



SemLang Summer University – Newsletter 2 (February 2009)

Training teachers of languages in Europe

A month has now elapsed since the kick-off meeting of the project, which took place on January 19th and 20th at the *Centre international d'études pédagogiques* (CIEP) of Sèvres (France). This meeting was an opportunity to strengthen the links between partners, and define together the future development of the SemLang project.

SemLang aims to optimize language teacher training in Europe, and to support involvement in the development of multilingualism. We hope to achieve this by focusing on new teaching methods and innovative practices in education, while also promoting foreign language acquisition from an intercultural perspective.

Participation of Professor Michael Kelly

At the meeting, our main objective was to agree on the programme of the Summer University. On the first day, Professor Michael Kelly (University of Southampton) will present the *European Profile for language teacher education*, which inspired the organisation of the whole event. His views on European language policy and suggestions as to the possible use of the *Profile's* recommendations will certainly prove an insightful and motivating introduction.

Structure of the event

The lectures have been divided into four groups, each composed of conferences and workshops. The former will present a global panorama of the different domains of language teacher training, while the latter are designed to further explore certain aspects. As the participants of the Summer University are themselves experts in their fields, incorporating their experience will provide a lot of added value.

Languages of the Summer University

The working languages of the Summer University are English, French, and German. During the conferences, translation for these three languages will be provided. The language of the various workshops will be chosen among those three, depending on the speaker and the language skills of the participants who signed up for each.

The speakers

The contacting process of the speakers is ongoing. We will soon present you with a comprehensive list detailing the speakers, their affiliation and the element of the

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programme they will be coordinating. We see the multicultural perspective of the event as a crucial aspect, and hope to obtain a panel of 23 speakers from Austria, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The target group of the Summer University

As planned, the target group of SemLang is composed of decision makers in the field of language policy from the 27 countries of the EU, the 4 countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and Turkey. Since the process of implementing changes in the domain of language learning can take very different forms depending on the national structure and tradition, care has been taken to involve all relevant actors: not only the official bodies such as the education ministries, but also the networks of language centres, teacher and teacher trainer associations and other stakeholders.

The call for participation for SemLang is still open. Please don't hesitate to disseminate information about the project to contacts of yours who might be interested.

Practical information

Practical matters were also further defined during the kick-off meeting of the project. The Summer University will be hosted at CIEP, in the building of the former royal porcelain manufacture of Sèvres. Paris is just a few kilometres away, and is easily reachable by bus, metro or tram. The registration fees for each participant will amount to € 530, which includes not only the participation costs, but also accommodation and full board for five days, provided directly on site.

We hope that this second newsletter provided you with a better perspective on the project, and will continue to keep you informed about the developments at regular intervals.

For general information about SemLang, please refer to our website: www.semlang.eu

For specific inquiries, don't hesitate to contact us directly: semlang@oesz.at

The *European Profile for Language teacher education* is based on an extensive report to the EU Commission, which can be found at the following address: www.lang.soton.ac.uk/ttfl

For general further information on the European Commission's strategies for language teaching and learning: <http://europa.eu/languages/en/home>