

# LACS Newsletter November 2010

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Dear colleagues,

This is the next newsletter sent to you by the ECML LACS Project team, coordinated by the President of FIPLV and representatives of IDV and FIPF. It is intended to point language teachers and other language professionals towards items of interest from the world of language teacher associations and the European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe in Graz, Austria.

We are sending this to you in the hope that you will forward these mailings to your own individual members. Also, if you have any news items which you would wish to profile, please let me have them as we are currently building the LACS and FIPLV websites as fora for collaborative support amongst language teachers and their language teacher associations around the world.

All the best

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## LACS News

The LACS team has been joined by an ECML Project Fellow for six months. Tatjana Atanasoska is working with us to develop our website and publication with the aim of sharing good practice across language teacher associations. She will be contacting colleagues who participated in the LACS Workshop last December, as well as helping us to prepare more regular newsletters to members of FIPLV, IDV and FIPF. For a report of the LACS workshop, as well as photos, please visit the LACS website at <http://lacs.ecml.at/> where you will also see a short video in French and English outlining the benefits of the LACS project to language teachers around the world.

The aim of the on-line LACS publication is to develop information and guidance from language teacher associations for other language teacher associations, bringing together ideas and case studies from around the world. We shall be asking you to share your contributions in the coming months in order to produce a rich resource for all.

## FIPLV News

The Nordic Baltic Region of FIPLV organised its biennial seminar in June, this time in Reykjavik, Iceland. Hosted by STIL, the Language Teacher Association in Iceland, the focus of the seminar was practical and hands on: tried and tested favourite approaches to teaching languages. The aim was to 'share our

polished nuggets of practical wisdom and enrich each other as developing professionals by sharing what we do best as language teachers'. For further information about the programme, see the STIL website at <http://stil-is.weebly.com/index.html>.

FIPLV Europe, another region of FIPLV, is a partner in a European Commission funded project called LETPP (Languages in Europe: Theory Policy Practice). This project has already involved contributions from some of our member organisations. In addition, some FIPLV members were invited to seminars (one in the House of Lords) and a conference which took place in London earlier this year.

LETPP is a one year project exploring ideas on multilingualism and how they may develop into coherent policy and practice. Click here (<https://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/lsewebsite/letp>) to take part in an online survey to contribute to the debate, or here ([www.letpp.eu](http://www.letpp.eu)) to go directly to the LETPP website.

## **Language Teacher Association of the month: International Association of Teachers of German/Der Internationale Deutschlehrerverband (IDV)**

IDV is a federation of over 100 national associations of German teachers and researchers from 85 countries spread across all continents. Since its foundation in 1968, it is the most comprehensive network of specialists in German as a foreign language and represents its members' interests in all aspects of education and research. Since the elections in August 2009, three continents are represented on its executive committee: Europe through the President, Marianne Hepp from the University of Pisa, Italy, as well as the General Secretary, Alina Dorota Jarzabek, from Poland; Asia through the Vice President Shinichi Sambe from Japan; and North America through the treasurer Joanne Van Donzel from Canada and South America form editor Marco Aurelio Schaumloeffel from Brasil. The work of the committee is also strongly supported by three experts from the main German-speaking countries: currently these are for Germany, Ursula Baumgart (Goethe-Institut), for Austria, Brigitte Sorger (ÖDaF), and for Switzerland, Joachim Hoefele (AkDaf und Ledafids).

The main aims of IDV include promotion and development of contact and cooperation between its members, support of teachers of Germans as a foreign language in their everyday activity and their professional development, involvement in the continued development of German as a foreign language and promotion of the position of German in the world, whilst at the same time promoting multilingualism.

IDV achieves these aims through projects, statements on language policy, and regular conferences and symposia such as the International German Teacher Congress, the International German Olympiad, and the Germany-Austria-Switzerland-Luxembourg Seminars, all of which enable the culturally diverse members of the association to come together.

IDV's most important publications are: *IDV-Magazin* und *IDV aktuell*.

The web address is: <http://www.idvnetz.org>.

### **ECML Project of the month: ConBaT+**

The acronym of the project ConBaT+ stands for “Content Based Teaching + plurilingual and pluricultural awareness”, which means that content-based teaching needs to be complemented with activities enhancing plurilingualism and pluriculturalism. Educational institutions face the challenge of plurilingualism and pluriculturalism in their classrooms; for that reason, the materials developed in this project will contain activities aimed to raise awareness of plurilingualism and pluriculturalism in order to foster positive attitudes toward languages, their speakers and their cultures.

Language objectives included in the ConBaT+ materials should be incorporated into curriculum planning to ensure that students learn the content as well as the language associated with the content. Since the vision and goals of ConBaT+ also include multicultural competence and equity, the curriculum needs to reflect and value the students’ cultures by offering the pupils whose L1 is a minority language the opportunity to use it for specific activities, enriching the topics through their perspectives.

The aim of the ConBaT+ project is to produce materials in three languages, English, French, and Spanish, to teach any subject in the curriculum at primary and secondary level that can help to achieve the mentioned goals. The materials, produced by the team and some participants in the project, incorporate a variety of support (visual, audiovisual, art) and integrate the use of technology.

For further information, please see the full report on the LACS website.: <http://lacs.ecml.at> under *resources*