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RE: Nomination of participants to the workshop “Developing competences for democratic culture for young learners through language education” (DECODE) within the framework of ‘Language education at the heart of democracy’, Graz, Austria, **24-25 November 2026**

Venue: ECML, Graz, Austria

Dates: 24-25 November 2026

Participants: 1 delegate per member state, to be nominated by the national nominating authorities

Working languages: English and German, with simultaneous interpretation

Deadline for nomination: 4 September 2026

Information on the project: www.ecml.at/decode

Workshop description

This workshop introduces the concept of Competences for Democratic Culture (CDC), as articulated in the *Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture* (RFCDC) (Council of Europe, 2018), and explores its relevance for language education at the primary level. During the workshop, the teaching materials on Competences for Democratic Culture in language education will be shared and discussed with the workshop participants. It will also include a presentation of the piloting results from nine ECML member states. The expected outputs are improved teaching materials that can be adapted to the participants' teaching context, as well as ideas for new CDC-based materials in language education. Furthermore, a draft version of the *Guidelines for the Implementation of Competences for Democratic Culture in Language Education* will be shared and discussed with the workshop participants. The expected output here is feedback on the Guidelines, which will be used to improve them. After the workshop, the participants will disseminate the CDC-based teaching materials and the Guidelines in their educational context.

The *Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture* (RFCDC) is available [here](#) in more than 15 languages.

Workshop focus

- To review and revise the *Guidelines for the Implementation of Competences for Democratic Culture in Language Education*, which aim to explain the rationale and the pedagogical principles underlying the developed teaching materials, and to offer steps and guidelines so that teachers can design their own CDC-based materials;
- To review and revise the CDC-based teaching materials in language education at the primary level;
- To discuss the developed teaching materials with respect to the participants' own professional contexts and to provide feedback on their experiences;
- To explore the possibility of implementing the materials in the participants' own teaching contexts.

Expected outcomes of the workshop for the participants

- Familiarisation with the Guidelines and the CDC-based teaching materials through discussion;
- Opportunities to discuss and implement the teaching materials in the participants' own professional contexts.

Expected products to be developed during the workshop

- *Guidelines for the Implementation of Competences for Democratic Culture in Language Education*, with a collection of CDC-based teaching materials at the primary level.

Profile of the participants: professional background

- Experienced (min. 3 years) class teachers and teachers of foreign/additional languages at primary schools;
- Experienced (min. 3 years) teacher educators working with pre- and/or in-service primary school teachers.

Expected involvement / tasks before, during and after the event

Before: Familiarising oneself with the CDC-based teaching materials and the draft Guidelines, and preparing feedback on them.

During: Discussing the Guidelines and the CDC-based teaching materials, providing feedback on them, and sharing relevant expertise on CDC in primary language education.

After: Participating in the dissemination of the CDC-based teaching materials and the Guidelines in one's own professional context and providing feedback to the project coordinator, either in writing or in the form of a video clip.