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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

Name of the workshop participant	Jacqueline Xuereb
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Title of ECML project	Towards Inspiring Language Learning and Teaching in the Early Years
ECML project website	https://www.ecml.at/Thematicareas/PlurilingualEducation/Projects/tabid/1675/language/en-GB/Default.aspx
Date of the event	12th and 13th September 2018
Brief summary of the content of the workshop	The workshop supported the educators of different countries in the world of multicultural and multilingual schools. Strategies were discussed and demonstrated which educators can draw upon during planning and teaching children from different backgrounds.
What did you find particularly useful?	I particularly found helpful the sessions where most of the participants shared their experiences, good practices, books, teaching tools, school websites, etwinning projects and games. I also found the Padlet practical as I could virtually see what the other groups were uploading.
How will you use what you learnt / developed in the event in your professional context?	I will definitely use the Padlet for future references. I will also include some of the strategies in my teaching. I will also use some of the links which some of the participants provided on the Padlet.
How will you further contribute to the project?	I could contribute more resources and tools that I use during my activities with my students
How do you plan to disseminate the project? to colleagues to a professional association in a professional journal/website in a newspaper other	I will discuss the strategies that are most suited to my school with my SMT and incorporate them with our student I will discuss my experiences with my Education Officer I will discuss strategies and my experience with the MEDE in Malta I will upload (with parents' consent) more videos on media channels I will create a Padlet with my colleagues and make public

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.).

LANGUAGES AT THE HEART OF LEARNING

The Seminar showed us that languages, in the modern world, are essential. In a world where people are migrating to other countries, being able to communicate with each other is of the utmost importance. This is especially so when children from multicultural and multilinguistic environments attend the same school. By making our schools more multilinguistic, we are securing democracy through education.

Through discussions, videos, project work, group work and examples of good practice I feel that I am better prepared to make my students “happy lingual”.

From the Seminar I have learnt:

- ICT plays an important part in language learning
- Positive learning experiences, especially in the first year, are essential
- To learn a new language we must activate our existing knowledge and experience
- As educators we must activate the child’s cognitive engagement
- We must promote the Identity of the child as a learner
- Learner Autonomy makes the learner work harder
- Networking, teacher training and sharing expertise is the key for good teaching
- Positive attitudes and values are essential towards language learning and plurilinguism
- Being a monolingual country might be a disadvantage
- Meaningful Learning is the key to (language) learning
- Each student can bring their linguistic resources to improve the other students’ learning

The following are some strategies that I can adopt to provide an enhanced learning experience:

- Strengthening my language competence
- I will appreciate the linguistic diversity of my students
- I will promote the involvement of parents especially those of a different cultural background
- Learning from parents, colleagues, parents from a different culture and most of all from the students, even as young as 3 to 5 years
- I will strengthen my digital skills
- I will embrace Emergent Learning and Learning Autonomy
- I will support and reinforce my home Language and create opportunities for different language competences
- I will expose and nurture monolingual students to different languages
- I will create a Padlet with my colleagues at my school and other schools and making it public

The seminar was tremendously insightful and I was able to share experiences with a number of professionals who originate from different educational vocations and cultural backgrounds. This made the discussions, workshops, and group work more interesting as we were able to draw upon each other's knowledge.

I will ALWAYS strive to have HAPPY LINGUAL students, *were they feel at the heart of Learning.*