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<b>Title of ECML project</b>	<b>“Involving parents in plurilingual and intercultural education” - CARAP for Parents</b>
<b>ECML project website</b>	<a href="http://www.ecml.at">http://www.ecml.at</a>
<b>Date of the event</b>	<b>28 – 30 April 2014</b>
<b>Brief summary of the content of the workshop</b>	<p>The aim of the <b>workshop</b> was to promote inclusive, plurilingual and intercultural activities in education to integrate all pupils from different countries coming to our country within our educational system.</p> <p>The importance that languages carry was emphasised as they are the basis of communication, intercultural dialogue and social cohesion. Therefore, we have to move away from teaching just one language as society has become multilingual due to the mobility that exists nowadays. For this to take place, we should focus on moving from the majority to the minority, including everyone with or without special needs and regardless of nationality. All learners stand to benefit from an inclusive education. It is crucial to mention that this is our duty as a democratic society. Exclusion produces negative attitudes and it shows a lack of response to diversity. Parental involvement is a key factor in a learner’s success and ways how to involve the parents of immigrant children in the classroom were discussed. During this workshop it was emphasized that children are truly valued if the classroom and the school give importance to their individual backgrounds. This includes their first language, their culture and their identity.</p>
<b>What did you find particularly useful?</b>	<p>Practical ideas of how to involve parents of foreign learners in classes and in school councils and activities so that they feel integrated in class and in the school environment. Different activities were presented by the speakers of the workshop and then participants from different countries also shared what they do in their own schools so there was a broad spectrum of ideas involving parents and learners immigrating from a large variety of countries.</p>
<b>How will you use what you learnt/ developed in the event in your</b>	<p>I plan to put the ideas and activities that were discussed during the workshop into practice so that we, as a country can integrate foreign students in our classes. This should be done because apart from</p>

<b>professional context?</b>	being our duty as a democratic country, all learners will benefit from a plurilingual and multicultural society.
<b>How will you further contribute to the project?</b>	I will share the strategies that are successful in my classes with other teachers so that they can also implement these strategies themselves and integrate foreign learners successfully as well as show the importance and relevance of diversity in our classrooms.
<b>How do you plan to disseminate the project?</b> to colleagues to a professional association in a professional journal/website in a newspaper other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I plan to disseminate what I have learnt during the inservice course I will be delivering in July.</li> <li>• I have written a report to the professionals who work directly with the integration of foreign learners in our classes explaining in detail the successful strategies discussed during the workshop so that they may be included in the School Action Plans and Curricula.</li> </ul>

## 1. Public information

**The ECML workshop entitled, “Involving parents in plurilingual and intercultural education” held on 28 -30 April 2014 in Graz, made the participants aware of how society has changed all over Europe due to the mobility that exists nowadays and as a consequence, so have our classes. We have to move away from the traditional bilingual classes and plunge into multilingual classes to be able to integrate all learners within our educational system. This can be done by giving value to the culture, language and identity of immigrants. As a result all learners stand to benefit from this type of learning environment as they will be open to diversity. Furthermore they accept each other without difficulty as although all learners are different, they are all treated equally.**

**The involvement of immigrant parents in our classrooms was emphasized as according to research, parental involvement is a key factor in a learner’s success. The participation of parents in the school guarantees success for all especially when dialogue between all members involved in the learning process takes place. Possible activities that involve the parents were discussed. This involvement should be on two binaries:**

- **school councils allow parents to feel part of the school community and be actively involved in the school’s decisions and policies**
- **By being present in their child’s class they can do story telling, present typical food, talk about a custom or habit that they have in their country or present traditional music.**