

Nikolaiplatz 4/1, AT-8020 Graz

Tel: +43 316 323554-0, Fax: +43 316 323554-4

information@ecml.at, www.ecml.at

Graz, 4 October 2024

RE: **Nomination of participants to the ECML-EC think tank** “Fostering motivation in language education: what role for decision-makers and educators?” within the framework of the ECML’s joint action with the European Commission *Innovative methodologies and assessment in language learning*, 4 December 2024

Venue: ECML, Graz, Austria

Date: 4 December 2024

Participants: 1 delegate per member state of the ECML and the European Union, to be nominated by the National nominating authorities

Working languages: English and French, with simultaneous interpretation

Deadline for nomination: 28 October 2024

Information on the think tank: www.ecml.at/motivation

Think tank focus

Motivation represents a fundamental component of success and well-being in any area of life – driving action, enhancing performance, promoting learning and development, and contributing to overall satisfaction and resilience. This 2024 ECML-EC think tank will focus on the particular significance of motivation in relation to the world of language education.

According to the 2023 edition of the Eurydice report for the European Union, there has been a decrease in the percentage of students in lower secondary education learning two or more foreign languages since 2013. Moreover, the findings are even less auspicious in the context of secondary vocational education. This is in stark contrast to the situation regarding the learning of English; more and more education systems are introducing English at an earlier age and currently almost all students in lower secondary are learning English.

When these findings are placed in the wider political context of the Council of Europe’s 2022 Recommendation on the importance of plurilingual and intercultural education for democratic culture and the Council of the European Union’s 2019 Recommendation on a comprehensive approach to the teaching and learning of languages, both of which stress the added-value of learning more than one language, it is important to understand the role of both learner and teacher motivation as being in constant flux and in interaction with a wide range of internal and external influencing factors and to identify these factors – be they attitudinal, structural, pedagogical or political.

The think tank will not only attempt to identify the challenges for education systems in promoting the learning of languages other than/in addition to English but will give careful consideration to how these might be overcome.

The one-day event will involve a combination of keynote speeches, short presentations, group work and a panel discussion.

Objectives of the think tank

- strengthen awareness of the importance of addressing motivational issues related to the learning of languages other than/in addition to English;
- take stock of research trends on motivation and highlight examples of interesting educational practice which are potentially transferable/adaptable to other countries and contexts;
- identify key factors influencing motivation;
- publish inspiring examples and the Motivation Manifesto on the forthcoming dedicated website: www.ecml.at/motivation;
- consider the potential for further action at a European level in this area.

Profile of participants

Professional background

Anyone working in the field of language education who is in a position to engender change – educational administrators /policy makers/senior ministry representatives (e.g. ECML Governing Board members), curriculum developers, inspectors, teacher educators, pedagogical advisors

Expected involvement/tasks before, during and after the event

Before: Possible contribution of an inspiring initiative/development which helps foster the learning of languages other than/in addition to English.

During: Active participation in the discussions on identifying the challenges and proposing solutions/suggestions for the Motivation Manifesto.

After: Possible involvement in the drafting of the Motivation Manifesto; providing further examples for the dedicated website.