

20 September 2016

## **Public Summary: Dissemination Network Meeting September 13 and 14, 2016 University of Trento, Italy**

The first day was dedicated to exchanging information between all BM branches. The BM headquarters opened the day, followed by presentations by all BM branches and three case studies of successful activities and achievements of BM branches. The second day was dedicated to local projects and forming networks. The day started with poster presentations of all present BM branches and an opening session of the BM headquarters. After that, four local stakeholders and two local project coordinators gave a presentation.

### **September 13, Tuesday**

The aim of the first day of the dissemination meeting was to give all Bilingualism Matters branches the opportunity to present their current updates. The audience consisted of representatives of the Bilingualism Matters branches, members of the dissemination team (WP6) and researchers from the University of Trento.

**Session 1:** Antonella Sorace, Bilingualism Matters Headquarters@Edinburgh, Engaging non-academic audiences in bilingualism research. Opportunities and challenges.

Antonella Sorace started with a session about engaging non-academic audiences in bilingualism research. She pointed out the importance of informing non-academic audience about myths and facts of bilingualism. She explained how we can create bridges between different areas of research and between research and the community. She gave examples of interdisciplinary research, involving bilingual families and schools, of working with volunteers and of collaboration with the private sector.

Furthermore, she presented the activities and structure of the Bilingualism Matters Headquarters.

The main areas of engagement are 'language learning over the lifespan', 'bilingualism in migrant families', 'bilingualism in regional minority languages' and 'bilingualism and health'. The presentation was concluded with the expected results from ATHEME. Raising awareness about the positive impacts of multilingualism will result in better decisions in several fields:

- In the field of language learning ((early language learning at schools and language learning in older people).
- In the field of minority languages (transmission, preserving and documenting of minority languages).
- In the field of businesses (investing in language skills to improve communication with international partners and to improve business skills)
- In the field of Health (atypical bilingualism and dementia)

**Session 2:** Bilingualism Matters branches' presentations.

During this session all ATHEME branches of Bilingualism Matters gave a presentation of 10 minutes. They specifically focused on current updates related to their activities, target audience and core message.

**Zentrum für Mehrsprachigkeit**

University of Konstanz

Presented by: Tanja Rinker

This center for multilingualism in Germany provides research, information and consultation. They have three main research interests: the development of early, late first and second language acquisition during infancy, childhood and adulthood; the influence of linguistic and sociological factors on heritage language maintenance or loss; and the role of sociological factors on the maintenance or survival of minority languages in modern North America and Europe.

**Bilingualism Matters@Rijeka**

University of Rijeka

Presented by: Tihana Kraš

BM@Rijeka in Croatia aims to disseminate scientific findings about multilingualism outside academia, to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of multilingualism and to promote multilingualism in their local area. They achieve this by organizing activities such as talks, seminars, workshops and quizzes but also by distributing brochures, presenting posters and organizing a Tandem Language Learning Programme.

**Bilingualism Matters@NL**

De Taalstudio

Presented by: Anna de Graaf

This branch in The Netherlands is an information centre for parents, educators and researchers. Their aim is to make the public aware of the fact that multilingualism provides opportunities for children and families. To reach their audience they maintain a website and several social media pages, they organize events, they distribute a newsletter and they provide opportunities for trainees. BM@NL collaborates with three ATHEME partners in The Netherlands: the Meertens Institute, Utrecht University and Leiden University.

**Bilingualism Matters@Nantes**

Université de Nantes

Presented by: Elizabeth Heredia Murilo and Jieun Bark

BM@Nantes from France presented their most current activities. They gave several workshops about multilingualism to: parents, elementary teachers, foreign language teachers, university teachers, researchers and university students. They exchanged bilingual and plurilingual experiences, supported parents of bilingual children and

communicated scientific information to teachers about being multilingual.

**Večjezičnost velja**

University of Nova Gorica

Presented by: Penka Stateva

The Slovenian branch serves multilingual communities, parents raising multilingual children, school teachers, and general public in Slovenia and nearby Italian provinces. Their main target groups are multilingual families and schools. To reach these groups they gave several presentations about multilingualism in Slovenian secondary schools.

**Bilingualism Matters@UPV/EHU**

University of the Basque Country

Presented by: Adam Zawiszewski

The main objective of this branch in Spain is to provide information and advice on cognitive and linguistic aspects of multilingualism to families, practitioners working with bi- and multilingual people and policy makers. To reach this objective they organized several activities. Among other things, they participated in the Brain Awareness Week, they gave interviews on radio, television and in newspapers and they organized lectures on, for example, bilingual aphasia.

**Bilinguismo conta@Trento**

University of Trento and Verona University

Presented by: Jan Casalicchio and Maria Vender

This Italian branch is a collaboration of the University of Trento and Verona University. They focus on preschool children, heritage languages, minority languages and multilingualism and language pathology. For each of these themes they organize specific activities such as meetings with educators and children, conferences for teachers and public debates in villages.

**Session 3: Bilingualism Matters branches' presentations.**

During this session the non-ATHEME branches of Bilingualism Matters branches gave a presentation of 10 minutes. Their main focus was on introducing their BM branch to the ATHEME BM branches.

**Flere språk til flere**

University of Tromsø.

Presented by: Øystein Vangsnes

The BM branch in Norway aims to provide support to families, teachers and other people affected by



multilingualism. They have given over 50 talks to a variety of audiences in the whole of Norway and a few times in Sweden. In the fall of 2016 a second branch of Bilingualism Matters in Norway will open at Trondheim University of Science.

### **Me 2 glosses**

University of Thessaloniki

**Presented by:** Marina Mattheoudakis

The mission of this BM branch in Greece is to bridge the gap between scientific research and the community, to promote plurilingualism and to contact policy makers. To achieve this they gave more than 20 public talks in schools, participated in events related to multilingualism and participated in research projects and scientific workshops.

### **Bilinguismo conta@Milano Bicocca**

University of Milan

**Presented by:** Maria Teresa Guasti

This BM branch from Italy collaborates with the Italian BM branch in Trento. Their main activities are organizing conferences on: bilingual schools, schools with immigrant children and cultural associations. Furthermore, they also organize conferences for educators involved with deaf children and for educators and professionals involved in the detection of language impairments and dyslexia.

### **BM@Reading**

University of Reading

**Presented by:** Theo Marinis

The main scope of this BM branch in the UK is coordinating public outreach and knowledge exchange activities with parents, educators and policy makers. Furthermore, they also support Reading-based partners in funding bids and research dissemination, they develop branch strategy and impact across England and they provide public interaction via press and social media.

### **Bilinguismo conta@Siena**

Foreigners University of Siena

**Presented by:** Valentina Carbonara

This Italian BM branch also collaborates with the Italian BM branch in Trento. They focus on sociolinguistic research and promoting linguistic and cultural diversity. This branch conducted until now 33 activities, from participating in conferences to organising seminars and promoting the BM branch and their counselling center. Their main target group are teachers but they also reach parents, children,

general public, immigrant associations and academics.

### **Bilingualism Matters@Rutgers**

Rutgers University

**Presented by:** Anne Lingwall

The BM branch @Rutgers based in the USA is mostly working with graduate students and focused on organizing activities about multilingualism. Each semester they organize three activities. From a bilingual literacy workshops for parents and children to workshops for parents about the benefits of bilingualism in several languages.

### **Session 4: Case studies and discussion.**

Three BM branches gave a case study presentation of a successful activity or achievement.

### **Tandem Language Learning Programme,**

Bilingualism Matters@Rijeka

**Speaker:** Tihana Kraš

Tandem Language Learning is an informal method of foreign language learning that involves pairs of proficient speakers who learn each other's language by means of regular conversational sessions. Ana Bratulić and Siniša Smiljanić from BM@Rijeka organized several tandem formats and achieved 86 successful matches. The most popular language exchanges are English and Croatian followed by Italian, German and Spanish. Most participants are university students but they also reach local high school students through their network.

### **Collaboration with researchers**

Zentrum für Mehrsprachigkeit

**Speaker:** Tanja Rinker

Dissemination activities of the Center for Multilingualism have resulted in new funding opportunities. They organized several events focused on growing up with more than one language. Representatives of the city day care system and elementary schools of Konstanz participated in these events. In the meantime, the University of Konstanz opened an opportunity to apply for funds within the theme 'transfer from science into practice (and back)'. The Center for Multilingualism applied together with the city day care administration, the school board for elementary schools and the Italian General consulate. They received funding to collect regional data on multilingual language development & reading acquisition in the state of Baden-Württemberg. This



case study presentation demonstrates that outreach activities are important to get in contact with other organisations and opportunities.

### **Activities for the general public**

Bilingualism Matters@Penn State

Speaker: Frances Blanchette

This branch of BM from Pennsylvania State University in the USA presented a case study about engaging the local community. They created partnerships with several local organisations such as campus preschools, child care centers, book stores and local libraries. Their events are geared toward families, parents and children. In order to make information about multilingualism interesting and accessible they invented several interactive games such as 'The Great Language Game', 'Multilingual Animal Sounds', 'Waveform Nametags', 'Live EEG demonstrations' and 'Bilingual Face Painting'. To find out which topics are of relevance for the local community they talk to parents, families and teachers at local schools and they invite community representation on their steering committee.

## **September 14, Wednesday**

The aim of the second day of the dissemination meeting was to present (results of) local AThEME research (WP2: regional languages) and to create interaction between local AThEME stakeholders/projects and the participating BM branches. The audience consisted of representatives of the Bilingualism Matters branches, members of the dissemination team, researchers from the University of Trento and local stakeholders. Before and after session 1 all participants were invited to join the poster presentations and to network with participating BM representatives.

**Session 1:** Antonella Sorace, Bilingualism Matters Headquarters@Edinburgh, *Opportunità e sfide nella ricerca sul bilinguismo.*

This session was comparable with the opening session of day 1 (English), but in the local language (Italian) and with a special focus on regional minority languages. The first aim was to inform local stakeholders, local projects and local researchers about multilingualism, engaging non-academic audiences in bilingualism research and the AThEME project; the second aim was to present some

relevant research on bilingualism with minority languages such as Sardinian and Gaelic.

### **Session 2: Local stakeholders' presentations.**

The local stakeholders' presentations were focused on regional (minority) languages. Collaboration with these local stakeholders contributes to:

- increasing general understanding of what multilingualism with regional minority languages actually means, from a linguistic, cognitive and social perspective.
- exploring strategies which can be used to successfully maintain regional bi- and multilingualism as well as the effects of such strategies.

### **The Ladin cultural Institute**

Majon di Fascegn, Vigo di Fassa

Presented by: Fabio Chiocchetti

The Ladin cultural institute 'Majon di Fascegn' has put effort into the following tools and resources: a dictionary (Italian to Ladin of Vigo di Fassa - DILF), a spell-checker and a platform called NEO for the development of terminology. All of these are available online. Currently, they are focusing on a translation machine called JUDE. They are planning a new release of the machine that should correct errors, increase the lexicon and adapt the grammar rules. Their aim is to adjust the tool to the particular texts it has been created for (translation of documents written by the public administration). However, the machine could prove to be useful not only to the public administration but also to schools, enabling the elaboration of scientific texts in Ladin.

### **The Cimbrian cultural Institute**

Kulturinstitut Lusern, Lusern

Presented by: Annamaria Trenti

The Cimbrian cultural institute is focused on the following strategic themes: intergenerational transfer of the language, communication, education and language and economy. Most of the initiatives in which it is engaged concern the area of education. (support to bilingual Cimbrian and Italian primary schools). Some parents indicated that they had doubts about bilingual education; therefore the institute contacted the BM branch of Trento. Furthermore, the institute supports bilingual Summer Camps and a bilingual kindergarten. Related to the field of communication, they have a weekly review where they present games, songs and



cartoons for children to facilitate the approach to the Cimbrian language.

#### **The Mòcheno cultural Institute**

Bersntoler Kulturinstitut, Palù del Fersina

Presented by: Mauro Buffa

The Bersntoler Kulturinstitut is active in three main areas: linguistics, culture and ethnography and communication. They publish grammar texts, they work on the development of vocabulary, they curate exhibitions and three museum sites, they realize a four-monthly magazine and they have a television program and documentaries in Mòcheno. Moreover, the Institute is working on a database of the language, they organize a writing contest for students and pupils, they offer scholarships to study German, they organize linguistic normalization study groups and they publish children's books and graphic novels in Mòcheno. Their main struggles are encouraging teenagers to speak Mòcheno, to spread the written language and to emphasize cultural as well as economic value of the language.

#### **The Ladin cultural Institute**

Cesa de Jan, Colle S. Lucia

Presented by: Isabella Marchione and Moreno Kerer

The fundamental activities of the Ladin cultural institute 'Cesa de Jan' are the creation of help desks, rehabilitation of Ladin toponyms and publications. The publications concern a dictionary, a didactic tool and a magazine to spread and promote the activities of the institute (published 3 to 4 times a year). In the field of toponyms, the institute produces bilingual road signs, together with an atlas of bilingual toponymy of Cortina d'Ampezzo. The current ongoing projects involve a new grammar of Ladin and the expansion of the dictionary. Other activities for the promotion of Ladin language are a poetry contest (extended to all minority languages of Italy) and touristic activities aiming at the interaction with the territory, such as visiting a museum, visiting historical mines and attending a demonstration of tailoring costumes.

### **Session 3: Local projects' presentations.**

#### **Language puzzle demonstration,**

University of Trento

Presented by: Roberto Zamparelli and Luca

Ducceschi

The Language Puzzle is a project of WP6 (dissemination). The development of the project started in 2011 in Trento. The aim was to develop a

game to make the structures of language understandable. The starting point had been the acknowledgment that linguistics is not taken into consideration enough as a scientific subject. Therefore, a physical and touchable hands on model was developed. The puzzle model focuses on syntax, especially on the tree structure (with the construction of syntactic trees), in order to disambiguate structures which are difficult to interpret in Italian. Furthermore, the Language Puzzle (PuzzLing) of 2016 aims at comparing structures of Italian, English and German.

#### **Vinko - "Varieties in contact"**

University of Trento

Presented by: Jan Casalicchio, Patrizia Cordin and

Antonio Mattei

VinKo is a project developed by WP2 AThEME groups of Trento and Verona working on regional languages, especially in the area between Innsbruck and Verona (called the Athesis area). The main goal is to discover the relevance of minority languages and local varieties and the type of contact there is between South Tyrolean dialect and dialects of Trentino. VinKo is a system that enables the collection of a large amount of oral data through an online platform, which is crucial for an inquiry on micro-variation. As more people access the program and record their pronunciation, the corpus of language varieties grows. The online platform offers a questionnaire divided into three parts: sociolinguistic profile, syntax and phonological analysis. The platform is active at: <https://www.dipsco.unitn.it/vinko/>.

