Dual Language Programme (DLP) in Vienna. Evaluation of year 1 (2006/07) at two lower secondary schools.

Project coordinator: Christiane Dalton Puffer
Researchers: Christina Gefäll, Barbara Unterberger
Commissioned by: Vienna Board of Education
Project sum: EUR 2800,-

In the autumn of 2006 the Vienna Board of Education introduced a CLIL-concept for lower secondary schools in its jurisdiction under the name of Dual Language Programme. A few months into the programme the Board of Education itself commissioned a first round of evaluation to take place towards the end of the first year. The research questions of the evaluation at this early stage of the programme were directed above all towards experiences and attitudes of all stakeholders (students, teachers, parents, school directors). The study was carried out at two complementary inner-city sites (one academic school and one general secondary school). Research methods employed included: classroom observation, questionnaires, and interviews.

Results show that organisational parameters regarding registration, employment of native-speaking team-teachers, timetabling need to be carefully revised. Satisfaction levels are particularly high among parents, followed by teachers. An unexpected result from the perspective of students was that they felt freer and more motivated to use English during EFL lessons than during DLP lessons (contrary to expectations based on theory and other research results). A full report (54pp.) is available from the FDZE.

Both researchers have developed their MA-thesis from the project.