

PROMOTING QUALITY IN LANGUAGE TEACHING

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The Motto of the ICC Association – The International Certificate Conference Languages – is available at <http://icc-languages.eu/index.php>

Mobility has increased worldwide and the European Union promotes it through specific programmes such as ERASMUS+ for students and pupils. European legislation „Free movement of workers “allows all EU citizens to live in any EU country, to work, start a business or enjoy their retirement. It is something common nowadays for youth to communicate with youth from other countries on holidays or at home. And we shall not forget the refugees and the asylum seekers; our countries are "colourful" and varied.

Language and foreign languages are needed in all these cases. Mastering our national language is not enough; we need foreign languages too if we want to understand the other and to be understood by them.

Our language shapes our thoughts and actions, language can heal or hurt, we comfort or hurt people through language; we also face the risk that insufficient mastering of the other language could easily lead to major misunderstandings.

Good foreign language teaching is of absolute importance. It should involve intercultural dimensions in the teaching process, respect students by offering them interesting and challenging teaching materials and taking into account their learning needs and habits.

We work to achieve these objectives. We can present excellent examples of teaching materials, language tests, course layout and teacher training.

We are very active in the following areas: a framework based on competence in teaching foreign languages for lecturers with less or no prior teaching experience: EUROLTA - <http://eurolta.jimdo.com/> - a programme developed within a EU project involving organizations from 10 countries, including one from Romania: The University of Pitești. The mutual training modules are compulsory for everyone, but each centre can develop teaching materials suitable for their and the participants` needs as well as teaching materials in their mother tongue. ICC issues certificates based on the participants` portfolios.

The following two projects are developed around intercultural communication: DEW - Diverse Europe at Work - <http://www.dew-net.eu/> - intercultural communication at work place; and LINGUAPEACE - <http://www.linguapeace-europe.net/> - language teaching materials for military, police and other professional categories involved in peacekeeping; this project was one among than other projects awarded for good practices in Helsinki in 2006.

The association is always active in European projects; two projects were closed in 2013: **CHINESE FOR EUROPEANS** - www.chinese4.eu – and **PICT - Promoting Intercultural Competence in Translators** - www.pictllp.eu. Both projects were very practical; Chinese or Europeans provides online courses for tourists, students, businessmen and children; the modules for tourists are very handy because they can be installed as a phone application. Apart from this, all Europeans can learn Chinese in their mother tongue because the modules are translated into 26 European languages. PICT involved the development of a curricular framework for integrating intercultural modules in training interpreters and translators.

This year EUROVERSITY - <http://www.euroversity.eu/> - should come to an end. It focused on the development of a virtual teaching and learning network. Our institution has created many teaching examples, mostly for foreign languages but also for other subjects. You are kindly invited to have a closer look at this project or any other you are interested in.

ICC has been working for over 30 years in quality assurance in teaching foreign languages. Initially, it functioned as a foreign language certification centre but nowadays it focuses on training foreign language lectures for adult education and quality assurance of teaching materials, language tests and course layout.

ICC organizes annually a conference on topic of interest in foreign language teaching. This conference is open to anyone – you are kindly invited to apply!