

E-learning advancements in the academic foreign language teaching

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Beginning of the story: 2006

On-line foreign language teaching project was launched at the University of Warsaw.



10 years later...

14 languages **37 000** participants

The concept of online foreign language teaching has been expanding and growing. Progressively, multi-level and multi-purpose e-courses together with on-line placement tests were created.

Background

EU strategy: ICT-skilled and knowledge-based society



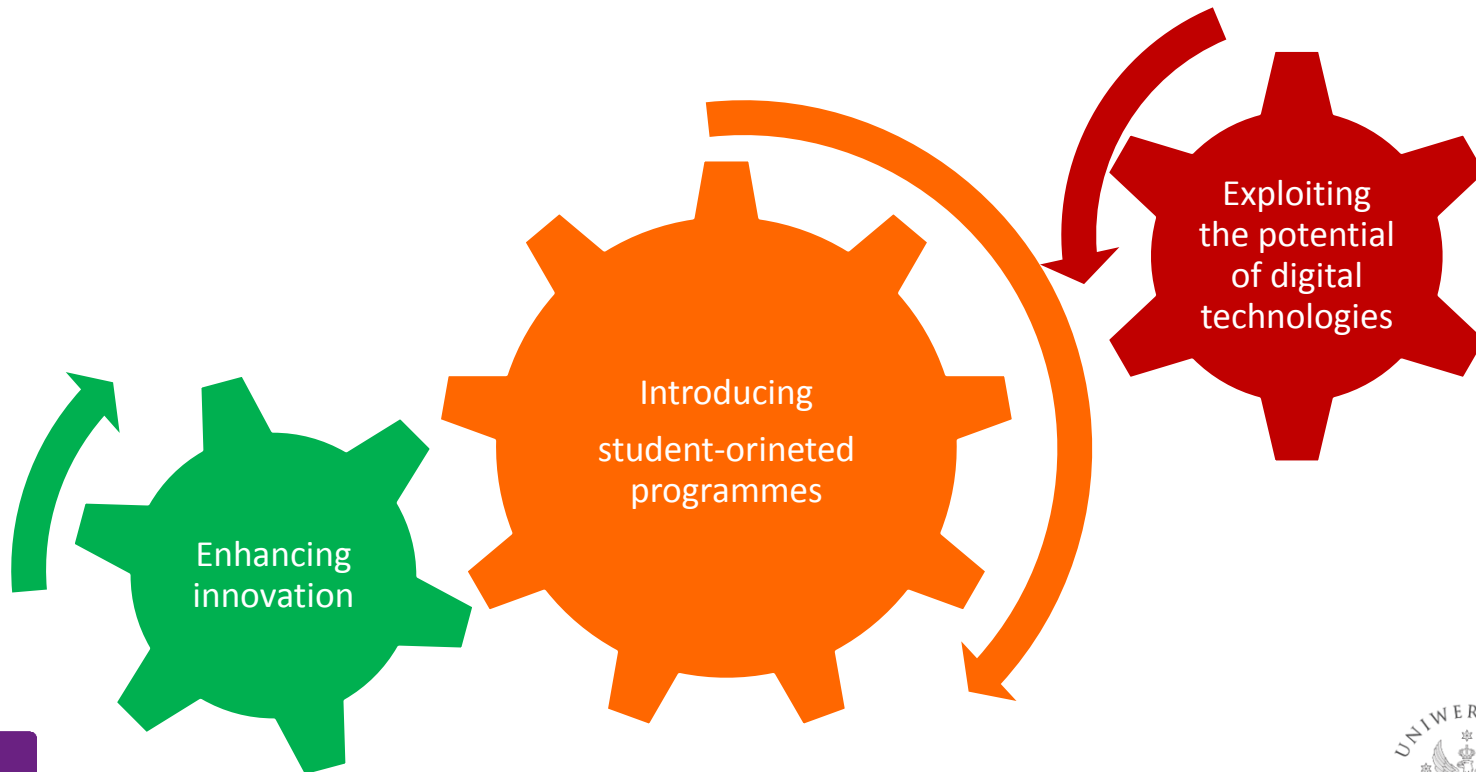
EU 2015 Joint Report on Education and Training (ET 2020),
25% of adult EU citizens still represent **low** levels of digital skills
and **only** 10.7% take part in life-long learning process.

2020 Bologna Process for the European Universities

- empowering of the mobility, multilingualism and employability;
- the development of life-long learning systems;
- improvement of the learning environment and removal of the study barriers;

2020 Bologna Process for the European Universities

Improvement of the learning environment and removal of the study barriers (among others) by:



Innovation obstacles

BRAND CAMP

by Tom Fishburne

OUR LATEST INNOVATION
IS A GOOSE THAT LAYS
EGGS OF SOLID GOLD

THAT'S A DISTRACTION
FROM OUR CORE

AND WE HAVE
NO BUDGET FOR
GOOSE-RELATED
EXPENSES

ON THAT NOTE,
WE'LL NEED
THE FEATHERS
AND LIVER
FOR ANOTHER
PROJECT



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Bottom-up need

2005: the Senate of the University of Warsaw issued a Resolution on equal access to the languages didactic offer for both stationary and extramural students.

BUT

- the number of students was increasing
- the access to classrooms was insufficient
- shortage of teachers and lecturers



organizational changes indispensable

Solution?



2006: steps were taken to introduce e-learning within the field of foreign language teaching at the University, with a particular focus on the English language.

Joint effort of the university units

Main agents: Centre for Foreign Language Teaching and COME UW (within the University System of Language Provision)



Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)



Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

- the tool used: **Moodle platform** (already developed for on-line teaching at UW);
- all necessary sorts of language teaching materials (audio, video, graphics, and text files) in one environment;
- on-line materials easily combined with in-class teaching via blended learning;
- diverse testing ways & immediate automatic feedback for tests;
- platform integrated with students' management system (USOS): enrollment, marks' migration.
- time and costs reduction

Language on-line services developed

- placement tests
- general language e-courses
- mock language certification e-courses
- remedial language e-courses



Online placement tests

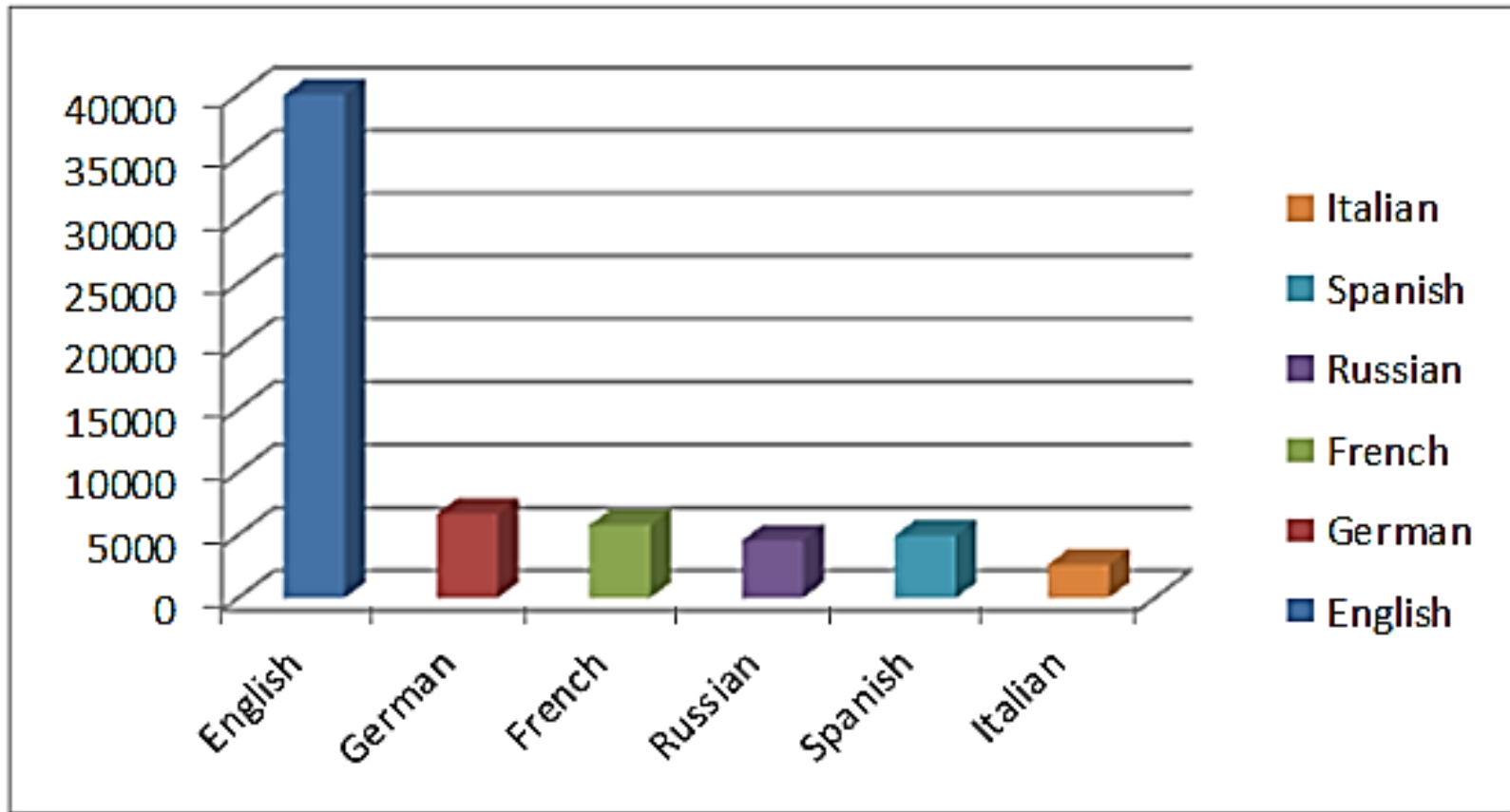
Testing and assessment of the students' level of advancement in foreign languages and ways of group assignment became of importance due to the increasing number of students.

PLACEMENT TESTS
in **6** languages - over **5 400** attempts

English Russian French Spanish German Italian

Number of placement tests attempts in 2015.

Placement tests



The quantitative participation of students in the placement tests in the chosen languages in the years 2006-2015.

General language e-courses

GENERAL LANGUAGE E-COURSES-

228 virtual classes-

over 5 000 students



English
(B1-C1)



Russian
(B2)



German
(B1)

Number of virtual classes and students for General Language e-courses in 2015.

E-course structure














- 60 hrs in the form of blended learning (45 hrs on the educational platform and 15 hrs – in a classroom)
- 4 modules with 10 thematic chapters each
- every chapter contains interactive exercises developing language skills:
 - listening, reading, writing
 - language sub-systems: grammar, vocabulary, functions and pronunciation

An example of an on-line module structure in a general English

2



Unit 2: Geography


-  2 Contents
-  2 Warm-up (10 pts)
 -  2 Listening (29 pts)
 -  2 Functions (10 pts)
 -  2 Pronunciation (34 pts)
 -  2 Vocabulary (23 pts)
 -  2 Reading (10 pts)
 -  2 Grammar (54 pts)
 -  2 Writing (50 pts)
-  2 Follow-up a (15 pts)
-  2 Follow-up b (30 pts)
 -  Revision: Units 1-2 (48 pts)
 -  Test: Units 1-2 (40 pts)

An example of an on-line listening task in a general English language e-course

Listening 2: Creative thinking

2
Marks: 1/8

Listen to the interview and match the halves of the sentences.



To help people be more creative, Simon Middleton uses

Simon Middleton teaches people to use

We deal more holistically with things with

Edward de Bono is a great champion of

Daniel H. Pink in his book wrote that it's not sufficient to assume you can only be creative with

Simon Middleton specializes in

The story of the black swan is a metaphor for

Simon Middleton tries to help people use

Page: (Previous) 1 2

An example of an interactive assignment in a general English

Follow-up 3

MY FAVOURITE PAINTING



In this forum, place a photograph of your favourite painting and describe it briefly.

Provide the following information about the painting:

- the painter's name
- when the picture was painted (the date/the period in the history of art)
- what technique the artist used to paint it
- what the painting depicts
- where (in which art gallery or museum) one can admire this painting

Source: <http://media.mike.nmspace.net/tourism/lbtt/Harris-25-07-08-178.jpg>

Write your answer in about **100-120 words**.

You can score up to **15 points** for your entry.

Below your answer write **the number of words in brackets**.

E-teachers training

As for **the e-teacher** preparation and responsibility for the courses they run, COME UW offers them:

- **free trainings** provided by experts, developing the e-teachers' ICT didactic and technical skills;
- **online guide books** placed in a separate course for e-teachers;
- online courses **helpdesks**.

Mock language certification e-courses...

...prepare to take an obligatory certification exam in a chosen foreign language at B2 level.

MOCK LANGUAGE CERTIFICATION COURSES



Remedial language e-courses

If a student fails a certification exam twice, they are required to take a remedial course in a foreign language. COME UW offers remedial 10 hour e-courses in 14 languages (A2 - B2).

REMEDIAL LANGUAGE COURSES

in 14 languages

 English

 Italian

 French

 German

 Japanese

 Turkish

 Greek

 Hindi

 Spanish

 Russian

 Georgian

 Chinese

 Croatian

 Persian

Examples:



Repetytoryjny e-kurs języka chińskiego na poziomie A2

汉语A2级复习课程



Examples:



Repetytoryjny e-kurs języka perskiego na poziomie A2

دوره آموزش زبان فارسی سطح مقدماتی ۲



Examples:



Repetytoryjny e-kurs języka greckiego na poziomie B1
Πρόσθετα μαθήματα ελληνικών στο επίπεδο B1



Challenges

- **special sort of fonts** (like **Hindi, Georgian, Japanese, Chinese**) was necessary to be applied for the students to be able to read the texts in these languages
- some of the **languages are read and written from the right to the left** (like **Persian, Hebrew, Arabic**). This imposed the need of adding new functionalities and advancements to the platform.

Pytanie 1
Nie udzielono odpowiedzi
Punkty: 10,00
Oflaguj pytanie
Edytuj pytanie

Lekcja 7 Użycie języka - składnia

To zadanie polega na uzupełnieniu zdań wyrazami podanymi poniżej. Zanim przystąpisz do rozwiązywania go, przeczytaj uważnie słowa już podane w zdaniu, a następnie wyrazy w ramkach. Zastanów się czy rozumiesz wszystkie wyrazy i pomyśl, co mogłyby znaczyć zdanie złożone z nich wszystkich. Postaraj się tak wstawić wszystkie słowa w ramkach, żeby zdanie stworzyło spójną logicznie i semantycznie zdanie. Pamiętaj, że wszystkie wyrazy w ramkach są podane w formach, które mają zostać użyte w zdaniu i nie można ich zmieniać. Aby wstawić wyraz z ramki w odpowiednie miejsce, przeciągnij je myszką.

Część 1

بين الطلاب تبادل

صارت إمكانيات وفُرصُ [] [] [] الجامعات كبيرة في السنوات الأخيرة.

هناك برامج عديدة منها "إراسموس" مثلاً [] [] [] اتفاقات بين الحكومات في مجال التبادل العلمي.

مونيكا طالبة [] [] [] في كلية الآثار.

عندي أمل كبير [] [] [] [] .

مدة ستة أشهر [] [] [] [] [] .

كانت في عمان في العام الدراسي الماضي وهي [] [] [] [] .

إذن تستطيعين الاستفادة [] [] [] [] [] عربية.

تعرفت على صديقات [] [] [] [] [] الآن.

لبست [] [] [] [] تلبسه الفتيات العربيات.

قالت [] [] [] [] الصحراء لأول مرة .

هناك كما أن هناك

الثالثة السنة على

في سوريا إلى السفر

سأحاول الحصول منحة على

شاهدته مبقا مسرورة

منحة إلى من دولة

زالت ما حتى تراسلهن

العربي الذي الزي

لي إنها رأته

Tricks

▪

;

but in Greek it's

?

Language e-courses benefits

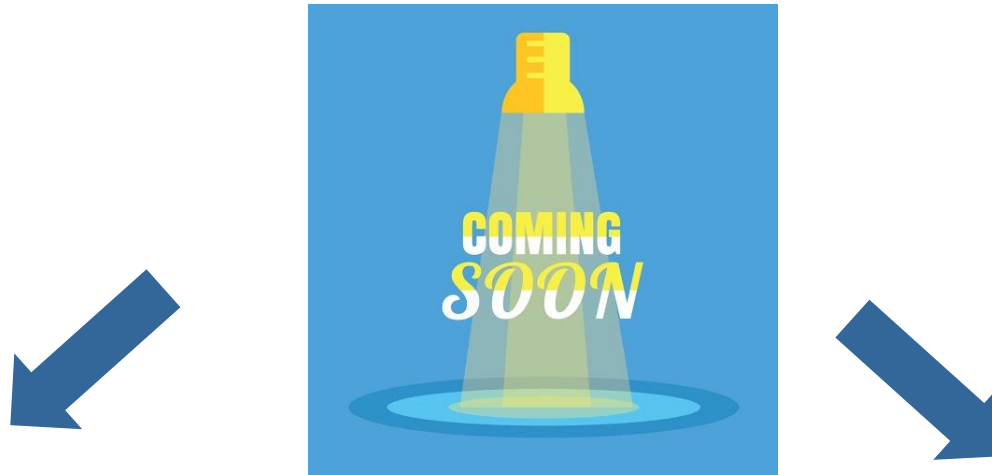
- ICT skills increase of UW teachers and students
- Advancement in student-oriented methodology of language teaching
- Save of time & costs
- Happy & well educated students



Summary



Further directions



E-course on Polish for Erasmus students (to prepare themselves for studying in Poland beforehand, while still in their own countries) in preparation;

A tool for recorded speech submission is being tested;

Language teaching service for other universities (???)

Thank you for your attention!
ευχαριστώ για την προσοχή σας

शुक्रिया

tack

grazie

ありがとう

يُخَابِئِك

dziękuję

الله

спасибо

kiitos

谢谢你

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