

Anna Schröder-Sura, project co-ordinator

« *Plurilingual and intercultural competences: Descriptors and teaching materials* »

To the representatives of the National Contact Points who have declared their interest in participating in this project

Giessen, 26 March 2012

Dear ECML National Contact Point,

On behalf of the team (Michel Candelier, Petra Daryai-Hansen, Ildikó Lőrincz) I would like to thank you for your interest in participating in our mediation project *Plurilingual and intercultural competences: Descriptors and teaching materials* (2012-2013).

Our purpose is to disseminate the tools developed within two projects (*ALC-Across Languages and Cultures*, 2004-2007; *CARAP/FREPA- A Framework of Reference for Pluralistic Approaches to languages and cultures*, 2008-2011). Their main objective was to support the efforts of professionals and educational authorities in Europe in order to facilitate the acquisition of plurilingual and intercultural competences among learners at all levels.

The tools developed within these two projects consist of (a) an organised list of descriptors of resources (knowledge, attitudes and skills) to be developed within plurilingual and intercultural education, (b) a database of teaching materials and (c) a training kit for teachers. This set of tools is available on the project website to everyone interested in them: <http://carap.ecml.at/>

As a network member you will be involved particularly in the dissemination task. You will be invited to

- participate in a network meeting in Graz (31 May – 1 June 2012). This meeting will contribute to a better understanding of the aims of our project and to the development of dissemination strategies;
- create a national network of teachers and teacher trainers in order to support your efforts;
- (if possible), organise, with our support, training for teachers and teacher trainers, introducing them to the FREPA-tools;
- provide teaching materials in your language adapted to the aims of the project and allowing the intended spread.

Actually, in its current state of development, the material bank is still composed of teaching materials in a few languages, thereby limiting its widespread usage by teachers of all European countries. By proposing teaching materials which already exist in your language, and/or by translating/adapting materials from other languages, you can contribute to making this bank a truly valuable educational resource for your country.

Participating in the network will offer you the possibility of sharing experiences with the project team members and the representatives of other National Contact Points.

All events in your country as well as your products and the names of the persons involved will be presented through an interactive map on our website.

We hope that after taking note of our propositions, you will confirm your request of participating in the network.

For a better understanding of your context, we kindly ask you to answer briefly the following questions. This will allow us to know if the *pluralistic approaches* promoted by the FREPA<sup>1</sup> are widespread in your country.

1. Are there teaching materials in your country dealing at the same time with several languages and/or cultures? If so, for which school levels?
2. Are there groups of teachers and/or researchers involved in the production, use, dissemination and evaluation of such materials?
3. Are such approaches recommended in your curricula, or at least compatible with them?

Please confirm your participation to the team members and give us a short feedback on these questions by email by 30 March 2012.

We thank you in advance for all the efforts you will be able to invest in our project.

On behalf of the team,



Anna Schröder-Sura, project co-ordinator

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<sup>1</sup> FREPA is the acronym for "Framework of Reference for Pluralistic Approaches to Languages and Cultures". The term "*pluralistic approaches to languages and cultures*" refers to didactic approaches which use teaching / learning activities involving **several** (i.e. more than one) varieties of languages or cultures. These approaches are known as *awakening to languages (language awareness* dealing with language diversity), the *intercomprehension of related languages, integrated didactic approaches to different languages studied* as well as *intercultural approaches*. See the FREPA website: <http://carap.ecml.at/>