



BABELIUM an open source web platform for interactive speaking practice

The screenshot displays the Babelium web interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Babelium', 'Mi Actividad', 'Explorar', and 'Crear'. Below this is a 'Practicar' section with a search bar and a grid of exercise cards. Each card shows a video thumbnail, a difficulty level (B1), a user name, and a topic. A 'Filtros' sidebar on the right allows filtering by language (Inglés), level (B1 Pre-intermedio), and type (Conversación, Doblaje, Libre contexto, Narración, Otro, Práctica del idioma). The main content area shows a detailed view of an exercise titled 'Explaining a problem: At the optician's'. This view includes a video player with a microphone icon, a 'Evaluación de juanan' section with a star rating and a comment box, and a 'Detalles del ejercicio' section with metadata like 'Tipo de ejercicio: Conversación' and 'Competencia comunicativa: Going shopping'. A 'Configuración de grabación' section at the bottom allows users to choose a recording method (microphone or webcam) and has a 'Stop Recording' button.

Babelium: We can only learn to speak by speaking!

The Tower of Babel is a well-known story that portrays the challenge that multilingual communication can create. This story provided the inspiration for the name given to Babelium, a project that is promoted and co-funded by the European Commission within the Leonardo da Vinci frame of the Lifelong Learning Programme. Nowadays the need to speak a second language is becoming more of a necessity in our multicultural society. Babelium has been developed to address this need and promote language learning.

Language skills can be essential when dealing with foreign clients and colleagues. Students doing an Erasmus or internship abroad also need these skills. Moreover, speaking the language of a country can make visiting it much more rewarding and can sometimes be vital for circumstances when we are in need of help.



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We want to make your learning of languages easier and more efficient and, with this aim in mind; we have developed an online resource that can be adapted to fit your schedule. This resource can also be used as an additional tool for language teachers who want to make their classes more interesting and varied. In both applications, Babelium focuses on developing oral expression skills in language learning.

Babelium is for anyone who wants or needs to improve his/her oral language skills. It can also be used by language teachers seeking an efficient tool to aid their students' learning.

Using a creative commons license, we provide hundreds of video exercises suitable for a diverse audience, including:

- Managers and employees who need to deal with foreign clients and workers
- Students who need to prepare for an internship or Erasmus
- Immigrants who want to integrate quickly into their new community
- People of all ages who want to travel abroad and learn more about different cultures by communicating with the local people in their language
- Teachers and trainers looking for an effective didactic tool to help develop speaking skills.

As a result, the project has ended up providing an open source, collaborative, web platform with more than 250 open video-content in English, German, Spanish and French languages, tried-and-tested for dissemination and freely available for both end-users and developers.

Babelium is providing:

- A new approach in second language oral expression practicing and learning for learners and trainers in language training centres. The learning process is easier, more attractive and available
- The possibility of applying the innovative methodology to address the learning needs of disadvantaged people, e.g.: migrants, immigrants and people with economical resources problems
- The necessary platform to support all processes: <http://babeliumproject.com>
 - A public portfolio of second-language students produced recordings, classified by specialist (language teachers) according to overall quality (Implemented via API):
 - Javascript:https://github.com/babeliumproject/moodle-assignsubmission_babelium
 - PHP:<https://github.com/babeliumproject/flex-standalone-site/wiki/PHP-API>
 - School oriented administration panel
 - Open source web application: <https://github.com/babeliumproject>



- An official Moodle plugin to incorporate Babelium in the most used Learning Management System (LMS). Babelium provides a new assignment type: Babelium assignment. Students will be able to record themselves and get teacher's evaluation.
 - Url: https://moodle.org/plugins/view/assignment_babelium
- New videos and models recorded by native speakers:
 - English 81 (44 models)
 - French 55 (32 models)
 - German 54 (29 models)
 - Spanish 61 (33 models)
- Open repository with the developed video sources.
 - <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7tqwplmqvadxh/AAANt4hdpFICJPeSOPd90j2ca?dl=0>
- A mobile version (beta version)
 - Version using Adobe AIR for Android:
<https://github.com/babeliumproject/flex-mobile-site>
- HTML5 version (prototype)
 - Old version: <https://github.com/babeliumproject/html5-standalone-site>
 - New version: <https://github.com/JonLachen/PFG-Babelium>



BABELIUM has been piloted in ES, EN, FR and DE, in three countries France, Spain and Latvia:

- 227 learners reached
- 13 teachers involved



- 58 videos piloted (assessed by the teachers), 34 (P2P assessments); summarizing 92 videos piloted.
- Courses that included piloting with Babelium: 15 (higher education, vocational training y general adult education)

During the Project, we used a private instance of the Babelium platform for piloting: [llp.babeliumproject.com](http://lp.babeliumproject.com) and these are the results:

- 419 users
- 551 exercises
- 558 exercises recorded
- 573 assessments (one response can be assessed by different people)

The website of the project Babelium www.BabeliumProject.com will be maintained at least 2 years after the end of the project. Some numbers (16/11/2015):

- 1482 users
- 682 exercises
- 791 exercises recorded
- 419 assessments

Private instance for the UPV/EHU (Faculty of Letters): berbetan.com

- 647 users
- 243 excises
- 817 exercises recorded
- 613 assessments

Total number of users registered in the platform: **2548**

The plugin has been download and installed in at least 93 platforms from different countries: United States, Thailand, France, Spain, Germany, Colombia, Russia, New Zealand, Vietnam, Hungary...)

List of centers that have installed and used Babelium:

- Goethe Institute
- British Council
- The National Distance Education University (UNED)
- Cervantes Institute
- Basque country University (UPV/EHU)





- HABE
- Public University of Navarra
- University of Pau and the Adour region
 - Institut d'études françaises pour étudiants étrangers
 - Université du Temps Libre d'Aquitaine (UTLA)
- City hall and public offices of Brussels
- Tecnalia Research & Innovation
- IVAP
- Linguistic normalization from the Justice Department of the Basque Government
- KomalLingua
- Lacunza
- Faculty of Education, Psychology and Art from the University of Latvia
- Latconsul Business Consulting and Training Centre

The training contents developed in BABELIUM and the results are **free of charge**. Every stakeholder interested in teaching languages, will have the possibility to afford this new approach in languages learning skills. Organizations from countries not represented in the consortium will be able to adapt the training course to their needs and local contexts, after carrying out their local needs analysis. Guidelines for localization have been produced based on the lessons learned during the project implementation and are available for use.

You only need a computer that is equipped with a microphone and webcam. Many of us have now this technology at home. You can try it now visiting: <http://www.babeliumproject.com>

Once you log in, you can start working with people you know, for example, your teacher and fellow students, or you can meet new people on the platform. These people may be native or non-native speakers but they will all be there to learn and will help you towards achieving your own learning objectives.

More information:

<http://www.babelium-project.eu/>

<http://babeliumproject.com/>

