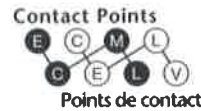


European Centre for Modern Languages: Update on current projects



The European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) is a Council of Europe centre, based in Graz, Austria. It runs projects and workshops on language teaching topics of interest to UK teachers and trainers.

As ECML's second medium-term programme of activities 2004–07 reaches its second year, all the projects are still very much works in progress. In addition to discussion between partners, a number of the projects delivered workshops in Graz in 2005. However, at the time of writing, workshop reports are available on the ECML website for only two projects: **LDL** and **LangSEN**. Two others projects, **CoCoCop** and **QualiTraining**, give details of the proposed content of their final publications.

The LDL project (Linguistic diversity and literacy in a global perspective) aims to create a dialogue on aspects of L1 and multilingual education between African and European countries. Central Workshop 3/2005 in June 2005 presented expertise and criteria for the design and production of materials for mother-tongue based bilingual/multilingual education in primary schools and examples of good practice in the field. Presenters from Cameroon and South Africa described schemes in their countries.

LangSEN (Languages for people with special educational needs) held a workshop in October 2004 (Central Workshop 5/2004) aiming to identify problems, present good practice and discuss relevant research. A start was also made on designing a survey to find out the situation with regard to teaching languages to people with special educational needs in the ECML member states. Guest speakers included David Marsh from Finland and Hilary McColl from Scotland.

CoCoCop (Cohesion of competences, coherence of principles) and **QualiTraining (a Training guide for quality assurance)** are both concerned with aspects of teacher training. CoCoCop is producing a manual for language teachers and teacher educators, which represents a synthesis of findings from projects delivered as part of the ECML's first medium-term programme, while QualiTraining draws on the expertise already gained by its members in the European Association for Quality Language Services.

The project VALEUR (Valuing all languages in Europe) which is being co-ordinated jointly by Scottish CILT and CILT, the National Centre for Languages aims to raise awareness of the value of linguistic diversity in Europe and focuses on how to encourage children to value the languages they speak and develop their skills in them. It has produced a leaflet outlining the project aims and timetable, which can be obtained from CILT.

CILT is the UK contact point and nominating authority for ECML.

The latest information about all 22 ECML projects can be found at www.ecml.at/mtp2/mtp2.asp?t=mtp2.

Languages for people with special educational needs workshop report can be downloaded from

www.ecml.at/mtp2/LangSEN/HTML/LangSEN_E_mat.htm.

Linguistic diversity and literacy in a global perspective project workshop report can be downloaded from

www.ecml.at/mtp2/LDL/html/LDL_E_news.htm.

VALEUR leaflets can be obtained from CILT, the National Centre for Languages, e-mail: info@cilt.org.uk.



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