



Language education at the heart of democracy

L'éducation aux langues au cœur de la démocratie

Sprachliche Bildung als Herzstück der Demokratie

R1

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

¹ Only if you authorised the ECML to publish your contact details.

- 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. Reporting

Name of the event participant	Nives Gotovac
Institution	Croatian Association of Sign Language Interpreters
E-mail address	prevoditeljhzj@gmail.com
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 May 2025
Brief summary of the content of the event	The Deaf Sign Project workshop, held on the 15th and 16th of May in Graz, was an international event that brought together various experts from across Europe in the field of sign languages. We shared national resources pertaining to deaf immigrants and refugees, deaf children from hearing families, and heritage signers.
What did you find particularly useful?	<p>The most crucial part of this workshop was the discussions and resource-sharing among colleagues. I presented the A1-level textbook developed by the Croatian Association of Sign Language Interpreters, which follows the CEFR framework. We will soon publish the A2-level textbook and are currently working on the B1-level material.</p> <p>Additionally, existing regulations, such as the Law on Croatian Sign Language and Other Means of Communication for Deaf and Deafblind Persons in the Republic of Croatia, provide a solid foundation for developing further laws and policies to benefit the deaf community—particularly sign language learners. Gaining insight into the resources shared by other colleagues has inspired new ideas for future initiatives.</p>

<p>How will you use what you learnt / developed in the event in your professional context?</p>	<p>The discussions during the workshops made me realize that we still have significant work to do in adapting materials to meet the diverse needs of different groups within the Deaf community. This includes tailoring resources for varying levels of language proficiency, cultural backgrounds, and accessibility requirements. Additionally, learning about best practices from colleagues in different countries has inspired me to incorporate innovative approaches into our work. Their insights have motivated me to explore new projects that can further support and empower the Deaf community. Moving forward, I plan to apply these lessons by refining our existing materials, collaborating with international peers, and initiating initiatives that address gaps in accessibility and inclusion.</p>
<p>How will you further contribute to the project?</p>	<p>Going forward, I aim to contribute in B1 Textbook Development in Croatia - review ideas from the workshop to see which methods (e.g., exercise formats, visual examples) could be adapted for our B1 Croatian Sign Language textbook. Also I will stay open to partnerships with colleagues abroad, especially for sharing practical teaching approaches. And using insights from workshop discussions to make small but meaningful adjustments to our materials.</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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write an article for the Interpreters Association's yearly bulletin, 2. Publish a separate article on the interpreters' website, 3. Share key insights with colleagues during our internal meetings, and 4. Explore opportunities to discuss these topics at efsli's yearly conference, gauging interest among European colleagues.

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).

Kao sudionica ECML radionice „Unlocking Educational Opportunities in Sign Languages in Europe“, želim istaknuti ključne smjernice koje je ovaj projekt razmatra, a koji se fokusira na tri posebno ranjive skupine unutar zajednice gluhih:

1. Gluhe izbjeglice i migrante – koji se suočavaju s barijerama u učenju lokalnog znakovnog jezika zbog kulturoloških razlika i traumatskih iskustava
2. Gluhu djecu iz čujućih obitelji – koja često nemaju pristup potpunom jezičnom razvoju u najranijoj dobi
3. Obitelji s gluhim članovima – kojima je potrebna podrška u usvajanju znakovnog jezika za kvalitetniju međusobnu komunikaciju

Projekt naglašava potrebu za individualiziranim pristupom u obrazovanju i izradi materijala. Dok postojeći materijali mogu poslužiti kao osnova, nužno je razviti dodatne resurse prilagođene specifičnim potrebama:

- Vizualne pomagala (slike, crteži, simboli) posebno korisne za djecu i osobe s ograničenim predznanjem
- Kontekstualizirani primjeri iz svakodnevnog života za migrante
- Obiteljsko-orijentirane aktivnosti za zajedničko učenje

Ključni ishod radionice bio bi razvoj politika koje će sustavno podržati ove pristupe. ECML ima vitalnu ulogu u promicanju ovih standarda kroz europsku mrežu stručnjaka. Ovaj projekt predstavlja važan korak ka uključivijem obrazovnom sustavu za sve članove zajednice gluhih. Pozivamo sve zainteresirane institucije da se pridruže našim naporima u ostvarivanju ovih ciljeva.