



*Attract Participation
and Increase Motivation of
Young Male Language Learners*

Pilot test experiences

Multiplier Conference
Istanbul, 12-13th June 2008

Pilot tests



The overall objective of the testing phase was to see how young male adults with particular “foreign language learning resistance” react to our goal to establish their “love for language” by increasing their interest and uptake of foreign languages by specially created modules.

Pilot test



- The modules were tested by the partners in Germany, Italy, Norway and Austria.
- All pilot tests took place between October and November 2007
- Each partner tested several units of different chapters
- Altogether 82 young male took part in the tests

Pilot test



The pilot test findings have been grouped into 4 headings:

- Target group
- Pilot course
- Results of the pilot course
- Findings

Pilot test



Target group

- Age
16-25 years old
- Social background
drop outs, learners with school results below average, deaf students, long-term unemployed

Pilot test findings VHS Cham

- Target group
- Pilot course
- Results of the pilot course
- Summary



Pilot test findings VHS Cham



10 young male participants of the training course „Second Chance“

Background of the participants

- **Age:**
17 – 21 years old
- **Geographical background:**
2 young men from Turkey
5 young men from Russia
1 young man from Poland
1 young man Morocco
1 young man from Kazakhstan
- **Social background:**
4 participants are early school leaver
6 participants left school with the lowest school leaving certificate
- **Previous English knowledge:**
All participants learnt English at school
at least 3 years

Pilot test findings VHS Cham



Pilot test took place in October 2007

10 units have been tested:

- **Chapter 1:** Speaking and listening - 2 units
- **Chapter 2:** Reading, writing,.. - 4 units
- **Chapter 3:** Communication,
team work - 3 units
- **Chapter 4:** Self-reflection - 1 unit

Pilot test findings VHS Cham

Chapter 1: Speaking and listening

1.2 Read and discuss

1.5 Movies

- *Level of the units was too high for our participants*



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Chapter 2: Reading, writing, understanding

2.3 Listening for understanding:

- *Our young male showed less interest in this subject!*
- *Less motivation*

2.9. Story building

- *Funny, participants were motivated, foster creativity, helps to raise independent application*

2.11 Sports words

- *Very good, students were very motivated, we changed the topic – computer games*

Pilot test findings VHS Cham



Chapter 3: Communication and team work

3.1 Interview

- *Students were highly motivated , they realised “I need a foreign language”*
- *Topic! No sport!*

3.7 Discussion

- *Diligent students, motivated, good-cooperation*
- *Some students came not up to teacher’s expectations with speaking skills*

Pilot test findings VHS Cham

Chapter 4: Self –reflection, biographical work

4.1 About me

- *Very good, always practicable, students were motivated, they realised that they could really benefit from this unit*



Pilot test findings VHS Cham



1. The level of some units was too high for **our** students
2. The subjects of the units (sports) didn't produce interest.
Our students prefer subjects like: computer games, internet - surfing, books, etc.
3. Units are too long, students are capable to concentrate not longer than 30 minutes
4. Our students prefer to work in written form, but they are afraid to speak in a foreign language
5. It's easy to work with the units, they give all needed information to the trainer
6. Units are a very valuable completion to schoolbooks

Pilot test findings Norway



1. The subjects on sports did not produce much interest. Music was most popular.
2. Students could not concentrate for long, so we broke up the tasks in 20 minute sessions
3. Our students found it easier to speak than to write the tasks
4. We found the most of the units very usable
5. The toolbox was a most valuable tool that can be used in any class on basic level

Pilot test findings Italy



1. Units are not always practicable in an Italian school context
2. Competition and the use of technology stirs up a more effective response in young learners
3. The topics of the units are interesting and motivating
4. Students preferred writing and reading instead of listening and speaking
5. Students found interaction with their teacher easier than with their classmates
6. The level of some units was too high for most of learners

Pilot test findings Austria



- Watching movies in English language or listening to English songs was rated very positive
- The learners liked “their” separate units and were quite well motivated
- Watching football games on sky sports was rated as being “cool”
- The discussions on topics, highlights and results were “difficult”
- Surfing in English chat rooms was rated as being “really cool”

Pilot test findings Austria



- Teachers wanted some inputs on dealing with aggressive students and social skills deficits
- Teachers wished for more knowledge about migration and related framework conditions of learners
- Teachers wanted also an exchange of experience on concepts / methods of self-organized trainings
- General agreement amongst teachers that ...” *interest focused teaching is the one and only way to reach the target group*”!

Thank you for your attention!



Education and Culture

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