

## ILLEY – “Inspiring Language Learning in the Early Years”

A [website](#) from the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML)

*United in diversity* – the motto on which the European Union (EU) was founded – reflects the linguistic and cultural diversity that is integral to European identity. The Council of Europe protects and promotes human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. The ECML promotes innovation in language learning and teaching and the implementation of effective language education programmes that support intercultural dialogue, democratic citizenship, and social cohesion.



*Why ILLEY?*

ILLEY (2016-2019 ECML programme) was set up in response to increasing social and linguistic diversity in society. It supports young learners in the development of their linguistic and intercultural competences and provides information and resources for teachers.



*What is ILLEY about?*

*ILLEY* encompasses all aspects of language learning. The adaptability of *ILLEY* to the various contexts in which learning and teaching take place lies in its child-centred approach. The focus is on encouraging the use of what the child brings to the learning situation, even when this is a language not known by the teacher. Whatever the language, wherever it is being learned, the ideas presented in *ILLEY* can be applied in schools and classrooms throughout Europe and beyond.

*ILLEY* provides ways for teachers to:

- support ALL children in the classroom
- foster positive and welcoming attitudes towards different languages and cultures in educational settings and beyond
- encourage educators to (further) develop their own communicative competences.

*ILLEY*

- includes practical examples and activities for use in classrooms
- answers questions that are frequently asked by teachers
- dispels Myths and provides Facts in relation to language learning.

Do take 5 minutes to look through the **Inspiring Practice** section. You are sure to find resources and ideas that you can use /adapt for your context/ your classroom.