

Minutes from the Network Meeting between National Institutions Halden (Norway), 20 June – 22 June 2007.

The Austrian and Norwegian national centres for foreign languages in education held their annual strategic meeting in Halden (Norway) in June 2007. The meeting was extended to also include representatives from other similar European national institutions and with a view to establishing a network for cooperation.

Working languages

English and German

Participants

Austria: Dagmar Heindler, Österreichisches Sprachen Kompetenz Zentrum (ÖSZ)
Gunther Abuja, Österreichisches Sprachen Kompetenz Zentrum (ÖSZ)
Finland: Kim Haataja, Opeko
France: Chirine Anvar, Centre international d'études pédagogiques, (CIEP)
Hungary: Adél Csernovitz, Tempus
Norway: Johanne Ostad, Norwegian Centre for Foreign Languages in Education
Steinar Nybøle, Norwegian Centre for Foreign Languages in Education
Britt W. Svenhard, Norwegian Centre for Foreign Languages in Education
Beate Trandem, Norwegian Centre for Foreign Languages in Education
Gerke Doetjes, Norwegian Centre for Foreign Languages in Education
Karin Hals, Norwegian Centre for Foreign Languages in Education
Hæge Hestnes, NTNU
Heike Speitz, TFN
UK: Anne Davidson Lund, CILT

Governmental participants

Austria: Muriel Warga, Austrian Ministry of Education
Hungary: Erika Vaczko, Hungarian Ministry of Education
Norway: Jorunn Berntzen, Norwegian Ministry of Education (KD)
Terje Bryne Krokfjord, Norwegian Directorate of Education and Training

Observers

Sweden: Roger Persson, Swedish National Agency for Education
Suzanne Mehrens, Swedish National Agency for Education

1. Goals and Objectives

The main objective of this meeting was to form a multilateral network of national institutions which are charged with responsibility for implementing aspects of national language policy. Prior to the meeting, the Norwegian centre suggested three forms of cooperation organized around different forms of funding and degrees of involvement from the member institutions.

- 1.) A network funded by the member institutions

- Each of the members contributes financially to the network by funding their own representatives.
 - Cooperation between members may involve an exchange of information, such as updates on conferences, reports, and articles published.
 - One annual meeting.
 - One year rotating Chair where the coordinating institution is responsible for organising the annual meeting and information exchange. The institution also publishes a report.
- 2.) A network funded by the EU / Lifelong Learning Programme
- The network applies for funding through the Transversal Programme (http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/structure/transversal_en.html)
 - Key Activities relevant to the network's scope:
 - 1) Policy cooperation and innovation
 - 2) Languages
 - The network is organized along the lines described above, with information exchange, annual meeting and a coordinating institution, but
 - EU funding increases demand for reporting and documentation.
- 3.) Multilateral and bilateral projects funded by the EU / Lifelong Learning Programme
- In addition to (or instead of) cooperation through the network, member institutions may participate in multi- or bilateral projects. We suggest two possible topics for such projects:
- CLIL
 - Enhance cooperation between industry and the educational world

Introductions of the participating institutions were a point of departure for further discussions of strategies and objectives (these presentations will be made available to all participants). There was a broad recognition of the need for the establishment of a network of European language institutions, but it was generally agreed that the network should be established independently of prospective joint projects. The understanding was nevertheless that the network should work to facilitate multi- and bilateral collaborations. Topics mentioned were CLIL, foreign language skills and business performance, and language learning and dyslexia.

3. Agreement to Voluntary Association

The discussions resulted in an agreement to voluntary association which set down principles for organisation and funding of the network. The agreement will be circulated for approval by the participating institutions.

4. Future cooperation

Next steps

- approval of the Agreement to Voluntary Association (with notes, comments, and suggestions for changes made before 31 July 2007).
- all PowerPoint presentations to be sent to the Norwegian Centre for Foreign Languages in Education and made available to all participants.

The Norwegian centre will hold secretarial duties until the network's next meeting. This involves updating the email list for members, issuing the voluntary agreement, and making PowerPoint presentations available to all members.

It was decided that Centre international d'études pédagogiques in Sèvres (CIEP) will host the next network meeting in 2008 (5 – 7 May).

Ahead of the meeting in Sèvres, the institution with secretarial duties (Norwegian Centre for Foreign Languages in Education), will be asking member institutions to contribute proposals for topics for discussion such as possible future joint projects and the admission of new members. It should also be considered whether or not observers should be invited to the meeting(s).