



DissMark II Conference
11-14 October 2007, Tallinn, Estonia

EXPLICS

**The EXPLICS Project –
“Exploiting Internet Case Studies
and Simulation Templates for
Language Teaching and Learning”**

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The EXPLICS Project:

“Exploiting Internet Case Studies and Simulation Templates for Language Teaching and Learning”

- LINGUA 2 project, 2005-2008
- 16 partners in 12 countries
- co-ordinating institution: Universität Tübingen →
Universität Würzburg / DE
- web-based case studies and simulations in 11 languages

EXPLICS products:

Case studies and simulations in 11 languages:

- English, French, German, Italian, Spanish (CEFR levels B and C)
- Portuguese and Swedish (CEFR levels A and B)
- Czech, Finnish, Polish, Slovak (CEFR level A)

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Definition of case study:

*analysis of an (authentic) problem /
dilemma in a given situation to
which no single or correct solution
exists*

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Definition of case study:

„Darstellung einer konkreten Situation aus der betrieblichen Praxis oder dem Alltagsleben, die anhand bestimmter Tatsachen, Ansichten und Meinungen dargestellt wird, auf deren Grundlagen eine Entscheidung getroffen werden muss.“

Kaiser (1983: 20)

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Kaiser's (1983: 20) definition of case study – English translation:

“Presentation of a concrete situation taken from professional or everyday life, which is displayed through specific facts, attitudes and opinions, on the basis of which a decision has to be taken.”

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Definition of global simulation:

« Une simulation globale est un protocole ou un scénario cadre qui permet à un groupe d'apprenants pouvant aller jusqu'à une classe entière d'une trentaine d'élèves, de créer un univers de référence – un immeuble, un village, une île, un cirque, un hôtel – de l'animer de personnages en interaction et d'y simuler toutes les fonctions du langage que ce cadre, qui est à la fois un lieu-thème et un univers du discours, est susceptible de requérir. »

Debyser (1996: IV)

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Debyser's (1996: IV) definition of global simulation – English translation:

“ A global simulation is a script or a scenario framework which allows a group of learners, up to a whole class of about 30 students, to create a universe of reference – an apartment block, a village, an island, a circus, a hotel –, to animate it with characters interacting with each other and to simulate all language functions which are probably needed within this framework, which is at the same time a thematic place and a universe of communication.”

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Methodology / underlying principles:

based on:

- task-oriented language teaching & learning
- problem-based teaching & learning
- authenticity of text material and situations

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EXPLICS products:

- general language teaching
- LSP teaching
- web-based
- some: audio / video files

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Advantages:

- higher degree of readability of material (photos, charts)
- text material is well structured
- more text material can be used than with paper-based material
- can be linked to other websites;
internet search activities can be integrated

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Advantages:

- “more attractive”, “looks more up-to-date”
- corresponds to activities the learners will encounter in their future (professional) life
- higher **motivation** of students

... ..

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Advantages:

- stimulates learner autonomy
- less time pressure for the learner
- can be used in ODL situations
- can be used in a VLE
- can easily be updated
- complementary (vocabulary, grammar) activities can be uploaded

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*Examples of
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global simulation projects

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**Zahraniční študenti programu Erasmus na
Slovenskej poľnohospodárskej univerzite**



EXPLICS simulation – French



Simulation Project French C1: Le monde du vin

(Università di Padova)

Thématiques

- **Motivation** : secteur vivace et caractéristique de la culture, de l'économie et du tourisme français.
- **Adaptation** : le style « **entreprise familiale** » permet de concevoir une simulation installée dans une maisonnée où gravitent différentes figures professionnelles (liées au monde du vin), politiques et autres (liées au tourisme).

Rayonnement thématique

- vers les aliments et l'œnogastronomie
- vers les propriétés perceptives du corps : goût, odorat etc.
- vers l'hygiène et la santé
- vers le législatif
- vers le tourisme régional
- vers les moyens de communication les plus variés liés aux grands déplacements et au tourisme : randonnées pédestres, VTT, ski, cheval...

EXPLICS simulation – French



Simulation Project French C1: Le monde du vin (Università di Padova)

Exploitation

De là peuvent s'engager de conversations et débats divers

4. à propos d'un séjour de vacances à commander, négocier, gérer, payer : au téléphone, par lettre
5. autour d'une table d'hôtes, avec repas et vins
6. à la mairie avec les autorités locales
7. face aux médias avec les journalistes
8. sur le terrain avec les vignerons
9. dans les caves avec le tastevin
10. dans le musée familial avec un membre de la famille

Des exercices d'écriture peuvent viser à produire différents types de lettres et articles :

- lettres de transaction touristique (avec consignes minimales)
- lettres de transaction commerciale (avec consignes minimales)
- lettres ouvertes ou articles médiatiques de protestation (partant de données et modèles réels fournis par des articles disponibles sur le site ou accessibles en ligne, et par *Mondovino*)
- lettres privées des touristes racontant leur séjour à des amis, etc (libres, ou inspirées d'un dvd touristique)
- critique cinématographique concernant le documentaire *Mondovino*, partant de modèles authentiques disponibles sur le site ou en ligne (genre "cliquez pour donner votre avis")

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*Examples of
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case studies*

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EXPLICS case studies – Spanish

¿Un nuevo Corte Inglés? - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help

¿Un nuevo Corte Inglés? ¿Un nuevo Corte Inglés?

¿Un nuevo ?



 [1. ¿Te gusta comprar?](#)

 [2. ¿Qué es El Corte Inglés?](#)

 [3. Datos y opiniones](#)

 [4. ¿A favor o en contra?](#)

 [5. Más argumentos](#)

 [6. ¿Un nuevo Corte Inglés?](#)
[¡A debatir!](#)


[Textos](#)

Done

EXPLICS case studies

– Italian



La Cina si avvicina – Studio di caso per lo sviluppo dell'italiano turistico-economico

(Università di Padova)

Situazione

Una delle varie sedi dell'agenzia viaggi Cisalpina di Padova è stata contattata da un'agenzia turistica della Cina affinché proponga dei pacchetti viaggio in Veneto per turisti cinesi.

Al fine di formare i propri operatori l'agenzia ha deciso di organizzare una giornata in cui degli esperti illustreranno le principali caratteristiche dei viaggiatori cinesi affrontando anche questioni riguardanti i rapporti commerciali Italia-Cina. L'agenzia si è rivolta agli organizzatori del nuovo Corso di laurea in Lingue, Culture e Mercati dell'Asia di Bologna e al 'Master of Business Administration' della Bocconi di Milano i quali hanno selezionato un gruppo di giovani formatori specializzati sull'argomento.

Obiettivi generali

6. Organizzare una presentazione orale con l'ausilio di fotocopie, lucidi o programmi informatici (ad esempio PowerPoint o Dreamweaver).

7. Realizzare in forma scritta alcuni modelli di itinerari turistici nel Veneto rivolti a turisti cinesi.

EXPLICS case studies

– Italian



La Cina si avvicina – Studio di caso per lo sviluppo dell'italiano turistico-economico

(Università di Padova)

Obiettivi linguistici

- 3. Sviluppo delle abilità di comprensione orale e scritta attraverso l'ascolto e la lettura dei materiali dati e da ricercare per la preparazione del seminario simulato.**
- 4. Sviluppo delle abilità di produzione orale e scritta attraverso la simulazione delle presentazioni e dei laboratori previsti all'interno del seminario.**

Compiti

- Assumete uno dei ruoli di formatore elencati sotto, scegliete tra il materiale offerto quello che si presta meglio a trattare il vostro argomento. Integrate lo attraverso una ricerca su Internet a partire dai siti indicati. Sulla base di tutte le informazioni raccolte preparate una presentazione orale che abbia anche una traccia scritta (ad esempio su Powerpoint o su lucidi).**
- Organizzate un laboratorio per la realizzazione di alcuni modelli di itinerari turistici nel Veneto che tengano conto degli aspetti trattati durante il seminario.**

EXPLICS case studies

– English



Disability rights – the Ryanair Lawsuit (Università di Padova)

Background Information

In 2002 the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) began legal proceedings against the low cost airline company Ryanair and the British Airport Authority (BAA) for charging disabled passengers extra for wheelchair assistance. At the beginning of 2004, a disabled man who had been asked to pay £18 to use a wheelchair at Stansted Airport won a court case against Ryanair and was awarded compensation. As a consequence Ryanair has announced that all passengers will be charged an extra 50p in order to cover wheelchair costs.

Situation

The British Department for Transport has made a proposal to create an effective regulation to prevent PRMs (persons with reduced mobility) facing both refusal of carriage and additional charges for assistance. The regulations would transfer responsibility for the provision of PRM assistance to airport managing bodies. However, three possible outcomes have been identified:

- Option 1 – support the proposed regulation.
- Option 2 – support the proposal but with an amendment to allow airlines to opt out.
- Option 3 – oppose the proposal.

EXPLICS case studies
– **English**



Getting ready for the case study
– **preparatory work**

**Tasks on audio-recorded interview with Miriam
Whitfield of Social Vocational Services, Inc.**

You will listen to a recorded interview with Miriam
Whitfield, who works for Social Vocational Services, Inc.
(SVS) in California.



EXPLICS case studies

– English



A. Background knowledge

Ms. Whitfield uses some terms which relate to U.S. institutions assuming that the interlocutor will know about these. What previous knowledge do you have about each of the terms listed below? What can you understand from the terms themselves? Do you know specifically how they apply to U.S. institutions? You may want to do some research, either before or after listening.

Social security

Medicaid

The Lanterman Act

the state Department of Rehabilitation

the welfare system

Independent Living Skills Services (ILS)

EXPLICS case studies

– English



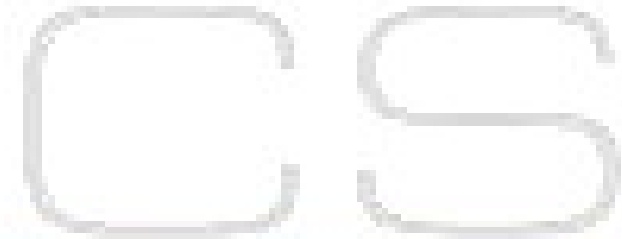
B. Comprehension items

Read the following items before listening to each part of the audio. Choose the best completion of each, either while listening or after you have heard the recording, on the basis of what you have heard.

Part 1

1. California's provision for people with disabilities is unique in that ...

- a.) special adaptive devices are provided.
- b.) employment is seen as a right.**
- c.) its purpose is to help them survive.
- d.) it is part of the welfare system.



EXPLICS case studies

– English



C. Work on lexicon

Fill the blanks with words or expressions from the list below.

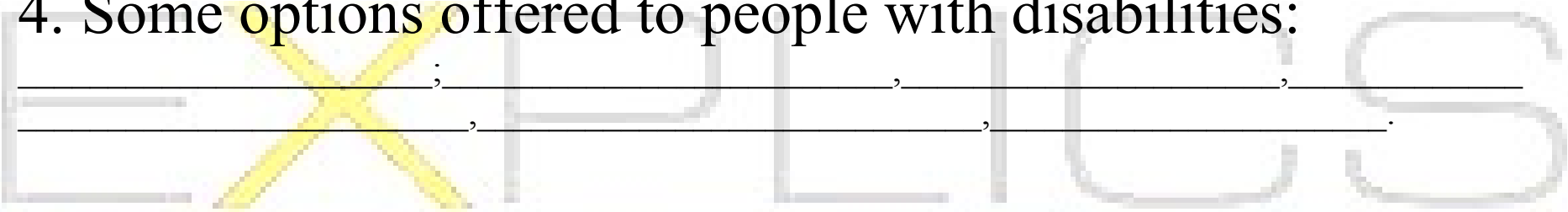
1. Four developmental disabilities: _____,
_____, _____, _____.

2. A synonym of *right*: _____.

3. Reactions against the cutting of services for people with disabilities: _____,
_____.

4. Some options offered to people with disabilities:

_____; _____,
_____, _____.



EXPLICS case studies

– English



a job coach
a support person in the work place
adaptive devices
autism
cerebral palsy
day programs
entitlement

group homes
independent living skills services
lawsuits
lobbies
mental retardation
seizure disorder
self-advocacy groups becoming active



Prompts for the case study

A man charged £ 18 to use a wheelchair at Stansted Airport has begun a court action against the airport and the airline company.

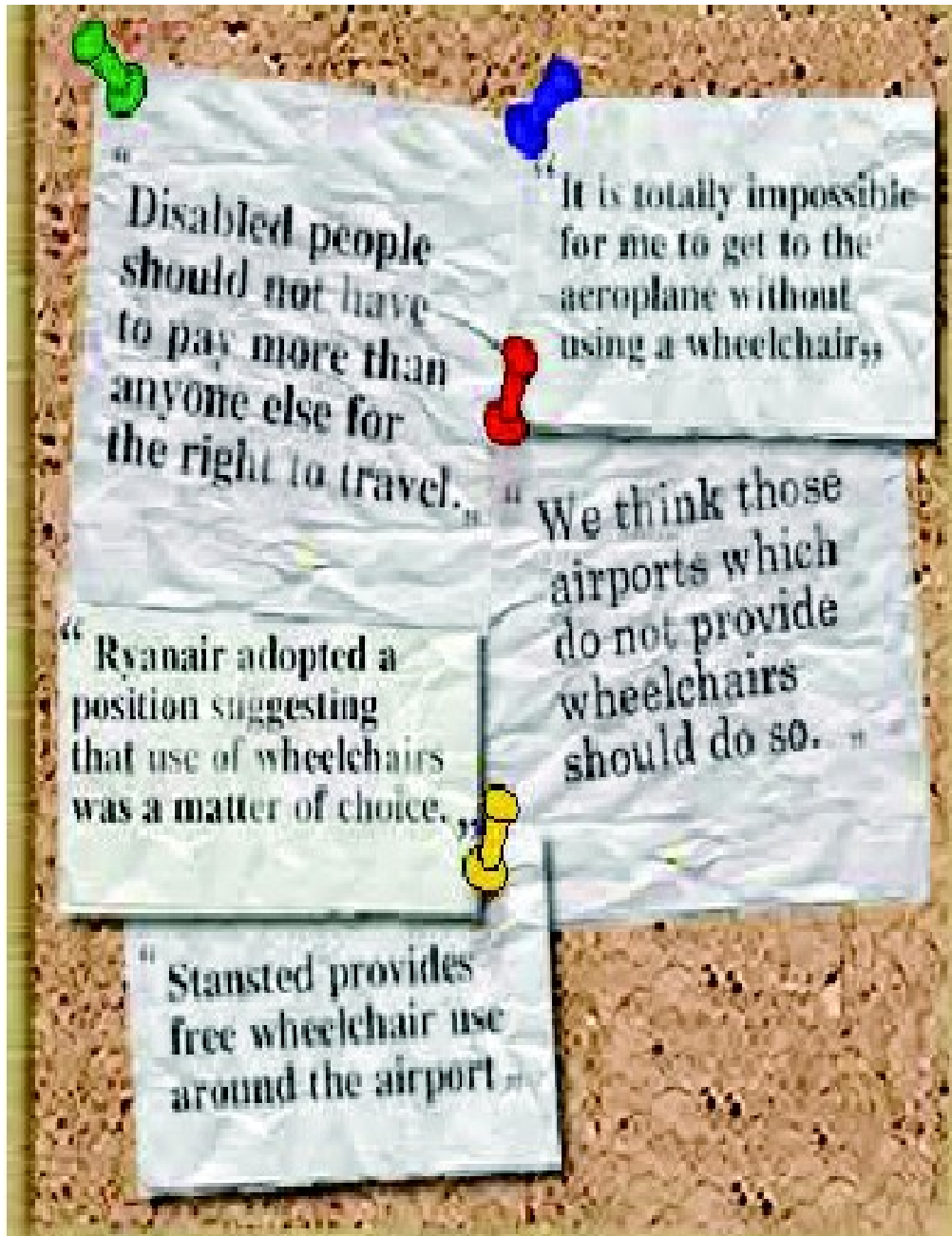
Part 1

Work in groups of 2, 3 or 4 students to discuss why you think the man has begun a court action. What do you think is wrong with asking the man to pay £18?



Part 2

Read the statements made by or relating to some of the people or organisations involved in the case. Match a statement to each person or organisation. Discuss your ideas in groups.



Prompts for the case study

- Disabled passenger
- Disability Rights Commission
- Disabled passenger's lawyer
- Airline representative
- Stansted spokesman



Simulations can be seen as:

1. Virtual laboratories for the study of behaviour and the evolution of systems, ranging from flight simulators to simulation of surgery
2. Constructivist laboratories to learn about roles in organisations, i.e. business games
3. Laboratories to study concepts and models where students take on the roles of researchers

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Advantages:

1. Experiment with real problem-solving
2. Use one's skills and test one's intuitions in risk-free environments
3. Make and test hypotheses, identify models and behaviours, make decisions and observe their consequences
4. Study the impact of changes and hence adjust behaviour
5. Make mistakes and correct them thanks to feedback
6. Participants are actors in the simulation

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Case studies:

1. Decisions or dilemma cases
2. Appraisal cases or issue cases
3. Case histories

website

Case study with automated feedback:

1. Analysis of documentation
2. Analysis of problem(s)
3. Study of possible solutions and decision
4. Discussion of different points of view
5. Comparison/contrast with expert's opinion

Explics will combine

piloting

Case study conducted with tutors or co-operating with peers:

1. Analysis of documentation
2. Analysis of problem(s)
3. Evaluation of possible solutions
4. Proposed solution
5. Evaluation of consequences of decision

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Project website:

www.explics.uni-tuebingen.de

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