EUROCALL News

EUROCALL Discussion List

Almost eighty members of EUROCALL have now joined the electronic discussion list which was set up during the summer. The list has been moderately active to date, with considerable discussion resulting from issues arising at the EUROCALL 96 conference.

Membership

The Executive Committee recommended to the AGM, held in Szombathely, that membership fees for 1997 should remain at the same levels as for the past three years, i.e. £30.00 sterling for individuals, £60.00 for academic institutions and £300.00 for commercial members.

EUROCALL Directory of Courseware Development Projects

The aim of this project is to provide language teachers in the higher education sector throughout Europe with up-to-date information on current projects, funded from European Union and other sources, which involve the development of courseware or teaching methodologies employing computer-based technologies. By utilising the expertise available within EUROCALL, the project will also endeavour to identify good practice and attempt to minimise the duplication of effort which currently exists in this field.

The EUROCALL Directory will establish a database of projects, searchable under a variety of relevant fields (e.g. country, target languages, technological and pedagogical focus, etc). Information extracted from the database will be supplied to teachers, potential developers and researchers electronically or in printed form and the Directory will ultimately be searchable online. Colleagues from a range of projects representing best practice, drawn from the Directory, will be invited to present their work at a Workshop at the end of the project (details to be announced).

After the end of 1997, it is envisaged that this project will link closely with the proposed major European Database on Language Teaching and Learning which is currently the subject of discussion with a view to EC funding.

Thanks to all colleagues who completed the Needs Analysis Survey relating to this project, for which EC funding has been requested. Preliminary responses from Brussels have been positive and we hope to make an announcement in the near future.

European Language Council (ELC)

Graham Davies attended the first meeting of the ELC Policy Group on New Technologies and Language Learning at the University of Limerick, Ireland, on 1-2 October 1996. The European Language Council has been set up with the aid of 65,000 Ecu of funding under the EC's SOCRATES Programme. The ELC comprises a large number of European universities and met for the first time in April this year. EUROCALL is represented on the ELC by Graham Davies.

The ELC's Policy Group on New Technologies and Language Learning has six members:

- Angela Chambers (Chair), University of Limerick, IRL
- Graham Davies, TVU, UK
- Joseph Rézeau, University of Rennes II, F
- Margarita Goded Rambaud, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, E
- Martine Nicollerat, University of Lausanne, CH
- David Little, Trinity College Dublin, IRL

The aim of the first meeting of the Policy Group was:

(i) to endorse a policy statement on New Technologies and Language Learning in relation to learner autonomy, teacher training, technological infrastructure and research;
(ii) to draft a programme of work for a new project under the auspices of the ELC (see next paragraph).

The ELC has succeeded in obtaining further funding (180,000 Ecu) from the EC under the SOCRATES Programme to enable a three-year Thematic Network Project (TNP) to be set up, whereby each of the ELC's policy groups will initiate a sub-project in its area of interest. The Policy Group on New Technologies and Language Learning is forming a TNP Sub-Project Team of around 15 members to work on its sub-project. This team will include the above members of the Policy Group, and it is planned that the team will meet for the first time in early 1997.

EUROCALL Proceedings Now Available!

Emancipation Through Learning Technology
edited by June Thompson and Graham Chesters.

Selected papers from the EUROCALL 93 conference, University of Hull, 15–17 September 1993. A special double issue of *Computers and Education*, Vol. 23, No. 1/2, 1994
ISSN 0360-1315
Price: £10.00 (EUROCALL members £7.00)

Technology Enhanced Language Learning in Theory and Practice
edited by Bernd Rüschoff and Dieter Wolff

Hochschule Karlsruhe, 15–17 September 1994.
ISBN 0-9520183-6-5
Price: £15.00 (EUROCALL members £13.00)

Technology Enhanced Language Learning: Focus on Integration
edited by Ana Gimeno

Selected Papers from the EUROCALL 95 conference, 7–9 September 1995
Universidad Politécnica de Valencia
ISBN 84-7721-421-2
Price: £15.00 (EUROCALL members £13.00)

For an order form, please contact Kylie Baxter at the address on page 3, or email k.m.baxter@langc.hull.ac.uk