The EU Study: The AUDIO-LINGUA Project

The Council of Ministers of the European Community established a Language Program within the SOCRATES Programme¹ to promote innovative projects in order to emphasize language training within the member states.

The project called AUDIO-LINGUA (1993-1995) focused on acceleration and improvement of the second language acquisition and this by technical means. It was carried out in eight different universities. The taught languages were: German, Dutch, Spanish and Italian. Statistical data from a total of 128 participants was analysed. Pre- and post-tests were conducted with the following three test groups:

1. The Sound Perception Training (SPT) Group worked with pronunciation material specially designed for the project and without teachers.
2. The Control Group worked in an ordinary language laboratory with pronunciation material designed for the project and with a teacher.
3. The Zero Group worked without any specific exercises and was taking traditional language lessons in the foreign language to be learned.

RESULTS OF THE SOUND PERCEPTION TRAINING (SPT) METHOD

The Sound Perception Training offered:

- a learning time reduction by up to 50% compared to traditional learning methods
- significantly better pronunciation and better auditive perception
- a positive impact on motivation and reduction of participants’ tiredness
- the reactivated sound perception continued to evolve even after the end of the training

The sound perception training is thus a valid support to the didactic methods, which are currently used.

For more detailed information on the study’s results and method, please do refer to our website’s downloads.

¹ The SOCRATES Programme was an educational initiative of the European Commission – now replaced by the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLLP). Treated in the “Participant’s Guide” published by the Bureau de Langue, Bruxelles, Task Force Human Resources.