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Transforming Language Learning Through Virtual Connections

Reflective Questions

- How many of you have experienced the challenges of teaching language in a classroom where students often feel disconnected from the culture behind the words?

- What if you could bridge that gap by connecting your students with peers in other countries through virtual exchanges?
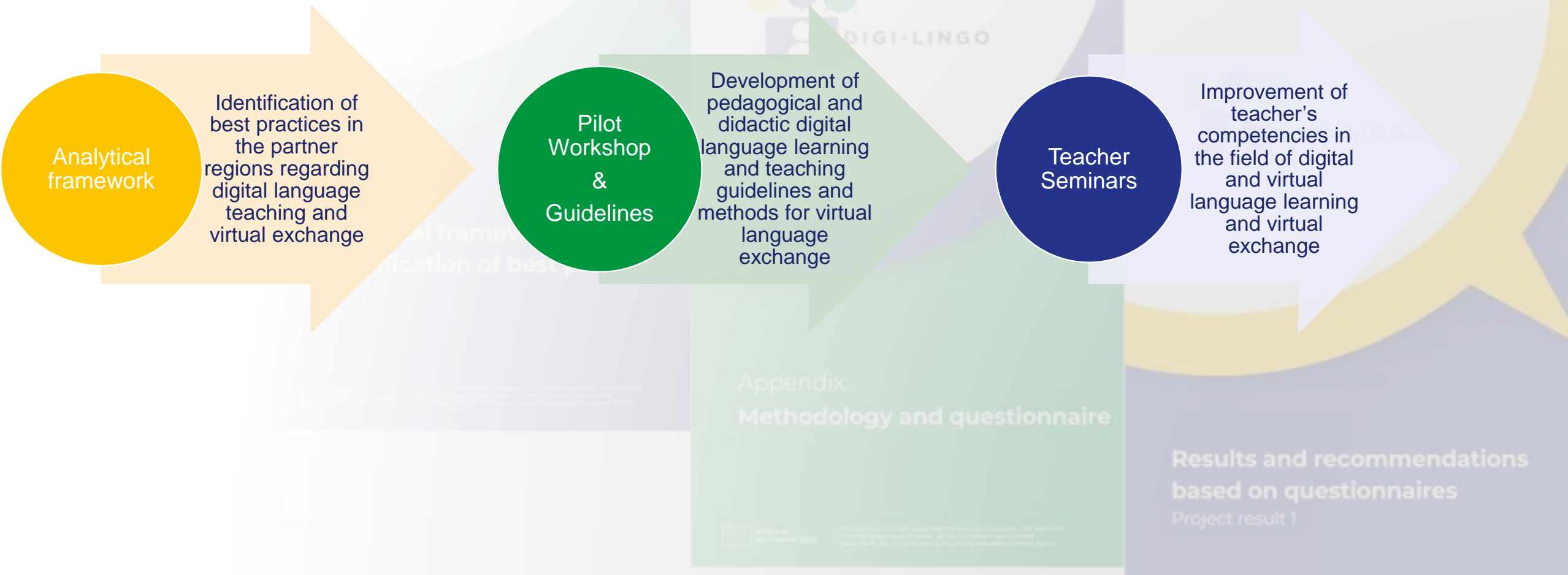
- How would that change their learning experience?

Image credits: OpenAI ChatGPT

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Introducing PR4 – The organisational model: Building on Our Work So Far

Analytical framework

Identification of best practices in the partner regions regarding digital language teaching and virtual exchange

Pilot Workshop & Guidelines

Development of pedagogical and didactic digital language learning and teaching guidelines and methods for virtual language exchange

Teacher Seminars

Improvement of teacher's competencies in the field of digital and virtual language learning and virtual exchange
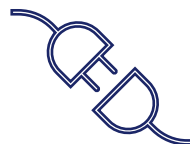
Challenges in Implementing Virtual Exchanges

- Matching with teachers who have similar goals, student proficiency levels, and compatible schedules can be difficult.

- Uneven access to technology and varying levels of digital literacy among students and teachers.

- Coordinating virtual exchanges between classes in different time zones can be complex and may limit synchronous interactions.

- Integrating virtual exchanges into a packed curriculum without compromising core learning goals.

Components of the Organisational Model

Self-Study Module

Guides language teachers through key aspects of language learning in the digital age, while offering practical guidance on planning virtual exchanges, setting goals, structuring activities, and addressing common challenges.

Matchmaking Mechanism

Allows teachers to make groups based on the language they teach and the proficiency level of their students to align project ideas and facilitate partner finding for organising virtual exchanges.

Blending Self-Study and Matchmaking

A platform combining self-study materials and matchmaking processes, enabling like-minded language teachers to meet, find partners, and design virtual exchanges.

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Self-Study Module

- Hosted on European Schoolnet Academy

- Free & self-paced

- Approximately 4 hours of learning time

Setting up Virtual Exchanges for Language Learning

- 1.0 Introduction 2 min
- 1.1 What matters for language learning in the digital age? 3 min
- 1.2 How to set up a virtual exchange 6 min
- 1.3 How to find partners 4 min
- 1.4 Ideas for online intercultural communication 4 min + 1 activity
- 1.5 Navigating common challenges in virtual exchange 2 min
- 1.6 Quiz and final remarks (17 Questions) 1 min + 2 activities
  Quiz

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Matchmaking Mechanism

Teams

See all teams you belong to and all public teams in your course, organized by topic. Join an o[...]
are.

My Teams   Browse

Showing 1-12 out of 12 total | Sorted by [name ▾]

Topic
English: Basic User (A1 - A2 level of language proficiency)
If you do not already have a team of teachers with whom you wish to orga...

2 Teams   →

Topic
English: Independent User (B1-B2 level of language profici...
If you do not already have a team of teachers with whom you wish to orga...

0 Teams   →

Topic
English: Proficient User (C1-C2 level of language proficienc...
If you do not already have a team of teachers with whom you wish to orga...

0 Teams   →

Topic
French: Independent User (B1-B2 level of language profici...
If you do not already have a team of teachers with whom you wish to orga...

1 Team   →

Topic
French: Proficient User (C1-C2 level of language proficiency)
If you do not already have a team of teachers with whom you wish to orga...

0 Teams   →

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the European Union

Pilot Workshop-Testing the Organisational Model

Workshop: Pilot testing of organisational model and guidelines

Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Digi-Lingo Pilot Workshop Series

- Took place online over three sessions in Sept-Oct 2024.
- Approximately 25 pilot teachers tested the organisational model and shared their feedback.
- The feedback was then integrated in the final version.
- Provided a valuable opportunity for the pilot teachers to network and explore potential future virtual exchanges.

Feedback survey:

- The self-study module length and content met participants' expectations.
- Content was practical, relevant, and concise.
- Matchmaking mechanism was easy to use.
- Clear guidance and instructions were provided throughout.

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Areas for improvement:

- Linguistic improvements: simplify the language used.
- Additional activities for interaction among the participants.
- Additional languages to be added in Teams.

Benefits of the model

- **Empowers Teachers:** Supports educators in organizing meaningful virtual exchanges.

- **Self-Study Resources:** Provides ideas, examples, and step-by-step guides.

- **Matchmaking Hub**: Connects exclusively language teachers to set up exchanges.

- **Guided Process**: Simplifies planning and execution of exchanges.

- **Real-World Language Practice**: Enables authentic language interaction for students.

- **Practical and Sustainable**: Reduces barriers to organizing impactful virtual exchanges.

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Join us at European Schoolnet Academy!

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Thank you!

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