

European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe (ECML): *Promoting excellence in language education*

1. "Partner profile":

Brief presentation of the organisation/institution – mission, membership, basic data

- Established 1995 in Graz, Austria
- Part of Department of Language Education and Policy, DG IV: Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport
- Council of Europe, Enlarged Partial Agreement, 34 member states (as of Dec 2009)
- Mission:
 - Support for the implementation of language education policies
 - Promotion of innovation and quality in language teaching and learning
 - Development of networks of experts and practitioners
 - Dissemination of good practice
- Statutory body: Governing Board
- Staff:
 - 11 staff members
 - 4 trainees (up to 6 months)
- Local partner: Austrian Association (Verein EFSZ)
- Format of activities:
 - 4-year medium term programmes of projects coordinated by international expert teams
 - 2-year short term projects and support activities
 - interactive on-line communication and support (websites) for:
 - projects
 - Governing Board
 - National Contact Points
 - European Day of Languages
- Format of events:
 - expert team meetings
 - central workshops
 - regional workshops
 - national support events
 - medium-term programme conferences
- Format of project outputs:
 - Publications, brochures, reports, flyers
 - CD-ROMs
 - On-line materials
- Network:
 - National contact points
 - National nominating authorities
 - Experts – project team members
 - Nominated project participants from each member state who form national and international networks and function as multipliers
 - Professional Network Partners
- Services available:
 - Online / distance services:
 - Publications for download
 - Project websites
 - Electronic newsletter: *The European Language Gazette*
 - Online library catalogue
 - International events calendar
 - On site services at the ECML:
 - Public access reference library, incl. *John Trim Collection*
 - ECML presentation and guided tours for groups
 - Rental of ECML premises (contact: verein.efsza@ecml.at)
 - Services for large-scale / international events:

- ECML publications and posters for display
 - ECML traveling exhibition: 21 display stands relating to publications
- Key figures:
 - 34 member states, 23 on-going European projects, 58 publications, 7,500+ participants at ECML events, 5,500 subscribers to *the Gazette*

2. "Partner highlights":

Activities/initiatives/projects/products/publications/events of your organisation/institution you would wish to be highlighted and promoted/disseminated through the Network – completed, on-going, or planned

- **ECML programme 2004-2007:** *Languages for Social Cohesion. Language Education in a multilingual and multicultural Europe.*
 - Project results: 21 publications available free of charge (on-line and/or hard copy)
- **ECML programme 2008-2011:** *Empowering language professionals. Competences – Networks – Impact – Quality*
 - 23 on-going projects still possible to get involved in
- **2011 ECML Conference:** *Empowering language professionals*
- **Next ECML Programme 2012-2015:**
 - Process of negotiating content and format started
 - Call for proposals open by the end of 2010

3. "Burning issues":

Issues/needs/challenges related to language education that – from the perspective of your organisation/institution - require coordinated action on the international level within the next few years (2010-2015)

- challenge of linguistic (and cultural) diversity: not just ‘a problem to be solved’ but more ‘a resource to benefit from’
- appropriate access to education as a human right
- awareness raising of the core value of language skills
- plurilingual and intercultural education: curriculum development, textbook design, teacher training, teaching, assessment
- integration of migrants (children and adults): support for lifelong learning

4. "Action points":

Possible/desirable joint actions/initiatives/events that you would like to suggest for the Network to undertake in the near future

- awareness raising: value of language skills, benefits of linguistic diversity and individual plurilingualism
- linking research findings to educational practice
- promotion of the concept of plurilingual and intercultural education
- approaching assessment of plurilingual competences

5. "ECML projects":

Issues/topics/themes that you would suggest to be taken up by international project teams within the next ECML medium-term programme of activities (2012-2015) – specifically those with high potential for involvement/contribution from your organisation/institution

(to be presented during the meeting)