Activity report 2012 – Canada

Submitted to the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML)

Context:

2012 is the first year of the renewal for a period of 4 years (2012-2015) of the Cooperation and Liaison Agreement signed between the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) of the Council of Europe and the University of Ottawa, through the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI), which objectives are:

1) to ensure increased contacts between the ECML and Canadian language experts, with the long-term aim of creating favorable conditions for full Canadian membership of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the ECML;

2) to designate OLBI as a Canadian partner of the ECML in the role of disseminating the ECML’s work in Canada as a «Contact Point» for the ECML, and act as the «National Nominating Authority» for Canada; to propose Canadian experts to take part in the ECML projects and activities; and to participate in the Professional Network Forum as the Canadian founding member.

Canadian Participation in Activities of the ECML:

1) 2012-2015 Programme: Learning through languages - Promoting inclusive, plurilingual and intercultural education

In its role as «Contact Point» and as «National Nominating Authority» for Canada, the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI) of the University of Ottawa established a Committee of researchers and administrators of Institutes/Centres to review all the projects approved by the ECML in the context of the 2012-2015 Programme, to determine which projects appear most pertinent to the Canadian context, and to identify Canadian experts which could contribute to the work of the selected projects.

Members of the Committee:

- Alister Cumming, Centre for Educational Research on Languages and Literacies, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto;
- Michel Laurier, Faculté des sciences de l'éducation, Université de Montréal;
- Joseph Dicks, Second Language Research Institute of Canada, University of New Brunswick;
- Claire Trépanier, Office of Francophone and Francophiles Affairs, Simon Fraser University;
- Sharon Lapkin, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto, and member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT);
- Marie-Josée Hamel, CCERBAL, Official languages and bilingualism Institute (OLBI);
- Richard Clément, Director, Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI);
- Hilaire Lemoine, Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI).
List of projects identified and of selected Canadian experts:

**Diversity in majority language learning – Supporting teacher education** (MALEDIVE) - Patricia Lamarre, Département de didactique, Faculté des sciences de l’éducation, Université de Montréal;

**Language descriptors for migrant and minority learners' success in compulsory education** (Language descriptors) - Paula Kristmanson, Second Language Research Institute of Canada, University of New Brunswick;

**Literacies through Content and Language Integrated Learning: effective learning across subjects and languages** (CLIL and literacy) - Roy Lyster, Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE), McGill University;

**Languages in corporate quality** (LINCQ) - Enrica Piccardo, Centre for Educational Research on Languages and Literacies (CRELL), Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto;

**Collaborative Community Approach to Migrant Education** (Community) – Melody Kostiuk, Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education, Edmonton Public School Board;

**Empowering language networks** (LACS) - Wendy Carr, Department of Language & Literacy Education, Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia;

**Plurilingual and intercultural competences: descriptors and teaching materials** (CARAP) - Danièle Moore, Faculty of Education, Simon Fraser University.

2) **Expert meetings and Workshops in 2012:**

LINCQ - **Languages in corporate quality** – Expert meeting – September 13-14, 2012; Participation through Skype - Enrica Piccardo, Centre for Educational Research on Languages and Literacies (CRELL), Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto.


**CARAP** - **Plurilingual and intercultural competences: descriptors and teaching materials** –
1) Network meeting – May 31-June 1, 2012 - Laura Ambrosio, Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI), University of Ottawa; 2) Workshop – November 21-23, 2012 - Danièle Moore, Faculty of Education, Simon Fraser University; Laura Ambrosio, Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI), University of Ottawa.


3) **Professional Network Forum (PNF)**


Represented by Marie-Josée Hamel, Director of the Canadian Centre for Research on Bilingualism and Language Planning (CCERBAL), OLBI participated as the institutional member for Canada of the PNF in 3rd meeting of the Professional Network Forum, February 2, 2012. For the summary of the meeting:
Activities related to the ECML held in Canada in 2012:

1) Promotion of the membership of Canada in the ECML:

In conformity with the objective of encouraging an eventual membership of Canada in the ECML, as referenced in the Agreement for Cooperation and Liaison renewed in March 2012 between the ECML and OLBI, OLBI maintains sustained relationships with Canadian authorities (Department of External Affairs, Canadian Heritage, Commissioner of Official Languages, Council of Ministers of Education Canada (CMEC)) to inform them of the work of the ECML and its impact on Canada, with the objective of promoting a Canadian membership in the ECML.

OLBI has also asked the Canadian experts participating in the ECML 2012-2015 Programme to inform their respective institution, as well as senior officials of their provincial Ministry of Education, of the impact of their participation in ECML projects on language teaching in their region, and the advantages for Canada of a more formal relationship with the ECML, thereby promoting a Canadian membership in the ECML.

2) Some publications related to ECML projects:


3) Mediation activities of CARAP at conferences, workshops, round tables, training sessions:


Other related activities:


The Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI), through its research centre CCERBAL, hosted its 5th conference entitled «Innovative Practices in Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) » at the University of Ottawa, April 26-27, 2012. The conference was a unique opportunity for more than 100 participants (researchers, teachers, students and all others) with an interest in CALL to gather and share knowledge and ideas. Two symposia (Analysis of learner-computer interactions; Distance learning and on-line exchanges) as well as two round table meetings (Teacher education; Political challenges and visions) provided forums for in-depth discussions on the conference themes and facilitated exchanges between invited speakers and participants. The conference was also an opportunity for participants to benefit from the presence of key speakers from Canada and abroad (United States, France, Italy, Great Britain, Ireland, Spain, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia) who came to share their research in this area.

2) **Forum: «Immersion at the university level: models, challenges and prospects»**

In celebration of the fifth anniversary of French Immersion Studies, the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute of the University of Ottawa organized an international Forum featuring scholars from North America and Europe on February 9 and 10, 2012, entitled «Immersion at the university level: models, challenges and prospects».

The Forum took several forms, including plenaries, papers, and round tables to address the entire spectrum of post-secondary immersion: different languages, different academic levels, different stakeholders. The two-day Forum was divided in four sessions: 1) Models for immersion at the postsecondary level; 2) Stakeholders in the French Immersion Studies at the University of Ottawa; 3) Issues and research in immersion; 4) Prospects.

To consult the programme of the Forum:  
To consult the Working Papers of the Forum:  

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