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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 report¹ 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)

within the given deadline.

¹ Only if you authorised the ECML to publish your contact details.

| 1. Reporting | |
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| Name of the workshop participant | Nadežda Polianoviča |
| Institution | Rigas Klasiska gimnazija |
| E-mail address | polianovic@yahoo.com |
| Title of ECML project | Action research communities for language teachers |
| ECML project website | http://www.ecml.at/ECML-Programme/Programme2016-2019/Professionallearningcommunities/tabid/1868/language/en-GB/Default.aspx |
| Date of the event | 10-11 November, 2016 |
| Brief summary of the content of the workshop | <p>The workshop held in Graz, November 10-11 has become the next step in the project “Action research communities for language teachers” – one of the 8 developmental initiatives of the ECML programme “Languages at the heart of learning” 2016-2019.</p> <p>The two day long workshop brought together education experts and teachers from 32 countries. The first day of the workshop was organized as a series of plenary sessions introducing the main concepts, tools and steps of action research. In addition, all the participants had an opportunity to share and discuss their individual research ideas, plans and teaching status quo situations while working in international groups.</p> <p>On the second day, various materials and opportunities for co-operative action research as well as ideas for online teaching and video conferencing were offered by the project team of experts and all the workshop participants collaborated together to form particular action research teams and develop their plans for further micro-research.</p> <p>All in all, eleven international micro-research teams were formed. The themes of action research were very diverse and comprised such topical nowadays issues as, developing intercultural competence, CLIL, using EPOSTL reference to improve the quality of teaching, providing efficient feedback at the lesson, and developing critical thinking skills. The participants received a great variety of excellent materials and fresh ideas for further work and research. The workshop concluded with a very interesting guided tour in Graz.</p> |

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| <p>What did you find particularly useful?</p> | <p>Today Latvia and many other European countries are facing various challenges in the education systems, and action research is an indispensable element of any reforms on which the necessary changes can and should be based.</p> <p>Participation in the workshop gave me the unique opportunity to get acquainted with the latest trends, approaches and techniques in language learning and research in other European countries and in the world; the opportunity to communicate and get advice from other participants and the team of experts in the field.</p> <p>Another huge benefit of the workshop was the chance to meet, communicate and develop very useful contacts with teachers and education specialists not only from different countries, but also of various backgrounds ranging from primary and secondary schools to colleges and universities.</p> <p>Finally, the team of the project provided us with multiple sources of excellent educational materials for all kinds of research and the workshop definitely became a serious motivator for further action.</p> |
| <p>How will you use what you learnt / developed in the event in your professional context?</p> | <p>Firstly, I plan to implement the planned collective micro-research on Critical Thinking (CT) with my partners. We are going to develop, peer-edit and apply lesson plans and materials aimed at engaging our students in CT and developing students' higher order thinking skills.</p> <p>Secondly, I would like to relate my findings in developing CT skills to CLIL and develop Good Practice examples including videos for sharing with my colleagues and wider audience.</p> <p>Thirdly, I plan to use the research data base IRIS and other materials offered by the team of experts to extend my individual research and develop a publication for the ECML website.</p> |
| <p>How will you further contribute to the project?</p> | <p>I am going to develop and share with my colleagues and wider audience educational materials such as, lesson plans, handouts Good practice materials, improved syllabi and articles.</p> <p>In addition, I plan to continue my individual research and develop an etwinning project in order to investigate approaches to CT and the quality of education in other EU countries. Moreover, I would like to publish an article on my individual research on the www.ecml.at website.</p> |
| <p>How do you plan to disseminate the project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to colleagues - to a professional association - in a professional journal/website - in a newspaper - other | <p>Firstly, I am going to organise workshops and seminars for my colleagues at the Rigas Klasiska gimnazija and at the Riga city level.</p> <p>Secondly, I plant to give a workshop on action research and critical thinking at the Latvian Association of Teachers of English in August 2017.</p> <p>Thirdly, I am going to publish an article about ECML activities and my research results on a professional website www.e-skola.lv and The Baltic Times newspaper, and I hope to publish my individual research on the ECML website.</p> |

2. 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.).

Pašlaik ne tikai Latvijā, bet arī citās Eiropas valstīs ir jāveic reformas izglītības sistēmā, un profesionālās darbības pētījumi var kļūt par nopietnu atbalstu pamatotām un kvalitatīvām pārmaiņām izglītībā. „Darbības pētījumu kopienas valodu skolotājiem” jeb “Action research communities for language teachers” ir viens no astoņiem starptautiskajiem projektiem vērienīga Eiropas Moderno valodu centra (EMVC) programmā „Languages at the heart of learning 2016-2019”. Šī projekta mērķis ir paaugstināt izglītības kvalitāti, aktivizējot profesionālās darbības pētījumu grupas un sasaistot akadēmiskās zināšanas ar konkrētiem izglītības prakses piemēriem. Viena no svarīgākajām šī projekta priekšrocībām ir iespēja atrisināt noteiktu problēmu vai rast atbildi uz interesējošo jautājumu, izmantojot starptautisku mikropētījumu un tādējādi iesaistoties izglītības kvalitātes uzlabošanā.

Šī gada novembrī Grācā, Austrijā norisinājās projekta „Action research communities for language teachers” seminārs, kas apvienoja izglītības ekspertus un skolotājus no 32 valstīm. Divas dienas semināra dalībniekiem bija unikālā iespēja iepazīties ar jaunākajām pētījumu tendencēm un instrumentiem izglītības jomā, kā arī apmainīties ar idejām un atrast partnerus turpmākajam pētījumam. Seminārā tika izveidotas 11 starptautiskās sadarbības komandas, kas turpmākajos mēnešos veiks mikropētījumus. Kā populārākās pētījumu tēmas var minēt satura un valodas integrēto apguvi jeb *CLIL*, efektīvas atgriezeniskās saites veidošanu stundā, kritiskās domāšanas attīstīšanu un skolotāju refleksijas instrumenta *EPOSTL* lietošanu darba kvalitātes uzlabošanai. Pētījumu rezultātu publikācija ir plānota 2017. gada martā. Plašāka informācija par projektu ir pieejama <http://www.ecml.at/ECML-Programme/Programme2016-2019/Professionallearningcommunities/tabid/1868/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>.

Jāatzīmē, ka EMVC pastāvīgi piedāvā gan lieliskas profesionālās pilnveides iespējas semināros, tīmekļsemināros un starptautiskos projektos, gan ļoti plašu izglītojošo un metodisko materiālu klāstu, kas ir pieejams <http://www.ecml.at>.