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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 www.ecml.at/memberstates).

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 event 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 www.ecml.at/memberstates)
- 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 event participant	Ieva Stelmokienė
Institution	Lietuvos kurčiųjų ir neprigirdinčiųjų ugdymo centras
E-mail address	ieva.stelmokiene@lknuc.lt
Title of ECML project	"DeafSign" workshop
ECML project website	https://www.ecml.at/en/ECML-Programme/Programme-2024-2027/DeafSign
Date of the event	2025 May 15-16
Brief summary of the content of the event	The ECML event "Unlocking educational opportunities in sign languages" focused on enhancing access to quality education for deaf learners across Europe. Participants reviewed survey results from over 160 respondents and collaborated on developing recommendations and resources for early childhood and adult education in sign languages. The workshop emphasized inclusion, linguistic rights, and practical strategies to support deaf communities in diverse educational settings.
What did you find particularly useful?	It was particularly useful to establish new contacts, observe how other countries address these issues, and gain insights into developing not only legal frameworks but also educational resource bases tailored to specific target groups.
How will you use what you learnt / developed in the event in your professional context?	First of all, we are reassured that we are on the right track – we are currently developing A1 and A2 level sign language learning materials and assessment tools to ensure that educators working with deaf learners acquire appropriate sign language proficiency. The event provided valuable insights into how other countries structure and implement similar initiatives, offering practical examples that we can apply in our own material development process. We will also draw on the recommendations, tools, and survey results shared during the workshop to align our efforts with broader European trends, especially when addressing the needs of vulnerable groups such as migrant and refugee learners or children from mixed-language backgrounds.
How will you further contribute to the project?	I will continue contributing by sharing national experiences and good practices from our ongoing work developing structured sign

	language learning materials and assessment tools.
How do you plan to disseminate the project? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to colleagues - to a professional association - in a professional journal/website - in a newspaper - other 	<p>I plan to disseminate the project in several ways. I will present the experience and key insights to my colleagues during our end-of-year staff meeting in June. I have already published a summary on our center's official website: https://www.deafcenter.lt/tarptautiniame-ecml-seminare-demesys-gestu-kalbos-svietimui-europoje, and I am preparing an article for publication in the Lithuanian Deaf community magazine <i>Akiratis</i>.</p>
2. Public information	
<p>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).</p>	
<p>Tarptautinis dèmesys gestų kalbos švietimui Europoje</p> <p>2025 m. gegužės 15–16 dienomis Europos šiuolaikinių kalbų centre (ECML) Grace, Austrijoje, vyko tarptautinis seminaras, skirtas projektui „Unlocking educational opportunities in sign languages in Europe“ (DeafSign). Renginyje dalyvavo atstovai iš 25 Europos šalių – švietimo ekspertai, politikos formuotojai, tyrėjai bei kurčiųjų bendruomenės nariai. Seminaro tikslas – plėtoti švietimo prieinamumą gestakalbiams ir užtikrinti visiems kurtiesiems lygiavertes mokymosi galimybes.</p> <p>Seminaro metu pristatyti apklausos rezultatai – 204 atsakymai iš 32 šalių atskleidė, kad daugybėje valstybių švietimo sistema gestakalbiams asmenims vis dar yra nenuosekli, trūksta mokymo(si) išteklių, formalios gestų kalbos mokytojų rengimo sistemos, o imigrantams bei pabėgėliams dažnai nėra prieinamos paslaugos ir mokymas(is) gestų kalba.</p> <p>Diskusijų metu kalbėta, kaip užtikrinti BEKM pagrindu grindžiamą mokymo turinį, parengti vertinimo kriterijus ir šviesti bei rengti specialistus, dirbančius su kurčiaisiais ir neprigirdinčiaisiais mokiniais. Akcentuota būtinybė įtraukti pačius kurčiuosius formuojant švietimo strategiją – ne tik kaip dalyvius ar stebėtojus, bet kaip kūrėjus ir sprendimų priėmėjus.</p> <p>Lietuvai renginyje atstovavo Ieva Stelmokienė (Lietuvos kurčiųjų ir neprigirdinčiųjų ugdymo centras). Dalyvavimas seminare sustiprino bendradarbiavimą su kitomis šalimis, suteikė praktinių įžvalgų ruošiant lietuvių gestų kalbos (A1–A2 lygio) mokymo(si) medžiagą ir, tikimasi, prisidės įžvalgomis prie nacionalinės politikos formavimo kurčiųjų ir neprigirdinčiųjų ugdymo klausimais.</p> <p>Daugiau apie projektą: https://www.ecml.at/en/ECML-Programme/Programme-2024-2027/DeafSign</p>	