

## **Minutes of the annual CertiLingua conference on 6 & 7 May 2010 in Eupen / Belgium**

List of attendance, please see attachment

### **1. Reports from the participating countries**

#### **Austria:**

Momentarily there are 7 CertiLingua schools in Austria. This year there will be again about 15 candidates to be awarded the label. In his report Mr Mittendorfer stresses the label's aim of also fostering *active involvement* and *active citizenship* and the importance to accentuate and maintain the idea of excellence.

#### **German-speaking community in Belgium:**

Within the German-speaking community in Belgium there are 9 upper secondary schools which already participate in many projects. 1 school with a bilingual branch is accredited. 6 pupils will be awarded the label in July.

#### **France:**

CertiLingua is still in its beginnings in France, the Memorandum was signed last year. CertiLingua is primarily introduced to schools with a focus on European affairs (section européenne), at first only with English and German as foreign languages.

#### **Netherlands:**

12 schools are involved in the CertiLingua-programme. All participating schools are bilingual or ELOS-schools. There were 17 CertiLingua applicants in 2009, this year the number will be about the same. On the whole there are about 120 bilingual schools in the Netherlands which could be recruited for CertiLingua. Many schools in the Netherlands have voiced their interest in Junior CertiLingua.

#### **Rhineland-Palatinate:**

In Rhineland-Palatinate there are 7 CertiLingua-schools, another 3 schools will join the programme soon. All schools are schools with bilingual branches. Between 2008 and 2010 about 60 pupils were certified, 23 of those this year.

#### **Hesse:**

There are 16 CertiLingua-schools, this year about 78 candidates were certified. The certificate is only awarded if certain grades are obtained. The European Language Portfolio is obligatory for CertiLingua-schools.

### **German Länder:**

In addition to the reports from Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse an overview of the situation in Germany is given. On the whole there are 92 certified schools. Just recently the first two schools were accredited in Mecklenburg Western-Pomerania.

All German Länder stress the importance of the open work group of the standing council of the ministers of education, which is continued after the pilot phase. Moreover, all representatives of the German Länder emphasize the idea of excellence and the importance of quality control. The schools also demand that the quality criteria are meticulously observed.

### **German schools abroad:**

There are 135 German schools abroad. In March 2009 they have signed the Memorandum of Understanding. The first German school abroad is the German school in Helsinki, the German school in Brussels is interested in the label as well.

#### **German school in Helsinki:**

530 pupils attend the school of which about 80% are Finish. The establishment of a subject „European Studies“ in English provides the basis also for the German pupils to fulfill the requirements for CertiLingua. This year, 5 pupils will receive their certificates.

## **2. Reports from the workgroups**

### **Group 1**

#### **Quality control and evaluation Franz Mittendorfer / Ruth De Sy**

The workgroup proposes changes for the following documents that were voted upon in the plenum.

**Document (2010-1) requirements for the awarding of the European label of excellence CertiLingua for plurilingual, European and international competences**

#### **suggestion:**

The requirements remain unchanged, the following sentence is inserted into the document before the requirements are listed:

*„CertiLingua has to be understood as a label of excellence, which is awarded to students who have demonstrated an outstanding overall competence integrating the following areas:“*

This suggestion was unanimously accepted.

Document (2010-7) Application for renewed accreditation

**suggestions:**

- In case of a renewed accreditation the schools still need to discuss the application in the school board.
- The validity of a renewed accreditation is to be prolonged to 5 instead of 3 years. In case of initial accreditation it remains 3 years.
- In case of renewed accreditation a short report by the CertiLingua coordinator has to be enclosed.

These suggestions were unanimously accepted.

Document (2010-15) Certificate of Accreditation

**suggestions:**

- The validity of the accreditation is to be given in academic years.
- The design of the certificate is not standardized. A possible example will be provided under the optional documents on the homepage.

These suggestions were unanimously accepted.

Document (2010-14) Feedback Form for Schools

**suggestions:**

- The feedback form is to be revised, so that it's obvious at an early stage if there will be candidates in the corresponding year or not. If there are no candidates, only changes as compared to the last year and statistical information have to be provided.
- For an initial accreditation everything has to be filled in, though.
- The feedback concerning the numbers of pupils newly registered at the school is no longer necessary.
- The feedback form is compulsory for CertiLingua-schools and has to be sent to the country representative by 1 September.
- If schools do not hand in their feedback form in time, it may lead to the loss of accreditation. The decision is to be made by the country's representatives.

These suggestions were unanimously accepted.

**Group 2**

## **Public recognition of CertiLingua Henny Rönneper / Chantal Junot**

The following aspects were discussed in the group:

### **Cooperation with universities**

Additional universities are to be won for the sponsor group. The registration offices have to be contacted in order to reach advantages for CertiLingua applicants when entering a university.

The cooperation with universities could be further promoted by opening CertiLingua as a field of study to them. There are many possible topics for research papers leading to a Bachelor or Master Degree (Foreign Language Learning in CLIL, Linguistic competence when the language course at school is not continued, intercultural learning, etc.). Concerning this aspect the schools' feedback is of vital importance. The stored feedback forms might turn out to be interesting data for possible research.

CertiLingua and science could also be better connected by linking schools and universities, e.g. in the context of internships required at CertiLingua-schools or specific teacher training programmes.

One sponsor, the university of applied science *FOM* in Essen, Germany, ([www.fom.de](http://www.fom.de)) has organized seminars for pupils that were free for CertiLingua applicants.

From 30 September 2010 to 2 October 2010 there will be an international CLIL conference at Eichstätt University. Mrs Rönneper will promote CertiLingua during this meeting.

### **Sponsor group**

In April 2010 a newsletter was sent to all sponsors to report on the label's development and success. The letter can be retrieved on the homepage as an example for further use.

### **Public events:**

Sponsors should be asked more often to support public school events. The schools are therefore asked to look for and nurse such contacts.

In Thuringia, for example, there will be a very ceremonious awarding event this year, in order to attract more public recognition and potential sponsors.

In Brandenburg and Berlin a joint advertising campaign for CertiLingua is planned.

### **Alumni:**

It has to be asked which advantages CertiLingua offers pupils for their studies or their jobs. This is why the category *alumni* is added to the school feedback form, to motivate schools to stay in touch with their alumni and thus be able to report on their success at university or on their job.

#### Document (2010-14) Feedback form for schools

##### **suggestion:**

- The feedback form for schools should also ask for reports of alumni concerning the advantages they had from CertiLingua at university or on the job.

This suggestion was unanimously accepted.

##### **Public appearance:**

At *Google* the search term *CertiLingua* leads to many results. That means apart from the ministries of the participating countries also many participating schools and other partners post information on the label on the internet.

##### **CertiLingua in the press:**

It is suggested to collect articles on CertiLingua automatically by using a *Google Alert*. The technical feasibility has to be checked. Meanwhile articles on CertiLingua are welcome by email to the Ministry of Education in Düsseldorf.

##### **Partner schools:**

The CertiLingua-schools are asked to win their partner schools abroad as CertiLingua-schools in order to further expand the label.

##### **Foundations:**

Political and non-profit foundations have to be contacted in order to find sponsors for pupils' face-to-face projects and other scholarships.

##### **New partner countries**

The following suggestions are made to win new partner countries:

- England: contact SSAT
- Include EU-educational programmes
- Use international delegation visits

All partners are called upon to put these suggestions into practice and add their own ideas of how to increase the label's public recognition.

**Group 3**

**Junior CertiLingua Hartmut Ebke, Katinka van Vuure**

The workgroup suggests a draft for the awarding criteria of a European label of excellence with the working title „Junior-CertiLingua“. The following results were presented:

**Junior-CertiLingua  
Draft (revised)**

<b>Requirements for schools</b>	<b>Anforderungen an die Schulen</b>
<p>Schools are required to provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• courses in foreign languages in 2 or more modern languages until the end of lower secondary school;</li> <li>• bilingual (CLIL) courses in one or more non-language subjects with a minimum of 60 full hours during the last two years of lower secondary education;</li> <li>• instruction that covers European and international matters and offer at least one face-to-face project with students and partners from other countries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fremdsprachliche Unterrichtsangebote in mindestens 2 modernen Fremdsprachen bis zum Ende der Sekundarstufe I</li> <li>• Bilinguale Unterrichtsangebote in einem Sachfach in der Sekundarstufe I im Umfang von mindestens 60 Zeitstunden während der letzten beiden Jahre der Sekundarstufe I</li> <li>• Unterrichtliche Angebote über europäische und internationale Zusammenhänge und Angebot eines oder mehrerer internationaler Begegnungsprojekte mit unterrichtlichem Bezug</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements for students: Junior CertiLingua is a label of excellence which demands an overall competence above average integrating the following areas:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anforderungen für Schüler: Junior CertiLingua versteht sich als Exzellenzlabel, dessen Vergabe den Nachweis einer überdurchschnittlichen Gesamtkompetenz voraussetzt, die die folgenden Teilbereiche integriert:</li> </ul>
<p>Students are required to document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• their competences in two modern foreign languages taught at school at the level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR);</li> <li>• their active participation in at least</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nachweis von Kompetenzen in zwei modernen, an der Schule unterrichteten Fremdsprachen mindestens auf dem Niveau B1 des Gemeinsamen Europäischen Referenzrahmens</li> <li>• Nachweis der erfolgreichen Anwendung bilingualer</li> </ul>

<p>one bilingual course of a core subject in lower secondary education;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• their European and international competences (Common Framework for European Competences – CFEC – level 3); based on corresponding instruction and a successful face-to-face project of three days or more which is linked to curricular activities.</li></ul>	<p>Kompetenzen in mindestens einem Regelfach des Curriculums der Sekundarstufe I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nachweis europäischer und internationaler Kompetenzen (CFEC Niveau 3) über erfolgreich absolvierte entsprechende unterrichtliche Angebote und ein mehrtägig durchgeführtes internationales Begegnungsprojekt mit unterrichtlichem Bezug</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More specific requirements: Documentation: 4 pages text</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weitere Anforderungen: Reiner Textanteil der Dokumentation: 4 Seiten</li></ul>

The discussion in the plenum showed, however, that there is a major need for further consultation.

It concerns primarily the following aspects:

- In addition to which school diploma can the label be awarded? Is there any internationally comparable lower secondary diploma at all?
- How can it be made sure that such a label really certifies outstanding feats and not aspects that are required by the schools anyway?
- Isn't it likely that pupils that can be certified for their outstanding performance at the end of lower secondary will continue their school education and will be able to reach CertiLingua anyway?
- How can it be guaranteed that the two labels won't be mixed up?
  - Doesn't it make sense to search for a different name - without *CertiLingua*?
- Might not the negative consequences for the successfully established label CertiLingua be higher than the positive effects attained by a junior label?
- Is the existing CertiLingua network to be used for the Junior label as well? Can it master this additional task at all?
- What will the Memorandum say that is to be signed by the participating countries' education authorities?

The country representatives agreed to further discuss these questions on a national and regional level and send their suggestions to Mrs van Vuure and Prof. Ebke (cc to Mrs Rönneper).

The next annual conference will deal with the issue again.

### 3. Resolutions

The following obligatory documents were changed and will be made available in their new version on the homepage:

Document	Language	Document-No.	changes
Vergabekriterien	Deutsch	2010-1-DE	
Awarding requirements	English	2010-1-EN	Idea of excellence stressed by additional sentence
Antrag auf Anerkennung	Deutsch	2010-07-DE	
Application for accreditation	English	2010-07-EN	Just one form also for renewed accreditation, additional short report with renewed accreditation , additional category <i>Alumni</i>
Rückmeldebogen Schulen	Deutsch	2010-14-DE	
Feedback form schools	English	2010-14-EN	Obligatory form, due September 1 <sup>st</sup>

- The *Feedback form for participating countries* has to be revised, because it seems to call for rather unspecific data. The current form (2009 – 13) stays principally valid for the time being. Only editorial changes will be made.
- The Feedback form from participating countries is due on **1 October** of the corresponding year.
- Statistical information concerning foreign languages, CLIL classes and face-to-face projects is requested in an optional part.

#### 4. End of the international annual conference

In a short final report Mrs Vogt underlines the impulses for school development caused by CertiLingua on the basis of her experience at the Maria-Wächtler-Gymnasium, Essen, a CertiLingua-school:

- Promoting foreign language learning at schools
- Promoting CLIL at schools
- Stressing European and international topics in the curricula of the school's subjects
- Increasing the pupils' motivation to use the learning opportunities of their schools

In the name of all participants Mrs Rönneper, the chairwoman of the international steering group, thanks Mrs De Sy and Mrs Senster of the Ministry of Education of the

German-speaking community in Belgium for their hospitality and the successful organization of the annual conference. She also thanks all participants for their committed participation.

The **next annual conference** will take place from **11 – 12 April 2011 in Berlin**. The annual conference 2012 is planned for September in Helsinki.

The presentations of the annual conference will be provided on the homepage. A restricted area is under construction where documents in word-format and other materials will be made available.

All partner countries are asked to submit particularly appealing project documentations in order to publish them on the homepage and to serve as role-models for CertiLingua schools.

The present list of CertiLingua schools is added. All partners are kindly asked to update the list and inform the Ministry of Education in Düsseldorf about necessary alterations ([martin.teuber@msw.nrw.de](mailto:martin.teuber@msw.nrw.de)).

#### **Attachments**

List of attendance

List of CertiLingua schools