

LfW Network meeting 2: Report summary

Language-for-Work (LfW) aims to create a European learning network for professionals involved in work-related language learning for adult migrants and ethnic minorities. The four year project (2012-2015) is sponsored by the European Centre for Modern Languages (www.ecml.at).

Planned project activities include

- Hosting a series of learning events on different approaches in this field
- Brief research review of relevant policy and practice across Europe
- Developing a web-based resource to support work in this field.

The project held its second Network Meeting in Graz on 5 and 6 December 2013, attended by 26 specialists (including civil servants, university researchers, learning providers and educational publishers) from 14 European countries.

The meeting's main aims were to enable participants to share practice, issues and ideas; test a beta version of a network website; plan network activity for 2014-15 and sustainability beyond the lifetime of the project.

The meeting allocated two sessions to user-testing and review of the beta version of the LfW website and participants gave detailed feedback on all aspects of the website. Sessions allocated to sharing of practice, issues and ideas included a session from Dr Lorna Unwin on the conceptual framework, Learning as Working. In the meeting's final two sessions, allocated to planning for future network activity and sustainability, participants proposed a range of actions to promote and disseminate both the issue of LfW and the LfW network, as well as actions to make the network valuable to its members.

Through these various sessions, the meeting achieved its main aims. It also served to extend and enlarge the emerging LfW network.

The LfW project is now at its halfway point with just three further activities scheduled before its conclusion in December 2015: one project team meeting in July 2014 and another in 2015 and one ECML Workshop meeting in 2015 (with participants nominated by ECML member states).

Next steps were agreed, including

- Revision of the website by the LfW project team
- Further population of the revised website by all network members
- Work by the LfW project team to source funding for additional network meetings
- Further population of the website by all network members
- Promotion of the LfW network by all network members
- Promotion of the LfW issue by all network members

[End]