

England / Angleterre

MULTILINGUALISM AND SOCIAL COHESION **How language learning can prepare children for 21st century citizenship**

1. General approach and framework :

The general aim of the training activities of the Pestalozzi Programme is to train education professionals to become multipliers for Council of Europe standards and values in education.

The work is based on three main pillars

- Content : standards and principles as well as project results of the Council of Europe
- Methodology : learner-centred, peer-training, collaborative work on issues of common concerns to find fit solutions for diverse contexts
- Four-fold concept of competences development : developing sensitivity and awareness, knowledge and understanding, individual practice, societal practice

2. Number : CoE 2012 **0227-0302 England**

3. Related Council of Europe Project :

[Mission of the Language Policy Division Strasbourg](#)

The Council of Europe Language education Policy aims to promote Social cohesion. i.e. Equality of opportunity for personal development, education, employment, mobility, access to information and cultural enrichment depends on access to language learning throughout life.

4. Dates : **27/2/2012 – 2/3/2012**

5. Deadline for application : **15/01/2012**

6. Working language(s) : **English**

7. Venue :

Address : Devonport House
King William Walk
Greenwich
London
SE10 9JW

Telephone : 0844 9890 2304

Fax : 020 8269 5401

E-mail : devonportsalesteam@deverevenues.co.uk

Web site : www.deverevenues.co.uk/locations/devonporthouse

8. Number of available places :

15 participants from the signatory States to the European Cultural Convention

15 participants from the host country

9. Target group :

Participants will be teachers or advisors of languages from primary, secondary and higher education. "Languages" could include any kind of new language learning. Priority will be given to participants who are prepared to share some past or ongoing work in the field (even quite modest examples welcome).

**10. Focus of the training activity :
Rationale and Aims**

The learning of other languages is critical for the citizens of the 21st century. Through languages they will have access to work and leisure opportunities in an increasingly mobile world. They will also learn to understand the complex realities and changing identities of our multilingual societies.

This workshop will examine in particular this second aspect - the ways that language learning can enhance individual understanding, support greater social cohesion and underpin mutual respect and tolerance. We will consider how the intercultural elements of language learning can be taught in different contexts, and how they might be evaluated. We will ask questions about the value of such "soft skills" – to the individual, to the economy and to society. We will share experiences from across Europe (and beyond) and seek to establish common ground and guidelines for teachers about the impact of languages on future citizens.

Content

The workshop will include plenary sessions from a policy maker and a researcher working in the field of multilingualism and intercultural understanding. The terms of reference will include not only "foreign" language teaching but also the teaching of English and community languages. This will provide a framework for discussion and debate.

We will also hear the perspectives of some key stakeholders – for example employers, civil society representatives. (Head) teachers and young people about the value (or otherwise) of languages.

Since the workshop is also intended to have practical outcomes there will be opportunities to visit London schools to observe examples of teaching, to discuss with other practitioners and provide evidence of what can be done.

Finally the participants themselves will be invited to present examples of work they have done – reports, activities, projects – in this field.

11. Outcomes

Participants will take away examples of teaching and assessment approaches in this area. We will also seek to establish a shared and agreed rationale – guidelines for future work – which will be distributed as a Workshop report subsequent to the event.

Participants will also be encouraged and enabled to establish ongoing links which could lead to further collaborative work in the future.

12. Outline of programme :

To be confirmed

Organising body :

Name &Address: British Council
10 Spring Gardens
London SW1A 2BN
Tel: 020 7239 4782
E Mail: Pestalozzi@britishcouncil.org
Web site; www.britishcouncil.org

13. European Workshop Director :

Name &Address: Christopher Rennie
British Council
10 Spring Gardens
London SW1A 2BN
Tel: 020 7239 4782
E Mail: Pestalozzi@britishcouncil.org

15. Travel and subsistence expenses :

Travel expenses :

Participants from the signatory States : Travel expenses of those participants are covered by the Council of Europe according to the rules.

Participants from the host country: Rail travel to the venue for UK participants will be reimbursed

Subsistence expenses :

Subsistence expenses are always covered by the host country for all participants. Any travel or activity, included in the programme of the European Workshop, should also be taken in charge by the host country.

16. Other information :

The success of the training activities depend on the commitment of all the participants. The programme will be highly interactive and priority will be given to applicants who can show that they are able to share some past or ongoing work in the field

By accepting to participate in the Pestalozzi programme, participants and facilitators agree to participate actively and assiduously in all the phases of the activity.

Information for participants from the signatory States to the European Cultural Convention :

Travel expenses : Participants benefiting from reimbursement of their travel expenses are advised to consult carefully on the website the section about "Rules". Application form : Candidates must send their application form duly completed to the National Liaison Officer of their country of residence. All information available on : <http://www.coe/Pestalozzi>