

V-PAL provides a platform and know-how for language teachers in adult education to produce, share and peer-review hand-held videos of their own teaching practices as a method for strengthening their teaching skills.

Face-to-Face teacher training held in Vejle, Denmark

In November 2019 the face-to-face Teacher Training event was held in Vejle, Denmark. 18 enthusiastic language teachers from Cyprus, Denmark, Germany and Romania have gathered and spent constructive, inspiring educational time together. As they told us, the training “*built and improved excellent communication, presentation, and time management skills*”, helped teachers learn “*how to give a structure to my thoughts*”. In addition to that, teachers felt, that “*So much was presented so clearly, so well structured, in such a professional and usable way.*” The event proved to be really successful and equipped teachers with useful knowledge for their video based Peer Practice adventure which they have started in Vejle.

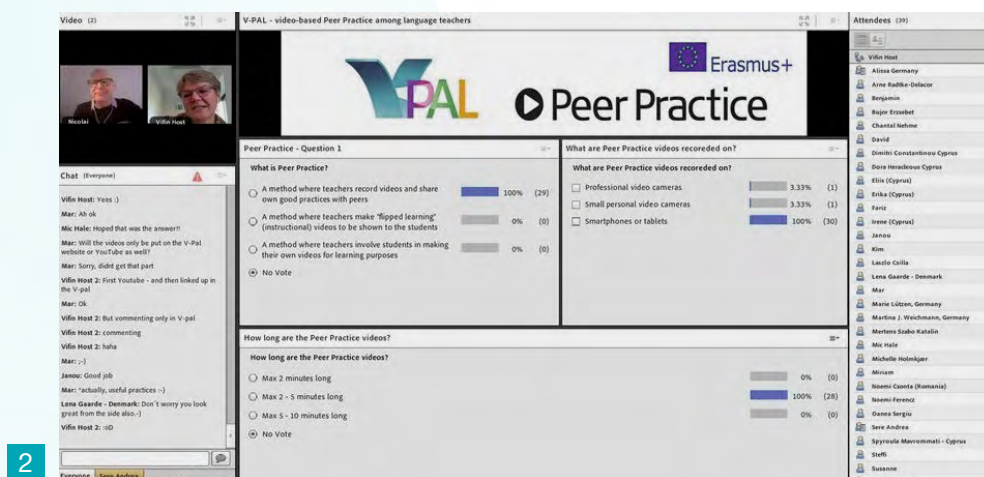


Expressing constructive feedback, introduction to the V-PAL platform, alongside learning about and practicing video recording, editing were the main activities which the training has been built upon.



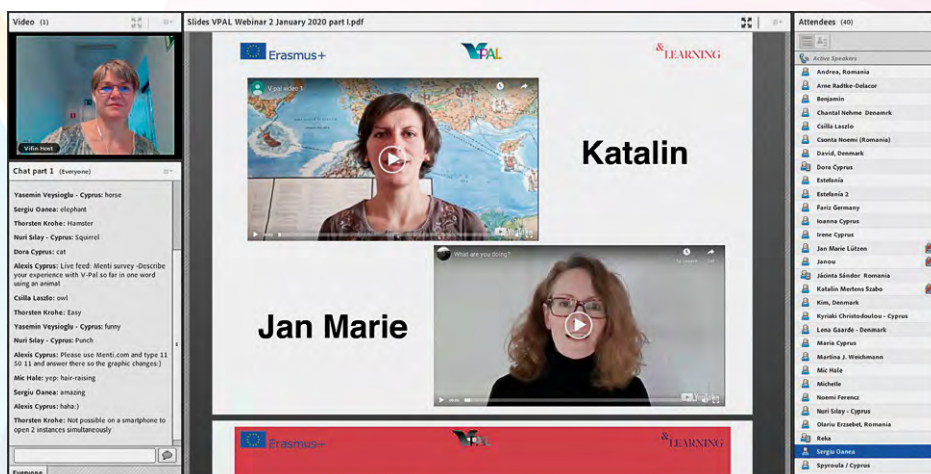
Webinars held periodically within V-PAL are keeping teachers involved and active

Inspiration, motivation, ideas were the most popular words that describe the first preparatory V-PAL Teacher Training webinar held on the 10th of October 2019. The main purpose of this online meeting was to introduce teachers how they can actively get involved and gain valuable experiences for their teaching through the video based Peer Practice method. Participants – 37 in total - received their first assignment of recording their first, self-introduction video in order to gain some experience for their future video producing and sharing activities.



The screenshot shows a V-PAL webinar interface. On the left is a chat window with messages from participants. In the center is a poll titled 'What is Peer Practice?' with three options: 'A method where teachers record videos and share own good practices with peers' (100% (29)), 'A method where teachers make "flipped learning" (instructional) videos to be shown to the students' (0% (0)), and 'A method where teachers involve students in making their own videos for learning purposes' (0% (0)). Below the poll is another question 'How long are the Peer Practice videos?' with three options: 'Max 2 minutes long' (0% (0)), 'Max 2 - 5 minutes long' (100% (28)), and 'Max 5 - 10 minutes long' (0% (0)). On the right is a list of attendees, including names like V-PAL Host, Alison Germany, Anne Radtke-Heister, Benjamin, Roger Eisenberg, Chantal Rehner, David, Dimitri Constantinos Cyprus, Dora Hristidou Cyprus, Ellis (Cyprus), Enika (Cyprus), Fani, Irene (Cyprus), Janina, Kim, Lucile Gilla, Lena Gierde - Denmark, Mar, Marie Lützen, Germany, Martina J. Wichmann, Germany, Martens Stabo Katalin, Mic Hala, Michael Holmberg, Miriam, Noemi Geste (Romania), Noemi Ferenc, Oana Sergiu, Sara Andrea, Syreeta Marommat - Cyprus, Sven, and Susanne.

In the second webinar on the 15th of January, 2020, gathering 35 language teachers, participants got to experience repeatedly the fantastic feeling of being part of the V-PAL community. By this time, teachers were invited to produce their first Peer Practice videos and share them on the V-PAL platform.



The aim of this second online event was, that teachers share their experiences related to the recordings of their first videos, trainers to give feedback about the uploaded teaching materials. Within this online event, live interviews about the filmed and uploaded practices, self-reflection, group feedback and other interactive activities made the training engaging and effective for participants.

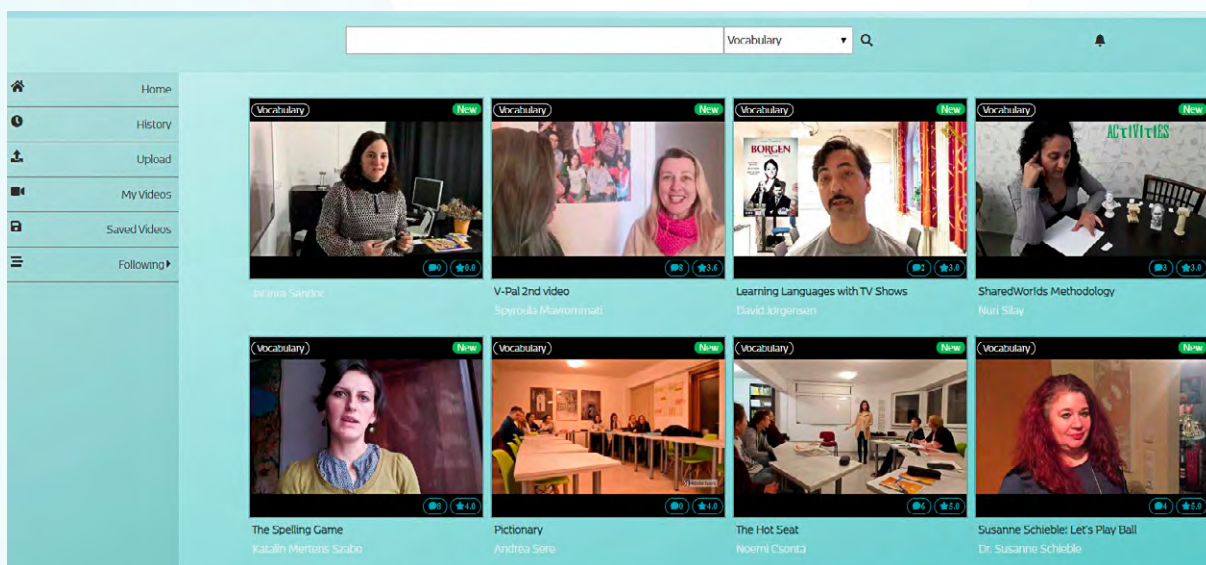


V-PAL peer practice videos – Sharing experiences and learning from each other through the V-PAL platform

The V-PAL teacher community has been working on filming and uploading their Peer Practice videos (short videos of own teaching practices using hand-held devices) to the online platform since December 2019. Three of such videos have been expected from each participant language teacher. Mutual comments, constructive feedback need to be expressed as well as discussions can be generated about experiences and challenges encountered.

The V-PAL platform – a lively, supportive learning community

The V-PAL platform – user friendly, interactive and appealing online space - is one of the main results of the project. Its development started in Autumn 2019 and it is still constantly advanced and improved in order to best support teachers in their experiences of producing, sharing hand-held Peer Practice videos of their own teaching practices. Feedback and suggestions are being asked for from teachers along the way.



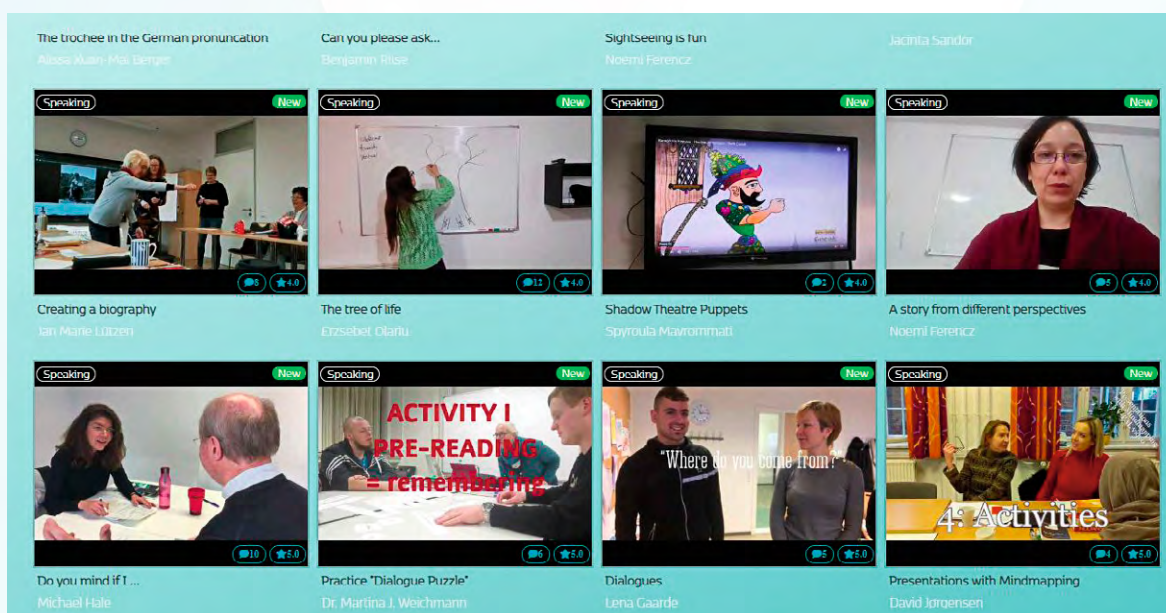
The platform is storing Peer Practice videos in a structured way, on the basis of what competence they are focusing on. The user can access videos categorized as follows:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking
- Listening
- Vocabulary
- Grammar
- Other

The *Other* section contains all those videos, which tackle other skills development possibilities than the already enumerated.

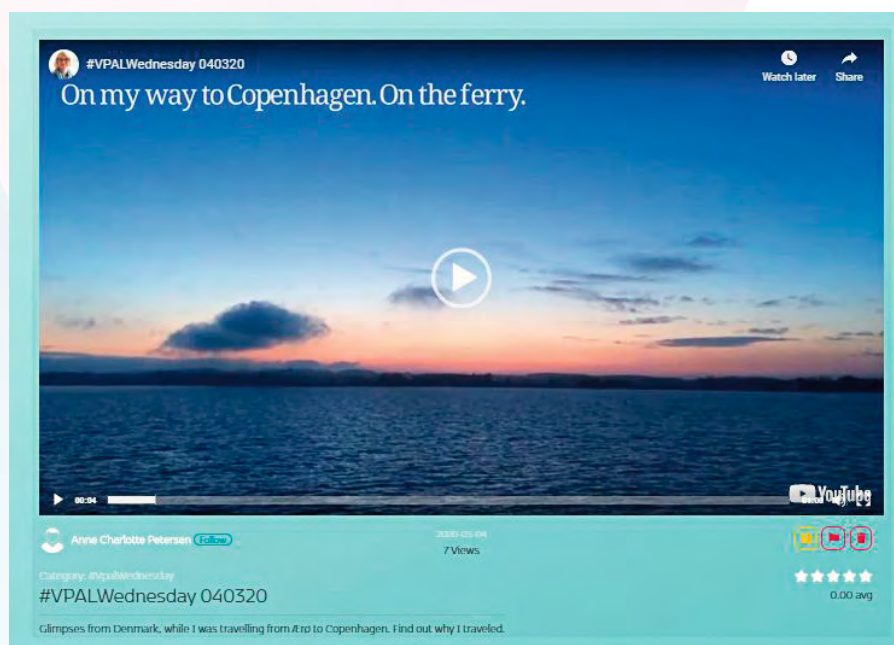
Tips and tricks to show and use along with *tutorials* offering more detailed insights into didactic feedback are all to be found on the V-PAL platform.

All platform users are offered the chance to engage with a community of highly experienced and committed teachers from all over Europe and to co-design high-quality language teaching for their own as well as others' classrooms.



V-PAL teachers already know, if it's Wednesday, it's #VPal-Wednesday. This means that on each Wednesday, there is a post coming from the V-PAL team which can be a new assignment, or a behind the scenes video from the face-to-face training in Vejle, small challenges or just something fun. So, Wednesday is V-Pal Wednesday, well, at least till the end of the project!

In our next issue we will give you details on our upcoming V-PAL Final Conference accessible online.



Are you interested in finding out more?

Visit the <https://v-pal.eu/> website or the projects' [FB page](#).

The project is funded with support from the European Commission through the Erasmus + Programme and runs between 01 September 2018 and 31 August 2020.