



**Majority language instruction as a basis for plurilingual education (MARILLE)**

**Mehrheitssprachenunterricht als Basis für plurilinguale Erziehung**

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**Medium-term project 2009 – 2011**

**Working languages:** English, German

**Project website:** <http://marille.ecml.at>

**Aim**

Will examine teachers' strategies in dealing with linguistic diversity in classrooms and investigate support currently given by education systems.

**Abstract**

The project deals with the integration of plurilingualism into the teaching of the majority language as a subject in secondary schools. The majority language, as defined by this project, is the official/one of the official languages used as medium of instruction in school, i.e. Bulgarian in Bulgaria, Spanish in Spain etc.

Today, many different languages are present in the classroom. As a result, the teaching of the majority language has to move away from traditional L1 teaching and integrate elements of L2 teaching, for the benefit of those whose L1 is different from the majority language.

Therefore, the pedagogy and practice of majority language teaching must at the same time be integrated into plurilingual education approaches such as "language across the curriculum" and "language awareness".

The project will look at the development of majority language instruction in secondary schools in ECML member states to find out about the strategies employed by classroom teachers. How do these strategies relate to the national/regional/local situation? How does curriculum reform deal with the challenges of multilingual societies and plurilingual students?

This project will cooperate with the World Federation of Modern Language Associations (FIPLV) and the Language Policy Division of the Council of Europe.

**Expected results**

- collection of strategies for change management in the field of plurilingual majority language teaching;
- illustrative case studies/ examples of good practice from a variety of countries;
- conclusions on how to transfer good ideas to other contexts in order to improve majority language teaching with regard for plurilingualism.

**Targeted sector:** secondary level

