

## Introducing FREPA tools in Maltese primary schools

*A training and consultancy event organised in partnership with the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML)*

25 April 2014 – National Curriculum Centre, Hamrun, Malta

This event aims to provide primary school teachers, teacher educators and other multipliers with an opportunity to discuss current issues in relation to an inclusive view of language teaching and learning in a multilingual context, including the language of schooling, the pupils' home languages and foreign languages.

FREPA (Framework of Reference for Pluralistic Approaches to Languages and Cultures) represents a complement to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. The FREPA tools consist of (a) a comprehensive list of descriptors which operationalise intercultural and plurilingual competences in terms of knowledge, attitudes and skills, (b) a database of teaching material and (c) a training kit for teachers. These tools have been developed within the FREPA research project, which has been supported since 2004 by the Council of Europe's European Centre for Modern Languages. These materials can be adapted to suit various countries' curricular and syllabus requirements and learners' particular needs and are all available online. In the CARAP-FREPA database of online teaching materials, teachers will find activities which fall within the scope of pluralistic approaches to languages and cultures and can be adapted to their learners' needs. Teachers and teacher trainers can also use the training kit containing an introductory module and an on-line thematic module: FREPA and educational language policies. A second thematic module of FREPA focusing on the needs of learners and teachers in the classroom is also being developed; it will offer models that can be applied in order to look for solutions to problems of linguistic or intercultural origin.

Workshop participants will:

- discover pluralistic approaches as learners by using teaching materials from the FREPA database
- discuss which kind of knowledge, attitudes, and skills may be developed by using the teaching materials
- explore the FREPA-reference document
- reflect on the FREPA tools' relevance in a Maltese context and discuss how FREPA may be used in their fields of practice in the future

The training session will focus on the Maltese curriculum and specific needs in the primary school context. The FREPA project contact persons in Malta are Mr Raymond Facciol and Dr Phyllisienne Gauci.

## Programme

0815 - 0830	Registration and seating
0830 - 0845	Opening
0845 - 0930	Introduction to the ECML Pluralistic approaches and their application in the Maltese curriculum
0930 - 1045	Morning session 1 - The Framework of Reference for Pluralistic Approaches to Languages and Cultures (FREPA)
1045 - 1100	Coffee break
1100 - 1215	Morning session 2 - FREPA use in the Maltese context
1215 - 1245	Lunch break
1245 - 1400	Afternoon session - FREPA descriptors, database and FREPA for parents
1400 - 1430	Feedback and closing remarks
1430 - 1530	Follow-up to the workshop (only for network members and education officials)

The workshop will be conducted by Dr Ildikó Lőrincz and Brigitte Gerber.

**Ildikó Lőrincz, PhD**, works as full senior lecturer for linguistics and language learning/teaching at the University of Western Hungary. She has contributed to elaborate the CARAP/FREPA – Framework of Reference for Pluralistic Approaches to languages and cultures. After that she was involved in the project Plurilingual and Intercultural Competences: Descriptors and Teaching Materials, supported by the ECML in order to disseminate the tools developed within the FREPA project. Main areas of interest: implementation of pluralistic approaches and their impact on metalinguistic skills, development of plurilingual and intercultural competence at all levels, language policies, teaching and learning languages in the primary classroom.

**Brigitte Gerber** graduated from the University of Geneva in Russian, English and linguistics, and taught English in upper secondary schools for a number of years while also training teachers of English. She currently works as a lecturer in English didactics in the teacher training institute at the University of Geneva. She has been involved in several ECML projects related to the CEFR and CARAP; she is currently a team member of the project "Involving parents in plurilingual and intercultural education". Her main areas of interest are: plurilingualism, educational language policy and the training of teacher trainers.

**For more information about these and other initiatives organised by the EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES (ECML), visit the webpage: <http://www.ecml.at/>**

The ECML is a Council of Europe institution based in Graz, Austria.

In cooperation with the Language Policy Division of the Council, the Centre functions as a catalyst for reform in the teaching and learning of languages.

**ECML/CELV**

European Centre for Modern Languages, Nikolaiplatz 4, A-8020 Graz

T: 43 316 323554

F: 43 316 323554-4

