



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

### **SEMLANG Summer University - Newsletter 1 (December 2008)**

This newsletter serves as an introduction to a new initiative in the area of language teacher training in Europe and for Europe. We address language teachers and educators, policy makers and administrators of teacher training as well as decision-makers of various national and international bodies.

We hope you will find the information of professional interest and relevance.

#### **Training language teachers for a multilingual Europe**

For almost a decade now, learning languages has been highly promoted at a European level; the raising of linguistic and cultural awareness as well as the promotion of multilingualism have been highlighted as a priority and a fundamental concern in many national educational systems. Being able to communicate in more than two languages is becoming a norm for many Europeans who feel free and able to use their language skills to accomplish their personal, academic or professional ambitions.

In this context, foreign language teachers play an essential role in providing highly valued competencies and skills for European citizens. Therefore, a particular attention has to be paid to initial and in-service teachers' training.

What language teacher do we need? What new professional skills and personal qualities have to be developed to better meet learners' requirements? What methods, techniques and innovations can be used to achieve the set targets? How is the teacher of tomorrow different from today's teachers?

#### **The SEMLANG initiative**

The *Centre international d'études pédagogiques* (CIEP) put forward an idea to organize an international summer seminar to reflect on the present situation in teacher training and to exchange extensive international expertise in initial and in-service teacher training all across Europe. The idea has been embodied in a partnership of seven institutions: the CIEP (France; coordinator), the *Austrian Centre for Language Competence* (Austria), the *Ecole Normale Supérieure Lettres et Sciences Humaines* (France), the *National Centre for Professional Development in Education* (Poland), the *Public Service Language Centre* (Lithuania), the *University of Luxemburg* and the *University of Venice* (Italy).

The core of the seminar programme is based on the findings of a research project initiated by the European Commission and accomplished by a team under the direction of Prof. Michael Kelly. The researchers analyzed the teacher training situation in Europe and summarized their recommendations in the final report, titled *European profile for language teacher education – a frame of reference* (available on the [website of the European Commission](#) as well as directly on the [SEMLANG website](#)).

The summer university will provide a common space to reflect and exchange international and national achievements with reference to the four main categories of the Kelly report, namely *Structure, Knowledge and Understanding, Strategies and Skills* and *Values*. Each of these will be discussed taking into account the current trends in language teaching innovation, such as the use of the CEFR, early teaching of foreign languages, CLIL, mobility as part of teacher training, the possible creation of a common frame for teacher evaluation, etc.

### **What, When and Where**

The summer university will be hosted by CIEP (near Paris, France) on July 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Close to a hundred participants – policy-makers and expert decision-makers in implementing teacher training – from most European countries will come together to critically reflect on the status and mission of language teachers in Europe, to inform about the training systems of the member-states and to look for ways to improve the teacher training through the dissemination of good practices and implementing the recommendations of the Kelly report on a national level.

Working languages:

- Conferences: English, French and German
- Work shops: depending on the origin of the speaker

You can learn more about the project if you visit our web site: [www.semlang.eu](http://www.semlang.eu)

Registration will be available on this website from December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008.

At present the partners are working on the programme of the summer university. We will do our best to offer a well balanced combination of professionally motivating working sessions and enriching social events.

You can contact the organisers to express your opinion or put forward suggestions. If you wish, you can also leave us your e-mail address, so that we can send you our next newsletter and provide you with a more detailed look at the content of the conferences and work shops.

We are taking this opportunity to send our best seasonal greetings and to wish you a Happy New Year!