

2009 Annual Report

European Centre for Modern Languages

Promoting excellence in language education





Contents

1.	Introduction to the 2009 Annual Report	5
2.	Activities in 2009 within the Centre's programme	6
3.	Information, documentation, dissemination	9
4.	ECML programme evaluation	13
5.	Cooperation within the Department of Language Education and Policy	14
6.	Cooperation with other institutions	16
7.	Budget comments	18
8.	Staffing	19
9.	The host country	20
10.	2009 in figures	21
11.	The 'Graz Declaration on Language Education'	22
12.	Projects within the 2008-2011 programme	24

Background

The European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) in Graz, Austria, is an Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe, set up in 1994 to promote the learning and teaching of languages in Europe. The ECML currently has 34 member states.

The ECML's mission is to support its member states in the implementation of their language education policies taking account of the recommendations of the Council of Europe. It does this by promoting innovative approaches and disseminating good practice in the learning and teaching of modern languages and in this way addresses issues directly related to good quality education as a pre-requisite for social cohesion, intercultural dialogue, and democratic citizenship – priority issues identified for the work of the Organisation as a whole at the Warsaw Summit in 2005.

The ECML runs 4-year medium-term programmes organised in cooperation with European experts in the field of language education.

Through its programme, consisting of projects and related activities to which participants from the member states are invited, the ECML provides a platform for gathering and

disseminating information, stimulating discussion and training multipliers in matters related to language education. It also maintains Europe-wide networks for teacher trainers, researchers and educational administrators.

The ECML in Graz, the Language Policy Division (LPD) and the secretariat of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Strasbourg together make up the Council of Europe's Department of Language Education and Policy within Directorate General IV, Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport. The role and activities of the Graz Centre are complementary to those of the Language Policy Division, whose primary responsibilities are the elaboration of policies and guidelines for promoting linguistic diversity and plurilingualism and the development of policy planning and standard-setting reference instruments.

The Centre maintains close links with professional bodies – INGOs working in language education. Formal cooperation agreements have been signed so far between the ECML and seven INGOs having participatory status with the Council of Europe.



1. Introduction to the 2009 Annual Report

The focus of the Centre's work in 2009 can be summarised around 3 guiding principles: coherence, cooperation and communication:

- **Coherence** - both with regard to actions and activities organised directly by the Centre to produce a clear profile and with regard to priorities set by the Council of Europe as a whole;
- **Cooperation** - within the Council of Europe and with other intergovernmental organisations such as the European Commission and the member states of the Partial Agreement, as well as with partners on a federal, regional and local level and with teacher associations and INGOs;
- **Communication** - to achieve greater visibility, dissemination and impact and also to provide accountability to all stakeholders in the Centre, most notably to the member states.

In terms of coherence the Centre was able to encourage transversal synergies within its programme through meetings of the project coordinators and consultants. In a longer-term perspective this was also fostered through the launch of a wide-ranging consultation process with ECML stakeholders to formulate the vision and key orientations for the Centre's next medium-term programme in 2012-2015. The Centre's involvement in the flagship events of the Language Policy Division (such as the European Language Portfolio seminar hosted at the ECML and the Intergovernmental Conference 'Languages of schooling and the right to plurilingual and intercultural education'), and the Governing Board's decision to

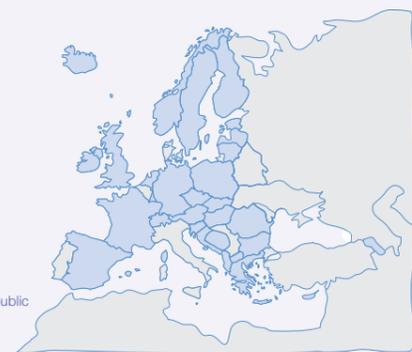
take on 4 new activities within the programme in 2010 supporting the implementation of recommendations and other policy instruments developed in Strasbourg reflect the ECML's motivation to pursue and further build upon the fundamental values and principles underlying the Council of Europe's work in language education.

With regard to cooperation the ECML significantly developed its outreach in 2009. Through involvement with key networks of language education professionals, the setting up of an INGO Professional Network Forum and targeted participation at major international events, the Centre was able to attract a new clientele. This wider base will assist the Centre in identifying priority areas for its future programme, in attracting new experts to its work and in achieving increased impact through the dissemination of its work to new audiences. Ongoing dialogue and cooperation with the European Commission clearly highlighted the areas of competence of the ECML and opened up further opportunities for synergy, in particular with regard to dissemination. On a local level the Centre cooperated effectively with the Austrian authorities on a number of initiatives which were successful in promoting the work conducted by the Centre and in ensuring that its expertise is recognised and can be practically applied at a local level.

The networking and communication function of the Centre was enhanced through the further development of over 30 ECML portals which offer projects and existing networks an effective collaborative working platform. The improvement of the palette of promotional instruments in 2009 which can be targeted at

¹ ECML member states

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Romania
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
United Kingdom



both a specialist and general public facilitates not only the direct work of the Centre in promoting its activities but also the potential of the cascading effect. The Centre is now able to count upon a series of networks for disseminating information and documentation relating to the ECML, in particular the National Contact Points established in each of the member states, project networks such as the language teacher associations targeted through the “Language Associations and

Collaborative Support” project as well as the institutions and associations which signed memoranda of cooperation with the ECML in 2009. The Centre’s keynote interventions at major conferences and events throughout the year, supported by appropriate documentation and dissemination instruments, addressed thousands of language education professionals and have contributed to making the ECML a true reference point in its domain of work.

2. Activities in 2009 within the Centre’s programme

Overview of activities

In 2009, the ECML organised 40 programme events and 8 national support events.

Activities in Graz

34 events took place in Graz involving a total of 441 participants: 8 workshops, 1 project coordinators’ meeting, 2 network meetings, 1 national event and 22 expert meetings.

Activities outside Graz

14 events involving a total of 547 participants were held in 11 of the ECML’s member states (Spain, Norway, United Kingdom, Switzerland, France, Armenia, Greece, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Slovenia).

In summary, the total number of participants in ECML events in 2009 amounted to 988.

Main developments in 2009

Short-term projects

With 5 short-term projects coming to an end in 2009, 3 new projects and a special support activity were adopted by the ECML Governing Board for inclusion within the programme for the remaining 2 years. The project “Training teachers to use the European Language Portfolio – follow-up” (ELP-TT2) and the project “Training in relating language examinations to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages” (RelEx) were continued with new focuses for the 2010-2011 term due to the need for continued support in the area of ELP and CEFR implementation as stressed by member states. In addition, following a restricted call for tender, the project “Mobility programmes for plurilingual and intercultural education - Tools for language teachers”

(PluriMobil) was set up with Mirjam Egli (Switzerland) as coordinator.

Coordinators’ meeting

The project coordinators’ meeting was hosted at the ECML on 24-25 November 2009. It was moderated by the programme consultants in cooperation with the ECML secretariat. Participants and presenters included 19 project coordinators, a representative from the Language Policy Division and the manager of the Austrian Association.

Key issues for follow-up highlighted by the consultants were practical means and measures to reinforce synergies between ECML projects and between ECML and LPD

projects as well as the further development of the ECML evaluation scheme. With regard to the process of setting up the ECML’s 2012-2015 programme the consultants drafted recommendations based on input from the Governing Board and the project coordinators. Feedback gathered from the participants and the consultants strongly suggests that the objectives set for the meeting were achieved; 93% of the questionnaire respondents stated that the event had met or exceeded their expectations.

Preparing the ECML programme 2012-2015

The ECML launched initial discussions on the vision, structure, themes, target groups and



Meeting of the ECML project coordinators

3. Information, documentation, dissemination

envisaged synergies of the 2012-2015 programme with various stakeholders. Starting from the input recorded at the ECML Governing Board meeting in October 2009, the secretariat involved the current ECML project coordinators and the programme consultants in the discussions. The European Language Portfolio Validation Committee also provided input for consideration.

In this first round of consultation the following issues relevant for the new programme emerged:

- coherence and sustainability of the programme shaping the profile of the Centre;
- building on underlying principles and values of the Council of Europe's work in language education;

- synergy with the Language Policy Division's programme and instruments;
- enhancing dissemination strategies and impact;
- reaching out to stakeholders in language education not so far directly involved in ECML activities;
- continuity: sustained support for implementation of key tools developed by the ECML.

The Call for the new programme will comprise a call for tender and an open call for proposals. This structure will allow for both the setting up of a clearly defined and targeted working area within the programme and an open and flexible domain for taking up innovative projects in the wider context of language education.

Communication, Documentation and Resource Centre (CDRC)

The Communication, Documentation and Resource Centre (CDRC) plays a key role in the promotion of the ECML, the production and dissemination of the Centre's products and the co-ordination of the relationships between the Centre and its partner networks, including the National Contact Points, professional associations and other institutional partners.

Within the framework of the Council of Europe's Communication Strategy 2010-2015 the ECML developed a set of measures to further promote the Centre both at specialist level and to a wider public. These were

presented to the Bureau of the Governing Board at its meeting in June and during the full ECML Governing Board meeting in October 2009.

Among the concrete communication initiatives undertaken during 2009, a PR concept was developed for the events directly financed by the ECML within its programme and for using the many external events linked to language education which are hosted at the premises of the ECML as a vehicle for promoting the work of the Centre. This enables the ECML to apply a structured approach to this area.

The Centre's participation in Graz's Europe Day celebration, organised on 7 May on the



Europe Day celebration on the main square in Graz

city's main square, proved highly successful in promoting the ECML to stakeholders on a municipal level. The local population also showed significant interest in the Centre and in particular in the European Day of Languages' promotional materials and in the general PR-material of the Council of Europe. Contacts to the press service of the Province of Styria were also strengthened through the coordination of press releases and media material.

The ECML successfully provided consultative support for the founding meeting of the Sprachennetzwerk Graz, a local network of organisations working in the area of language education which could also be applied as a model of practice for other countries. The ECML also actively participated in the implementation of the *European Language Portfolio* in local schools – a project initiated by the Sprachennetzwerk. The ECML is a key partner through its European dimension and expertise. A cornerstone of the Centre's cooperation work on a local level is the Austrian Association (EFSZ Verein) (for further details of this cooperation see section 9).

Internal contacts with the Directorate of Communication of the Council of Europe were further developed, especially through the publication of news items on the main portal of the Council of Europe and the intranet, such as on the European Day of Languages and on the launch of the ECML's Contact Points website.

The CDRC also coordinated the publication of the European Language Gazette, the publishing of news on the Centre's website and the circulation of news items to relevant target

groups. Contacts to relevant stakeholders and media representatives, especially via the local APA news agency, were further advanced. Following the launch of the new ECML portal in 2010 it is envisaged that the Centre will be able to reach an even wider public through cross-posting of news articles through its network of contacts.

Significant opportunities are offered for reaching new target publics through the numerous networks now at the disposal of the ECML such as the INGO Professional Network Forum, the European language teacher associations (involved within the Centre's "Language Associations and Collaborative Support" project), the networks established within the Centre's projects and the ECML's National Contact Points. With the new call for proposals/tender to be released in 2010 the ECML will seek to make best use of this dissemination potential.

Promotional materials

The new ECML flyer was produced in September in English, French and German. It comprises a trilingual folder providing general information about the Centre and four fact sheets describing the mission and structure, the programmes of activities, the publications, as well as the services of the ECML. The flyer may be ordered from the ECML and the four fact sheets, in separate language versions, are also downloadable from the Centre's website.

In order to facilitate access to this information in member states and to further promote the Centre's work, the ECML invited its National

Contact Points to translate the fact sheets into one or more of the national languages of their country.

The following PR tools were also published:

- issue no.15 of the European Language Gazette, the electronic newsletter of the ECML (<http://www.ecml.at/gazette>);
- the Greek and Spanish versions of the official PowerPoint presentation of the ECML were added to the English, French and German language versions already available on the Centre's website.

A draft catalogue for ECML publications has been designed and will be produced in 2010 in close co-operation with the Council of Europe Communication Directorate.

Information and dissemination

National Contact Points (NCP)

The ECML's National Contact Points are the agencies in each member state and in Canada² which disseminate information on its work to professional networks and the Centre's products.

The ECML website dedicated to the NCPs (<http://contactpoints.ecml.at>) provides a platform to facilitate the work of the network. A national page exists for each of the 35 countries to present the respective NCP, its services and, if relevant, ECML and Council of Europe resources translated into the national language(s). The following developments were

made in 2009 and will be pursued in 2010:

- the **annual report of each NCP** which highlights national dissemination practice and experiences in 2009 as ECML Contact Points have been / will be included on the respective page;
- the **translated versions of ECML publications** have been included on the respective national pages;
- the **new ECML flyer** was sent to the NCPs to be translated in their national language(s). The translations will be formatted by the ECML and uploaded onto the national pages in 2010;
- in autumn 2009, a **new section entitled "Experts involved in ECML activities"** was added to each national page. Within the framework of the ECML programme of activities 2008-2011, this initiative seeks to promote national expertise and to stimulate synergies by providing the contact details and project involvement of the coordinators, team members, associate partners and the participants in the central workshops of projects since 2008 as well as the individual workshop report which each participant is invited to send to the National Nominating Authorities and the National Contact Points in his/her country;
- in October, the NCPs were asked to distribute the **press release** entitled "Multilinguals have a competitive edge! - 'Study on the Contribution of Multilingualism to Creativity' uncovers groundbreaking data" to relevant media contacts within their

² For further information on Canada's involvement with the ECML see section 7

country, relating to the ECML project “Curriculum development for Content and Language Integrated Learning” (CLIL-CD) (<http://clil-cd.ecml.at>). The press release was initially available in English, French, German and was translated by the Norwegian NCP into Norsk (bokmål), Norsk (nynorsk) and Sámegeiella, and by the Romanian NCP into Romanian. It was publicised on the NCP and the CLIL-CD project websites.

The Contact Points site which is updated and further developed on an ongoing basis currently receives approximately 13,000 visits per month. It is anticipated that this figure will increase substantially over the next 12 months as new resources are included on the site.

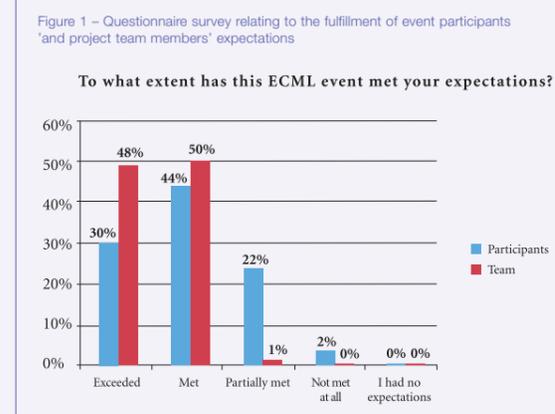
ECML contribution to events hosted at its premises and to external events

In 2009, the ECML supported 52 events organised in 12 member states, Canada, Italy, and Turkey, by sending information materials and publications and/or by offering presentations. The support covered 15 external events (conferences, seminars, workshops), 18 events attended by ECML staff, and 19 hosted events organised at the Centre's premises.

Website - Statistics

- In 2009, the ECML web platform received over **1.2 million visits** (compared to 850,500 the previous year);
- each of the ECML project sites received a monthly average of approximately 6,000 page views;

- approximately **430,000 downloads of ECML publications** were recorded in 2009;
- 134 events were recorded on the ECML international events calendar;
- apart from other Council of Europe sites and search engines the most frequent referring websites were the BBC, the Goethe Institut, CILT - The National Centre for Languages and the Organisation de la Francophonie. An increasing number of individual teacher's blogs also now provide links to the ECML sites;
- the European Language Gazette was also redeveloped in a more transparent and user-friendly way which contributed to increased subscriptions (+8.5% to 5,750).



4. ECML programme evaluation

A comprehensive scheme comprising tools and procedures to facilitate the evaluation of the ECML programme was introduced with the launch of the programme in 2008. After two years experience with this scheme the data and insights gained have proved appropriate for meeting the needs of the various stakeholders concerned.

In 2009 a dedicated area for the presentation of the evaluation scheme was set up on the ECML's programme website. In parallel the Governing Board website was updated with feedback data from workshop participants on an ongoing basis. In support of national dissemination efforts workshop participants are requested to send a report to their National Nominating Authority and National Contact Point in their national languages and they are also invited to send a copy of the report to the ECML. In 2009 on average 60% of the workshop participants submitted their report to the ECML. The reports reaching the ECML are uploaded for public access (when the participant has granted permission for publication) via the national pages of the ECML member states.

Programme consultants

The four programme consultants³ appointed for the Centre's 2008-2011 programme continue to play an important role in contributing to high quality of project work and to the overall coherence of the programme. The terms of reference for the work of the consultants assign these experts a genuine role in the ECML evaluation scheme. Their principal tasks relate to monitoring the projects, providing evaluative feedback on project achievements and supporting dissemination of project

processes and outputs. The consultants also focus on relating the individual project achievements to the overall objectives of the 2008-2011 programme and encouraging the development of synergy within and beyond the programme. Their role is advisory.

Statistical data from participants

To conclude with participants' statistics it can be noted that services and administration provided by the ECML secretariat (e.g. pre-event information, travel and accommodation arrangements) were rated as good or very good on average by more than 90 % of workshop participants.

The following data summarise responses from the participants in ECML events to a set of questions on the objectives of the 2008-2011 programme:

- 91% strongly agreed or agreed that the event contributed to their professional development;
- 90% strongly agreed or agreed that the event motivated them to become more active networkers;
- 86 % strongly agreed or agreed that the event encouraged them to become engaged in reform processes;
- 95 % strongly agreed or agreed that they would promote quality aspects of language education discussed at the event.

To conclude, the services and administration provided by the ECML secretariat were rated as good or very good by over 90% of participants.

³ Isabel Landsiedler, Karl Franzens University, Graz; Frank Heyworth, European Association of Quality Language Services (EAQUALS); Hanna Komorowska, Warsaw University; Sauli Takala, University of Jyväskylä, Finland.

5. Cooperation within the Department of Language Education and Policy

Cooperation with the Language Policy Division (LPD) within the Council of Europe's Department of Language Education and Policy represents an integral part of the functioning of the ECML.

The Language Policy Division's 2010-2014 programme *Language policies and the right to education for social inclusion* was adopted at the 8th meeting of the Steering Committee for Education (CDED) and the Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research (CDESR) in March. The Chair of the Governing Board and the ECML Director were invited to make a joint presentation on the Centre's work at the meeting. The programme forms an integral part of the overall programme of the Education Directorate Education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic culture which looks at how the right to education can be further protected and promoted, giving all children access to quality education.

The European Language Portfolio seminar jointly organised by the Language Policy Division and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Art and Culture at the Centre's premises in September 2009 brought together National Contact Persons and international experts from 45 countries. The meeting took stock of developments to date and discussed future strategy (with the European Validation Committee ceasing its mandate at the end of 2010). A strategy planning meeting took place at the end of November in Strasbourg with the ECML represented by the Director, Deputy Director and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board. Their contributions focused on the role the Centre could feasibly play in the future

development of the Portfolio. To underline the increasing importance of the ECML's role in the implementation of the ELP and ensure synergies, the Centre's future involvement could concentrate on:

- promotion of the underlying philosophy and the approach offered by the ELP;
- further elaboration of the existing ECML project websites related to ELP and closer linking or merging with the Portfolio website of the LPD;
- support for implementation and training;
- responding to specific national and regional needs and developments.

Within the Centre's 2008-2011 programme, several projects have close links to the LPD's work. The secretariats of both units are active in promoting complementarity and coherence between work undertaken and ensuring that relevant results from the ECML's activities feed into the Division's work, where appropriate, and vice-versa. The two projects linked to the implementation of the European Language Portfolio (ELP-WSU and ELP-TT2) represent good examples of such synergies. Further projects, in the 'Evaluation' strand, offering training in relating language examinations to the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (CEFR), and in the 'Plurilingual education' strand, relating to the teaching of minority languages and to the languages of schooling, will also be closely coordinated with the LPD.

European Day of Languages (EDL), 26 September 2009

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

EDL 2009 in figures

- There were a total of 315,000 visits to the site in September (with 37,000 visits alone on Friday, 25 September). Over 800 users registered for the website;
- by 26 September 513 events from 47 countries in Europe and worldwide had been recorded in the EDL database for 2009 (almost 70 events were registered each from Austria and the United Kingdom). Many events involved several participating countries (by adding together all events involving each individual country an overall total of 646 events were recorded);

- the National Relays translated the Council of Europe press release on the occasion of the 2009 Day into 17 languages;
- the majority of EDL materials were sent directly to the Relays for distribution on a national basis; in total 7,000 posters and 40,000 sheets of 'Talk to me' stickers were sent out to participating countries. In addition EDL lanyards, which were produced for the first time, proved highly successful with the stock of 20,000 quickly running out through the high demand.

The Day has proved to be a sustainable initiative, with the investment of human and financial resources by the Council to ensure its coordination proving cost-effective. The number of events recorded in the EDL database has remained relatively stable over the past 9 years and visits to the EDL website have increased significantly year by year. The continued enthusiasm and dedication of many of the National Relays and of language teachers around Europe has undoubtedly played a large part in the success of the Day.



6. Cooperation with other institutions

Cooperation with the European Commission

The number of requests for the Centre to become involved as partners in EU-financed projects increased considerably in 2009.

At the invitation of the Commission the ECML participated in the conference on “Early language learning for children of pre-school age” in Brussels on 24-25 September. A video interview with the ECML Deputy Director was recorded at the conference and is now online via YouTube within the framework of the EU campaign website on early language learning (Piccolingo).

Harald Hartung, Head of the Multilingualism Unit, has been invited to the 1st Professional Network Forum organised by the ECML in the first week of January 2010 (see below).

Cooperation with professional INGOs

Following on from the Memorandum of Cooperation signed by the ECML and the Canadian authorities in 2008, in 2009 the Centre developed a generic cooperation agreement with major professional INGOs active in the domain of language education outlining the modalities of the desired cooperation and formalising the commitment to work together on areas of common interest at institutional level. In an initial phase it was envisaged to propose the agreement to leading institutions and associations holding participatory status with the Council of Europe and which did not yet have formal links with the ECML. During the year the agreement was signed by the European Association for Quality Language Services (EAQUALS), the Association

of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE), the World Federation of Modern Language Associations (FIPLV), the International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA), the International Certificate Conference (ICC), the European Confederation of Language Centres in Higher Education (CercleS), the European Association for Language Testing and Assessment (EALTA) and the Conseil européen pour les langues / European Language Council (CEL/ELC). All associations together with the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI) of the University of Ottawa, Canada and the European Commission agreed to participate in a partner meeting at the ECML on 7 January 2010 to discuss issues of mutual interest and to launch the ‘Professional Network Forum’. As a direct result of the meeting a common declaration of the partners on language education was issued, entitled “Quality education for plurilingual people living in multilingual societies” (see section 11).

received from the 6 coordinators of projects involving a Canadian team member or an associate partner indicates that their expertise and networking capacities contribute significantly to project processes. This overall positive evaluation is complemented by the formal reports of the Canadian participants. Among the points of added value of the Canadian participation highlighted is the increasing awareness of the ECML and its services in Canada. This is an encouraging indicator that the practical involvement of Canadian experts in ECML activities is contributing towards achieving one of the key objectives of the Memorandum: the ultimate accession of Canada to the Partial Agreement.

Other associations/institutions

Other institutions acting as cooperating partners in projects of the new programme are the European Association for Quality Language Services (EAQUALS), the Dutch Institute for Educational Measurement (CITO), the CLIL Cascade Network (CCN), the National Association of Language Advisers, UK, the Institut national de recherche pédagogique (INRP), the European Confederation of Language Centres in Higher Education (CercleS), Moscow State Linguistic University, the International German Teacher's Association (IDV), the Fédération internationale des professeurs de français (FIPF) and the Education and Linguistic and Cultural Diversity International Association (EDiLiC).

Other cooperation

Canada

On the basis of the Memorandum on Cooperation and Liaison, signed by the ECML and the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI) based at the University of Ottawa in January 2008, the OLBI identified six projects that were closely related to priority areas of research in Canada, and proposed Canadian experts from various institutions to act as team members or resource persons in the selected projects. The expenses of the Canadian experts are covered by Canada for the duration of the projects. Informal feedback



The launch meeting of the Professional Network Forum

7. Budget comments

Within the 2008–2011 programme the direct costing of project activities has been based upon an overall figure of €2.25 million. This figure is estimated as the absolute minimum operational budget necessary to run a high-quality, effective programme given the current level of staffing (11 full-time staff members).

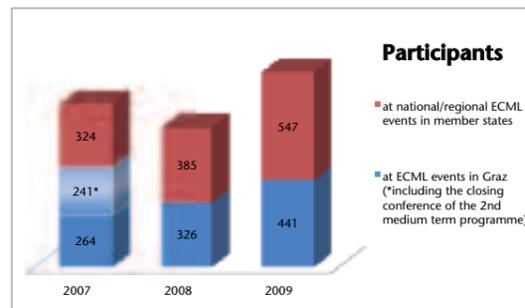


Figure 2 - Comparison of the number of participants at ECML events

ECML budget (totalling €1.7 million) largely related to staffing. The increase primarily resulted from changes in the Council of Europe's contractual policy for staff who were formerly employed on temporary contracts. Although the timing and the scale of the increase are particularly regrettable in the present economic circumstances, this should nevertheless be viewed in context:

- the ECML's overall budget has increased by a total of only 6% since 2003 (the Centre's budget fell by € 28,000 (-2%) between 2007-2008);
- the main costs of running the Centre and of its local infrastructure are borne directly by the Austrian host authorities, whose total contribution (including the obligatory contributions and infrastructure costs managed by the Austrian Association) is estimated at €440,000. Primarily as a result of the rises in infrastructural costs the Austrian authorities have increased their contribution to the hosting of the Centre by 17% since 2007.

In the light of the large increase in the 2010 budget and the pressure on the programme budget in recent years the secretariat successfully proposed the establishment of a statutory working group on budgetary and administrative matters to the Governing Board at its 18th meeting in November. The group will assist the secretariat in developing a medium-term budgetary strategy – structuring the Centre's budget on a stable basis for the remainder of the *Empowering language professionals* programme and the initial years of the 2012-2015 programme.

Total expenditure for 2009 amounted to €1.6 million. The following categories represented the major areas of programme expenditure for the year (2008 figures in brackets):

- Travel and subsistence: 47% (40%);
- Publications/promotional materials: 6% (20%);
- Honoraria: 22% (20%);
- Interpretation: 8% (7%);
- Web development/IT maintenance and telecommunications: 4% (6%);
- Postage: 2% (5%).

With regard to staffing costs, although expenditure was as foreseen in 2009, the overall increase of € 98,700 required for the 2010

By involving direct stakeholders to a greater extent in the budgetary process the secretariat envisages benefiting from a variety of perspectives on themes such as:

- budget structure, presentation and performance criteria;
- the balance between staffing costs and programme expenditure;

- ways of promoting the Centre to new states;
- cooperation activities attracting additional funds to the budget and other fundraising activities.

8. Staffing

The ECML has eleven full-time staff: eight permanent (posts) and three fixed-term (positions). The Centre also offers eight six-month traineeships each year (in total 48 months) to young graduates. A limited number of fellowships are also offered to projects involving a significant research aspect. In these cases young postgraduate students /researchers are awarded a fellowship for a period of 3 months to focus on a specific task or set of tasks.

The ECML was able to keep an unchanged staff for the greater part of 2009 which enabled continuity within the work of the Centre at an important time of planning and development. This was a significant factor in the successful reorientation of the Communication, Documentation and Resource Centre to take on a more active communication

function and also in the technical redevelopment of the ECML web platform.

The traineeship and fellowship schemes have proved highly successful, allowing young graduates and researchers to further develop their knowledge and expertise whilst actively contributing to the work of the Centre. The motivation of the trainees as well as the dedication they displayed to their tasks was particularly commendable in 2009.

9. The host country

The Austrian Association of the ECML (Verein EFSZ in Österreich) acts as the local partner of the ECML in Graz, thereby fulfilling Austria's commitment as host country to provide a seat for the Centre and a local secretariat. Its main function is to maintain and develop the premises of the ECML and provide assistance in day-to-day logistics. It also plays a valuable role in acting as an interface between the Centre and national, regional and local bodies.

As part of this function, the Austrian Association has invited all institutions in Graz involved in the field of languages to come together in the Sprachennetzwerk Graz (the Graz Language Network). This provides a platform for building up and strengthening synergies and exchange of information. Beyond the general objective of promoting plurilingualism, the Network aims to make

the competences of the institutions based in Graz more visible both nationally and at European level and to underline the city's specificity as a place of language-related expertise.

When the ECML's premises are not being used for its programme activities, they may be used by outside institutions to host activities corresponding to the Centre's vocation. The fact that the Graz Centre is one of the external Council of Europe offices has made it an obvious choice for events organised by or in cooperation with other Council of Europe units, such as the 8th European Language Portfolio seminar. These events raise the profile of the Centre and help to establish its reputation as an international meeting point within the region. External usage also provides a contribution to the considerable costs borne by the Austrian authorities for the provision of the ECML facilities.



10. 2009 in figures

988	participants in activities financed by the ECML
48	events organised by the ECML
52	other events supported by the ECML
20	active projects within the <i>Empowering language professionals</i> programme
1	new publication
9	translations of ECML publications by member states
>400,000	accesses of ECML publications on the ECML website
>1,2 million	visits to the ECML's main website
>5,750	subscribers to the European Language Gazette
>640	events organised in 47 European countries for the European Day of Languages
€1.6 million	total expenditure of the ECML

This report is also available at the following address: <http://govboard.ecml.at>.

11. The ‘Graz Declaration on Language Education’

“Quality education for plurilingual people living in multilingual societies” – Executive Summary

Background

On 7 January 2010, the INGO Professional Network Forum on Language Education was founded at the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) of the Council of Europe in Graz. The Forum brings together eight renowned international associations working in this area, all of which had signed bilateral cooperation agreements with the ECML, and have competences relevant to policy, research and practice in language education.

The Graz Declaration 2010, summarized below, provides the basis for the activities to be undertaken by the new Professional Network Forum.

The signatories of the Graz Declaration 2010 are listed below:

Bernd Rüschoff, the International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA)

Berit Halvorsen, the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE)

Johann Fischer, the European Confederation of Language Centres in Higher Education (CercleS)

Sauli Takala, the European Association for Language Testing and Assessment (EALTA)

Peter Brown, the European Association for Quality Language Services (EAQUALS)

Waldemar Martyniuk, the European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe (ECML)

Wolfgang Mackiewicz, Conseil européen pour les langues / European Language Council (CEL/ELC)

Terry Lamb, the International Federation of Language Teacher Associations / Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes (FIPLV)

Rolf Schärer, the International Certificate Conference (ICC)

Aline Germain-Rutherford, the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI) of the University of Ottawa, Canada

Towards a new concept of language education

The members of the Professional Network Forum on Language Education undertake to work together on various key initiatives, including:

1. An **overview** of European and **international reference sources** on which to base national, regional, and local language education policies, strategies, and practices;
2. Closer international and regional cooperation in **sharing and applying relevant research**, and ensuring that relevant research projects are properly designed to address new challenges;
3. **New approaches** to learning, teaching, and assessment in multilingual and multicultural classrooms, including among recently arrived migrants;
4. **Improved mutual recognition of language qualifications**, specifically in less widely taught languages and languages for specific purposes;
5. The development of a **common approach to the assurance and enhancement of the quality of support for language learning across all sectors**, and of schemes for promoting quality and outstanding achievement in language education;
6. Ways of **identifying the professional competences needed by language teaching professionals working in different contexts**, including more effective use of new technologies in (language) education, innovative pre-service language teacher education, and mobility programmes for teachers;
7. An **open forum** for discussion of language education policies and their implementation leading to more integrated approaches to language education at national, regional, and local levels;
8. A **common language to discuss and develop ways of assessing linguistic and plurilingual competences**, and a redefinition of the concept of literacy in multilingual communities;
9. **Further development and implementation of Council of Europe tools**, such as: the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (CEFR) and the *European Language Portfolio* (ELP); the development of reference standards for competences in the languages of schooling, academic education and language courses for migrants, as well as for the most widely used non-European languages; the wider use of ‘personal language profiles’ (e.g. in language portfolios);
10. **Implementation of relevant Council of Europe recommendations**, such as Recommendation (2008)⁷ on the use of the CEFR and the promotion of plurilingualism.

12. Projects within the 2008-2011 programme



Thematic area

A. Evaluation

EPOSTL2

Piloting and Implementing the European Portfolio for Student Teachers of Languages
Coordination: David Newby, Austria
<http://epostl2.ecml.at>

ECEP

Encouraging the culture of evaluation among professionals
Coordination: Marie Berchoud, France (2008-09), Enrica Piccardo, Italy/France (2010-2011)
<http://eccep.ecml.at>

AYLLit

Assessment of young learner literacy linked to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
Coordination: Angela Hasselgreen, United Kingdom
<http://ayllit.ecml.at>

GULT

Guidelines for university language testing
Coordination: Johann Fischer, Germany
<http://gult.ecml.at>

CEF-ESTIM

Common European Framework of Reference for Languages - level estimation grid for teachers
Coordination: Claire Tardieu, France
<http://cefestim.ecml.at>

QualiTraining2

QualiTraining at Grassroots Level
Coordination: Laura Muresan, Romania
<http://qualitraining2.ecml.at>

ReEx

Training in relating language examinations to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Coordination: José Noijons, Netherlands
<http://relex.ecml.at>

Thematic area

B. Continuity in language learning

DOTS

Developing online teaching skills
Coordination: Ursula Stickler, United Kingdom
<http://dots.ecml.at>

ELP-WSU

The European Language Portfolio in whole-school use
Coordination: David Little, Ireland
<http://elp-wsu.ecml.at>

ELP-TT2

Training teachers to use the European Language Portfolio - Follow-up project
Coordination: Margarete Nezbeda, Austria
<http://elp-tt2.ecml.at>

E-VOLLution

Exploring cutting-edge applications of networked technologies in vocationally-oriented language learning
Coordination: Anthony Fitzpatrick, Spain
<http://evollution.ecml.at>

Thematic area

C. Content and language education

EPLC

Content-based teaching for young learners
Coordination: Renate Krüger, Germany
<http://eplc.ecml.at>

CLIL-CD

Curriculum development for Content and Language Integrated Learning
Coordination: María Jesus Frigols, Spain
<http://clil-cd.ecml.at>

CLIL-LOTE-START

Content and Language Integrated Learning through languages other than English – Getting started
Coordination: Kim Haataja, Finland
<http://clil-lote-start.ecml.at>

CLIL-LOTE-GO

Good practice in Content and Language Integrated Learning for languages other than English
Coordination: Gérald Schlemminger, France
<http://clil-lote-go.ecml.at>

ConBaT+

Content based teaching + plurilingual/cultural awareness
Coordination: Mercè Bernaus Queral, Spain
<http://conbat.ecml.at>

Thematic area

D. Plurilingual education

CARAP

A framework of reference for pluralistic approaches
Coordination: Michel Candelier, France
<http://carap.ecml.at>

EBP-ICI

Minority languages, collateral languages and bi-/plurilingual education
Coordination: Claude Cortier, France
<http://ebp-ici.ecml.at>

MARILLE

Majority language instruction as basis for plurilingual education
Coordination: Klaus-Börge Boeckmann, Austria/Germany
<http://marille.ecml.at>

LACS

Language associations and collaborative support
Coordination: Terry Lamb, United Kingdom
<http://lacs.ecml.at>

This report is available at the following address: <http://govboard.ecml.at>.



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