SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) – SCIENTIFIC REPORT

Action number: CA16105
STSM title: Learner training strategies for the use of crowdsourcing to enhance language learning
STSM start and end date: 31/03/2019 to 06/04/2019
Grantee name: Elżbieta Gajek

PURPOSE OF THE STSM

The purpose of the STSM is to create a framework for training teachers how to introduce crowdsourced language learning and self-teaching to learners. The proposed framework will involve the language learning strategies in the digital environments, their extension to the crowd-oriented actions and critical evaluation of materials and techniques. The teachers will get materials to be used directly with learners. This may enhance the use of crowdsourcing as a means of language learning beneficially in a purposeful way to develop independent, autonomous and self-regulated learning of languages.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS

My STSM is complementary to Dr Katerina Zdravkova's STSM, so we both started on the Monday meeting with the host Branislav Bedi. Dr Zdravkova and I exchanged the intentions of our stays, explained the preliminary work done prior to arriving to Reykjavik, and then we distributed the obligations. We discussed and critically assessed the intentions and potential outcomes. Some elements were left for the future collaboration, taking into consideration the wide scope of both projects.

Before the STSM an extensive review of literature on language learning strategies in classroom based and digital environments had been carried out, accompanied with a review of digital language learning strategies and approaches to learner strategy training and teacher training techniques.

The findings of the survey on language teachers designed, implemented and analysed by the enetCollect WG1 group, including the active contribution of the grantee, show that mainstream language teachers need clear explanations, guidance and materials which help them to incorporate crowdsourcing into their teaching practice to facilitate teaching. These findings were implemented in the materials prepared within the STSM activities.

During the STSM 31 March-6 April 2019 (7 days), the following work was carried out:

- Discussing the problems of teacher training and re-training for innovative approaches in teaching;
- Sharing knowledge and experience in learning strategy training and teacher training;
- Brainstorming sessions addressing various important issues related to this topic;
- Creating a framework for teacher training materials;

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- Writing a structured summary about the collaborative work – thus the final report;
- Compiling an extended draft of a guidebook for teachers.

The work was carried out during meetings between the STSM grantees Dr Gajek and Dr Zdravkova, and the STSM host Branislav Bedi. The meetings consisted of discussions, investigating existing resources and sharing results of the work done in the previous days of both STSM's in the form of presentations. The results were presented to the host and Dr Zdravkova.

We connected the topic of both STSMs with problems related to

- assumptions about the user, either the teacher or the learner in formal education;
- users' language learning strategies and motivations in formal and informal contexts;
- providing users with awareness of metacognitive aspects of learning;

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

Regarding the review of applications, technologies, trends, tools and paradigms for learning strategies, strategy training, training and re-training teachers to encourage them to use crowdsourcing as a means of language learning the three participants shared their knowledge of the issue.

Some results were presented by Dr Zdravkova and me for future investigation and usage.
During the STSM several options were reviewed as for intended teacher training materials in the field. This helped us focus on the needs of the learners and teachers and relevant issues in the current state-of-the-art.

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

The following points are the results of the mutual collaboration during these joint STSMs. They unite the perspectives of three working groups: WG1, WG3 and WG5. Both grantees Dr Zdravkova and Dr Gajek, and the host perceive the results of the projects as contribution to further stages of preparation of learner- and teacher-friendly materials to enhance the use of crowdsourcing as a means of language learning including strategy training in safe and ethically sound environments with a perspective of using them as a complementary material to enetCollect crowdsourcing application.

Future work will comprise the possibility to collaborate within WG1 to collect a set of exemplary activities that will include the elements of crowdsourcing in teaching practice. The idea is to create a place where practitioners – pioneers in crowdsourcing can share their experience on its use in language learning, bearing in mind that many ethical challenges should be taken into consideration. There is a need for joint effort to produce more guiding materials for the teachers interested in using crowdsourcing.