Participants’ Reflections and Feedback on the Seminar

based on written feedback collected from the seminar participants at the end of the seminar

What reflections did the seminar give rise to?

- Theoretical background underpinning CLIL became clearer
  
  A language teacher has had a feeling but has not had a scientific language and systematic understanding what should be done

  Integrated programs should be based on existing information

  A systematic approach to CLIL in the presentations

  The theoretical ideas made me thing about the extent that CLIL teachers may or may not know about them

  The seminar gave names to problems I am experiencing

  Theoretical background of CLIL revealed in presentations representing various contexts

  You need to know theresearch & theory before putting CLIL to practice

- Belief in CLIL as an effective learning method was boosted

  The importance of CLIL especially in tertiary level
  Realizing the importance of integrating content and language

- CLIL-practicalities / new ideas became known

  Good ideas about combining my EPS class with content course
  Useful ideas especially for teacher training
• Awareness of and motivation towards CLIL was boosted (content teachers’ comments are in italics)

  taking into account using more strategies in teaching
  re-think the concept of my courses

  I got a spark to investigate further into the field of CLIL
  My motivation improved

  The seminar reinforced my previous conclusions

  *It is nice to know that the content teacher should pay attention to his/her language when giving the lectures*

  *I got courage to start to plan together with a language teacher*

  *I got courage to start CLIL-idea based courses and concrete methods to make it*

• Need to increase CLIL teaching/co-operation was expressed (content teachers’ comments are in italics)

  *Content teachers need to work more with language teachers*

  *Content teacher and language teacher should work together eg. preparing teaching materials*

  Importance of integrating content and language learning especially in tertiary level

  We need more co-operation between language teachers and content teachers

  I will approach content teachers in my institution

• Concern about students’ previous content knowledge was expressed

  Should the students know about the content [before studying in a foreign language]
• Concern about content teachers’ language awareness

  Content teachers need more skills in foreign language but not grammar – knowledge about difficulties in learning in a foreign language

• Concern about student’s language level / language development was expressed

  How to make sure the students have enough background language knowledge
  Should the students have language skills beforehand
  Language learning as a holistic process ….Can we support the learners enough or are we more eager to find critical points
  To make sure that students are capable of dynamically and autonomously produce sensible text

• Concern about getting other colleagues in home institutions interested in CLIL / to know about CLIL / was expressed

  It makes me sad to think how much we could do if only the content teachers would co-operate
  Not all language teachers are still interested in CLIL
  How can we reach the teacher who struggle with CLIL programs and od not find this information

**Reflections on possibilities on implementing some of the seminar input on a practical level**

• Redesigning the teaching situation / the content of the course

  I will emphasize BELF (Business English Lingua Franca) in teaching
  I will teach skills in successful BELF
  I will re-think the learning situations and pedagogical activities
  I will design a course using CLIL methods
  I will co-operate with other teachers
• Introducing CLIL to colleagues / on the administrative level

As an administrator I can introduce ideas
I will get my colleagues together and tell them about CLIL
I will discuss with my bosses and suggest a small-steps approach

• Practical ideas to be implemented / utilized

I was reminded of practical tips to use in my teaching
I will utilize the seminar powerpoints
Making international exchange students take part in CLIL courses
I am going to follow the HAMK implementation model
I will check the suggested websites
I will utilize the CLIL Handbook

• Making the teaching situations more concrete (content teachers’ comments)

Do more – talk more – talk with hands
Use mind maps, key words etc.
Using more graphs, scaffolding
Illustrating my teaching better
I will use the presented techniques in my class-room

• More conscious focus on the students’ language development (content teachers’ comments)

Put more attention to language …and follow how students have been able to adopt terminology
Maybe a more interactive method will be considered and tried in my teaching so that comprehension is strengthened/acknowledged
I will create an environment to expand my students’ vocabulary
I will activate the students to …express themselves in English to construct meaning in a new way

• Still digesting the seminar input

Don’t know yet but got many good ideas
Positive feedback was given on the following

- Arrangements
  
  Everything went very well (many almost similar comments) overall organization, good advertising, coffees, cozy dinner

- Quality and content of presentations
  
  rich program, variety of input, wide range of topics, practical information, excellent speakers

- Seminar atmosphere
  
  Good atmosphere, warm welcome, nice international mix

- Book display

- Sauli’s role as expert facilitator

- Research seminar particularly interesting

Suggestions for improvement made relating to the following

- Research workshop program
  
  more time for discussion between presentations (many complaints about this);
  more time for the book display
  more time for mingling

- Afternoon session program (content teacher angle)
  
  Bring it to a more practical level
  New techniques for improving contents could have been presented

- Handouts on all presentations would have been useful

- More presentations about specific CLIL situations in different countries would be interesting in the future
• Group/teamwork with follow-up discussions would have been useful
• CLIL should not be taken for granted in all educational contexts
  CLIL is OK for business but….
• Main seminar: a compromise to have language and content teachers together was questionable
  Not interesting enough for those involved in CLIL as researcher
  Not practical enough for content teachers

Need for more information about CLIL / continuing CLIL networking

Regular seminars like this - especially with research presentations – would be great!
As a researcher I would like to know more about the existing CLIL programmes
Interested in participating in a EU project
Continuing with seminars for sharing experiences and new ideas
Getting involved in a EU project