

Graz, 26 June 2025

**RE: Nomination of participants to the ECML-EC colloquium** "Multiple voices in the classroom: Harnessing the power of regional and minority languages in secondary education" within the framework of the ECML's joint action with the European Commission *Innovative methodologies and assessment in language learning*, 4 December 2025

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**Venue:** ECML, Graz, Austria

**Date:** 4 December 2025

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

**Working languages:** English, French and Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation from French into English and vice-versa and Spanish into English and French.  
All participants should therefore have listening comprehension in English or French at least at B2 level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages; see attached nomination form.

**Deadline for nomination:** 22 September 2025

**Information on the colloquium:** [www.ecml.at/RML2025colloquium](http://www.ecml.at/RML2025colloquium)

### Colloquium focus

The colloquium will explore the impact of demographic changes on the vitality of Regional and Minority Languages (RMLs) and their role in secondary education in contexts where Regional and minority languages (RMLs)<sup>1</sup> are prevalent. It will also examine how evolving policy frameworks are expected to shape RML instruction and investigate the factors likely to motivate newcomers to learn these languages. Focusing on secondary education, the event will address the challenges RMLs are facing in increasingly multilingual classrooms, highlighting promising pedagogical practices. Innovative teaching models to support RML learning which are potentially transferable/adaptable to other contexts

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<sup>1</sup> In the context of this colloquium the ECML is using the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages' definition of a "regional or minority language" i.e. a language that is:  
*i traditionally used within a given territory of a State by nationals of that State who form a group numerically smaller than the rest of the State's population; and*  
*ii different from the official language(s) of that State; it does not include either dialects of the official language(s) of the State or the languages of migrants.*

will be showcased. Additionally, video testimonies will be presented to illustrate the potential benefits students may gain from learning an RML at the secondary level.

The colloquium takes place against the backdrop of the 2022 Council of Europe [Recommendation on the importance of plurilingual and intercultural education for democratic culture](#) and will draw upon the Council's expertise on RMLs. The event will take full account of the work already conducted both by the Council and the European Commission in this area, as well as the concerns expressed within the [Minority Safepack initiative](#) with regard to the sharing of good practice among European educational systems.

The event will seek to build upon the experience of the 2023 colloquium "[Regional and minority languages within a plurilingual context](#)" and will involve nominated representatives from the 38 member states of the ECML and the European Union, as well as key networks and associations active in this area.

### **Objectives of the colloquium**

- To explore how immigration impacts regional and minority languages in secondary education.
- To discuss policies, pedagogical strategies, and best practices/case studies which allow RMLs to flourish within multilingual classrooms and are transferable to different contexts.
- To raise awareness of promotional approaches used for RMLs 'competing for space' in the classroom – as an example to other foreign languages.
- To examine the role of minority languages in fostering cultural identity and social cohesion.

### **Expected outputs of the workshop (for the participants)**

- familiarisation with examples of innovative educational practice related to RML's at secondary level in a wide variety of contexts in Europe and gaining an insight into current European initiatives in this area;
- identification of opportunities for networking and exchange with colleagues working on similar issues in different countries;
- contribute to the shaping of further activities in this area at pan-European level;
- promotion of own activities in the area of RMLs.
- an updated website featuring examples of practice at secondary level where regional and minority languages are part of the curriculum and/or a language of schooling.

### **Profile of participants**

#### ***Professional background***

- Language education professionals (teachers/teacher educators/curriculum developers) at secondary level who are actively involved with classroom practice in relation to regional and minority languages.
- Educators and school administrators (secondary level), Language policy makers actively engaged with regional and minority languages in national and regional education systems; national and regional government representatives, community leaders and NGOs, linguists and researchers engaged with RMLs.