

## Participant's report to the National Nominating Authority and the National Contact Point

### Meeting report

In the three weeks after the event, please complete this report. It contains two sections:

1. **Reporting:** this is intended as a feedback on the event, on what was learnt, on how the event will affect your work and on how it will be disseminated. In addition to the ECML National Nominating Authority and the National Contact Point in your country the ECML will use the report<sup>1</sup> in the "Experts involved in ECML activities" section of each ECML member state website (please see <http://contactpoints.ecml.at>).

This section should be written in one of the project's working languages.

2. **Public information:** this is intended as an information on the ECML project and its expected value for your country. The content should be of interest for a larger audience. Thus it should link up to interesting publications, websites, events etc. which were discussed on the occasion of the workshop or which are relevant in your country. The public information should be a short, promotional text of about 200 words.  
This section should be written in (one of) your national language(s).

### The completed file should be sent to

- the ECML National Nominating Authority and the National Contact Point in your country (contact details can be found at <http://www.ecml.at/aboutus/members.asp>)
- and in copy to ECML Secretariat ([Erika.komon@ecml.at](mailto:Erika.komon@ecml.at)) within the given deadline.

### 1. Reporting

<sup>1</sup> Only if you authorised the ECML to publish your contact details.

Name of the workshop participant	Mrs. Vala S. Valdimarsdóttir
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Title of ECML project	Developing migrants' language competences at the workplace (Language for Work )
ECML project website	<a href="http://languageforwork.ecml.at/">http://languageforwork.ecml.at/</a>
Date of the event	June 24.-25. 2015
Brief summary of the content of the workshop	<p>The participants, around 40 specialists in “Language teaching (L2) for workplaces” met in a 2 days conference at the ECML centre in Graz, (which is supervised by The European Council in Strassbourg). Beforehand we sent a brief review of policies and practice in our own country/region relevant to vocational language learning for migrant/ethnic workers and/or low –skilled majority-language speaking workers. We were also supposed to study the projects’ website beforehand and some of us brought along a poster, demonstrating what our institutions offer. The posters were introduced in the 2<sup>nd</sup> day.</p> <p>We learned that our workshop was the last in a 4 – year project. ECML promotes language excellence in language education. Some European countries are obviously more advanced in the field of work related language teaching than others. <i>(In Romania and Greece it seems that there is lack of awareness amongst authorities, in France the legal environment is good. In Austria there is no public finance for work related courses, but in Germany, for example, there is 40 years experience of teaching migrant workers the target language.)</i> With an increase of migrant workers, seeking jobs in the labour market, language learning has become more vital than ever. It is economical to integrate minorities; offering immigrants jobs. Diversity enriches society. Migrants are constantly on the move and some are even sent back “home” (Serbs in Denmark after 10 years!). Increased knowledge of languages, and quality teaching, benefits society as a whole and is therefore a political issue.</p> <p>We listened to a few lectures about interesting researches in our field of work. These were followed by discussions. In smaller groups we could chose a workshop of interest and then share our knowledge. We also had group work, comparing practice and policies across Europe. This was followed by an introduction for the whole group. Another group work was about identifying priorities for practice, research and policy over the coming ten years. The Language for Work website was presented and we took some time adding our “homework” to it and further comments to a Padlet</p>

	board, which is now our “place” of discussion. Finally we got brochures and introduction material to disseminate in our home country.
What did you find particularly useful?	To encounter, and find a network of skilled people in my line of work that I have and will share best practice with (learning about new teaching methods and strategies). To get to know ECML and the great source of useful material they distribute.
How will you use what you learnt/ developed in the event in your professional context?	<p>When planning job training for immigrants from now on we will use what I learned from my colleagues in the conference: We must realize what a complicated process it is to adjust, as a foreigner, in the labour market (Laurent Filiettaz’s lecture was very inspiring). By recording real life dialogues he found out that working immigrants need not only to know the language properly, (even to understand jokes), but also to know the work-place culture and methodology. He finds it necessary to educate teachers that teach work related language as well as managers and staff in companies that take on trainees. The Germans and Swiss have 3-5 days courses for this, which is a very interesting idea. This is a great (but expensive) effort towards improving communication, the reward being more self confidence and well being among migrant workers and improved workplace morale.</p> <p>The project of Kerstin Sjosvard from Sweden, “Arbetsam”, was also very interesting. There immigrants, caring for the elderly, get language courses during work, and their teachers are trained especially beforehand. There are also regular meetings where supervisors discuss with foreign workers how they are doing, when they felt helpless etc. The aim is to improve communication with the inmates. They are encouraged by the workplace environment to speak the target language, which benefits everybody at work. I will do my best to implement these ideas/methods where ever I can.</p>
How will you further contribute to the project?	I will take part in discussions on the Padlet board; give comments as well as clarifying how my institution will make changes built on what I learned in Graz.
<p>How do you plan to disseminate the project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to colleagues</li> <li>- to a professional association</li> <li>- in a professional journal/website</li> <li>- in a newspaper</li> <li>- other</li> </ul>	I will give a lecture to my colleagues in my institution about the experience. Also to the members of Ísbrú which is an association of L2/Icelandic teachers in Iceland. I also intend to write an article about my trip to Graz in a magazine for language teachers, called Málfríður.

## 1. Public information

Short text (about 200 words) for the promotion of the ECML event, the project and the envisaged publication with a focus on the benefits for target groups. This text should be provided in your national language(s) to be used for dissemination (on websites, for journals etc.).

Undirrituð sótti ráðstefnu í Graz, í Austurríki, dagana 24. og 25 júní sl. sem fulltrúi Mímis-símenntunar. Var hún haldin á vegum ECML (European Centre for Modern Languages) sem er með miðstöð í borginni og bar hún heitið „Language for Work“ eða „Tungumál á vinnumarkaði“. Alls sóttu um 40 sérfræðingar í kennslu annars tungumáls (L2) ráðstefnuna. Starf miðstöðvarinnar var kynnt, ásamt heimasíðu verkefnisins <http://languageforwork.ecml.at/> Þessi vinnustofa var sú síðasta í fjögurra ára verkefni af svipuðum toga. Fluttar voru mjög áhugaverðar kynningar sem snerta máltöku/kennslu og aðlögum innflytjenda á vinnumarkaði. Í kjölfarið voru opnar umræður. Einnig var hópavinna þar sem umræðuefnum var útdeilt og einnig tókum við þátt í þremur mismunandi vinnustofum, að eigin vali. Þá hófu þátttakendur að skrifa inn á sameiginlega síðu verkefnisins svonefnt „Padlet board“ en þar er ætlunin að samskipti þátttakenda um verkefnið fari fram. Mér fannst áhugavert að sjá hversu merkilegar rannsóknir eiga sér stað á sviði tungumálakennslu innflytjenda á vinnumarkaði og á heimasíðu ECML má finna heilmikið efni sem kennarar/skipuleggjendur kennslu tungumáls innfæddra geta nýtt sér. Það sem stendur upp úr hjá mér eftir þátttökuna er aðdáun yfir því góða starfi sem víða er unnið í þágu þessa málaflokks. Svissnesk rannsókn varðandi vinnustaðapátttöku útlendinga sýnir t.d. að ekki nægi að geta beðið um hjálp á nýja málinu á vinnustaðnum; einnig þarf að geta orðað fyrirspurnina. Útlendingurinn verður gjarnan útundan og jafnvel að athlægi, skilji hann ekki hómur og annað sem varðar aðlögun og vinnustaðameningu. Byggir rannsóknin á upptökum samtala á vinnustað. Þetta sýnir nauðsyn þess að tungumálakennarar sem undirbúa útlendinga fyrir störf, yfirmenn/starfsmenn fyrirtækja sem hafa starfandi innflytjendur fái fræðslu um málið. Í Þýskalandi og Sviss eru t.d. 3-5 daga námskeið fyrir þá til að stuðla að bættri máltöku og aðlögum innflytjenda á vinnumarkaði.

Sænsk kona, Kersten Sjosvard, kynnti mjög áhugavert verkefni sem kallast Arbetsam (<http://www.aldrecentrum.se/Utbildning1/TDAR/>). Það byggir á mikilli örvun frá vinnuumhverfinu til notkunar nýja tungumálsins. Yfirmenn öldrunarheimila vinna markvisst að því að virkja erlent starfsfólk í ummönnun svo það geti talað sem mest við vistmenn. Haldið er tungumálanámskeið, með sérþjálfuðum kennurum, sem stuðlar að bættum samskiptum sem eru svo rædd á reglulegum fundum. Talað er um hvernig til tókst; hvernig starfsfólki hafi liðið þegar það var hjálparvana eða vel gekk... Þetta verkefni hefur vakið mikla athygli í Svíþjóð og náð talsverðri útbreiðslu. Þessi dæmi sýna að alltaf má gera betur á þessu sviði. Þrátt fyrir að kostnaður fylgi slíkri „lúxusmeðferð“ má læra af henni og reyna a.m.k. að stíga einhver skref í átt til bættra samskipta öllum til góðs.