avalon

Access to Virtual and Action Learning Live Online

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Report on the Pre-Conference Event Held at Online EDUCA 2011

Compiled by Gary Motteram

Report on the Pre-Conference Event held at Online EDUCA 2011

The activity had a number of aims and objectives:

- gave the opportunity for the different projects involved to show-case their work (AVALON, AVATAR, NIFLAR, ST.ART);
- brought together European projects with similar aims and activities, but working with different target groups;
- allowed participants to take an active engagement in looking at what the projects are trying to achieve;
- acted as a training session for some of the participants looking at getting involved in using complex learning tools;

The proposal for the day submitted to Online EDUCA was as follows:

"The aim of this seminar will be to explore a range of experiences and activities in teaching and learning in synchronous virtual spaces (2nd Life; Open Sim; desktop video conferencing – DTVC). It will do this by bringing together a number of specialist groups who are involved in a range of project work in schools, further and higher education. By the end of the day, participants will have good picture of what it would mean to introduce synchronous virtual spaces as a medium for teaching - the sunny sides as well as the dark sides; and they will have heard visions, experiences and opinions from some of Europe's leading protagonists in using virtual worlds for teaching as well as engaged in a number of activities.

Although there will be some presentations of projects, the emphasis will be on practical engagement and skills and knowledge building."
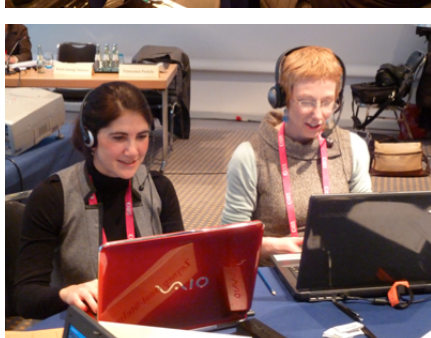
The programme and the presenters

10:00	Introduction	Everyone
11.00	Coffee break	
11.30	Hands on sessions 1	
	Introduction 2nd Life (for newbies)	Zeynep Onat-Stelma (AVALON)
	Language learning demonstration – Beginner's Italian	Christel Schneider (AVALON) Luisa Panichi (AVALON)
	Self-exploratory science environments	Susan Brown (AVALON)
	Using SL to simulate real world activities	Francesco Fedele (ST.ART)
	Machinima 1 – making 2nd Life movies	Mats Deutschmann (AVALON), Jenna Ng (Humlab), Jim Barrett (Humlab)
12.15	Feedback session on your experiences	Everyone
12.30	Lunch	
13.30	Three talks:	

	Blended learning—Open Sim, Second Life and desktop video conferencing	Kristi Jauregi Ondarra – (NIFLAR)
	ST.ART—virtual art in a virtual world	Francesco Fedele (ST.ART)
	EL-Gate—training courses in virtual worlds	Paolo Degasperi (FORCOM)
14.00	Hands on session 2	
	Basic skills for (language) teachers (60 min)	Zeynep Onat-Stelma (AVALON) Susan Brown (AVALON)
	Machinima 2 (60 min) -- Follow on from the morning session	Mats Deutschmann (AVALON), Jenna Ng (Humlab), Jim Barrett (Humlab)
	Tour of spaces for language learning in 2nd Life	Gerhilde Meissl-Egghart (AVALON) Christel Schneider (AVALON)
	Virtual art	Francesco Fedele (ST.ART)
	Teacher training (AVATAR)	Paolo Degasperi (FORCOM)
15:00	Coffee break	
15:30	Virtual course design and management	Introduced by David Richardson (AVALON) Gary Motteram (AVALPN)
16.00	Question and answers	Everyone

The list of participants

Guy Van Looy	Record Bank	Belgium
Elke Vandermijnsbrugge	Languesdoc Training	Belgium
Armin Talić	School of Economics and Business	Bosnia/Herzegovina
Dara Zerzarova	University of Defence	Czech Republic
Ivana Cechova	University of Defence	Czech Republic
Hanna Husu	Aalto University	Finland
Päivi Jäväjä	Helsinki Metropolitan University of Applied Science	Finland
Eva Lönholm	Aalto University	Finland
Katja Peltola	Hanken School of Economics	Finland
Virpi Poikolainen	Salpaus Further Education	Finland
Taija Swanström	Aalto University	Finland
Titi Tamminen	The Association of Finish e-learning	Finland
Elena Wernick	Helsinki Metropolitan University of Applied Science	Finland
Claus Steiger	Justus Liebig Universität Giessen	Germany
Vidar Soerensen	Statoil ASA	Norway
Vitaliy Minashkin	Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics	Russia
Kristoffer Fredriksson	Karlshamm Community	Sweden
Xandra Driessen	Bouwradius	The Netherlands

Some pictures

Websites of the organisations

http://avalon-project.ning.com/ -- http://avalonlearning.eu (AVALON project)

http://cms.let.uu.nl/niflar/ (NIFLAR)

http://www.humlab.umu.se/english/ (Humlab)

http://www.icc-languages.eu/ (ICC-Europe)

http://www.avatarproject.eu (AVATAR)

http://www.startproject.eu/ (START)

Feedback

Informal feedback was very positive, we are awaiting more formal feedback from the Online EDUCA team.