

Supporting multilingual classrooms

29th – 30th May 2025, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Workshop programme

Thursday 29th May 2025

8:30 – 9.00	Registration
9.00 – 10.00	Opening – Welcome and introduction of the workshop, European Centre of Modern Languages of the Council of Europe (ECML), the experts and participants – Short ice breaking activity <i>Petra Fridrichová, Director, Department for Formal Education Support, National Institute of Education and Youth, Slovak Republic</i> <i>Sarah Breslin, Executive Director, European Centre for Modern Languages, Council of Europe (video message)</i> <i>Denisa Ďuranová, ECML Governing Board Member, National Institute of Education and Youth, Slovak Republic</i> <i>Terry Lamb, Professor, ECML expert, University of Westminster, United Kingdom</i> <i>Mercè Bernaus, Emeritus Professor, ECML expert, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain</i>
10.00 – 12.30	Session 1: Valuing plurilingual identities and attitudes towards diversity – Challenging assumptions and reflecting on the multilingual context of the school and context – Considering student needs and re-thinking classroom practices (session including a 30' coffee break)
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break
13.30 – 15.30	Session 2: Developing teacher competence in drawing on learners' plurilingualism as a resource in the classroom
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 – 17.45	Session 3: Supporting teachers to appreciate the benefits of using pluralistic approaches with their students from a motivational perspective
17.45 – 18.00	Reflection on the day
18.30	Dinner

Friday 30th May 2025

9.00 – 10.30	Session 4: Developing teacher competences and confidence in supporting learners with the language of schooling
10.30 – 10.50	Coffee break
10.50 – 12.30	Session 5: Encouraging collaboration across the whole school to promote learning as well as multilingual and intercultural awareness – Developing collaborative projects
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break
13.30 – 14.15	Session 6: Developing collaborative projects – Presentations
14.15 – 14.30	Closing – Final reflections Workshop evaluation

Expert team and facilitators



TERRY LAMB

Professor of Languages and Interdisciplinary Pedagogy
University of Westminster, London, UK

Terry began his career as a teacher of French and German, before progressing to a number of Head of Languages posts in secondary schools and eventually to posts in the Universities of Nottingham and Sheffield, where he focused mainly on postgraduate teacher education. He is now a Professor at the University of Westminster, London, based in the Centre for Education and Teaching Innovation (which he established) and the School of Humanities. His research focuses on the ways in which constructs of place, space and critical autonomy intersect in relation to language learning and linguistic diversity, and on activist research that challenges social, cultural and linguistic injustices. His projects have included several at the European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe, e.g. *Supporting Multilingual Classrooms*. Terry has worked closely on languages strategy and curriculum with the UK and other governments (Australia, Czech Republic, France and Malaysia) and is founder editor of *Innovation in Language Learning and Teaching*. He is the President of FIPLV (Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes), an NGO of UNESCO and the Council of Europe. Website: <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/directory/lamb-terry>.



MERCÈ BERNAUS

Emeritus Professor
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

Mercè has been involved in education since 1968. She taught French and English in primary and secondary schools for 15 years. She used to work on projects from the very beginning of her career because in her opinion it was the best way to motivate students to learn a second/foreign language. The students used the language for real purposes in order to create a final product that helped them to raise their self-esteem. She used this methodology in her career as a teacher trainer when she worked for the Catalan Ministry of Education and at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in the Faculty of Education. Her main interests are related to teachers and students' motivation, supporting multilingual classrooms, and human values. She coordinated some projects on multilingualism and multiculturalism in the European Centre for Modern Languages in Graz (Council of Europe): <http://archive.ecml.at/mtp2/lea/results/>; <http://conbat.ecml.at/>. She has been involved in the Council of Europe Pestalozzi Programme for 12 years, collaborating in teacher training courses: www.coe.int/en/web/Pestalozzi. She has also been involved in teacher training courses in Caucasian countries sponsored by the Directorate of Political Affairs of the Council of Europe. Since 2016 she has been involved in the project "Supporting Multilingual Classrooms" of the European Centre for Modern Languages. She published mainly on motivation, attitudes and second language learning in national and international journals https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Merce_Bernaus/contributions.

National coordinator

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