SCAFFOLDING LANGUAGE IN THE CLIL UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

In English medium courses, students are effectively L2 learners and are faced with many linguistic challenges. To ensure that these courses are effective learning spaces, these potential language barriers must be managed. It is important that language scaffolding, such as organizational signposting and content being presented in digestible linguistic chunks, is consistently used throughout class time in order to help learners navigate the L2 environment. Moreover, effective scaffolding techniques further encourage active participation and understanding through interaction with the instructor, i.e. the more knowledgeable other. Each learner will enter the learning environment with various needs, e.g. low or advanced language levels, lack of content knowledge and/or academic skills, or special learning/cognitive differences, therefore instructors must not only be tuned into the various needs of their learners, but know how to respond to them.

This workshop will explore how effective language scaffolding can enhance the learning environment and acquisition of both language and content knowledge in CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) and EMI (English Medium Instruction) teaching contexts. It will draw on material developed by The TEA Project (Teaching in English for Academics) of the Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. It will develop practical English language use and scaffolding skills that the participants will be able to immediately use in their own teaching.

This workshop will be highly interactive and participatory.

FOCUS ON INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGIES:

Skill-based pedagogical innovation • Transversal