

NEWSLETTER 4

October 2021

Dear Colleagues, Language Teachers, Specialists in language education,
Welcome to the 4th Newsletter of the MiLLaT project.

If it is the first Newsletter of MiLLaT project that you are reading and if you would like to find out more about our project – who we are, what our goal is and which activities we have performed in the past year, please have a look at our project website [MiLLaT](#), and/or read our previous Newsletters: [Newsletter 1](#), [Newsletter 2](#), and [Newsletter 3](#).

If you have already come across and read our Newsletters and you are longing to know what has been accomplished since the beginning of this year, please, feel free to skip the section “**Who we are**” and start straight away with the section “**What we have done recently**”.

Who we are

We are a team of teachers from the language centres from 4 European universities (the University of Warsaw, Charles University, the University of Helsinki and Vytautas Magnus University), whose members started to work together in November 2019 and under the leadership of the Language Centre from the University of Warsaw started cooperation on the project MiLLaT – **Mediation in Language Learning and Teaching** – in the programme Erasmus+, Action 2.

What we have done recently

Although the world has been fighting the unprecedented global threats posed by the COVID-19 for the second year, depriving teachers and researchers of the opportunity to meet face-to face and share their research, modern life suggested new – digital - opportunities for communication and cooperation. During the period between issuing Newsletters 3 and 4 (May-October) the MiLLaT project was disseminated in two international online conferences and was heard by language teachers and researchers in various continents.

On June 4-5, our project partners from the Institute of Foreign Languages at Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania, held their 6th **International Scientific Conference SUSTAINABLE MULTILINGUALISM 2021** together with the Language Teachers’ Association of Lithuania. The online conference was attended by 232 registered participants from 31 countries of the world. For more information visit sustainablemultilingualism.com. The Lithuanian MiLLaT team delivered a poster presentation entitled ‘The Role of Linguistic and Cultural Mediation in Learning the Host Country’s Language’ (the authors of the poster: Almantė Meškauskienė, Daiva Pundziuvienė, Jūratė Matulionienė and Teresė Ringailienė). You can find the poster [here](#). A member of the Lithuanian MiLLaT team, Rima Sabaliauskienė, delivered a presentation entitled ‘The Application of Mediation Activities in Learning / Teaching Languages at A1/A2 levels’.

On September 9, the 1st International [MiLLaT Conference](#) – **MEDIATION IN LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING** was held, organized by the project members from the Language Centre at the University of Warsaw. The conference was designed for teachers from different types of schools (universities and colleges, secondary schools, language schools) and its **goals** were:

- to disseminate mediation in language learning and teaching,
- to make the general public aware of the mediation activities and strategies,
- to share the proven methods in language teaching and learning both in traditional class environment and also via online platforms.

The conference was held under the honorary patronage of the Polish Association of Modern Languages (PTN) and the [European Language Council](#).

The plenary speakers were experts in language policy and mediation concept development:

- prof. dr. **Jolanta Urbanikowa**, the Rector's Deputy for Bologna Process and Organisation of Language Provision, the University of Warsaw, Poland;
- prof. **Waldemar Martyniuk**, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, who spoke on the concept of Mediation in the CEFR-Companion Volume 2020: reaching out beyond language education;
- Prof. **Radosław Kucharczyk**, Head of the University Council for the Certification of Language Proficiency, University of Warsaw, who focuses on the implementation of European language policy including the mediation into the language teaching and learning;
- Dr **Maria Stathopoulou** from Hellenic Open University, the author of the book: Cross-Language Mediation in Foreign Language Teaching and Testing (2015), who as a member of a specialist team worked on the production of descriptors for mediation within CEFR;
- Dr **Piotr Romanowski**, University of Warsaw, Poland from the Faculty of Applied Linguistics of the University of Warsaw who focuses on multilingualism and multilingual teaching and presented "Polish L3 Teachers' Perceptions of Multilingualism: Language Awareness, Cross-Linguistic Influence and the Facilitative Role of L2 English";
- **Andrew Walkley**, National Geographic Learning, Lexical Lab, UK experienced English teacher and the author of a number of textbooks and, methodological guides.

The presenters joined the conference not only from Europe (Croatia, Finland, Italy, Lithuania, Romania, Scotland, Spain, UK) but also from more distant parts of the world (India, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea). It is evident that mediation is a topical issue across the world and that the news about the MiLLaT project and its outcomes has reached a broad audience of language teachers and specialists in the world.

What we have prepared

The MiLLaT team has prepared:

-- [*Materials Developing Mediation for Traditional and Synchronous Courses*](#), which offer multiple ideas for mediated in-class and synchronous teaching of English, French, Russian and Spanish.

-- [*Materials Developing Mediation for Asynchronous and Polysynchronous Online Courses*](#), where teachers can find a variety of tasks for mediated lessons of English, French and Spanish.

-- [*Mediation in Traditional and Synchronous Language Teaching – a Guide for Teachers*](#), which aims to introduce teachers to the implementation of mediation in their language teaching practice. The first part of the guide addresses the complex matter of mediation and its involvement in language teaching and learning. The second part presents the descriptions of and the guidelines to the selected tasks.

-- [*Mediation in Asynchronous and Polysynchronous Language Teaching – a Guide for E-Teachers*](#), which focuses on the skills needed to facilitate the understanding and communication of the message between different languages, cultures or modes. The guide also presents the descriptions of and the guidelines to the selected tasks.

What we are preparing

MiLLaTT project members are preparing their presentations to the forthcoming conferences where mediation and Millat project outcomes will be discussed and disseminated to broader audiences:

A research coordinator of the project - Sylwia Kossakowska-Pisarek (University of Warsaw, Poland) - is going to present *Mediation Activities and Strategies in Academic Learning* in the **6th Saarbrücken International Conference on Foreign Language Teaching** on 27–29 October 2021 (see the Abstract [here](#)).

The Lithuanian MiLLaT team members Vilma Bijeikienė and Nemira Mačianskienė (Vytautas Magnus University) are going to participate in [ICERI2021](#) - the 14th annual **International Conference of Education, Research and Innovation**, on 8-9 of November, 2021, and present their research under the title *The Impact of International Projects on Plurilingual and Pluricultural Competence Development at a University*, where the MiLLaT project activities and outcomes will be discussed.

We hope that our Newsletter has inspired you and that you are going to find out more about mediation and how to use it in language teaching and learning.

If you would like to know more about the project, please go to the project MiLLaT website.
<http://millat.uw.edu.pl/>

More interesting tips for mediation activities, intercultural competence development and news in language teaching and learning are to be found on our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Best wishes,
The MiLLaT TEAM