CHINESE
FOR EUROPEANS
欧洲人学中文

www.chinese4.eu

Bulletin

Mobile technologies
in the service
of the Chinese language teachers

Chinese language is considered to be very complicated and difficult to learn. The main reason is its way of speaking based on tonality – meaning of the word depends on the tone in which it is spoken. The second reason is its way of writing based on characters (logograms). It is worth mentioning that Chinese characters are considered to be the oldest continuously used system of writing in the world.

There are modern methods of language teaching and learning using ICT. One of the examples of the most efficient methods is presented on **www.Chinese4.eu**. The project Chinese 4 EU presents 4 different Chinese language courses based on information and communication technologies. They can be used for self-study, but they can also be successfully used by teachers during the Chinese language classes.

Lifelong Learning Programme

Education and Training

EACEA
Education, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency

Research indicates that a specific technology has to be used to a specific area of language learning and it has to be also adapted to the needs of the target group (students). The use of Chinese4.eu within Chinese language classes allows a teacher to adjust the ICT tools to meet the needs of the audience (different students group).

Platform "Chinese4.eu" is based on innovative methods of mobile learning. M-learning is a response to the needs of those who have little time to learn and they must take advantage of every free moment. The advantage of the application on mobile devices is that it can be used anytime (24/7) and anywhere. Nowadays with usage of latest ICT achievements mobile phone, laptop or tablet can replace the phrasebooks or even small dictionaries.

M-learning is assumed that it is not the only tool to learn Chinese. It should be used mainly in order to increase the attractiveness of courses and to encourage students to further study.

The whole system of exercises, dialogues, dictionaries and tests available at C4EU is designed for use with mobile tools. Mobile devices provide language teachers and students with many attractive options that allow the use of a completely new and effective method of learning. Mobile technology has great potential, the use of which is limited only by creativity of software developers and teachers' openness to innovative teaching methods.

It is worth mentioning that most of the students, especially the younger ones, are able to acquire knowledge using various sources and tools simultaneously. Education through mobile devices is not a problem for students, but an interesting opportunity for self-learning education process accompanied by teacher.

The increasing popularity of Web services among mobile users makes the educational material of "Chinese4.eu" project available virtually anywhere, anytime (24/7).

C4EU platform has compiled mobile learning with micro learning. Micro learning is based on the assumption that the work on the new material should not exceed 5 minutes and include only the most important issues. It consists of 3 traditional parts: a brief introduction, presenting appropriate material and identifying the content that should be learned. For teachers, it is the perfect base to prepare classes or to use Chinese4eu as additional material for their students.

It is now an established fact that the repetition of words and phrases in certain intervals is more effective than repeating them continuously. Chinese4.eu gives the feasibility of this type of learning – offers interactive language courses on a mobile devices (phones, tablets, etc) and e-mails. Such learning process involves frequent delivery of a few e-mails. Its frequency is tailored to the needs of the learner and the teacher. One mail consists of 2-3 short phrases or expressions, the most important words with translation and explanation within cultural context accompanied with the audio files.

We want to encourage all teachers to use the project Chinese 4 Europeans during their lessons. Due to this fact we have prepared the PDF publication "Chinese is Easy – a manual for teachers". This publication can be downloaded free of charge from our website:

www.Chinese4.eu

We would also like to inform that the whole project with its all products is available for free for both teachers and students. Don't waste your time and check as on-line.

www.chinese4.eu

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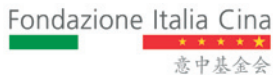**University of Antwerp Management School**
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