



Language education at the heart of democracy  
L'éducation aux langues au cœur de la démocratie  
Sprachliche Bildung als Herzstück der Demokratie

**Participant's report**  
to the National Nominating Authority and  
the National Contact Point

R1

### 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 report<sup>1</sup> in the “Experts involved in ECML activities” section of each ECML member state website (please see [www.ecml.at/memberstates](http://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](http://www.ecml.at/memberstates))
  - and in copy to ECML Secretariat ([Erika.komon@ecml.at](mailto:Erika.komon@ecml.at))
- within the given deadline.

<sup>1</sup> Only if you authorised the ECML to publish your contact details.

## 1. Reporting

<b>Name of the event participant</b>	<b>Grigor Avetisyan</b>
<b>Institution</b>	<b>Consortium of Deaf Community of Armenia / Havasar Educational Foundation</b>
<b>E-mail address</b>	<b>gregor.avetisyan@gmail.com</b>
<b>Title of ECML project</b>	<b>Unlocking educational opportunities in sign languages in Europe (DeafSign)</b>
<b>ECML project website</b>	<a href="https://www.ecml.at/projects/deafsign">https://www.ecml.at/projects/deafsign</a>
<b>Date of the event</b>	<b>15–16 May 2025</b>
<b>Brief summary of the content of the event</b>	Over two intensive days at ECML Graz, I have reviewed and co-created with event participants guidelines for policy makers and professionals on supporting vulnerable deaf signers—specifically refugees, immigrants, deaf children, their parents and heritage signers. Sessions introduced concepts of inclusion, plurilingualism, language competencies, and democratic participation, culminating in draft glossaries and structured recommendations for national implementation.
<b>What did you find particularly useful?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The refugee/immigration focus, which crystalized parallels with deaf Armenians displaced from Nagorno Karabakh. We currently have some Iranian and Arab deaf refugees in Armenia too, so instructions and guides will be beneficial in their cases as well.</li> <li>• Practical frameworks for inclusion and plurilingualism, offering models we can adapt for Armenian Sign Language (ArSL).</li> <li>• Hands-on group work on resource outlines—from teacher qualification standards to curriculum recommendations—for both adult and child deaf learners</li> <li>• PADLET and resources available in it will serve a long time to educate me and my local community of deaf</li> </ul>

<p><b>How will you use what you learnt / developed in the event in your professional context?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy advocacy: I'll try to organize a meeting and present the draft guidelines to Armenia's Ministry of Education and the UNCRPD focal point, pushing for ArSL teacher standards and curricula for displaced deaf signers.</li> <li>• Curriculum development: Discuss integration of ECML's plurilingual and democratic participation modules into our Consortium's training programs for the 'Armenian School for Children with Hearing Impairments'.</li> <li>• Consortium mobilization: Use the workshop's glossary and checklists as the backbone of policy-drafting working groups within the Consortium of Deaf Community of Armenia.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How will you further contribute to the project?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By submitting feedback on the draft guidelines during the post-workshop revision phase; filling in reports shared by DeafSign and/or ECML.</li> <li>• Proposing Armenian pilot materials (ArSL glossaries, teacher-training modules when/if available) for inclusion in the final ECML resource repository.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How do you plan to disseminate the project?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to colleagues</li> <li>- to a professional association</li> <li>- in a professional journal/website</li> <li>- in a newspaper</li> <li>- other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To colleagues and professional association: Organize an in-house briefing at Havasar Educational Foundation and Consortium member NGOs, pass on knowledge and resources gained from the workshop.</li> <li>• Professional journal/website: Publish around 3 posts on my personal FB and IG pages with deaf and hard of hearing audience. Examples can be seen <a href="#">here</a> , <a href="#">here</a> and over highlights <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• Other (Upcoming Event): In the beginning of June I am planning to host a session with the Consortium's network—over 6 local NGOs with around 4,500 followers—to discuss workshop outcomes and next steps. Invited organizations will include <a href="#">Armenian Deaf Association</a>, <a href="#">Armenian Public Committee of the Deaf</a>, <a href="#">The Voice of Silence NGO</a>, <a href="#">Armenian School for Children with Hearing Impairments</a> and other local NGOs and organizations who are involved in support of deaf and hard of hearing.</li> </ul>

## 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).**

In early June, I will be hosting a special session to present my personal learnings and outcomes from the ECML workshop with local Armenian partners and stakeholders working with the deaf and hard of hearing community. The session will bring together representatives from schools, NGOs, and advocacy groups across the country to discuss workshop highlights and opportunities for national-level impact.

One of the key focuses I'd like to develop is the sharing of valuable resources, insights, and European best practices introduced during the workshop. I will also share externally the resources shared by European colleagues via Padlet with my colleagues in Armenia, so they could support their daily work with Deaf learners, families, and those with refugee backgrounds.

This initiative is expected to raise awareness of the need for inclusive and multilingual language education policies in Armenia, strengthen professional collaboration, and inspire actions that align with the European standards in deaf education. The session will mark an important step toward closing policy gaps and ensuring accessible sign language education for all.