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Piloting

One of the project activities was to arrange two pilot seminars. The main purpose of the pilot seminars was twofold: first to disseminate the products and the process of the project further and to broaden the user base of the project outcomes; second, to create a model for the pilot seminars based on the experiences and the feedback from the pilots. One of the seminars took place in Germany and the other in Finland. The target groups of the pilot seminars were somewhat different. In Germany the pilot seminar was organised for teachers in secondary vocational education, whereas in Finland both the secondary vocational and higher education teachers were the target groups.

The seminar in Germany was held in May 2007. Altogether 34 secondary language teachers participated in the one-day seminar.

The pilot seminars assumed the following form. At first there was a renowned guest lecturer talking about the language and communication needs of the professionals in the working life. As the general knowledge of the CEF still needs to be improved among the teachers, the second part of the seminar dealt with the CEF and its linkages with the CEF Professional Profiles. Following that, the aims of the CEF professional project were laid out for the participants, especially the Guidelines.

CEF Professional Profiles were given out so that the teachers could become acquainted with the profiles and their structure and contents. The teachers familiarised themselves with the profiles in groups evaluating them and their usability in their own course design and implementation. They were handed a questionnaire where they could evaluate how meaningful the profile seemed and how helpful it would be in the actual course planning.