

NEWS

Bulletin



Important events in 2021

European Education Summit

The Summit took place in virtual mode, 9 December 2021, 09:30-17:30 on “The Next Decade of European Education”. [More information](#): p.2

ECML colloquium, supported by the Council of Europe

The colloquium on “The future of language education in the light of Covid – lessons learned and ways forward” was held at the ECML, a partner of ECSPM, on 14 December. On the next day, during the annual meeting of ECML’s Professional Network Forum (PNF), in which ECSPM is represented, the ECML’s 2020-2023 programme was discussed and the OECD’s plans to include foreign language testing in the PISA exams were presented. [More information](#): p.2

Colloque du CCERBAL 2021 | CCERBAL Conference 2021

CCERBAL, a partner of the ECSPM, held the conference, entitled “Bilingualism and Beyond: Advancing the Thinking on Pedagogies, Policies and Practices” from 29 April to 1 May. More information about the conference in French and English [here](#), and the link to the videorecorded talks by eminent speakers [here](#).

Presentación del Centro de Investigación en Multilingüismo, Discurso y Comunicación (MIRCo)

The launch event of MIRCo, based at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) was held on 25 November. The members of the organising committee presented the lines of research, the philosophy and objectives of this centre and members of the scientific committee spoke about the work carried out for more than 20 years by the group of renowned scholars who are now part of MIRCo, including Teun van Dijk, Ofelia García, Monica Heller and Ben Rampton. Link to the videorecorded talks in Spanish and English [here](#).

Our news

- In 2021 we welcomed one more member to the CURUM alliance: the Centre for Research on Bilingualism/Multilingualism of Stockholms Universitet. Our alliance now embraces 17 centres for research on multilingualism.
- One of our newer CURUM members, the Centre of Excellence for Multilingualism and Language Policy, of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, has signed Bilateral Agreements to collaborate with OEP (l’Observatoire européen du plurilinguisme) and the Centre of Excellence: Permanent linguistic observatory of the l’Università per Stranieri di Siena.

The [European Language Equality](#) (ELE), a flagship project of the EU, aiming at the development of a strategic research, innovation and deployment agenda to achieve digital language equality in Europe by 2030 is continuing. The ECSPM’s basic task in the project has been to investigate what language technology tools and applications are available/missing for 8 European regional and minority languages and for 4 non-EU national languages spoken as heritage languages in EU Member States.

- Announcing the 2022 ECSPM symposium on “[Language\(s\) and the construction of knowledge in European HE](#)”.
- The ECSPM has been invited to submit an edited collection on multilingualism and HE by Bloomington Academic.



4th European Education Summit

The European Education Summit is the annual flagship event of the European Education Area and the EU's shared vision for a modern and inclusive European education and training sector.

The 2021 Summit was concerned with the future of education and training, participants from across the EU discussed ideas and best practices to search for answers to the following questions:

- How can the education sector be improved to the benefit of all?
- How can education be made more inclusive and fair, from early childhood education to higher education and adult learning?
- How can the well-being of teachers and pupils be improved?
- How can smart investment lead to high-quality education and training?
- What can be done to progress the green and digital transformations of the sector?

The opening statements by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and the Vice-President Margaritis Schinas, were followed with an introduction to the event by Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth. Their special reference to the continuation and further development of the European University Alliances project, which has been highly successful, is of particular interest to the ECSPM-CURUM, many members of which are in universities taking part in European university consortia which will be expanded and enriched.

The talks, keynote speeches, panels and presentations were videorecorded and are available [here](#).

2021 ECML PNF meeting

Members of the ECML's Professional Network Forum ([PNF](#)) informed their colleagues about the activities that their organisations are performing, and were provided with an overview of ECML projects – those which have been completed, those which are part of ECML's 2020-2023 programme, and discussed ideas for the future.

A visit to ECML's website reveals the richness of materials, resources and guides that have been and are being produced for language education from projects such as:

- [Developing teacher competences for pluralistic approaches](#)
- [Resources for assessing the home language competences of migrant pupils](#)
- [Mediation in teaching, learning and assessment](#)

Next on the agenda was the OECD team presenting to the PNF the [PISA 2025 Foreign Language Assessment Framework](#). The presentation was preceded by a rationale for introducing a proficiency test in English for 15 year old school students.

The ECSPM president commented on the backwash effect that such proficiency testing will have on school (language) education and on English being further empowered – with all the implications that such empowerment entails.

The rationale for the PISA English test was delivered by EC's Multilingualism senior expert, Ms Kristina Cunningham, who also announced the publication of the [2021 Education and Training Monitor](#), which presents the European Commission's yearly evaluation of education and training system across Europe.