



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES, GRAZ

5th meeting of the Professional Network Forum on Language Education
Graz, 21 March 2014

DGII/EDU/GRAZ (2014)14 – 31 March 2014

Meeting summary

I. Opening of the meeting

<Appendix I: Agenda>

The meeting took place on Friday 21 March 2014 at the ECML in Graz and was moderated by Sarah BRESLIN, Executive Director of the ECML.

Representatives from 11 of the 14 current members of the Professional Network Forum attended the network's 5th meeting:

- AILA – Bernd RÜSCHOFF
- ALTE – Ina FERBEŽAR
- CercleS – Helena ŠAJGALIKOVÁ
- EALTA – Gudrun ERICKSON
- EAQUALS – Sarah AITKEN
- ELC/CEL – Wolfgang MACKIEWICZ
- EPA – Arja KRAUCHENBERG, Johannes THEINER
- FIPLV – Terry LAMB
- ICC – Anthony FITZPATRICK
- OLBI – Richard CLEMENT
- ECML – Sarah BRESLIN, Susanna SLIVENSKY, Michael ARMSTRONG

- EFNIL – Sabine KIRCHMEIER-ANDERSEN (Observer)
- Pestalozzi programme, Council of Europe – Josef HUBER (Observer)

Sabine KIRCHMEIER-ANDERSEN, deputy president of the European Federation of National Institutions for Language (EFNIL), participating in the meeting as an observer, expressed the hope that EFNIL would become a member of the Professional Network Forum. This initiative was welcomed by all members of the Professional Network Forum.

On this occasion it was not possible for representatives from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) and the International Association of Multilingualism (IAM) to attend the meeting.

II. Aims of the meeting

<Appendix I: Agenda>

Main aims of the meeting:

- Follow-up to the Conference in the framework of the Austrian presidency of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers;
- Identifying key challenges in language education in Europe;
- Outlook on cooperation envisaged for 2014/2015.

III. Follow-up to the Conference in the framework of the Austrian presidency of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers

Sarah BRESLIN thanked the members of the Professional Network Forum for their valuable input in helping to prepare this event as well as for their active participation at the conference. An overview of the conference is available: <http://www.ecml.at/News/Conference20143/tabid/1517/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>

IV. Identifying key challenges in language education in Europe

The members of the ECML Professional Network Forum were invited to present their priorities for the coming years. The following issues were raised to be considered as relevant for the next ECML programme 2016-2019.

International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA)

- Multilingualism
- Preserving languages
- Language sensitive competencies for teachers across different sectors
- Preserving multilingual identities within migrant backgrounds

Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE)

- Language testing for academic purposes
- Internationalisation - negative impact on L1 (for less widely taught languages)
- Teacher language and intercultural competences
- Promote assessment literacy for (subject) teachers

Conseil Européen pour les Langues/ European Language Council (CEL/ELC)

- Languages for business
- Quality
- Motivation
- Translation and interpretation for social services
- Teacher education
- IT for language learning + distance learning
- Multilingualism
- Recognition of informal/non-formal learning

European Confederation of Language Centres in Higher Education (CercleS)

- Cultural diversity in approaches to learning
- LSP
- Copyright (legal) issues for downloaded materials and use in textbooks and testing
- Developing authentic materials
- Employment

European Association for Language Testing and Assessment (EALTA)

- Bringing learning teaching and assessment together (at different levels) – building bridges (constructive alignment)
- Assessment of intercultural competences
- Differentiation

Evaluation and Accreditation of Quality in Language Services (EAQUALS)

- Quality standards (harmonisation)
- Standards for e-learning
- Certification of non-formal education
- Standards of quality in teaching (European Profiling Grid)
- Mobility – culture of learning

European Federation of National Institutions for Language (EFNIL)

- Languages for business
- Teacher education
- Multilingualism
- Relationships between official languages and minority languages
- Promotion of national languages within a context of diversity

European Parents' Association (EPA)

- Teacher training
- Active citizenship
- Mobility - language competence in acquiring subject competences– better bridges

Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes (FIPLV)

- Pressure on teachers (no time to attend meetings)
- Decline in language learning (apart from English)
- Decrease in membership
- Change on a constant basis
- Cooperation as way of increasing impact (subject associations – science etc)
- Mediation (therefore importance of sharing resources and of PNF)
- Transitions (e.g. school to HE)
- Ensuring learner-centredness

International Certificate Conference e.V (ICC)

- Qualifications for migrants – needs in vocationally oriented education

Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute of the University of Ottawa (OLBI/ILOB)

- Acculturation (International students)
- CLIL at university level (Immersion)

Pestalozzi Programme

- Resistance to beliefs about good education (break mould of school factory)
- Get content right
- Teacher education and development (current focus too much on academic discipline rather than pedagogy)
- TASKS for democracy (attitudes, skills and knowledge)
- Activism vs durable impact and compartmentalisation
- Rethinking plurilingualism

V. Outlook on cooperation envisaged for 2014/2015

<Appendix III: Timetable for the Call for submissions
for the ECML 2016-2019 programme>

Susanna SLIVENSKY presented the Timetable for the Call for submissions for the ECML 2016-2019 programme and invited the members of the Professional Network Forum to:

- provide feedback on the priorities indicated by ECML member states;
- post comments on the online forum (address indicated below) for Governing Board members and other ECML stakeholders, such as programme consultants, coordinators of current ECML projects and members of the ECML Professional Network Forum;
- disseminate the Call through their networks;
- encourage their members to take an active part in considering submitting a proposal for the next ECML programme;

Online information: <http://govboard.ecml.at/20162019/tabid/3556/language/Default.aspx>

VI. Conclusion of the meeting

Sarah BRESLIN thanked the members of the Professional Network Forum for their valuable input and invited the members to continue the excellent cooperation in view of the preparation and implementation of the ECML programme of activities 2016-2019.

VII. Forthcoming events

- Inaugural Common European Framework of Reference CEFR web conference, <http://cefrwebconference.com/>, 28-29 March 2014
- OLBI: Literacies and autonomy of the advanced language learner, University of Ottawa, 24-25 April 2014
- Pestalozzi programme: "The professional image and ethos of teachers", Council of Europe - Strasbourg, France, 24-25 April 2014
- ICC: "Language, Learning and the Brain", Mainz, Germany, 26-27 April 2014
- EFNIL: 12th Annual Conference "Language use in University Teaching and Research - Past, Present and Future", Florence, 26-28 September 2014
- CEL/ELC: next ECL Forum "Which language policy for Europe", Brussels, Belgium, 4-5 December 2014
- AILA: 17th World Congress "One World – Many Languages", 10-15 August 2014, Brisbane, Australia
- EALTA: 11th EALTA Conference 2014 "The CEFR and Language Testing and Assessment – Where are we now?", University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom, 29 May - 1 June 2014
- FIPLV – In 2015 FIPLV joins forces with CASLT (Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers) and OMLTA (Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association) to hold the 2015 World Congress of Modern Languages in Niagara Falls (ON), Canada, March 26-28, 2015.
- The ECML will hold workshops in Graz on the following themes in April, May and June:
 - "Involving parents in plurilingual and intercultural education" (CARAP for parents), 28-30 April 2014;
 - "Empowering language networks" (LACS), 22-23 May 2014;
 - "Collaborative Community Approach to Migrant Education" (Community), 25-27 June 2014.

Professional Network Forum members are welcome to nominate participants to these events (for further details see <http://www.ecml.at/calendar>).

VIII. Updated partner presentations

New presentations were received from IAM and OLBI. These have been uploaded to the [Professional Network Forum](#) page. Other contributions received from partners containing details of updates or burning issues will also be uploaded to this page.

APPENDIX I

5th ECML Professional Network Forum

Graz, 21 March 2014

Agenda

15.00-15.15	<p>Opening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to ECML • Introduction of participants • Purpose and the agenda of the meeting
15.15-16.15	<p>Update on network partner activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief statements by all partners on the latest developments in their organisations, incl. follow up to the conference of the Austrian presidency • Update on developments and outlook on activities of the Council of Europe and the European Union • Discussion <p>Preparation of the Call for submissions for the ECML programme 2016-2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of procedures and timelines
16:15-16:30	Coffee break
6:30 - 17:45	<p>Preparation of the Call for submissions for the ECML programme 2016-2019 (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on issues in language education considered as relevant for the next ECML programme
17:45-18:00	Closing statements

APPENDIX II

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES, GRAZ

5th ECML Professional Network Forum

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List of participants

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Appendix III

Timetable for the Call for submissions for the ECML 2016-2019 programme

Early December 2013:

- Informing the ECML Governing Board about the envisaged process of drafting the Call for submissions for the Centre's 2016-2019 programme
- Request to all Board members to identify national priorities in language education and communicate these to the ECML

Throughout 2014:

- Discussions with ECML coordinators, project teams, participants in ECML activities, programme consultants and representatives of the European Commission and the OMC group "Languages in Education and Training"
- Discussions with colleagues at the Council of Europe

March 2014:

- Bureau meeting
- Governing Board meeting
- Committee of Ministers conference on language education (within Austria's chairmanship)
- Meeting of the ECML Professional Network Forum (international associations and institutions specialising in the field of language education or with a stake in education)

March to June 2014:

Online consultation with Governing Board members via a survey

April to September 2014:

Online forum for Governing Board members and other ECML stakeholders, such as programme consultants, coordinators of current ECML projects and members of the ECML Professional Network Forum.

June 2014:

Workshop for ECML National Contact Points and Nominating Authorities

July to August 2014:

- Bureau meeting
- Review of all input from ECML stakeholders on the basis of the national priorities highlighted by ECML Governing Board members
- Drafting of the Call for submissions

September 2014:

Governing Board members are requested to comment on the draft Call for submissions

October 2014:

Discussion of the Call at the Bureau meeting

November 2014:

Adoption of the Call by the Governing Board

December 2014:

Publication of the ECML Call for submissions for its 2016-2019 programme

1 May 2015:

Deadline for submissions of proposals for the ECML programme 2016-2019

May – September 2015:

Selection process

End November 2015:

First meeting of the ECML project coordinators 2016-2019