



CercleS' Presence at the ECML

CercleS as a partner of the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) of the Council of Europe has been invited to several ECML events in Graz this year, namely, a workshop “AI in Language Education” held on 25th-26 November 2025, a colloquium on regional and minority languages co-organised by the ECML and European Commission held on 4th December 2025 and the ECML Professional Network Forum (PNF) meeting held on 5th December 2025.



The [AI for Language Education workshop](#) explored how AI can be integrated safely, ethically and meaningfully in language education. The need for transparency in the use of AI, the risks of reinforcing cultural biases and the importance of making sure that teachers remain the primary pedagogical decision-makers, with AI serving as a supportive tool were discussed in great depth. A new Moodle course on AI training for teachers as well as more materials are being developed and will be launched in 2026 and 2027.



The colloquium ([ECML/CELV > Cooperation > Colloquium 2025: Regional and Minority Languages](#)) brought together 48 participants from 29 countries and aimed to “explore the impact of demographic changes on the vitality of Regional and Minority Languages (RMLs) and their role in secondary education in contexts where RMLs are prevalent.” It also examined new policy frameworks which are expected to shape RML instruction and investigate the factors likely to motivate newcomers

to learn these languages. Despite its focus on secondary schools, it was truly relevant to the HEI Language Centres, as one of the main conclusions was the need to educate future (and current) teachers of all disciplines

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in language and communication skills relevant to multilingual environments, which could be a domain of Language Centres. CercleS was represented by the president, Julia Zabala, who actively supported the position of HEIs in the promotion of RMLs, and the vice-president, Libor Štěpánek, who also participated as a moderator of one of the workshops. One of the results of the CercleS presence of the colloquium is a confirmed closer collaboration between CercleS and the European Union Commission, represented by the Multilingualism Policy Officer, Anna Solé Mena.



At the [PNF](#) meeting, its members including CercleS, informed one another about their activities in 2025 and plans for 2026 with the aim to foster mutual collaboration. Here are some points and links of interest:

a) ECML encouraged PNF members to:

a.1 nominate their representatives to the ECML workshops of the current programme projects;

a.2 share their main events at the [ECML International Events Calendar](#);

a.3 an exhibition “[Language education at the heart of democracy](#)” is freely downloadable, and any university or LC can use the materials to promote languages in their setting;



b) the European Commission is going to emphasise the growing usefulness of microcredentials, especially in the area of the new focus on the [Union of Skills](#);

c) EALTA, ALTE and EQUALS presented their plans for conferences and events, as well as materials and programmes they have developed, especially the [LAPP project](#), which will open its free online course on 19 January 2026; or the continuous collaboration

on the [CEFR alignment good practice](#);

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d) Canadian institution (OLBI) is ready to collaborate more with CercleS and other European associations, they also offer positions, e.g. currently they are seeking external applications for a [Mobility Research Chair in Bilingualism](#).

Conferences organised by individual PNF members are:

EAQUALS: 12.-14.3.2026, Madrid;

ECSPM: 19.-20.3. 2026, Saarbrücken;

ALTE: 15.-17.4. 2026, Munich;

EALTA: 9.-14.6. 2026, Siena.

Journals where we are invited to publish:

European Journal of Applied Linguistics (AILA) or Foreign Language Annals (ACTFL).

Report by Libor Štěpánek

CercleS delegate to the ECML

8 December 2025, Brno, Czech Republic



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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



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