

Speakaboo, COMBI and the Virtual Language App

Projects of the Mercator European Research Centre on
Multilingualism and Language Learning

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Communication competences for migrants and disadvantaged background learners in bilingual work environments

COMBI: promoting bilingualism for migrants in the health and social care sector



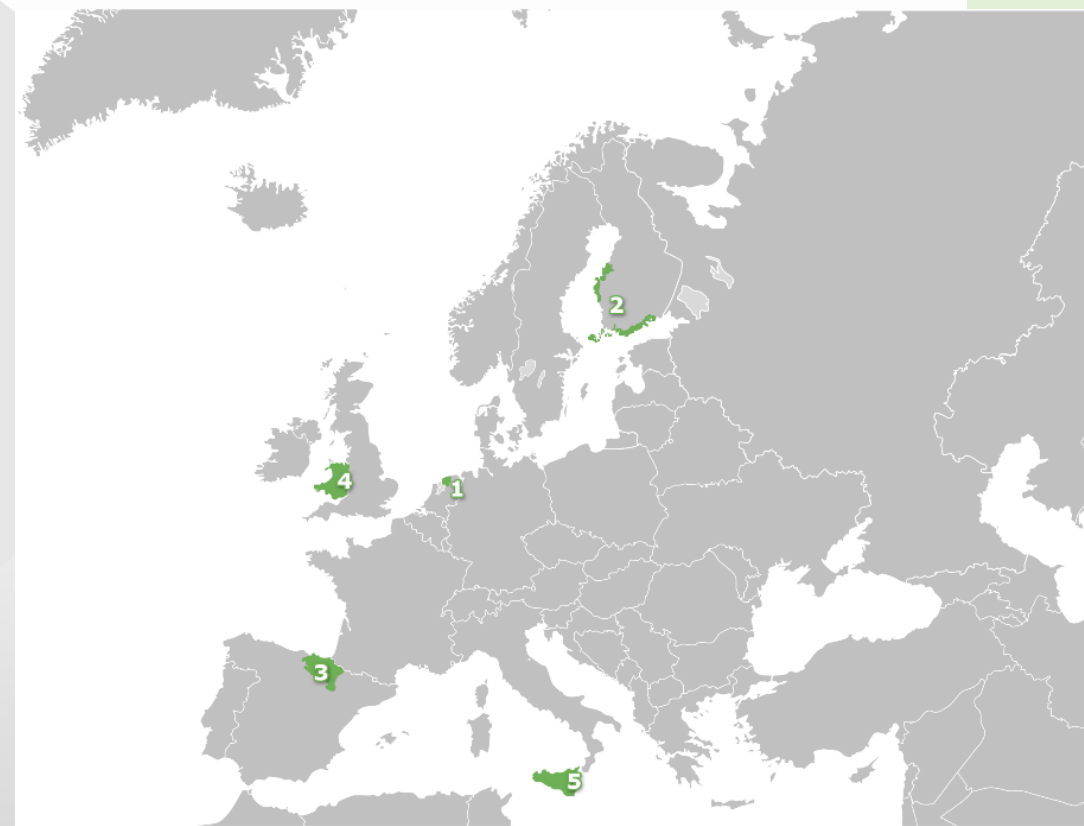
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About COMBI

COMBI's goal: to improve communication and minority language skills of migrants working in health care.

Six partners from five bilingual areas:



Context

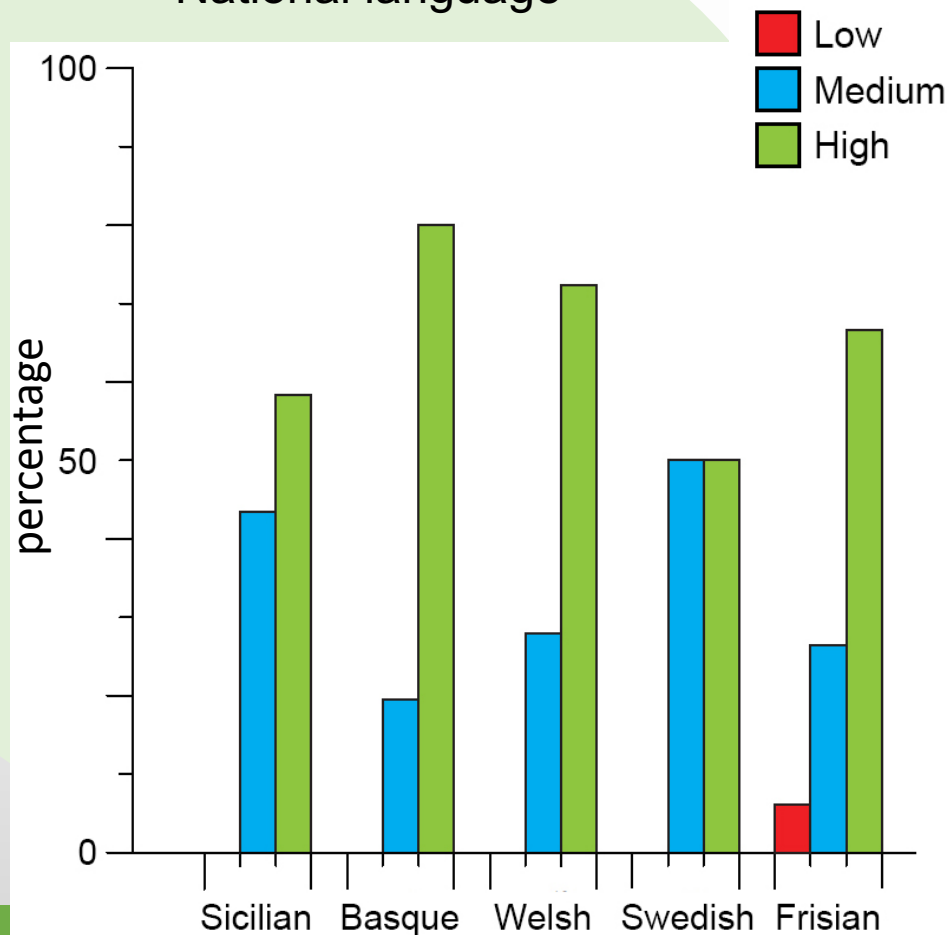
- 4.7 million people migrating to one of Europe's 28 member states within a year.
- Migrants are obliged to learn the state language.
- In work areas such as health care: this can be a considerable problem!

Why?

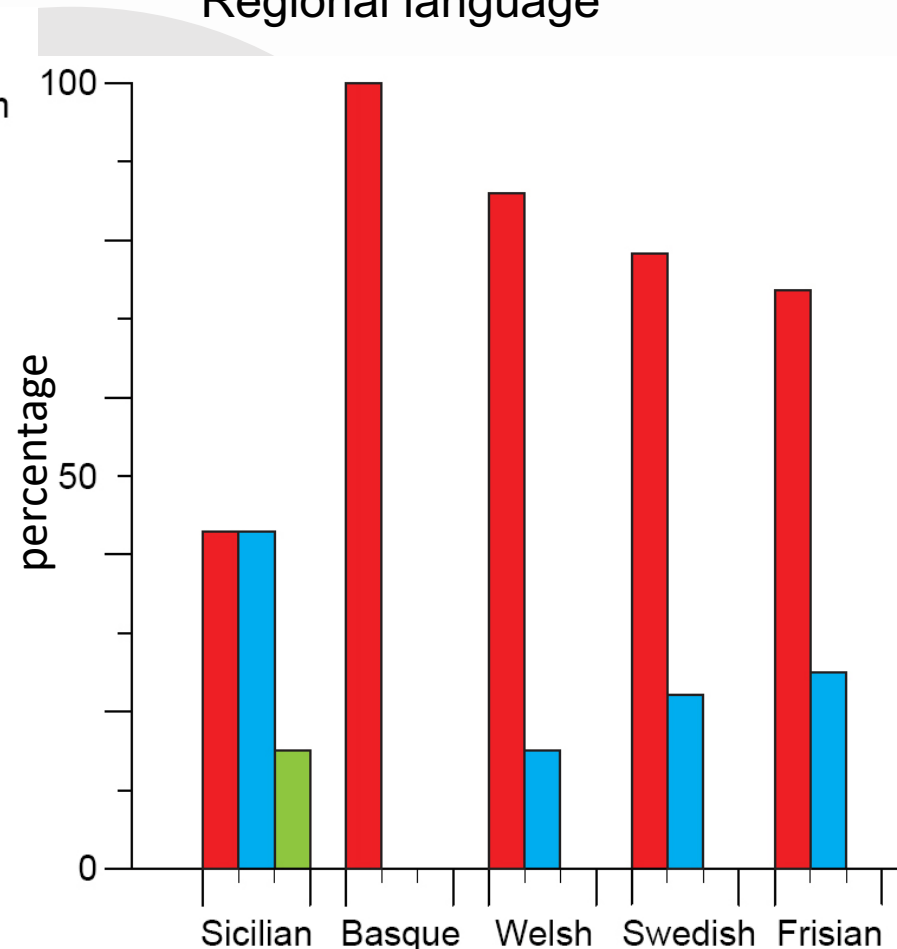
- Better quality of care
 - Language needs
 - Unable to access majority language
 - Emotional needs
 - more homely feeling
- Community inclusion

Survey: language skills

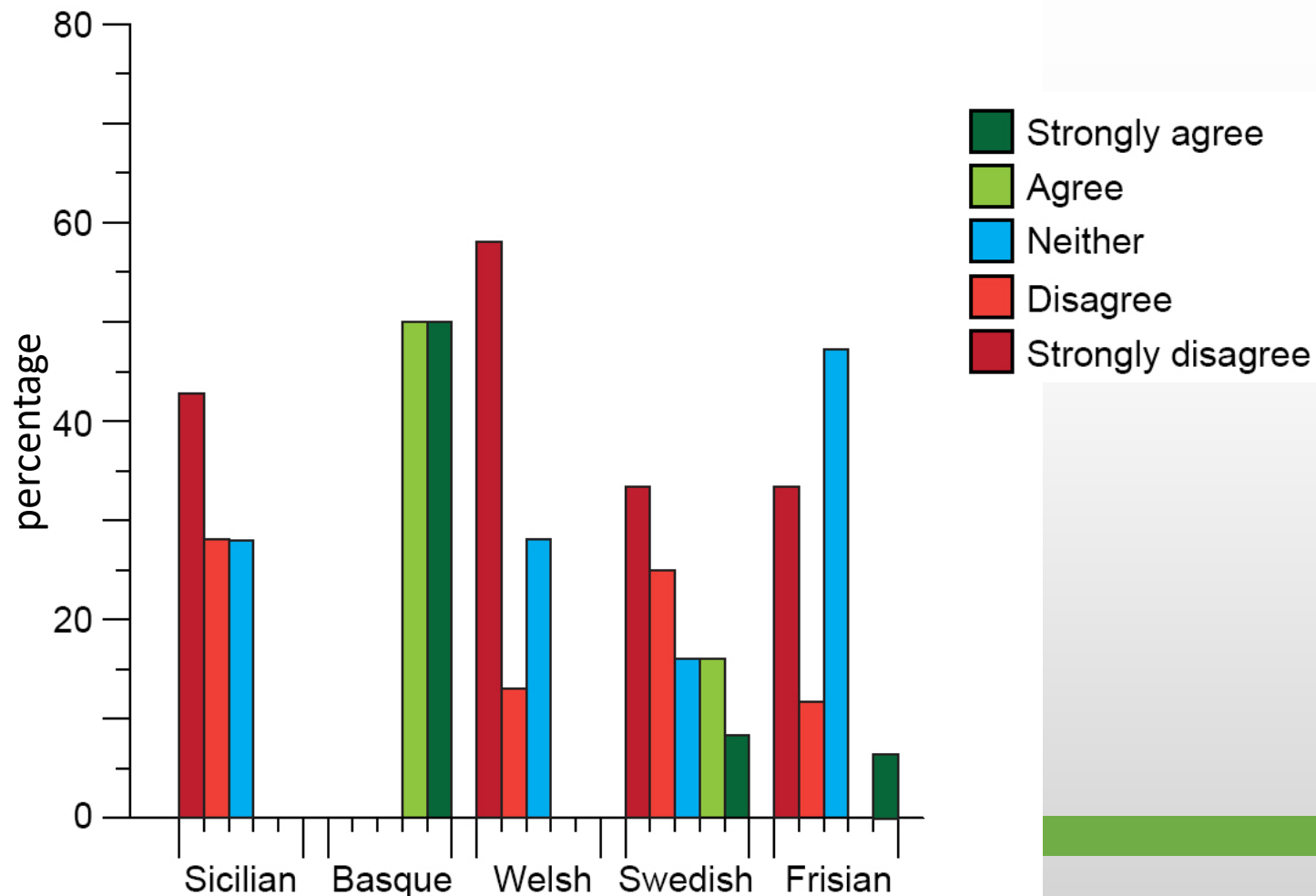
National language



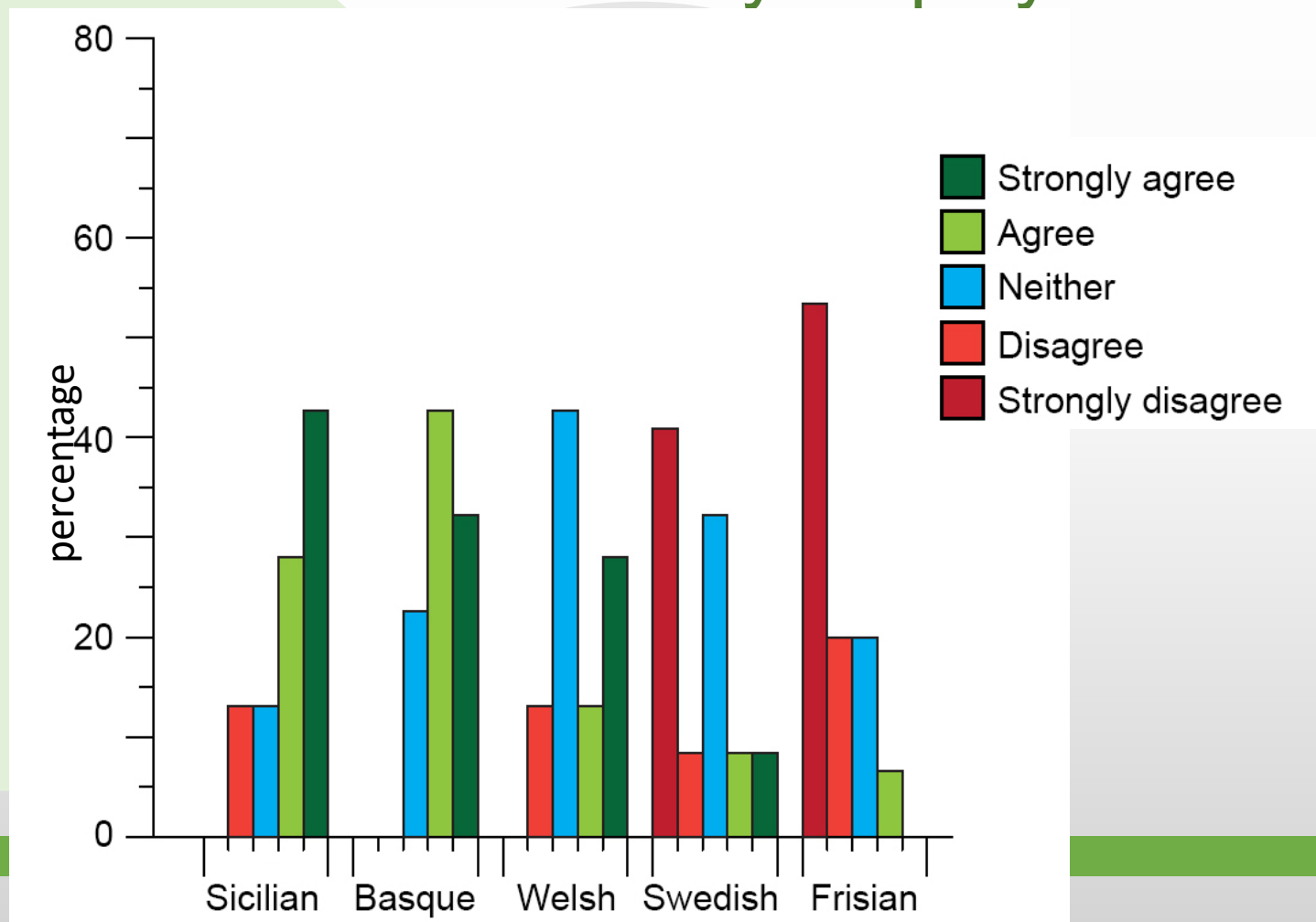
Regional language



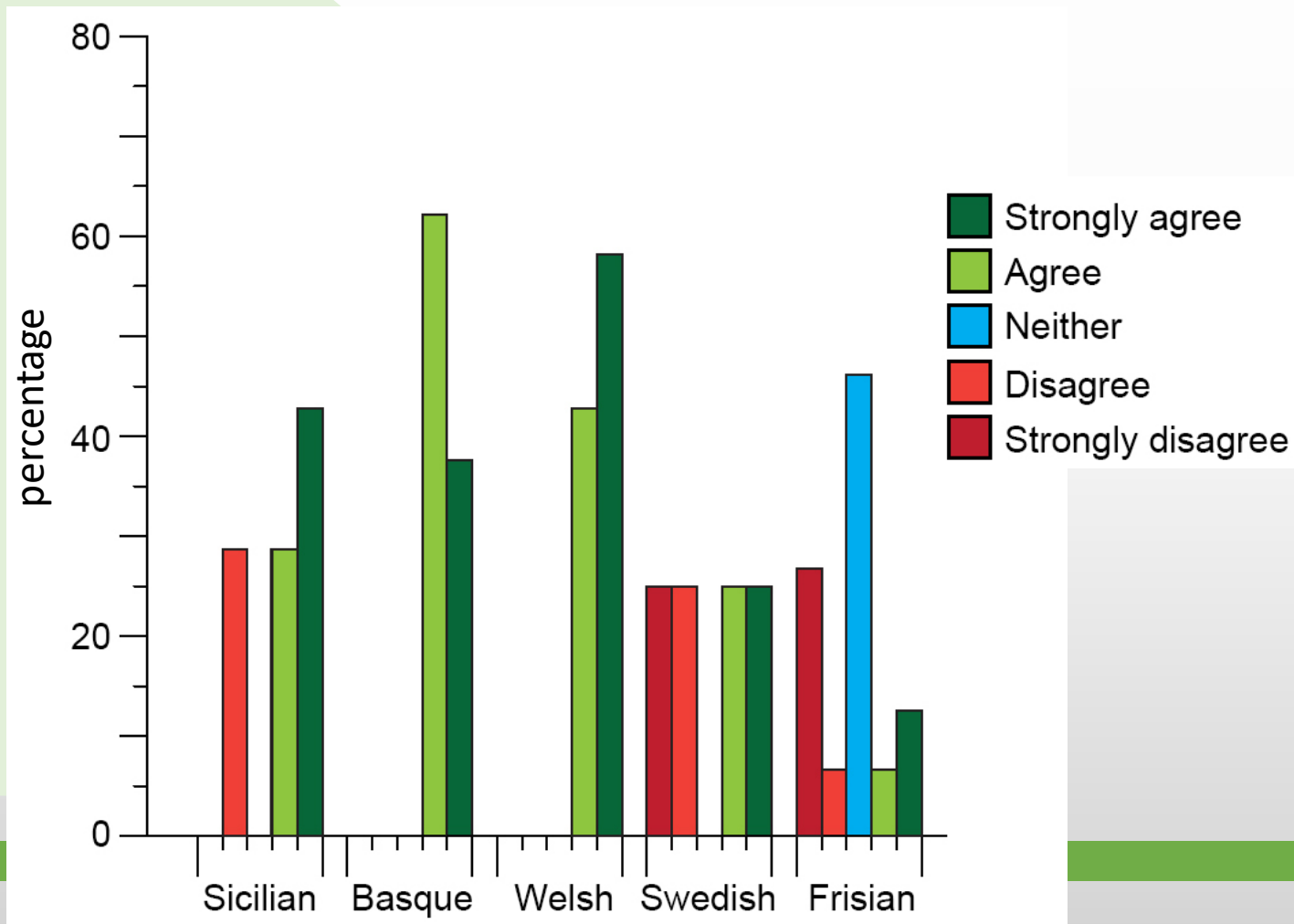
Survey: “I receive government support to learn both host languages”



Survey: “Learning the minority language would be essential for my employment”



Survey: “I would benefit from a Regional language course”



COMBI's products

- COMBI's Teacher Training Toolkit
 - Flexible toolkit to develop courses
- COMBI's modules
 - Tailor-made courses
- COMBI's roadmap
 - Towards improving minority language skills of migrants in multilingual areas



All COMBI's products including its full
research report and more information can
be found on COMBI's website:

combiproject.eu



virtulapp
www.virtulapp.eu



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Central question for VirtuLApp

- Teachers are often unprepared to deal with cultural and linguistic diversity and do not have the knowledge or the tools for its management in class (Coleman, 2010 in Strobbe, Van der Wildt, Van Avermaet, Van Gorp, Van den Branden & Van Houtte, 2018).

How can we use digital tools in multilingual education to prepare teachers in managing multilingual classrooms?



Digital tools in the classroom

- Technology positively affects children's **language development**:
- **Teacher training does not sufficiently prepare** (pre-service) **teachers** for the use of digital tools
- **Lack of administrative support and of specific training opportunities** are frequent challenges
- Not fully prepared (future) teachers **affects the efficacy of use of digital tools** in a (multilingual) classroom, compromising its benefits for the pupils.



Teacher education for multilingual education

(García & Kleyen 2013)

- a) understanding about bi-/multilingual students and their families, especially students from language minority backgrounds;
- b) knowledge of language and bilingualism/multilingualism;
- c) awareness of how to deliver a pedagogy for multilingualism.



Concrete activities (García 2008) and their operationalisation in the VirtuLapp

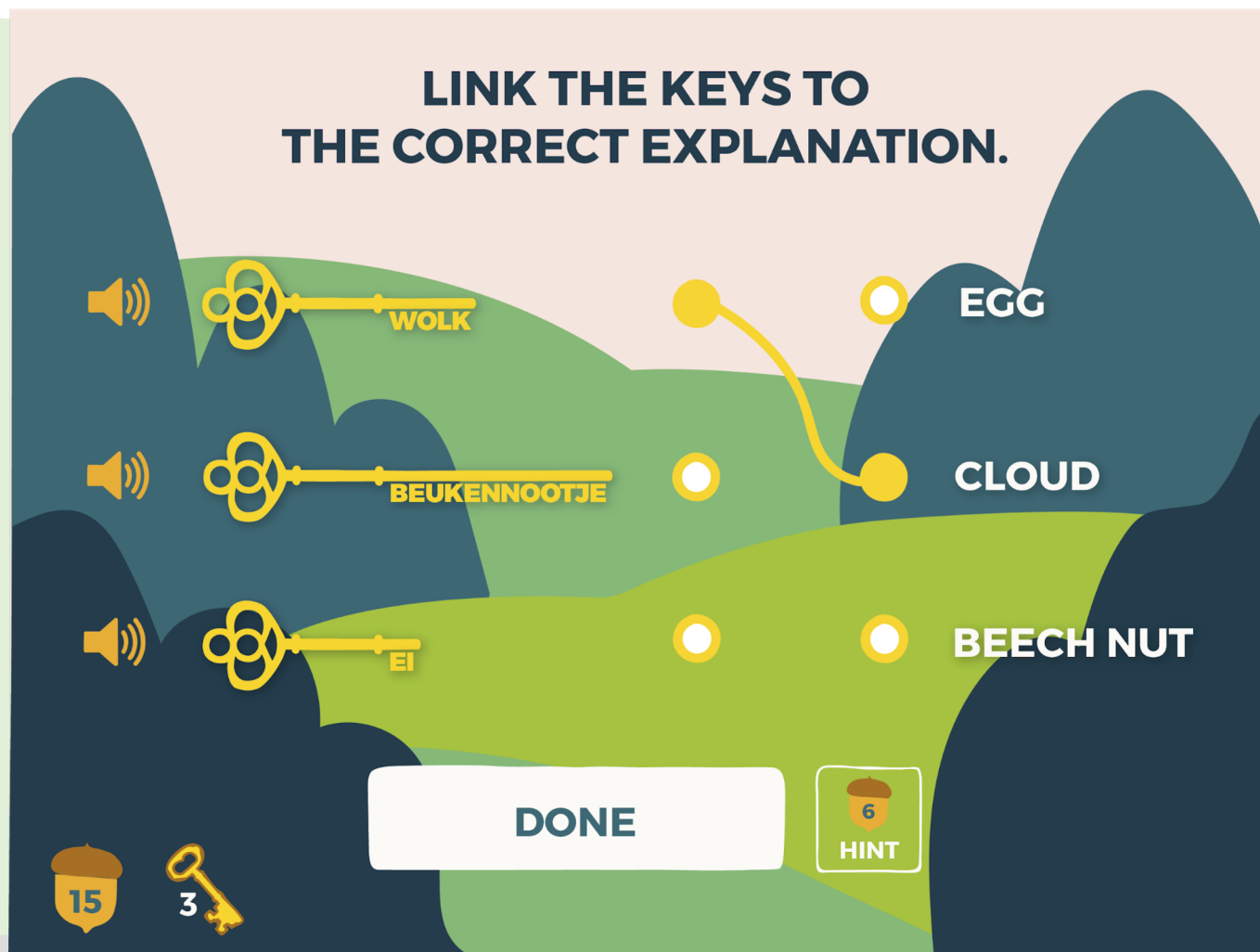
- IO1: Multi-player game in which pupils use their linguistic repertoires cooperatively in a problem-solving setting (observed by the teachers).
- IO1 & 2: Theory-driven & practice-based quiz about multilingualism and multilingual families (IO1) & interviews with teachers (IO2)
- IO2: Interviews with teachers and pupils (didactical videos)

Intellectual output 1

- **Quiz** about multilingualism, multilingual families, multilingualism in educational settings - theory-driven & practice-based (cooperation with associated schools).
- **Multi-player cooperative AR game** game for primary school pupils to use multiple languages in a problem-solving setting.



**LINK THE KEYS TO
THE CORRECT EXPLANATION.**



WOLK

BEUKENOOTJE

EI

EGG

CLOUD

BEECH NUT

DONE

6
HINT

15

3

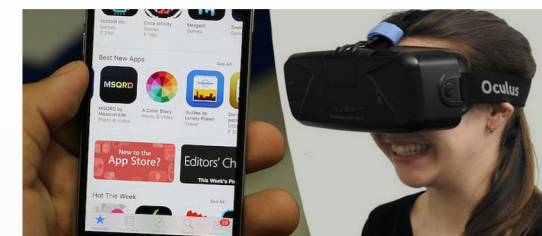
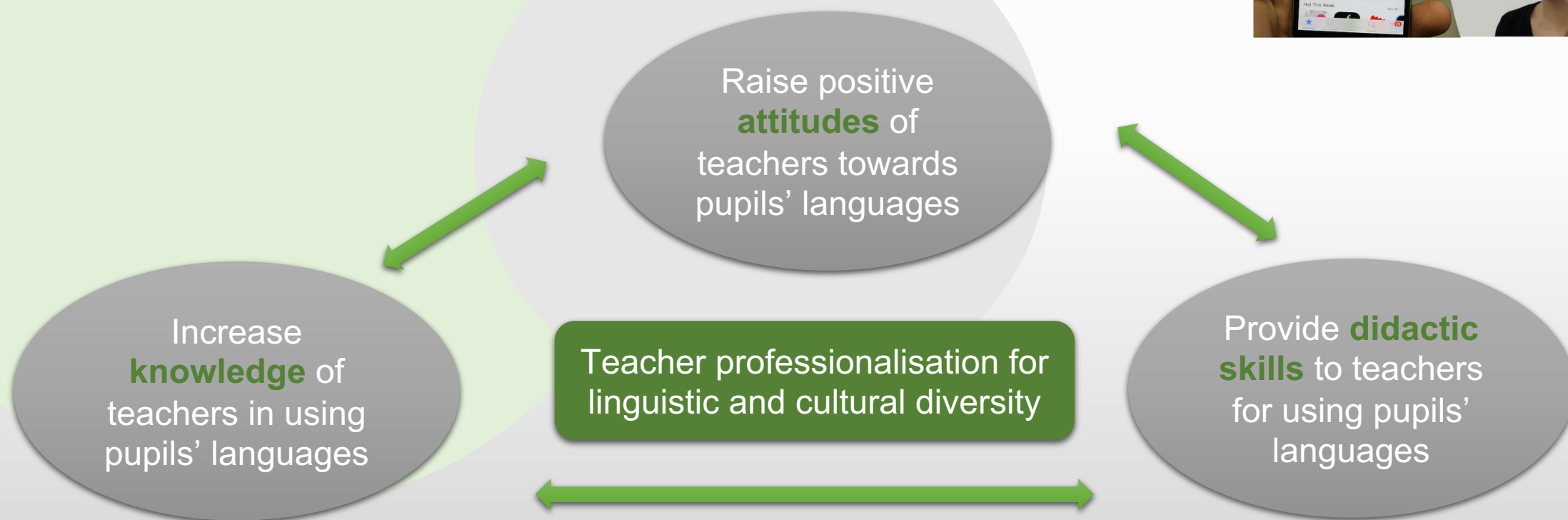


HINTS - MEMORY GAME



Aims of the VirtuLApp-project

- Through the use of different digital tools:



Preliminary conclusion

- Triangulation of knowledge, tackling attitudes, knowledge and skills
- Digital tools in educational settings
- Co-design with teachers in order to guarantee sustainability of developments
- Multilingual game and quiz; social, collaborative, competitive and innovative technology
- Next steps for VirtuLApp: a) determine whether tools achieve what they set out to achieve & b) measure effects of tools on teachers' professional development



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Thank you

Eskerrik asko

Tak

Haristo

Köszönöm

شكرا لك

Hvala

Ful toank

Tige tank

Muito obrigado



Mersi dit

Danke

Tack

Teşekkür ederim

dziękuję

Conclusions

There is a need to:

- increase awareness
- develop materials

