD: not so much from the teachers

BeeD: who were very willing to participate

ChristinRR: I think it is easier to get teachers from other schools involved...and it is more fun, because they are really willing.

BeeD: but from administration

BernardG: 10 teachers from our school are involved and I have a waiting list

TeresaD: that's great, Bee, regarding the teachers

DafneG: it looks like a nice project, Bernard

BeeD: who has systematically not given permission for us to hold our time day

DafneG: with what excuse, Bee?

TeresaD: why not, Bee?

ChristinRR: The administration is a problem, because it is difficult for them to tell the difference between a student really working on email or chat, for example, and someone being obnoxious.

BeeD: that it was too much work..., video-conference , blogging and net meeting impossible because they do not want to make arrangements to bring down the firewall and proxy...

ChristinRR: And there is a priority for TPE which takes most of the time on the computers.

SusanneN: Yes Christine, that was our problem, they had a firewall that was unbreakable

BernardG: we also have teachers from outside school <http://wkto.free.fr/a/schools1.htm>

BeeD: students cannot access email from the resource centre...so those who do not have computers at home are penalized

BrigitteCa: it's a bit too much to implement a project both interdisciplinary and online projects in my school as both require quite a lot of extra work ; so now I just do what I can & on my own . The administration neither helps nor hinder . Last TPE have priority over my students

TeresaD: that's a problem I also have, Bee, but I'm going to try and change that hopefully in the short run

ChristinRR: For Tandem, I first talked about the project to the head, had it approved by the conseil d'administratipon, and then I could ask for priorities and special arrangements for my classes.

TeresaD: I wasn't able to last year, but the kids are so much more enthusiastic this year that maybe I'll win this battle

DafneG: I have been lucky that the people at the multi-media lab have collaborated with us in installing programs usually not allowed, like Yahoo Messenger, and applications like Java

BeeD: Our technical department is overworked...so whatever you ask them is a huge favour...

ChristinRR: It also requires a lot of diplomacy from the teacher, but if you manage to bring some kind of money or advantages to the school, then the head makes it easy for you.

TeresaD: I've been luckier this year, too, Daf. let's hope things continue on a positive note!

DafneG: right, Tere

BeeD: What about time?

BeeD: and the programmes?

DafneG: I have used class hours for our collaborative projects

DafneG: only need to book the lab in advance

BernardG: we use class hours for WKTO

JcbretoGst3: what's wkto?

BernardG: we have all computers in the class room

BrigitteCa: I use class hours too ; that's fine

BeeD: this works when the computer lab is free for you at class hours...you are lucky then Bernard!

BernardG: WKTO mobile collaborative learning

JcbretoGst3: which is?

BeeD: I am not that lucky...must book long time in advance

BernardG: a system to make the students work with other students world wide

DafneG: We also have a computer room inside the department which students can use in out-of-class time

DafneG: not many computers but it helps

JcbretoGst3: what do you mean by work?

BrigitteCa: the great majority of my sdts don't have computers and I booked the pc room early enough for 2 hours a week

BeeD: All students work on a common theme

BernardG: we have virtual classes for example : Virtual class 43 : Jolanta.Mielec ; Paulina.Mielec ; S?bastien.Bourgoin ; Philemon.Bourgoin ; Jean-Baptiste.Bourgoin ; Manuela.Cividale ; Paola.Cividale ; Marcus.Gothenburg ; Jimmy.Gothenburg ; Victor.Gothenburg ; Romina.Sint-Niklaas ; Evy.Sint-Niklaas ; Ashley.Sint-Niklaas ; Michalina.ZielonaG?ra ; Ania.ZielonaG?ra ; Andrei.Pitesti ; Natalia.Pitesti ; Anca.Pitesti ; Irma.Siauliai ; Inga.Siauliai ; Nina.K?benhavn ; Jakob.K?benhavn ;

BeeD: a bit like the Time classroom twinning...

BernardG: students are coming from every where

JcbretoGst3: and what do they do?

BernardG: 15 to 20 students working together

JcbretoGst3: you mean chatting?

BeeD: forums on wiki

BernardG: they have an electronic schoolbag

BernardG: <http://wkto.free.fr/as/wktoE20.htm>

JcbretoGst3: ok I'll have a look there

BernardG: here is a project in English language

BernardG: we have the same thing in Italian, German, Spanish

BernardG: and this is the electronic school bag <http://wkto.cartable-electronique.org/Portail>

BeeD: What I feel however, Bernard, is that although our students have all worked on the same theme...there was very little interaction among them...at least for mine...perhaps because they are younger...or we have not reached the interaction phase that should come now with the comparing and contrasting the results of the survey

BernardG: the project is not finished yet

BeeD: I know...

BernardG: We are waiting for datas <http://www.ac-grenoble.fr/wkto/as/resultsQWKTO.xls>

BeeD: but what is extremely interesting is that they compare and contrast their different environments...and how each one expresses himself in English...lol

BernardG: The Japanese have a problem with their keyboard

BernardG: We are learning our new job of cyber teachers

BernardG: this is just the beginning of the story

TeresaD: you've made a very good point, Bernard. we are all learning, which makes everything even more interesting

BernardG: January 2000 = 200 students world wide, September 2003 WKRTO = 1150 students

BeeD: one of my boys was puzzled by the Japanese structure of language...which gave us the opportunity to reflect on the cultural differences which are reflected in the syntax of the language...

BernardG: and we have a partner in Moscow !

BeeD: Exactly Teresa!

BernardG: We make video conferencing with Tokyo

BeeD: And this variety of teachers and students makes it an incredible experience for them!

BeeD: what kind of software do you use?

BernardG: electronic schoolbag

BrigitteCa: How many teachers in your school are involved in the project?

BernardG: netmeeting

BernardG: 10

BrigitteCa: How many lessons a week are devoted to the project?

BeeD: ok...we have not managed to connect with netmeeting because of the firewall/proxy problem..we tried portrait...any suggestions from the webheads?

BernardG: you can see the students working <http://wkto.free.fr/album/alb.htm>

BernardG: we have a different connection to use netmeeting

SusanneN: what a lot of interesting images, Bernard, looks inspiring

DafneG: I have the same problem with Netmeeting, Bee

BernardG: we have the network and ADSL in the class room

BeeD: we only have 1 valid IP, and this has been causing us lots of obstacles to connect with people outside

BernardG: yes I know

BernardG: this is the reason why we have 2 different connections in the classroom

BernardG: one for the network one for video conferencing

BeeD: We're nearing the end of our scheduled time tonight ... I am sorry on behalf of Brigitte...something unexpected must have come up, so she couldn't make it...Anyone have comments or questions you would like me to forward to her?

TeresaD: why not try and have her with us some other time, Bee?

DafneG agrees with Tere

JcbretoGst3: what project was she supposed to talk about?

BeeD: I will ask her...although I know that in the next weeks she is terribly busy with WSIS.

BeeD: <http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org/wsis/about.asp>

BeeD: Thanks Bernard, Dafne and Tere for sharing your experience with us

BeeD: It was most interesting

BernardG: I thank you Bee for the invitation

TeresaD: thanks, bee

DafneG: it sounds very interesting, Bee

DafneG: I mean the cyberschoolbus

JcbretoGst3: may I advertise for my kids' webzine? <http://yougotthepoint.online.fr>

SusanneN: I've been reading your interesting web pages, Bernard. Hope to meet you again.

BeeD: So, I invite you to join the project and see what is happening at WSIS next week

BrigitteCa: thank you and bye bye

DafneG: thanks, Bee

SusanneN: Jean-Claude, I will take a look at that, too

BeeD: Thanks Jc

SusanneN: even though we did miss our guest for tonight, it was an interesting session I think

BeeD: Bonsoir to all of you and thanks for coming!

DafneG: bye, Bee and thanks a lot

BeeD: Thanks Sus...tried to do my best

SusanneN: sometimes the improvised meetings can be very enlightening too

BeeD hugs everyone goodbye