

MINUTES from network meeting

Thursday 16th June

Round table presentation from each country: All members updated the group on issues and progress in their respective country during 2010 – 2011. All power point presentations shown are to be published on INNLAC's web page. Several common issues emerged:

Early language learning

Most countries reported on how they work with early language learning and stress that it is an important issue in their countries. In some countries the teachers are not trained in how to teach young children. It is important to stimulate young children to learn languages. There are many projects going on and good practice can be found on different websites.

Multilingualism

There are many immigrants in the European countries and new materials and teaching methods are being developed. There are information materials, brochures, web based material and textbook guidelines with recommendations and other material that teachers can use to be better prepared to teach students with different mother tongues. It was also pointed out that it is important to see the potential of the multilingual classrooms. Many projects are going on in our countries to meet the needs of multilingualism.

On-line tools

Another area that is being developed is on-line material. Teachers of today need to use the Internet and other media to be able to improve their teaching methods as well as using media that students find natural to use in their everyday life. There are web sites where you can learn how to use the Internet as well as sharing good practice with others.

Teacher certification

In many countries we work with teacher certification in different ways. The aim is that the students are going to have teachers who have the right knowledge of their teaching subject and be able to teach in a good way to stimulate the students.

Entrepreneurship Many countries try to reach out and start projects involving e.g. companies and others in order to make them aware of the importance of knowing languages. It is known that many companies lose money because their staff does not have appropriate language skills.

Conferences Language conferences, net-work building and other training activities are being organized all over Europe.

Good practice in testing and assessment.

Mrs Gudrun Erickson from Goteborg University, responsible for all national language tests had a workshop. Her power-point presentation will be available on INNLAC's web site.

There are national tests and test materials in English, French, German and Spanish. From next year they will take place in school year 6, when the students are 12 and year 9, when they are 15 at the end of compulsory school and finally at the end of upper secondary education. Some of the materials are web based.

The national tests test reading, listening, writing and speaking/communication skills. When developing the national tests they make sure they are related to the CEFR. The CEFR has been translated into Swedish. Read more about it at www.skolverket.se

The EALTA (European Association for Language Testing and Assessment) is founded with support from the EU and the documents are translated into 35 European languages
To find out more about the EALTA and join for free go to www.ealta.eu.org

Friday 17th June.

1 Follow-up from the Graz meeting

The contact list on the web should be updated.

What is the purpose of INNLAC?

The purpose is to share experiences with each other, to get information how other European countries work with languages. In the future we might work together with common language issues to try to be influential concerning modern languages.

We could ask other countries to join INNLAC e.g. a Slavic speaking country.

Co-operation with the ECML

There was a discussion if a member from the ECML could be invited to an INNLAC meeting. It would give more visibility to the INNLAC network. When the next yearly meeting will take place a member of ECML can be invited as an observer.

Bilateral work

An application has been sent to the ECML and their fourth medium term programme. The project is going to be about how to disseminate the ECML material. If this project starts it will be important for the whole network as many of its members are contact points for the ECML.

CEFR and ELP

In Norway the ELP will be computerized.

In Sweden it is important that the ELP will be updated because it is now part of the national tests system. There is also a demand to provide it in English.

In Austria the CEFR scales were introduced at the same time as the ELP 11-15.

Hungary has an ELP but it is not much in use.

There was also a discussion about the use of ELP.

Here are some of the remarks made:

- You cannot force teachers to use it.
- We should try to create demand for ELP
- The idea behind the project is more important than the project
- ELP is finished
- We do what we can do so what more can we do?
- Many INNLAC members are already in charge of the ELP.
- In CEFR-ELP there is a shift from foreign languages and is now more open to other/all languages and according to that ELP needs to be updated

Languages of schooling

The Council of Europe teacher training material: The report was recommended for reading.

What happens till next time? What about observers?

Linguamon is not a national but a regional centre and will remain an observer.

A discussion on centres being national or not was held to find out if the centres now being observers are going to be full members of the INNLAC. Switzerland and Poland can be accepted as full members at next year's meeting. An observing country cannot chair a meeting.

INNLAC represents the voluntary association of national institutions which are charged with responsibility for implementation (aspects of) national policy.

Next year's meeting

We are invited to **Hungary** and next year's meeting will take place in **Budapest 14-15 June, 2012** and day two will be prolonged by 2 hours.

Main topics

- The project Language Rich People has come to end and the results will be presented.
- More about multilingualism
- The ECML project and how it works.
- Early Language learning: a report from Norway

How do we want to develop/expand this network?

Posters and other material could be made. Austria can administrate that.

There should be a promotional card for INNLAC with the web address. We can discuss further use of promoting material in Budapest next year.

We should open up the web page www.innlac.org. Austria will pay for that. It is good to have a web page but it is important to have interesting things there to attract viewers. At last year's meeting it was said that we could write articles to be published on the web.

WIKI is a storage place for documents. Roger will send out passwords.

At the ECML conference in Graz in September we will have a meeting discussing how to continue the INNLAC network. **We meet on the 30th September for two hours.**

Optional foreign languages at school

How do we attract students to learn more languages? How can we reach this goal?

We can show good practice and statistics.

We have to provide students with information about the importance of learning languages.

We can let famous people tell students what impact languages have had on them.

Develop new materials for teachers.

Look upon languages not as something you only learn in a classroom. Instead look outside the box and find areas/places outside school where languages can be a tool for success.

The importance for businesses to have people who know languages

Try to attract media.

Consider languages in a global society. Borders do not exist.

Eva Engdell July 1, 2011.