



# Think tank on early language learning

Overview of the programme



# The aims

- ▶ To examine and draw conclusions from the responses to the survey
- ▶ To reflect on the purposes and principles which affect early language learning
- ▶ To identify issues relevant to the field
- ▶ To identify interesting and promising practices
- ▶ To collaborate with participants in formulating recommendations for further action by the ECML



# The think tank is part of a process

- ▶ January to June 1916
  - ▶ Drafting and sending out the questionnaire / survey
  - ▶ Gathering and analysing the responses
  - ▶ Selecting the participants
  - ▶ Planning the think tank
- ▶ NOW!
  - ▶ Defining the key issues
  - ▶ Drafting recommendations to submit to the ECML
- ▶ December 16 – January /February 17
  - ▶ Consideration of recommendations – submitting them to Governing Board
  - ▶ Asking for applications to carry out the recommendations
- ▶ 2017 – 2018
  - ▶ Implementation of the recommendations



# The organisation of the think tank

- ▶ Thursday morning
  - ▶ Presentation and discussion of the results of the survey
  - ▶ The changing landscape – a video
  - ▶ Council of Europe policy and action in the area of early language learning
- ▶ Thursday afternoon
  - ▶ Group work on the purposes and principles of early language learning
  - ▶ Discussion in groups on attitudes to early language learning
  - ▶ Conclusions of the day's work

# Organisation of the think tank 2

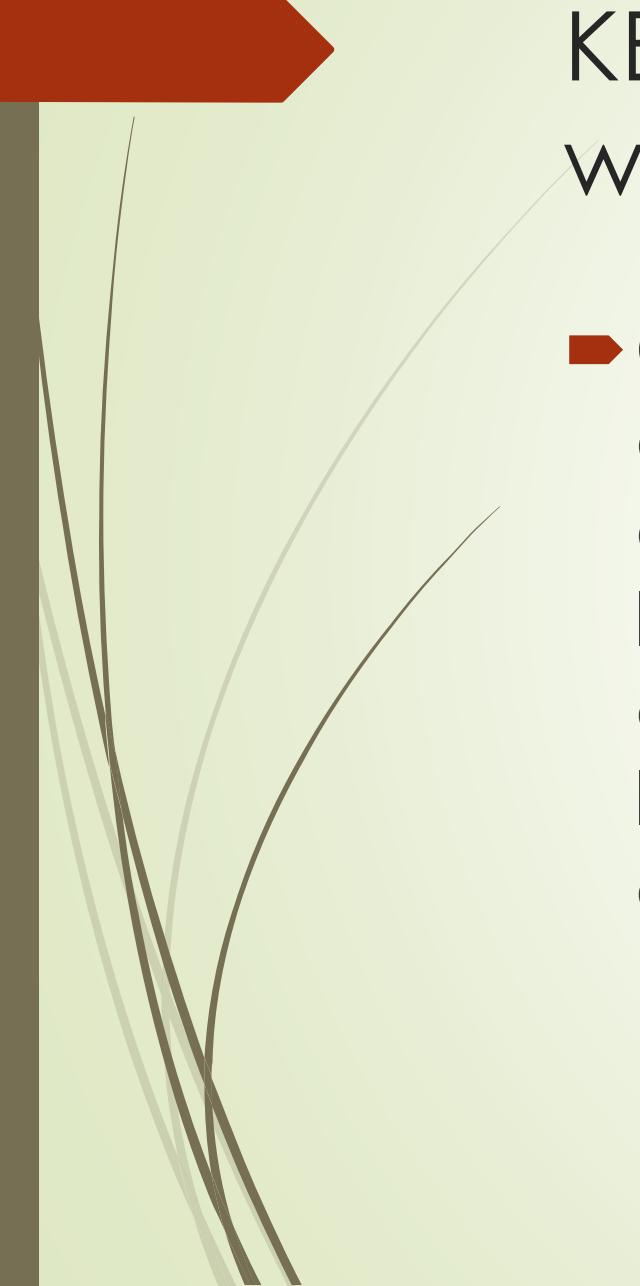
- ▶ Friday morning
  - ▶ Presentation of existing work of the ECML on ELL
  - ▶ Group work to formulate proposals on the following areas:
- ▶ How could the following issues be addressed by the ECML and its experts?  
And by what kinds of action?:
  - ▶ The methodologies of language teaching in primary and pre-primary, including the role of CLIL. Continuity and progression between primary and secondary
  - ▶ The content for pre- and in-service training for primary and pre-primary teachers. The role of autonomous learning
  - ▶ How can all the human resources in the school best contribute?
  - ▶ How can resources be made available in an accessible and coherent way?

# Organisation of think tank 3

- ▶ Friday afternoon
  - ▶ Presentation and discussion of group work – reactions of the coordinating team
  - ▶ Decision on key recommendations to be made to the ECML
  - ▶ Expressions of readiness to be involved in further action in this area
  - ▶ Conclusions and commitment to further work

# Group work one

- ▶ Theme
  - ▶ The purpose and role of foreign languages in primary and pre-primary education and the integration of with the other language elements of early education
- ▶ Task
  - ▶ Each group should prepare a poster presenting key issues and questions in the field
    - ▶ For example, Why do we do it?
    - ▶ What teachers?
    - ▶ Teacher education?
    - ▶ Continuity with secondary?
    - ▶ Etc. etc.



## KEY WORDS /IDEAS from your group work

- Continuity / (de) compartmentalisation / diversity for all/ team work/ strategies / children at the centre / linguistic repertoires / family learning / storytelling / blueprint / pathways / continuous curricula / emergent bi- plurilingualism / trust / self-esteem/equilinguisme/interculturality

# Group work two

## ► Theme

- How should and could the following issues be addressed by the ECML and selected experts? With what strategies and by what kinds of action?
  1. The methodologies of language teaching in primary and pre-primary, including the role of holistic approaches. Continuity and progression within primary education and transition to secondary. The development of plurilingual repertoires.
  2. What content for pre- and in-service training and development for teachers? How can independent learning by teachers be encouraged.
  3. How can all the human resources in and around the school best contribute?
  4. How can the different resources (present and future) be made available and disseminated in an accessible and coherent way?



# Group work two (continued)

## ► Task

- Each group will choose one of questions 1 to 3, and all groups will address question 4
- Each group will produce a Powerpoint (or other presentation) with not more than three specific recommendations for initiatives to be taken by the ECML
- The recommendations will be discussed in plenary and we will try to reach a consensus on a shorter list



# What kinds of action can the ECML undertake

- ▶ Development projects
- ▶ Mediation projects
- ▶ Training and consultancy
- ▶ Conferences and colloquia
- ▶ Think Tanks
- ▶ Surveys
- ▶ Databases
- ▶ Networking
- ▶ Web forums
- ▶ Collections of teaching resources
- ▶ Videos of practice
- ▶ ????????