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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	BĂLICI CLAUDIA
Institution	INSPECTORATUL ȘCOLAR JUDEȚEAN HUNEDOARA
E-mail address	claudia.balici@isj.hd.edu.ro
Title of ECML project	„Unlocking educational opportunities in sign languages in Europe"
ECML project website	https://www.ecml.at/en/ECML-Programme/Programme-2024-2027/DeafSign
Date of the event	15-16 Mai 2025
Brief summary of the content of the event	<p>From 15-16 May the Council of Europe partial agreement, the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML), hosted the “Unlocking educational opportunities in sign languages in Europe” (DeafSign) workshop at its premises in Graz, Austria. The event brought together international experts, policy makers and professionals from 25 European countries and Canada, all committed to fostering access to education for vulnerable deaf learners - including deaf signers with refugee and immigrant backgrounds, deaf children and their families and heritage signers.</p> <p>Participants reviewed key findings of a Europe-wide survey comprising over 160 responses from contributors in the education and deaf communities, with the aim of developing guidelines, recommendations, and practical resources for early childhood and adult education sectors.</p> <p>Among the recommendations discussed at the workshop was the call for deaf-led organisations and deaf experts – especially those with diverse backgrounds – to be meaningfully involved from the outset in developing sign language learning opportunities and assessment tools. Participants also worked on drafting key resources – including a set of recommendations for policy makers to support quality sign language education. The DeafSign project (2024–2027) is part of the ECML’s current programme, “Language education at the heart of democracy” which focuses on inclusion, quality education, and active democratic participation through language learning. It aligns with recent developments such as the publication of the International Sign</p>

	<p>Language version of the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) Companion Volume – a milestone that strengthens the visibility and recognition of sign languages across Europe. DeafSign carries forward earlier initiatives in this field and reflects the ECML's continued commitment to supporting sign language learning as part of its broader mission to promote quality language education across Europe.</p>
<p>What did you find particularly useful?</p>	<p>I found the workshop particularly valuable for its comprehensive approach to inclusive education in sign languages. The presentation of the Europe-wide survey results offered important insights into the diverse needs of deaf learners, especially those from refugee, immigrant, and heritage backgrounds.</p> <p>The collaborative discussions on developing practical guidelines and recommendations were very useful, as they provided concrete strategies to improve access and quality in sign language education. Moreover, the emphasis on involving deaf-led organisations and experts from the very beginning was an inspiring and essential takeaway that I plan to apply in my work.</p> <p>Overall, the workshop equipped me with new knowledge, resources, and a stronger network of professionals dedicated to advancing deaf education across Europe.</p>
<p>How will you use what you learnt / developed in the event in your professional context?</p>	<p>The DeafSign workshop provided valuable insights into inclusive educational practices for deaf learners, especially those from refugee, immigrant, and heritage signer backgrounds. In my professional context, I plan to integrate the guidelines and recommendations discussed during the event into the design and delivery of language education programs. I will also advocate for the early and meaningful involvement of deaf-led organizations and deaf experts in curriculum development and policy planning.</p> <p>Additionally, I aim to raise awareness among colleagues and stakeholders about the importance of sign language accessibility and the need for tailored learning resources in both early childhood and adult education.</p> <p>By sharing the knowledge and practical tools gained at the workshop, I hope to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable educational environment for deaf learners in my institution and beyond.</p>

<p>How will you further contribute to the project?</p>	<p>I will continue to support the goals of the DeafSign project by sharing the knowledge and resources developed during the workshop with my colleagues, the educational community, and other stakeholders. I plan to incorporate the core principles promoted by the project—such as inclusion, equal access, and active involvement of the deaf community—into my ongoing professional work.</p> <p>Additionally, I will support local and European initiatives aimed at developing sign language education, encourage collaboration with deaf-led organisations, and contribute to the creation of resources that reflect the diverse needs of deaf learners. Where possible, I am also willing to engage in the next stages of the project, whether through consultation or active involvement in developing educational materials and policy recommendations.</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>I plan to disseminate the DeafSign project through multiple channels to reach a broad audience of educators, policymakers, and community members. This includes organizing workshops and presentations within my institution and local networks to share the project’s guidelines and resources.</p> <p>I will also use digital platforms such as social media, newsletters, and professional forums to raise awareness about the project’s goals and outcomes. Collaborating with deaf-led organisations and educational institutions will help ensure that the materials reach those directly involved in sign language education.</p> <p>Additionally, I intend to contribute to relevant conferences and publications to further promote the project at national and international levels.</p> <p>I also plan to present the key findings and recommendations at professional meetings in the county, during special and inclusive education teacher networks, and to publish a summary of the report on the public communication page of the county school inspectorate. https://forum.isj.hd.edu.ro/viewtopic.php?t=31429</p>
<p>2. Public information</p>	
<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>Centrul European pentru Limbi Moderne (CELM) a organizat în perioada 15-16 mai 2025, atelierul DeafSign, dedicat promovării oportunităților educaționale în limbile semnelor în Europa. Proiectul a reunit experți, educatori și factori de decizie din 25 de țări europene și Canada și se concentrează pe îmbunătățirea accesului la educație de calitate pentru persoanelor cu deficiențe de auz — în special refugiați, imigranți și semnatari din patrimoniul cultural.</p> <p>Reuniunea a oferit un cadru valoros pentru schimbul de idei, bune practici și propuneri concrete privind accesul persoanelor cu deficiențe de auz care provin din categoria refugiați și imigranți la</p>	

oportunități de învățare a limbajului semnelor în Europa.

Rezultatele principale ale reuniunii includ:

1. Conturarea unui set preliminar de recomandări pentru factorii de decizie din domeniul educației, cu accent pe incluziune, echitate și recunoașterea diversității lingvistice și culturale a comunităților formate din persoane cu deficiențe de auz;
2. Consolidarea colaborării între experți, cercetători, organizații conduse de persoane cu deficiențe de auz și instituții educaționale din mai multe țări europene;
3. Identificarea unor direcții prioritare pentru dezvoltarea de resurse educaționale, inclusiv materiale de predare și evaluare bazate pe CEFR, adaptate pentru limbajul semnelor;
4. Sublinierea necesității implicării active a comunităților de persoane cu deficiențe de auz în procesele de elaborare a politicilor publice și în implementarea acestora;
5. Evaluarea pozitivă a modului de desfășurare a activităților în grupuri de lucru, care a permis participarea echitabilă și exprimarea diverselor perspective.

Participanții au schimbat idei și bune practici, au pus la dispoziție ghiduri, recomandări și resurse menite să sprijine o educație incluzivă și eficientă în limbajul semnelor, atât pentru copii, cât și pentru adulți. Organizațiile conduse de persoane cu deficiențe de auz și experții din domeniu au fost implicați activ pentru a asigura adaptarea materialelor la nevoile diverse și pentru a promova oportunități egale de învățare.

DeafSign reprezintă un pas esențial spre educația incluzivă, oferind sprijin comunităților deficiente de auz vulnerabile și consolidând drepturile lingvistice în întreaga Europă.

<https://www.ecml.at/en/ECML-Programme/Programme-2024-2027/DeafSign>

<https://www.silent-project.online/>

<https://www.cnse.es/inmigracion/index.php?lang=es>

<https://padlet.com/ECML/content-workshop-unlocking-educational-opportunities-in-sign-ia2mij0g9n4z46h4/wish/O7A9QmzL2DMnZ6x3>

<https://www.signteach.eu/>