



Uddannelse og kultur

Leonardo da Vinci

MP3 – ALSO FOR LEARNING!

- **A cross-national education project between 4 countries**

Fully grown men and women are sitting around a tiny MP3 player, trying to identify the plugs and the functions.

Another group of thirty-plus'ers seem to enjoy themselves with a microphone and some digital sound tracks on a pc. Actually they are not only producing a serious speech about the basic qualifications of an ambulance man, but they are checking and cutting sound effects like ringing, buzzing, crashing, alarms and screaming.

What's going on?!

These adults are teachers, working at vocational colleges, business schools or health care schools. They are preparing themselves for implementing a new media into their lessons: The adaptation of MP3 for teaching and learning!

Youth culture meets education aims

Who has not remarked: Too bad that you never see a young person without headphones plugged in their ears! – The kids seem to listen to music or have conversations with their friends whenever and wherever they are. Teachers often forbid MP3 players or mobile phones during lessons.

A new project tries to reverse the logic: If MP3 and MP3 gadgets make so much sense for young students, why not try to use this for teaching and learning?

MP3 is more than downloaded distracting music. It is compressed sound, which easily can be edited, copied, taped, published, distributed, deleted and - last not least - listened to on demand.

Teachers need to support their students in obtaining well-defined competencies. In general, the teaching methods are less well-defined. Imagine the integration of MP3 as a new method!

How to use MP3 at vocational colleges?

We are in the very beginning of a (sound) wave. In 2006 the first attempts were done in Denmark:

- Teachers download radio broadcasts from podcasting portals, using them as knowledge sources as alternatives to written texts.
- Students are instructed to use MP3 players during language lessons with voice recording, listening and adjusting their pronunciation.
- Teachers produce their own sound files about certain issues. Teachers also tape their feedback on students' work. Students listen to these presentations, whenever and wherever they want to.
- Students deliver descriptions of their practical work, certainly benefitting those students who have difficulties with reading and writing.
- And absolutely remarkable: Students and teachers are working interdisciplinarily with projects on certain relevant issues. The final outcomes are radio broadcasts, published inside or outside the school. In some of the schools the broadcasts are even included in examinations.



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This was only a limited number of the wide range of possibilities. More and more teachers are tempted to explore this new world.

The technical investment is rather small: Every school has pc's and can install the freeware programs. A few high quality recorders may be required. The technique is quite accessible even for non-IT-freaks. Though it takes time to explore and choose possibilities for the stimulation of the sense of hearing.

But haven't we been through it before? It also took time, when we started using the Internet for text research. And now we cannot live without it anymore. The use, the production and the publication of MP3 files is part of the new way of using the Internet. Welcome to Web 2.0 at schools!

A project as a front-rider

4 countries are participating in the cross-national project "Internetradio as learning tool". Vocational institutions from Denmark, Turkey, Hungary and Germany have committed themselves and radio-stations from their countries for a period of 2 years. During these 2 years the organisations will develop a teaching module, which will become adaptable for those schools who want to implement Internetradio as a learning method.

Core groups from each of the involved vocational organisations will have trial runs of 4 weeks with their students. They will let students produce and publish radio broadcasts as products of their learning processes. The teachers will observe, evaluate and adjust the draft of the teaching module. Finally, the proposal for a teaching module will be published in spring 2008, as a starter-kit for interested schools. The starter-kit will contain technical, pedagogical and journalistic advice, as well as a range of sound samples.

So far, it is possible to follow the development of the project at the website: www.i-radio-school.eu

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