MR. WINSTON

The True English Bot

MR WINSTON, THE TRUE ENGLISH BOT: PROJECT LAUNCH
A chatbot to tutor English language learning tailored for vocational education and training
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Did you ever try to learn a new language using an app? Was it easy? Was your app an ally or did you feel alone? In the end, how long did you sustain the effort?

Say you are a VET student about to start your career: one of the most important skills you need is to speak English. In addition to your classes, you decide to use an app. However, the program does not match the one of your teachers, and you are not sure what level the app corresponds to, so you do not know whether it will help you prepare for a test. In addition, there is no one to answer your questions when you have difficulties.

This is why we are launching Mr Winston. This project aims at developing a chatbot to tutor English language learners tailored for Vocational Education and Training.

WHAT IS MR WINSTON, "THE TRUE ENGLISH BOT"?

"Mr Winston - the true English bot" is an Erasmus + KA2 project that will develop a chatbot – a conversational robot operating over a messaging app - to teach English to VET learners.
The purpose of this project is to develop a chatbot that supports learners who study English at the A2 and B1 levels in following, understanding and remembering the lessons they were taught in class. This chatbot will be supported with open educational resources in the form of corresponding language lessons and a chatbot design guide.

WHY MOBILE LEARNING?

Chatbots can now be created without a large investment thanks to the democratization of chatbot. They are computer programs powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) to hold a conversation. As they are conversational agents and can be used on mobile phones, they are very easy to use for youngsters and virtually anybody else.
They have a great potential as an educative tool as they have all the tools needed for deliver information, evaluate how learners perform and provide feedback to teachers regarding the strengths and weaknesses in their classes so they can adapt their teaching.

WILL YOU ONLY CREATE A CHATBOT?

We will develop the following new tools to create an appropriate tutoring chatbot that addresses teachers' and learners' needs:

- a booklet gathering partners' research on chatbots in education, to identify the best educative uses of a chatbot
- a free educational English tutoring chatbot that supports the learner
- free teaching material that will be integrated into the chatbot whose program will follow CEFR levels A2 and B1
- a pedagogical guide to help educators understand how to make the most of using a chatbot as part of their teaching
- a chatbot creating guide to help educators create their own chatbot for education purposes

WHY DO YOU FOCUS ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING?

The partners chose to focus on this priority in VET for three reasons:

- English is by far the most taught foreign language in nearly all European countries at all educational levels and is a key skill for employability
- to reach a large variety of learners: from initial to continuous VET, all types of population and all ages are represented
- there are tendentially more learners in need of support in VET education, such as those with Specific Learning Disorders (dyslexia for instance) and/or a socially disadvantaged background

WHO ARE THE PARTNERS AND WHAT IS THEIR EXPERTISE?

This European project gathers six Erasmus+ partners and associated partners.

The partners in the project are:

- Logopsycom, from Belgium, is a company specialized in the care of youngsters with learning disorders. They are the leader leader of this Erasmus + project.
- Eurospeak Language Schools Ltdn, from the United Kingdomn, is a private English language school based in Reading and Southampton teaching about 1000 learners per annum.
- Civiform, from Italy, is a vocational training centre registered with the regional administration Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia delivering over 40 000 training hours per year in the several sectors.
- Learnmera Oy, from Finland, is a private adult education provider and translation company, focused mainly on corporate clients in the greater Helsinki area providing private executive business language lessons.
- YuzuPulse is a SME that aims at bringing innovative solutions and ICT tools to social economy.

- Ljudska univerza Rogaška Slatina, from Slovenia, is a non-profit adult education and training provider for the community in the local region that delivers VET and language classes.

These associated partners will support us by reviewing the outputs and providing support for dissemination actions. Among them: Le Trajectoire (speech therapy and tutoring center, Belgium), Les Apprimeurs (specialists in interactive content design, France), Gerere Fun For Good (social entrepreneurs with expertise in education gamification, Poland), Citizens in Power (education specialists, Cyprus), KE.D.D.Y (Center for Diagnosis, Evaluation and Support of children and youth with disabilities and educational difficulties, Greece), Formation 3.0 (organization that helps businesses and institutions to design, organise or coordinate digital trainings, France).

We will offer the chabot in English, and supporting materials and other resources in the following languages:
- French
- Italian
- Finnish
- Slovenian

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Website: mrwinstonchatbot.eu
Facebook page: @MrWinstonChatbot
Hashthag: #MrWinstonchatbot
Mail: info [at] mrwinstonchatbot.eu