

## EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES, GRAZ

6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Professional Network Forum on Language Education  
Graz, 6 February 2015

DGII/EDU/GRAZ (2015)3rev – 3 March 2015

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### Meeting summary

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#### I. Opening of the meeting

<Appendix I: Agenda>

The meeting took place on Friday 6 February 2015 at the ECML in Graz and was moderated by Sarah BRESLIN, Executive Director of the ECML.

Representatives from 12 of the 15 current members of the Professional Network Forum attended the network's 6<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- AILA – Bernd RÜSCHOFF
- ALTE – Esther GUTIERREZ EUGENIO
- CEL/ELC – Wolfgang MACKIEWICZ
- CercleS – Gillian MANSFIELD
- EAQUALS – Peter BROWN, Richard Blaise ROSSNER
- EFNIL – Sabine KIRCHMEIER-ANDERSEN
- EPA – Arja KRAUCHENBERG
- FIPLV – Terry LAMB
- IAM – Britta HUFEISEN
- ICC – Anthony FITZPATRICK, Ellinor HAASE
- OLBI – Marie-Josée HAMEL
  
- European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism – Bessie DENDRINOS (Observer)
- Pestalozzi programme, Council of Europe – Josef HUBER (Observer)
  
- ECML – Sarah BRESLIN, Susanna SLIVENSKY, Michael ARMSTRONG

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 European Association for Language Testing and Assessment (EALTA) to attend the meeting.

#### Aims of the meeting

The primary aims of the meeting were to:

- offer the members of the Professional Network Forum a platform for information and exchange on the latest developments in language education and assessment;
- ensure that, through the cooperation with the PNF members, the work of the ECML is at the 'cutting edge' in language education;
- inform and involve the members of the Professional Network Forum in the Call for submissions for the ECML's 2016-19 programme "Languages at the heart of learning" and in other key activities, such as the ECML conference in December and the publication of the results of the Centre's current programme..

## Update on developments within the ECML

An overview of key ECML developments since March 2015 was provided, including the stages in the development of the Call, the most popular Training and Consultancy activities and various missions to attract new or former member states. One of the successes of 2014 has been the close cooperation developed with the European Commission within the framework of the “Innovative methodologies and assessment in language learning” Action: The Agreement between the ECML and DG Education and Culture of the European Commission involves a series of 14 national training and consultancy workshops offered to ECML and EU member states based on two specific initiatives, which represent priority areas for both organisations:

- Use of ICT in support of language teaching and learning (ICT-REV) <http://ict-rev.ecml.at>;
- Relating language examinations to the common European reference levels of language proficiency (RELANG) <http://relang.ecml.at>.

The ECML also became a member of the ET2020 Working Group on Transversal Skills in 2014.

A short report on the ECML's activities in 2014 and important events in 2015 is available at the following address: <http://govboard.ecml.at>.

## Establishing links with the EU Civil Society Platform

Bessie DENDRINOS, Chair of the European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism, attending the Professional Network Forum meeting for the first time, informed the members that:

- The European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism comprises some 29 members which are mostly NGOs representing European networks. The Platform focuses on the situation of multilingualism in the fields of education, linguistic diversity and social cohesion, translation and terminology and language policy;
- Following restructuring within the Commission, work on languages will focus less on policy issues and to a greater extent on multilingualism in schools;
- Although multilingualism no longer features directly within the title of a Commissioner's portfolio, Multilingualism and linguistic diversity are among the areas of responsibility of Szabolcs HORVATH, a member of cabinet of the Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport's;
- The May 2014 [conclusions of the Council of Ministers on multilingualism and the development of language competences](#) again included a direct reference to the need for ongoing cooperation between the Commission and the Council of Europe and its European Centre for Modern Languages.

## II. Update on network partner activities

During this session the PNF members were invited to make brief announcements' on key forthcoming events and/or changes in their organisations.

### International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA) <http://www.aila.info>

- The AILA European conference on language and digital communication will take place in Zurich, Switzerland on 10-12 September 2015. This event allows early career applied linguists to present their research and work in an interactive and informal international environment;
- The next AILA world conference in Europe will take place in August 2020. Under the title of “Understanding Languages – Celebrating Diversities”, the event in Sarajevo will focus on regional integration, with support from associations for applied linguistics in Croatia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- AILA has recently established a new research network (ReN) on the area of research cultures in applied linguistics around the world.

### Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) <http://www.alte.org>

- Nick SAVILLE was elected as manager of ALTE in 2014;
- With regard to forthcoming events:

- ALTE's bi-annual conference will take place on 6-8 May in Bergen, Norway. The theme of the open conference day on 8 May will be the B2/C1 levels and language tests for academic purposes;
- The second bi-annual conference focusing on the concept of quality in language assessment will be held in Perugia, Italy, on 9 – 13 November 2015.
- ALTE was one of the consortia partners within the ProM project "Building skills for educational mobility" supported through the EU's Lifelong learning programme. The project which recently concluded has published a website which offers very practical training materials on mobility initiatives (<http://www.prom-mobile.eu/>).

#### **Conseil Européen pour les Langues / European Language Council (CEL/ELC) <http://www.celelc.org>**

- In December 2014, the CEL/ELC held a major forum entitled "Which language policy for Europe?". The programme of the forum, including links to a number of presentations, is available at [http://www.celelc.org/activities/Fora/Forum\\_2014/Programme/index.html](http://www.celelc.org/activities/Fora/Forum_2014/Programme/index.html)
- In the wake of the forum, the CEL/ELC published a policy statement on the importance of language competence and language diversity in the changing international environment ([http://www.celelc.org/about\\_us/Policy-Statement/index.html](http://www.celelc.org/about_us/Policy-Statement/index.html) )
- CEL/ELC currently has 4 special interest groups focusing on the themes of:
  - Languages and intercultural careers
  - Validation, recognition (and evaluation) of informal and non-formal language learning
  - Multilingualism and multiculturalism
  - Developing different models for language policies in higher education
 The special interest groups will present their (interim) results at a meeting to be held at Freie Universität Berlin in November 2015 in conjunction with the annual general assembly.
- The ECML's "Languages in corporate quality" (LINCQ) project (<http://lincq.ecml.at>) concluded its activities at the end of 2014 and will shortly be publishing its results.

#### **European Confederation of Language Centres in Higher Education (CercleS) <http://www.cercles.org>**

- CercleS' activities this year have a strong focus on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages:
  - A conference on "The CEFR, the ELP and university language centres: new perspectives and new challenges" will be held in Dublin on 11-12 June, with David LITTLE as keynote speaker;
  - Brian NORTH is currently coordinating a project to update the CEFR descriptors, including descriptors for Mediation. The project which involves CercleS involves two workshops and a survey.

#### **Evaluation and Accreditation of Quality in Language Services (EAQUALS) [www.eaquals.org](http://www.eaquals.org)**

- EAQUALS is launching version 7 of its Inspection Scheme – which also covers self assessment;
- The scheme for certifying learners' CEFR levels is currently being further developed;
- Following on from the development of a core inventory for English, a core inventory for French is now nearing completion;
- The European Profiling Grid is now available in 10 languages – new descriptors are currently under development on areas such as young learners and multilingualism (<http://egrid.epg-project.eu/en/egrid>);
- The EAQUALS International Conference will be held on 16-18 April in Málaga, Spain and PNF members are welcome to attend.

#### **European Federation of National Institutions for Language (EFNIL) [www.efnil.org](http://www.efnil.org)**

- EFNIL now has members in 27 countries, both within and beyond the European Union;
- EFNIL's 2015 annual conference will be held in Helsinki on 8-9 October and will focus on language use in public administration;
- A publication on the focus of last year's conference "Language use in university teaching and research" is due to be released very shortly;
- Work on the European Language Monitor has just been just completed. The Monitor provides links to legislation – enabling users to compare countries and see where there are special measures in place for multilingualism (<http://www.efnil.org/projects/elm/>).

- EFNIL offers to act as a link to institutions in the countries where the ECML does not yet have formal contacts

#### **European Parents' Association (EPA) <http://euparents.eu>**

The 2015 General Assembly of European Parents' Association will be held in Prague - with the focus to be on multilingualism. The event will also promote the ECML project "Involving parents in plurilingual and intercultural education" (<http://parents.ecml.at/>) where the EPA has been an active associate partner.

#### **Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes / International Federation of Language Teacher Associations (FIPLV) <http://fiplv.com/>**

- FIPLV together with Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) and the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association (OMLTA) will hold a World Congress of Modern Languages in Niagara Falls on 26-28 March. Over 300 papers have been submitted for the major event where the ECML will also be represented ;
- At the forthcoming elections Terry LAMB will stand down as President of FIPLV but will seek election to the function of Secretary General;
- FIPLV is currently providing support for setting up language teacher associations in Iran.

#### **International Association of Multilingualism <http://www.iam.wildapricot.org>**

- IAM has established a Research Network (ReN) on Multilingualism (for 2014-2017) within the framework of the International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA);
- IAM's next international conference on the theme of third language acquisition and multilingualism will be held at the University of Vienna on 1 – 3 September 2016.

#### **International Language Association e.V (ICC) <http://www.icc-languages.eu>**

- ICC will hold its next annual conference entitled "Language education and training and the world of work" on 24-26 April at the University of Istanbul. The conference takes place in the context of widespread unemployment among young people in southern Europe who are often reluctant to move to other countries to find employment due to a lack of language skills;
- Prior to the Professional Network Forum meeting, the members were also invited by Tony FITZPATRICK to discuss establishing a "Languages for Peace" initiative (LAFOPE).

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

[www.olbi.uottawa.ca](http://www.olbi.uottawa.ca)

- Within the framework of the forthcoming World Congress of Modern Languages in Niagara Falls, two of the symposia will be organised by OLBI and involve the ECML and Canadian experts;
- OLBI, as the ECML Contact Point in Canada, will also be coordinating the visit of Sarah BRESLIN to the country to participate at the congress and meet senior Canadian education officials with a view to further developing cooperation between the Centre and Canada.

#### **Council of Europe Pestalozzi Programme [www.coe.int/pestalozzi](http://www.coe.int/pestalozzi)**

- Following a successful conference on "Professional ethos and image of teachers" in April 2014 a Teacher Manifesto has recently been published. The principles and the orientations contained in the Manifesto seek to offer a shared vision of what education for democracy can and ought to mean in the 21st century;
- A summer school of the Pestalozzi Programme will take place from 28 June – 5 July 2015 in Bad Wildbad, Germany. The summer school will focus on pedagogy, looking at what being a teacher actually means;
- The "Recognising intercultural competence" tool which is intended as a self-reflection instrument on intercultural competences is now available on the Pestalozzi website in 18 languages.

#### **Research Centre of Language Teaching, testing and Assessment) of the University of Athens**

Bessie DENDRINOS described a multilingual language examination suite which the Research Centre of Language Teaching has recently developed in electronic form (<http://rcel.enl.uoa.gr/kpg/>). This is

accompanied by with the 'KPG Corpus' which contains thousands of marked scripts produced on the basis of writing and written mediation test tasks in 3 languages (English, German and Spanish)

Following the announcements a 'round robin' session was held, where partners shared information on developments and initiatives with colleagues from other organisations within the Professional Network Forum.

### III. Call for submissions for the 2016-19 ECML programme <http://call.ecml.at/>

Susanna SLIVENSKY presented the Call for submissions for the ECML 2016-2019 programme "Languages at the heart of learning". The Call has been developed on the basis of a survey and consultation with ECML member states on their national priorities in language education. Key partners of the ECML such as the Professional Network Forum were also invited to provide feedback and suggestions within this process. Ultimately the following 8 project themes have been defined within the new programme:

- Inclusive, plurilingual, and intercultural education in practice
- Language teacher education in digital literacy and in innovative learning environments
- Pathways for learning: holistic approaches to learner development
- Professional learning communities
- Teacher education for early language learning
- Learning environments where foreign languages flourish
- Whole-school teacher cooperation for support in the language(s) of schooling
- Towards a Common European Framework of Reference for language teachers

The members of the Professional Network Forum were encouraged to consider their involvement in one or more of the above areas.

Partners were also invited to promote the Call among their membership between now and the closing date (on 1 May 2015) using the events and dissemination tools at their disposal. A number of instruments are available to assist in this process on the dedicated Call website, in addition to the Call document and application forms (such as a commented Powerpoint presentation, a flyer, details of promotional events taking place around Europe and an experts' database for identifying potential project partners). A concise overview of the ECML and its work is also offered through a new video clip developed by one of the project teams within the Centre's current programme: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UXx4pGFx3U>.

The 2016-19 programme will offer a wide range of possibilities for involvement – not only as a coordinator or team member but also as a consortia member, associate partner, participant within a project or simply contributing feedback/reviews on the Centre's publications / promoting its results / advocating the Centre.

### IV. ECML conference 2015

The ECML's "Learning through languages" conference, concluding the 2016-19 programme, will take place at the Centre on 10-11 December.

The event will involve national and professional networks and focus on the promotion of the results achieved within the Centre's current programme, as well as offering a look forward to the new programme starting in January 2016. The Professional Network Forum members will be invited to the event which is targeted primarily at the ECML's key dissemination partners. In order to enable wider participation the event will also be broadcast online.

### V. Closing statements

In the final session of the meeting, the PNF members discussed measures to assist the ECML in reaching out to potential new member states and the format of the next PNF meeting in 2016:

- it was suggested that PNF partners could act as advocates for the Centre and inform the secretariat where they are aware of important events in non member states which involve

decision makers/ECML target groups. Where they are in a position to do so, PNF members could also recommend potential contacts in these countries;

- With regard to the next PNF meeting in 2016, it was suggested that the format be extended to 1.5 days. With majority of members needing to take a flight to come to the meeting, the proposed extension would have little impact on costs and allow greater time to achieve concrete outcomes;
- It was also suggested that part of the meeting be devoted to a webcast to enable and encourage wider participation both from within the membership of the PNF network and of other organisations. If this is planned for the next meeting, a possible format would be a short session at the beginning of the meeting focusing on 'challenging' questions in the area of language teaching and assessment. This session would address a wider non-specialist audience.

In closing the meeting Sarah BRESLIN thanked the members for their active participation, both within the meeting and in the development and promotion of the ECML's Call for submissions. She also highlighted the unique nature and the impressive range of expertise constituted by the Forum.

### **Updated partner presentations**

A new presentation was received from EAQUALS. This has been added to the [Professional Network Forum](#) page. Other contributions received from partners containing details of updates will also be uploaded to this page.

Partners are also reminded of the possibility of promoting their events in the ECML's [International events calendar](#) – those detailed in this document will be shortly added to the calendar.

## APPENDIX I

## 6<sup>th</sup> ECML Professional Network Forum

Graz, 6 February 2015

### Agenda

<b>Friday 6 February – Meeting of the Professional Network Forum</b>	
09.30 – 10.00	<b>Opening:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome to ECML</li> <li>• Introduction of participants attending the PNF for the first time</li> <li>• The purpose and the agenda of the meeting</li> <li>• Update on developments within the ECML</li> <li>• Establishing links with the EU Civil Society Platform</li> </ul>
10.00 – 12.15	<b>Session 1: “Update on network partner activities”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘2 minute announcements’ by all partners on key forthcoming events/changes in their organisations</li> <li>• ‘Round Robin’ partner exchange on developments/initiatives (4 rotating groups allowing for more detailed discussions among partners; please note: links should be made to the national priorities of the ECML member states)</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>
12.15 – 13.00	<b>Session 2: “Call for submissions for the 2016-19 ECML programme”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the Call</li> <li>• Questions for clarification and discussion</li> </ul>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch break at the ECML
14.00 – 15.00	<b>Session 3: “Partners’ involvement”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissemination and promotion of the Call</li> <li>• Possible areas, themes, and formats for partners’ involvement</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>
15.00– 15.40	<b>Session 4: “ECML conference 2015”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of concept</li> <li>• Involvement of partners</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul>
15.40 – 16:00	<b>Closing statements</b>

## APPENDIX II

## EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES, GRAZ

6<sup>th</sup> ECML Professional Network Forum

Graz, 6 February 2015

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## Appendix III

### Key ECML dates in 2015

2015 represents a pivotal year in the activities of the ECML with the preparation of a series of publications to be released by December, based on the projects of the current "Learning through languages programme" and the launch of a Call for submissions for a new programme which will run from 2016-19. The Call invites individuals, teams and (in the case of a project on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) consortia to apply to be involved in the programme. A conference in December will involve national and professional networks in the promotion of the results achieved within the Centre's current programme and look towards the new programme to be launched in January 2016.

### Workshops

21-22 April 2015

Workshop 1/2015 "European portfolio for student teachers of pre-primary education" (Préélémentaire)

Project site: <http://www.ecml.at/preelementaire>

7-8 May 2015

Workshop "Plurilingual whole school curricula"

Project site: <http://www.ecml.at/plurcur>

2-3 June 2015

Workshop "Literacies through Content and Language Integrated Learning: effective learning across subjects and languages" (CLIL and literacy)

Project site: <http://www.ecml.at/clilandliteracy>

24-25 June 2015

Workshop "Developing migrants' language competences at work" (Language for work)

Project site: <http://www.ecml.at/languageforwork>

### Call for submissions

2016-2019 programme

#### **LANGUAGES AT THE HEART OF LEARNING**

Submission deadline: **1 May 2015**

### Governing Board meetings focusing on the preparation and adoption of the new programme

18-19 May 2015

Statutory meeting: 59<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Enlarged Bureau of the Governing Board

9-10 July 2015

Statutory meeting: 60<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Enlarged Bureau of the Governing Board

20-21 October 2015

Statutory meeting: 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Enlarged Bureau of the Governing Board

22-23 October 2015

Statutory meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Board

### Conference

10-11 December 2015

"Learning through languages" conference focusing on the results of the ECML's 2012-15 programme

### European Day of Languages

26 September 2015

Website: <http://www.coe.int/edl>

