

## **Case study: First international SL Jura workshop March-April 2013**

### **Pre-course**

We organized an SL workshop piloted from Jura in March and April 2013. There were 3 groups of 4 students from 4 different countries in each group. Each group first exchanged e-mails and agreed on 4 x 1 hour meetings at the date and time of their choice, independently of a tutor. The students kept reports of their meetings and passed them on to a tutor from Jura for the project's records.

Pre-training was part of the course. Previously, we made sure the students had installed Second Life, had created their avatars, had done tutorials (video tutorials available in Second Life); had headsets with microphone and had checked the sound.

### **Aims/objectives**

The learning goals were as follows:

- Language: English as Lingua Franca to communicate and reflect over and exchange intercultural information. Practice of general and social language; organizing a larger unit of discourse; comparing, describing, expressing opinions; sustaining an interaction; exchanging ideas, expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing, suggesting, speculating, evaluating, etc.
- Social: To get to know language learners from other countries and backgrounds and being able to communicate with them about their life and centres of interests, to learn about cultural differences between the different countries involved.
- Technical: Grounding in how to use virtual worlds for learning, as a tool for communication.

### **Funding:**

No funding was necessary for this workshop.

### **Environment and the participants**

VW environment was Kamimo Island: <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Kamimo%20Island/120/140/25>

Origin of the participants:

Kalmar, Sweden

Lons Le Saunier, France

Manchester, UK

Utrecht, Holland

Warwick, UK

## Logistics and timetabling

Timetable:

Session 1: knowing each other & getting used to the culture of Second Life	4 - 10 March
Session 2: working/professional perspectives	11 - 17 March
Session 3: cultural differences	18 - 24 March
Session 4: benefits of virtual meetings	25 March - 3 April

Duration: approximately 1 hour per session

## Activities

Suggested activities:

- Session 1: Getting to know each other & getting used to the culture of Second Life
- Session 2: Present to the other students your professional project and discuss the different ways to see it through in the different countries.
- Session 3: How much do you know about the others' culture?
- Session 4: Get together to discuss the benefits of this kind of virtual meetings.

## Assessment

Evaluation of the project and evaluation of the virtual world course delivery through a questionnaire given to all participants. They answered by e-mail.

Timetabling was one of the major concerns encountered. Students, from different countries and even from different time zones found quite difficult to arrange an adequate timeslot that would be convenient for everybody. Not all students could be present every time in each group.

In addition, according to a majority, the line in SL was quite often bad and noisy and they could hardly hear each other, so they had to switch to Skype.

Other than that, they all said they enjoyed meeting people from different parts of the world and had "friendly time" during each meeting.

## **Exploitation**

December 2013 - January 2014

- Organization of a second SL workshop with some of the students from the CCIJ business school and students from different project partners' universities, based on the model of the first workshop, maybe with a tutor this time.

## **Post-course dissemination**

- Dissemination of the Framework and dissemination of the findings from virtual world course delivery through the national network of the Centres d'Etude de Langues. The C.E.L. network has nearly 100 centres located throughout the metropolitan area. It is the largest national provider of foreign language training for adults with • 26 languages taught: foreign languages, French as a foreign language (FLE), regional languages ...
- 3,000 Professional trainers, mostly natives of the target language,
- 80,000 people trained each year throughout France ,
- 1.5 million hours of training given each year ,
- 35 years of experience in teaching languages to adults. The centres have privileged contacts with companies and their employees and they offer solutions tailored to the needs of their respective markets, locally. At the national level, the CEL network has been fully dedicated to tenders:
- Identify competitive bidding for language teaching to large groups (or agencies),
- Coordinate and organize the training in the region to provide a coherent and comprehensive response.