



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES
CENTRE EUROPEEN POUR LES LANGUES VIVANTES

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Call for papers for the ECML Conference 2007: “*Languages for social cohesion*”

**Conference to promote the results of the 2nd medium-term programme of the
European Centre for Modern Languages**

27-29 September 2007, Karl-Franzens University, Graz

Context

This year will see the completion of the ECML's second medium-term programme, 2004-2007. To mark this occasion, the Centre is organising a large-scale conference devoted to the theme of this programme “*Languages for social cohesion – language education in a multilingual and multicultural Europe*”. The conference will take stock of current work in this field based on the results of the 21 projects run within the ECML's programme as well as on contributions from invited international experts. Participants will have the opportunity to contribute to the conference's conclusions which will address the orientation of future reforms and developments in the practice of language teaching and learning in Europe.

To extend the scope of the conference beyond contributions related to its own programme of activities, the ECML has enlisted the active cooperation of the Karl-Franzens Universität Graz (Institut für Anglistik, Institut für Romanistik and Institut für Germanistik) and the Österreichisches Sprachenkompetenzzentrum (ÖSZ). They will provide academic input to the preparation of the conference, help the Centre disseminate information on it via their networks and participate in the selection procedure for contributions for the programme slots which are reserved for external presenters.

The ECML Conference 2007 will thus offer a platform for language professionals to present their work on developing and implementing instruments and tools to improve the teaching and learning of languages in the context of securing greater social cohesion. It will also enable them to discover the ECML's own project activities at first hand and interact with the members of the Centre's networks.

Thematic strands

All presenters are expected to address issues relevant to the practice of the teaching and learning of languages without focusing on a particular language. Four thematic strands corresponding to the sub-themes of the 2nd medium-term programme will be offered:

A. Coping with linguistic and social diversity

(e.g. issues related to migrant and minority languages, whole-school policies and other approaches to plurilingual education)

B. Communication in a multicultural society

(e.g. intercultural communication, intercultural competence, language awareness)

C. Professional development and reference tools

(e.g. teacher training in the use of the European Language Portfolio, applications of the CEFR)

D. Innovative approaches and new technologies

(e.g. computer-based applications, online learning, early language learning, CLIL)

For further details on the activities within these sub-themes, see the ECML programme brochure: <http://www.ecml.at/documents/mtp2E.pdf>.

Papers

The ECML invites proposals for presentations related to the thematic strands outlined above. All proposals will be reviewed by a scientific committee which will recommend those to be included in the programme. Criteria to be applied will be the relevance of the proposals to the theme of the conference and their interest for practitioners in the field of language education (e.g. teachers, teacher trainers, curriculum designers, etc). Papers contributing mainly or only to language education theory rather than practice will not be considered. All those selected to make presentations will be invited to submit a text for the ECML conference publication.

Conference languages

The conference languages will be French, English and German. Interpretation will be provided into French and English, the Council of Europe's official languages. Please note that interpretation can only be provided for the plenary sessions and selected working groups.

Presentations may be given in any of the three conference languages. In the interest of plurilingualism, presentations involving more than one language (powerpoints, handouts in different languages, etc.) are very welcome.

Conference format

Following the keynote speech focusing on "languages for social cohesion", there will be approximately 40 presentations (half by ECML project coordinators and half by external presenters) organised in four parallel thematic strands. To conclude, the value and potential of the contributions for achieving development and change in language education will be assessed during a panel discussion.

Format of presentations

Presentations will last for a maximum of 30 minutes and will be followed by 15 minutes discussion time.

Submitting a paper

In order for your proposal to be considered you are asked to complete the submission template. If the contribution is accepted, the abstract will be included in the programme and will be published on the conference website immediately after the review decision. To access the submission template, click in the following link www.ecml.at/conference/docs/Submission_templateE.doc.

Funding of participation:

Selected presenters at the conference are expected to pay for their own travel and subsistence. A solidarity fund will cover the participation of a maximum of five presenters who are unable to obtain institutional support to attend the event.

Venue: Wallzentrum, Karl-Franzens University, Graz, Austria

Deadline for the submission of abstracts: April 30th, 2007

Review decision notification: June 30th, 2007

Submissions to be e-mailed to the following address only: information@ecml.at

The European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) is an institution whose mission is to encourage excellence and innovation in language teaching in order to help Europeans learn languages more efficiently. Based on the underlying values of the Council of Europe and its pioneering work in cultural cooperation and language education, the ECML works with experts to assist its 33 member states¹ in implementing effective language teaching policies and bringing about change in the teaching and learning of languages.

The ECML was set up in Austria in 1995 as an Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe. The Austrian authorities fund the infrastructure of the Centre and put at its disposal modern premises in Graz where the Secretariat is based and where the great majority of the ECML's events are held.

The hallmark of the ECML is the organisation of international language education projects. Coordinated by teams of experts, these projects primarily target multipliers in language education such as teacher trainers, textbook authors and experts in the development of curricula, educational standards, evaluation/assessment and certification.

A characteristic feature of all ECML projects is the vision of an overall concept of language education, integrating *all* languages rather than focusing on the teaching and learning of individual languages. This approach has proved to be highly effective in creating synergies between different linguistic and educational cultures and communities. In addition, this working concept promotes plurilingualism by addressing overall features of language education responding to linguistic and cultural diversity.

¹ Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", United Kingdom.