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Abstract: Workshop

Materials development: discussing task examples that illustrate task principles with a focus on integrating learner needs

The workshop begins by addressing the challenges of teaching TBLT as seen from the perspectives of the workshop organizer and the audience. One of the challenges language teachers in our European context face is that they work with a course-book provided by the school, which offers tasks and materials that do not necessarily address learners' needs in their particular classrooms appropriately. This results in teachers having to adapt and re-write existing tasks or to develop completely new tasks and materials as a regular part of their teaching job. They develop these materials on the basis of general task principles established through long-term classroom-based research in secondary EFL contexts. This research has always been carried out in close collaboration with practitioners and their learners. (N.B. differences to ESL contexts are becoming more and more blurred as English has become the *lingua franca* Europeans use to communicate with each other.)

I will then present an example task that I have developed and taught in my context to illustrate task principles, including resulting learner texts. Based on this example we will discuss the relevance of these principles for participants' own contexts. Participants will be invited to comment on these principles, displayed on a number of posters, and to add their ideas. We will conclude by working in groups and evaluating more materials (ideally brought by participants from their classrooms) against these principles, presenting results and discussing related issues. Workshop participants are, therefore, encouraged to bring along task examples from their contexts to the workshop so that they can consider how best to support language learning for their particular groups of learners. Alternatively, we can work on further example tasks that I can provide.

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Summary for the conference program

Materials development: discussing task examples that illustrate task principles with a focus on integrating learner needs

The workshop addresses the challenges of teaching TBLT in a learner-oriented way. Example tasks that we have developed and taught in our context illustrate task principles that have been established through long-term classroom-based research, including resulting learner texts. Relevance of these principles for participants' own contexts will be discussed. Participants are therefore encouraged to bring along task examples from their contexts to share and to discuss related issues.