SKILLS

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

A few words on UPSKILLS

UPSKILLS Consortium:

L-Università ta' Malta

UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE

ALMA MATER STUDIORUM FORLÌ

CLARIN

UNI GRAZ

UNIRI

&
with financial support from movetia

University of Zurich

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

Guidelines and Best Practices for
Research-Based Teaching
3rd UPSKILLS Multiplier event

Utrecht, 4 November 2022

What is UPSKILLS?

Funded as an Erasmus+ Strategic partnership
Consortium of 8 partners:

University of Malta (coordinator)	University of Rijeka
University of Belgrade	
University of Bologna	and with funding from Movetia:
CLARIN ERIC	University of Geneva
University of Graz	University of Zurich

Main aim

Tackle skills gaps and mismatches in students of language-related disciplines to create a better workforce.

Rationale:

Graduates of linguistics and language-related degrees are needed in research and industry jobs. Yet, as our needs analysis has confirmed, they sometimes lack:

- critical thinking and problem solving skills outside their "comfort zone"

- knowledge of research design and data analysis outside their "comfort zone"

- project management skills

- digital skills

Main aim

Tackle skills gaps and mismatches in students of language-related disciplines to create a better workforce.

How:

- Modular and blended learning

- Innovative pedagogies such as online educational games

- Real-world applications (task/research-based learning)

- Integrating existing research and research infrastructures into teaching

Research-based teaching

* Draft guidelines available now!

Focus on the <u>process</u> rather than the results of research by involving students as active participants rather than as audience.

Our focus:

- inclusion of a lecturer's own ongoing research into ongoing teaching
- inclusion of industry-based research into teaching (in collaboration with our associate partners)
- guidance for students seeking to pursue their own research agenda
- guidance about the use of existing research infrastructures in research-based teaching

Learning content blocks

* Materials to start becoming available beginning of December!

- Introduction to scientific research
- Analytical thinking and problem solving
- Linguistic theory
- Project management
- Text processing
- Speech processing
- Collecting data from human subjects
- Introduction to programming
- Introduction to machine learning [focused on language data]
- Language data science [including inferential statistics]
- Data standards and repositories

Games and gamification

* Coming soon!

Traditional lecturing has a modular-based structure, but usually delivered "in big, ugly, rather unpleasant lumps" (Chatfield, 2010, p. 2) that presents a limited picture of student progress. In contrast, educational games (and gamification) (a) Provide unique cognitive stimulation and motivation and (b) Provide opportunities to continuously and automatically assess the learner's ability. [Tannahill N. et al.. 2012. Video games and higher education. *Frontiers in Psychology* 3: 210]

Our plan:
- Adapt existing educational games to fit our goals
- Implement free off-the-shelf game in our materials
- Gamify our learning content wherever possible

Outputs and activities

- Intellectual outputs:
  - Needs analysis ✓

  - Guidelines on research-based teaching ☐ **Today's focus!**

  - Consolidation and creation of learning content

  - Educational games for active learning

- Multiplier events planned for each intellectual output:
  Bologna ✓, Graz ✓, Utrecht, Malta + dedicated Swiss events

  → Summer School in Serbia - July 2023

Main expected results

- Better prepare students for the reality of the job market

- Sensitise academics with respect to what skills employers are looking for

- Raise awareness among employers about the skills and aptitude of graduates of

  linguistics and language-related degrees

- Create engaging modular learning content that will be freely accessible to everyone

- Promote active - task- and research-based - learning

Thank you for joining!!!

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