Web-based Learning: Activities and Platforms

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Abstract. At present young people need both digital literacy and proficiency in foreign languages in order to participate actively in society and to become fully-fledged members of the European labour market. Therefore, developing students’ competence in ICT and foreign languages is essential in higher education. A synthesis of both is being sought for in designing different language modules at the Centre of Foreign Languages, Kaunas University of Technology (KTU). The paper presents theoretical considerations as well as empirical observations testifying to the usefulness and efficiency of ICT integration into foreign language teaching / learning. The authors share their experience in implementing new technologies in different English language courses as well as participating in Internet-based communication projects with partners from other European countries. A survey about the level of the Internet penetration and the students’ attitude towards it was carried out among KTU students, and the analysis of the survey results is presented in the paper. The authors highlight the advantages and threats of digital inclusion, point out the current needs in the area and present recommendations for language specialists applying new technologies in their work.