SpeakApps

Oral production and interaction in a foreign language through online ICT tools

Very often formal second or foreign language acquisition settings do not provide enough room for everyone in the classroom to practice the language. If the learning is done through an online course, speaking is mostly put aside in favour of writing, reading and listening. SpeakApps aims to fill this gap by providing ICT-based services and pedagogies to practice oral competencies online: speaking production and interaction in the CEFR. Thus offering a way for all foreign language learners and teachers to practice and evaluate speaking skills at a distance or beyond the physical classroom. The activities and tools provided in SpeakApps will be designed to be used both within face-to-face courses and as the main speaking activities for online courses.

SpeakApps will provide a holistic solution for improving speaking skills in foreign languages. As such, the website of the project will be divided in three sections: 1) the learning activities and materials, 2) the learning tools: audioconferencing, videoconferencing, and a synchronous tasks management tool and 3) a ready-to-use platform for teachers who want their students to use these activities, materials and tools but do not have or wish to set up the required technological infrastructure and support. SpeakApps and all its contents will be available in six languages: Catalan, Dutch, English, Irish, Polish and Swedish.

We will be running pilot studies in the UOC from September 2011 to November 2012. If you are interested in participating or in hearing more about the project please send an email to speakapps@uoc.edu, and/or keep an eye on our website where we will post the latest news on the project.

http://www.speakapps.org

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