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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	Lina Jerpö
Institution	The National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools, SPSM
E-mail address	lina.jerpo@spsm.se
Title of ECML project	DeafSign “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 May 2025
Brief summary of the content of the event	The project DeafSign aims to promote sign language learning opportunities in Europe. At the workshop we all contributed with knowledge about how our different countries work to provide deaf and hard of hearing children and their families with the national sign language, bilingual education and family support. We also talked about how our different countries make sure that sign language learning opportunities for deaf learners with refugee and immigration backgrounds are provided. We worked in smaller groups as well as all together. The aim is to provide guidelines and resources for policy makers and professionals working in the educational sector.
What did you find particularly useful?	I found it very interesting to hear about how the different countries work with these questions and how they provide education and sign language to deaf and hard of hearing children and adults. It seems as having a legal document that for example states the right to learning the national sign language does not seem to be a guarantee that the law will be followed. I could see that many participants perceived Sweden as a pioneering country and that we had come a long way in many issues, which is true. But we still struggle with some issues and need to keep working for the rights to bilingual education, early sign language exposure and stronger rights that are respected.
How will you use what you learnt / developed in the event in your professional context?	I have learned a lot about how other countries in Europe work with these important questions and I have also gained a lot of new important contacts. I will use my knowledge in my professional context at our five bilingual deaf schools in Sweden and look forward to the DeafSign projects outcome.

How will you further contribute to the project?	I look forward to further contribute to the project, for example by answering the upcoming survey about Sign Language Learning Opportunities for Deaf children and their Families and for Heritage Signers.
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 	At the National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools we have already published an internal news on the intranet about the workshop at ECML and the project DeafSign. We are planning to publish an external news as well.
2. 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).	
<p>Teckenspråk i fokus – Sverige i europeiskt samarbete för språkliga rättigheter</p> <p>Den 15–16 maj 2025 representerade Lina Jerpö på SPSM Sverige vid en europeisk workshop i Graz inom ECML-projektet DeafSign, som syftar till att stärka möjligheterna att lära sig teckenspråk i Europa. Målet för projektet är att utveckla riktlinjer och rekommendationer för beslutsfattare och yrkesverksamma inom utbildningssektorn. Fokus under workshopen låg på att stärka rätten till teckenspråk för olika grupper, exempelvis barn som är döva och deras familjer samt nyanlända som är döva.</p> <p>Sverige lyftes ofta fram som föregångsland tack vare sin tvåspråkiga specialskola, teckenspråksutbildning för föräldrar (TUFF), fjärrundervisning för syskon/CODA och rätten till svenskt teckenspråk i förskolan. Men även vi har mycket att lära – tillgången till rättigheter i praktiken varierar.</p> <p>Projektet har stark relevans för Sverige och kommer att bidra med europeiska rekommendationer för hur vi säkerställer språkliga rättigheter för döva. Läs mer om workshopen här och om DeafSign-projektet här. Informationen är viktig för alla som arbetar med språk, utbildning och inkludering. Svenskt teckenspråk och andra nationella teckenspråk är inte bara språk – de är en nyckel till mer likvärdiga möjligheter. Det är vårt ansvar att bidra med vår kunskap och samtidigt vara öppna för nya perspektiv.</p>	