

Opportunities in Europe

European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) – call for proposals for new programme

UK language experts have an opportunity now to shape the work of the ECML in Graz and contribute to its activities. A call for proposals for ECML's third medium term programme (2008-2011) has been published. The overall theme of the programme is 'Empowering language professionals' and proposals for projects are being sought in the following areas:

1. Evaluation:
2. Continuity in language learning
3. Content and language education
4. Plurilingual education

Projects typically require a multinational co-ordinating team made up of 4 people who develop the work of the project through expert meetings and workshops at the ECML in Graz. All travel and subsistence costs are paid for, but there is no funding for staff costs. The project team identifies the target audience for participation in workshops (eg teacher trainers interested in developing the European Languages Portfolio) and a participant is nominated from each of the ECML's member countries (CILT is the Nominating Authority for the UK). You can therefore expect to work with a group of 30 or more colleagues, each from

a different country. Full details of the call for proposals are published on the ECML website at www.ecml.at and the closing date is 1 May 2007.

Erasmus and the EU Lifelong Learning Programme

The new programme will start in Jan 2007. Further information will be available from the EC later this month.

The British Council will be involved in the Erasmus action and is particularly anxious to encourage more UK students on joint honours programmes to take up the opportunity to study or undertake a work placement in a country where their target language(s) is(are) spoken.

To this end colleagues in schools and universities will be invaluable – we hope that those advising sixth formers on choice of degree will underline the potential value of the Erasmus scheme and that those teaching in higher education will take steps to ensure that their institution submits its Erasmus University Charter by the 15 Feb 2007 deadline in order to position itself to access the action under the new programme.

If you would like further information on Erasmus or on the kind of advice to offer potential undergraduates, please contact Adrian.Clark-Morgan@britishcouncil.org, Dermot.George@britishcouncil.org or Erasmus@ukc.ac.uk

ALL members are often involved in European projects and initiatives. Here Pam Tipping from Canterbury Christ Church University tells us about a Leonardo da Vinci project she co-ordinates.



TRUCK SPEAK

Truck Speak™ is a Leonardo da Vinci funded project which has been running since 2004 and will finish in March 2007. It is led by Canterbury Christ Church University in partnership with eight European partners.



The project aims to help employees within the transport and logistics industry to communicate professionally, in a variety of European languages. It has been developed by partners across Europe in collaboration with the Transport Industries.

During the past two years partners have been working towards developing a user friendly language course for truck drivers that can be used as a stand alone product as well as in Vocational Training Centres. The materials that have been developed take into consideration the lifestyle and needs of a truck driver.

Research and development as well as testing has taken place and the final product will be an audio as well as paper based database of language content which can be easily 'jig-sawed' to create a number of language combinations.

Sets of bi-lingual language prompt cards have also been developed as an 'on the spot tool' to help them out whilst 'on the road'. These have also been used by the traffic police and have been welcomed by the industry.

For further information visit our website: www.truckspeak.com or contact us on truckspeak@canterbury.ac.uk



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LANGUAGE WORLD

WINTER 2006

A message from the President



David Wilson, President

ALL is a formidable association of dedicated language professionals: I'm delighted and honoured to serve as President and contribute my own enthusiasm and experience.

Ours is one of very few language associations in Europe which brings together teachers and others involved in language education across all sectors and all foreign languages. This is one of its great strengths. It has a powerful voice in its mission of promoting languages and language teaching because it can genuinely claim to represent language professionals across the board.

The diversity of membership also makes it an open-minded organisation which enables joined-up thinking: members can make connections between sectors and benefit from different perspectives and expertise in language teaching. This is the

added value of taking part in ALL activities: our annual conference, *Language World*, is a great example.

The other key strength of ALL is, of course, the enthusiasm and commitment of its members – a nation-wide network of experts and practitioners who can share ideas, support each other and welcome newcomers. There's a buzz when people like this get together – great for energising and getting things moving.

It's important for ALL to build on these strengths. The association already has around 6,000 members, but the more members it represents, the stronger and more effective it can be – and the more funds that will be available for expanding services. The best ambassadors are existing members, so don't miss an opportunity to tell colleagues of the importance of an association that represents their interests.

The strength of ALL as a network very much depends on communication between members. There is a solid structure in place to help advise on policy, generate ideas and represent local and specialist interests. Local branches and networks are the foundation of this structure: they give members an opportunity to meet – physically or virtually, share experiences and make things happen at a local level. So do take advantage of your local branch – and if there isn't one, get together with colleagues and start one up!

ALL very much relies on members standing up and saying what they want – and then helping to do something about it. All the

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