



Dear colleagues,

You are now receiving the first newsletter from the ECML Contact Point Denmark for this year.

From February 15, 2016, there was a person switching because I, Ana Kanareva-Dimitrovska, have been appointed the new project manager for the ECML Contact Point Denmark to replace Frits O. Sørensen. I look very much forward to performing the variety of tasks, to disseminating the latest knowledge on foreign language teaching and learning, to helping to strengthen language education from primary school right up to university and to making language education in Denmark even more attractive, according to the ECML Contact Point Denmark missionary description. If you are interested, you can read more about me [here](#).

Since the last newsletter a lot of new activities have been initiated and implemented.

ECML launches its new programme 2016-2019 "Languages at the heart of learning"



Since the beginning of January, it has been all-systems-go at the ECML as the new programme – "Languages at the heart of learning" – goes live. This ambitious and innovative programme has two main axes: development and mediation.

The development strand focuses on creating new solutions to the challenges in language education identified by ECML member states, through projects and think tanks; eight project teams have held their first meeting in Graz to plan the detail of how they will address such priority areas as language teacher competences, professional learning communities or school environments where all languages flourish. Broad consultations on teacher education for early language learning and the need for whole-school cooperation in the language of schooling are being prepared – consultations whose findings will feed into think tanks planned for the second half of the year.

Through the mediation strand, member states can adapt and implement existing ECML resources, access ECML expertise through training and consultancy and national support events, celebrate the European Day of Languages and take part in conferences, webinars and colloquia open to a wider public. Demand for the ten areas of Training and consultancy has reached a record high, with 25 requests for support in 2016 alone and 5 workshops of the 16 agreed already delivered within the ECML-EU Cooperation agreement, covering two focus areas: Relating language curricula, tests and examinations to the CEFR and Supporting multilingual classrooms. I will send you soon more information about that once online consultation officially open from ECML in Graz.

If you would like to find out more about the new ECML programme and **how to get involved**, please visit ECML website and get in touch with me.

ECML Training and consultancy



Denmark has the opportunity to request free training and consultancy activities from the ECML experts for events and initiatives on a national level. If you have an idea for workshop/seminar, you can read more about this [here](#) and get in touch with me afterwards.

Language conference 2016



ECML Contact Point Denmark organises this year the Language conference *Sprog på kryds og tværs* in Odense (SDU), on September, 26th which is also the European Day of Languages. The Conference has a new concept with more diversity and more institutions and language professionals involved. The title of the conference 2016 is "**New directions in language education: research and practice**". We have invited two keynote speakers, one from abroad, Robert O'Dowd (University of León, Spain), who will give a presentation on online language learning, and Petra Daryai-Hansen (KU & UCC), who will talk about a new project on early language learning. In the first part of the conference, PhD projects will be presented that have recently been completed across different languages. The second part of the conference includes development projects across sectors, from kindergarten to university. The final program is coming, save the date (September, 26th) and keep yourself informed about the program at this [link](#).

European Day of Languages



One of the key activities of the ECML is the European Day of Languages that has been celebrated since 2001 on 26th of September each year in all member states. The general objectives of the European Day of Languages are:

1. Alerting the public to the importance of language learning and diversifying the range of languages learnt in order to increase plurilingualism and intercultural understanding;
2. Promoting the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of Europe, which must be preserved and fostered;
3. Encouraging lifelong language learning in and out of school, whether for study purposes, for professional

needs, for purposes of mobility or for pleasure and exchanges.

I invite you to visit the Danish website <http://ecml.dk/den-europaeiske-sprogdag/> or the European ECML website edl.ecml.at in all languages where you can find inspiration for your event for the European Day of Languages. You will find ready-to-use teaching materials, competitions on the European plan and you can order a certain number of materials via the Contact Point Denmark.

Upcoming workshops in Graz, Austria



There are two ECML workshops in 2016, one on action research for language teachers ("Action research communities for language teachers" / "Communautés de recherche-action au service des enseignants de langues") and one on European Framework of Reference ("A quality assurance matrix for the use of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) "/" Une matrice qualité pour l'utilisation du Cadre européen commun de référence (CECR) "), both in November 2016. The dates have already been announced on the [website](#), and I will send out further details when registration opens.

Info events



ECML Contact Point continues also this year with info events in new more dynamic and targeted formats. Our goal is to make contact with several different language educational environments. In April we visited VIA in Aarhus. We have had a meeting with third-year student teachers who have Danish, English and German as teaching subjects. I presented ECML in general and ECML Contact Point Denmark, I showed concrete examples of teaching materials from completed projects and we talked about what they can get from the national Contact Point for now and in the long term. Keep in contact with me and we can tailor together an event that fits into the specific context - at universities, university colleges or elsewhere.

Website ecml.dk and social media



The website ecml.dk has been under modernisation since the beginning of 2016, it has more dynamic and active user interface. We are still working on the website. Since February 2016, there has been a [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

profile for the national Contact Point. You are welcome to follow us and to 'like' us, but also to contribute actively with information about relevant events, publications, and other in relation with languages and interculturality.

ECML Contact Point Denmark Brochure



ECML Contact Point Denmark has prepared a brochure in Danish and you can read it or download it [here](#). The brochure will be distributed at all national events organized by the Contact Point.

ECML conference and workshop held in Denmark



On the 25th of April 2016, the conference "*Developing plurilingual education in the Nordic and Baltic Countries*" was held to mark the end of the project on plurilingual education in the Nordic and Baltic countries funded by the ECML, Training and Consultancy <http://www.ecml.at/TrainingConsultancy/Plurilingualeducation/tabid/1694/language/en-GB/Default.aspx> and [Nordplus Horizontal](#). The conference focused on plurilingualism, pluriculturalism and early language learning in English, French and German as well as intercultural learning. Language teachers and researchers from primary and secondary schools as well as from higher education from Denmark, but also from the eight Baltic and Nordic countries, partners in the project, were together in Læreuddannelse Zahle in Copenhagen.

The day after, April 26, 2016 the first ECML Training and Consultancy workshop was held in Denmark since the country became an official member of the ECML in 2013. The workshop "*How to define learning Strategy in plurilingual education? The FREPA descriptors as a tool in early foreign language education*" had for speakers Michel Candelier and Anna Maria Curci, ECML experts and was reserved for selected and invited participants. Slides from both events will come soon on our website.

Newsletter in the future

It is my intention to send newsletter three times per year. The next will be sent in late August.

Best regards,

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Promoting excellence in language education

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