

Anna GYÓRFI

Personalization of Visual Content in Educational Games

Importance and necessity of speaking foreign languages even for those with learning disabilities, such as dyslexia, is a challenge to the educational system that has to be addressed in order to ensure mobility and equal chances in the labour market for this disadvantaged group, that is estimated to be up to 10% of European population. Special needs responsive and technology enhanced high quality language teaching, at all levels of language teaching is essential to reach this aim.

Instead of following the medical model, where support is given to the disabled individual, the examples shown in the presentation, apply the European social model where the environment is adapted to the needs of all, including the disabled learner.

The last decades' extensive research has been searching more effective pedagogical methods to teach SEN students. These methods emphasize multisensory teaching, non-traditional, collaborative and motivating learning activities as well as content adaptable to personal needs. Instead of providing learners or teachers with ready made worksheets or teaching games, the modern approach offers teaching game authoring tools to create as many learning activities as they wish, at different levels and with different teaching focuses. This is in line with web2 philosophy, where content is not only consumed, but generated and shared by users. Teachers however might find it difficult to accommodate to these requirements, especially to create and personalize visual content without easy to use resources at their disposal.

The presentation will highlight examples of innovative authoring environments of web2 adaptable multimedia teaching activities.

Anna GYÓRFI is a clinical psychologist and school counsellor, specialized in innovative technology which enhances learning capacity for students with special educational needs. Having worked for several self help and educational web portals she is familiar with the development of interactive multimedia services and educational methodologies. Her special interest is in teaching foreign languages to dyslexic learners using innovative technology. E-mail: gyorfia@gmail.com.

