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Newsletter #2

Summer 2021 - Project updates

Transnational project meeting held in Split, Croatia

As EU countries started lifting covid-19 restrictions, the NGPT team organized their first face-to-face transnational project meeting. The meeting took place in the beautiful city of Split, known around the world as the Pearl of the Adriatic. Venue: one of our partner language schools, Jantar – International House Split.

Over the course of two days, partners covered many important topics, mostly focused on the development of our task builder (as part of the first Intellectual Output). The Beta version of the builder was published in mid-June 2021 and is available for use to all interested parties. Partners used this opportunity to present their experiences in working with the beta version, while project coordinator and software developer Amber IT Solutions created a further development plan to accommodate all changes based on received feedback.

Another major topic of the meeting was the review of the task-building process itself. Before the meeting, partners created several unique language tasks that will be used in the actual placement test. Utilizing a wide range of expertise among different team members, partners were able to identify a list of items that need to be considered when creating tasks suitable for placement tests. This lead to the design of a checklist containing a set of quality standards that need to be adhered to when creating content.

Overall, all partners were extremely satisfied with the outcome of the meeting, confirming that face-to-face meetings are more productive than working in an online environment for an extended period of time. We hope that we will be able to continue with the organization of face-to-face meetings as planned, with our next TNPM scheduled for November in Čačak, Serbia. After all, all team members have been vaccinated and are therefore contributing to a safe working environment.

What have we done so far?

- Task builder developed
- Task builder tested
- 2.000 placement test questions created
- Two transnational meetings organized

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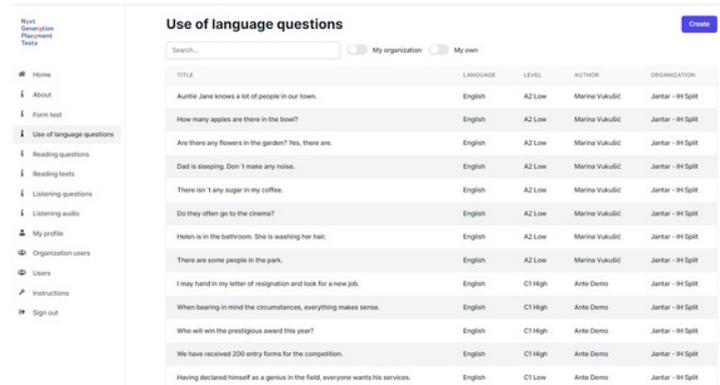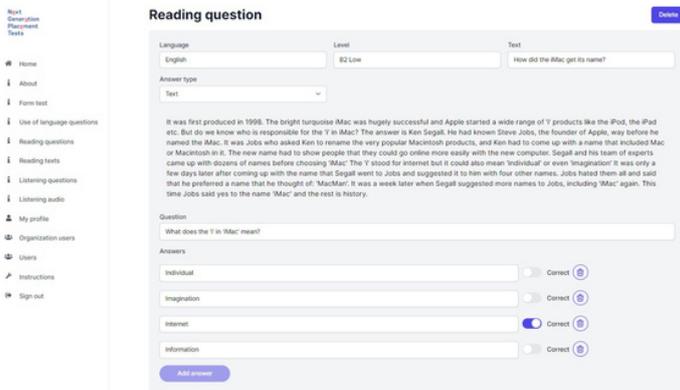# A framework for education software

Written by Jure Granić-Skender, Amber IT Solutions - CEO

Over the past 6 years, Amber IT Solutions has been developing various software in the field of language education. The experience gathered by our team has given us the unique opportunity to identify common elements and business patterns that all education software have in common. With this knowledge, we have decided to develop a common framework for rapid app development called Augur.

With Augur, we can quickly and efficiently create the common elements of any application and focus on delivering the actual business requirements of our applications, instead of being bogged down in technicalities and boilerplate. Augur is kept up with the latest in cutting-edge web technologies, ensuring a healthy, modern platform for all apps developed with it. As a cherry on top, all Augur applications are automatically Progressive Web Apps (PWA), which means that they can be both accessed through your web browser and installed as standalone applications on any desktop and mobile device. We are currently using our 3rd generation of Augur, and further iterations are in development.

The NGPT question builder is the perfect showcase of our latest developments in Augur, offering a modern interface design and user-friendly question editors. Our partners' feedback can be analyzed, implemented and deployed at amazing speeds, which allows us to iterate on every part of the project until we have everything just right. Without Augur, we could never develop such an amazing application with our small team, especially while maintaining existing projects.

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