The CLIL EXCELLENCE NETWORK

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The first step...

The BEI project: Bilingual Education in Italy

Bilingual teaching in the Italian primary school.
January 25th 2010: start up of the project in the Primary School

Memorandum of understanding

- MIUR (Italian Ministry of Education)
- British Council (Cultural body of the UK Government)
- USR Lombardia
Scientific research says:

- pupils can improve their linguistic
- intercultural
- social
- learning
- personal

competences without any loss in the mastery of their mother tongue or basic knowledge

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Requirements

- English speaking teachers (B2/B1 level)
- Principals and teachers involved in designing and training
- Involvement of at least 50% of the first year classes
- 5 years commitment (primary school: the whole cycle)
- 6 hours per week engagement
The first group of schools

- 42 applicants
- 6 selected
- 6 schools in the eight year of experimentation so far
The start up

- Teachers tested
- Teachers job shadowing in Spain
- Principals job shadowing in Spain
- Start up

February 2010
April 2010
May 2010
September 2010

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“Il Progetto IBI/BEI nella scuola primaria: Sintesi del Rapporto di Monitoraggio”
http://www.britishcouncil.it/sites/britishcouncil.it/files/final_sintesi.pdf

Strength and weakness points
September 2015: the new challenge
the Secondary School

Natural development of BEI project

Opportunity for pupils coming from different Primary Schools

More flexible approach required in order to face different starting points

Value proposition

Teachers availability

Linguistic competences survey

Metodological training

support from English teachers

Internal networking

External networking

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2015/2016: facts and figures

- 5 classes in the Kindergarten
- 98 classes in the Primary School
- 33 classes in the Secondary School

- 104 students
  - 10 Teachers
- 2400 students
  - 40 Teachers
- 830 students
  - 59 Teachers
CLIL Project from the start-up so far
In the last three years, in the Secondary School...

Assessment of English language competence by INVALSI

2018 Monitoring by the University of Milan, Department of Foreign Languages

Memorandum of understanding with Utah University 23/02/2016

Interns from Utah University as mother tongue Teachers

Interns put up in pupil’s families

Opportunity for parents, pupils, teachers

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The network grows

The application of new schools

The opening up of the CLIL Excellence network to 20 new schools fulfilling the admission requirements

Towards the second cycle

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Passionate …suggestions… to Principals entering the CLIL Excellence Networking

• **Clear vision**: defined in the school project statement

• **Engagement**: easier with pupils, parents, stakeholders; more complex with teachers

• **Process management**:

  The Principal is the expert steering the boat:
  - look at the final goal
  - motivate the crew attending the project
  - involve the rest of the staff.

  They are still sailing with you.
Passionate...suggestions...to Principals entering the CLIL Project

- Listen to and support the CLIL teachers
- Don’t underestimate the benefits of good organization
- Create working groups between CLIL teachers and foreign language teachers
- Find families available to put up interns from abroad
- Stay connected, stay tuned in
- Host visiting teachers from other schools
1. Do I have enthusiastic and motivated teachers?
2. Are they proficient in English (at least B1 level)?
3. Do they know CLIL methodology?
4. How many classes can I guarantee?
5. Did I make a 5 years (Primary School) and 3 years (Secondary School) forecast? Can I guarantee the full 8 years cycle?
6. Which class structure? Full CLIL classes/open classes?
7. What about non-CLIL classes?
8. If I choose open classes, what about the planning of the lessons in the whole school? How can I assign teachers to the classes?

9. Will I be able to guarantee a mixed project team between CLIL and English language teachers?

10. How can I manage teachers’ sickness, leaves etc?

11. How can I manage new pupils coming in?
An eight-year long navigation targeting:

- English language as a toolbox
- Growth of both teachers and pupils
- Dissemination of good practices
- CLIL from experimental to structured praxis
To the new schools in the network: a warm welcome!

To the others: we are waiting for you!
Every year we’ll offer you the possibility to join us!

The best of all this…
is the students,
who you’ll see and listen to in the afternoon!