

Professional Network Forum

Towards a new concept of language education



The Professional Network Forum is formed of international associations and institutions that share common values and have complementary expertise in the field of language education and assessment.

Under the auspices of the ECML, the members of the Forum have agreed to share their know-how and have committed themselves to working together on areas of common interest in the service of language education.

Our goals

The Graz Declaration 2010, summarized on the right, provides the basis for the activities to be undertaken by the Professional Network Forum on Language Education.

- 1 An overview of European and international reference sources on which to base national, regional, and local language education policies, strategies, and practices.
- 2 Closer international and regional cooperation in sharing and applying relevant research, and ensuring that relevant research projects are properly designed to address new challenges.
- 3 New approaches to learning, teaching, and assessment in multilingual and multicultural classrooms, including among recently arrived migrants.
- 4 Improved mutual recognition of language qualifications, specifically in less widely taught languages and languages for specific purposes.
- 5 The development of a common approach to the assurance and enhancement of the quality of support for language learning across all sectors, and of schemes for promoting quality and outstanding achievement in language education.
- 6 Ways of identifying the professional competences needed by language teaching professionals working in different contexts, including more effective use of new technologies in (language) education, innovative pre-service language teacher education, and mobility programmes for teachers.
- 7 An open forum for discussion of language education policies and their implementation leading to more integrated approaches to language education at national, regional, and local levels.
- 8 A common language to discuss and develop ways of assessing linguistic and plurilingual competences, and a redefinition of the concept of literacy in multilingual communities.
- 9 Further development and implementation of Council of Europe tools, such as: the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) and the European Language Portfolio (ELP); the development of reference standards for competences in the languages of schooling, academic education and language courses for migrants, as well as for the most widely used non-European languages; the wider use of 'personal language profiles' (e.g. in language portfolios).
- 10 Implementation of relevant Council of Europe recommendations, such as Recommendation (2008)7 on the use of the CEFR and the promotion of plurilingualism.

Members of the Professional Network Forum



ACTFL

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, is dedicated to the improvement and expansion of the teaching and learning of all languages at all levels of instruction.

www.actfl.org



EALTA

The European Association for Language Testing and Assessment, is a professional association for language testers in Europe, which aims to promote the understanding and the sharing of testing and assessment practices throughout Europe.

www.ealta.eu.org



EFNIL

The European Federation of National Institutions for Language, provides a forum for institutions to exchange information about their work and to gather and publish information about language use and language policy within the European Union.

www.efnil.org



AILA

The International Association of Applied Linguistics, is the international federation of national or regional associations of Applied Linguistics, contributing to the development of all subject areas of applied linguistics.

www.aila.info



EAQUALS

The Evaluation & Accreditation of Quality in Language Services, is an international association of language training providers aiming to promote and guarantee quality among institutions offering language education and training and language teacher training.

www.eaquals.org



EPA

The European Parents' Association, is a transnational association, which lobbies for the interests of national parents' associations in order to influence decision making and education policy development at European level.

<http://euparents.eu/>



ALTE

The Association of Language Testers in Europe, is an association of providers of foreign language examinations and includes many of the world's leading assessment bodies. ALTE provides leadership in addressing issues of test quality and fairness and in raising awareness of language testing issues.

www.alte.org



ECML

The European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe, functions as a catalyst for reform in the teaching and learning of languages. It assists its stakeholders in its member states in bringing language education policies and practices together.

www.ecml.at



EUNIC

The European Union National Institutes for Culture, is a network of international cultural institutes from the member states of the European Union.

www.eunic-online.eu



CEL/ELC

The Conseil Européen pour les Langues/ European Language Council is an association whose main aim is the quantitative and qualitative improvement of knowledge of the languages and cultures of the European Union and beyond.

www.celelc.org



ECSPM

The European Civil Society platform for multilingualism is a forum for the exchange of best practices for the media, cultural organisations and those involved in non-formal and informal education.

www.ecspm.org



FIPLV

The Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes, is the only international multilingual association of teachers of languages.

www.fiplv.com



ICC

The International Certificate Conference e.V., is a non-governmental organisation that sets standards for a transnational network of language learners. The ICC is an international association with local impact working in the field of language learning and teaching.

www.icc-languages.eu



CercleS

The European Confederation of Language Centres in Higher Education, is a confederation of independent associations which brings together some 290 institutions working in the area of language teaching.

www.cercles.org



EDiLiC

(Education, Cultural and Linguistic Diversity) is an international association that brings together researchers, teacher trainers, teachers, innovators, parents as well as citizens who are concerned with the state of education.

www.edilic.org



OLBI

The Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute of the University of Ottawa, strengthens and promotes education and research in the fields of teaching, evaluation and language-policy design in Canada.

www.olbi.uottawa.ca