

Language learners working together within a virtual world

Telecollaboration – that is, virtual collaboration – for foreign language students was the focus of INTENT, a project designed to raise university practitioners' awareness of this global way of working

INTENT (Integrating Telecollaborative Networks into Foreign Language Higher Education) involved eight universities in seven countries working together to promote telecollaboration as a tool for Higher Education learners. Robert O'Dowd, Project Co-ordinator, explains why:

“ My work in telecollaboration showed me there was very little support for university teachers interested in this area. E-Twinning existed for secondary schools, but nothing existed at university level.

Telecollaboration in the field of foreign language education allows classes in geographically distant locations to interact online. This allows for much greater intercultural dialogue, as well as building students' digital literacy. The aim of the project was to get more groups of university learners collaborating in this way by raising awareness amongst educators.

The INTENT project team first surveyed foreign language students, teachers and decision makers about their knowledge of telecollaboration, before organising a number of workshops and events to promote it as an important tool.

Thanks to European funding, INTENT was able to make events free to attend. Over 150 educators were present at the final conference, many of whom would not otherwise have been able to take part.

The project team also created an online platform with resources for educators (a partner-finding tool, resources and a databank of practitioners' experiences) and for students (e-portfolios and guidelines). Over 900 practitioners from 245 institutions have registered to use the platform.

More than two years after the project finished, the platform is still being used – and still growing – and the team members have gone on to establish an academic organisation so that they can continue their work in this field.



Photo: © Robert O'Dowd, 2016

Erasmus

Field: Higher Education

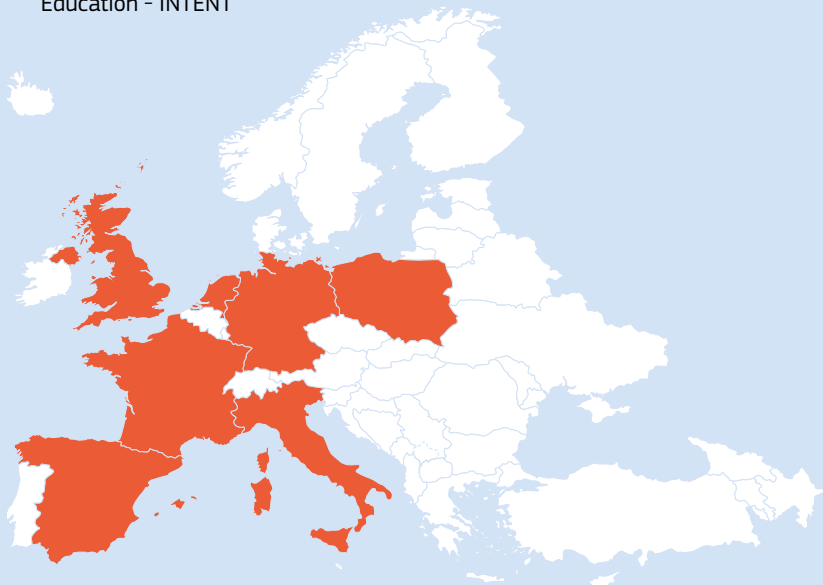
Action: Support to HE modernisation agenda

Key facts and figures

	Participants: 150		Countries: 7
	EU grant: €248,828		Project duration: 2011-2014

Project title

Integrating Telecollaborative Networks into University Foreign Language Education - INTENT



Lead organisation

Name: Universidad de León

Location: León, Spain

Website: www.unileon.es

Partners

Université Stendhal Grenoble 3, **France**; Pädagogische Hochschule Heidelberg, **Germany**; Università degli Studi di Padova, **Italy**; Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, **Netherlands**; Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, **Spain**; Wyższa Szkoła Lingwistyczna, **Poland**; Open University, **United Kingdom**

More information

Project website:

<http://uni-collaboration.eu/node/548?q=node/544>

The Erasmus+ Project Results Platform:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects>