

Network for multilingualism and linguistic diversity in Europe
Netzwerk für Mehrsprachigkeit und sprachliche Vielfalt in Europa

Dragi udeleženci regionalnega posveta omrežja RML2future v Celovcu!
Dear participants of the Regional Conference of the network RML2future in Celovec / Klagenfurt!



Dobrodošli – Herzlich willkommen! – Welcome! – Benvenuti! – Dobro došli!

Zelo smo veseli, da vas lahko okoli evropskega dneva jezikov pozdravimo kot udeležence regionalne konference omrežja „RML2future“ – omrežja za večjezičnost in jezikovno raznolikost v Evropi tukaj v Celovcu.

We are very pleased to welcome you as participant of the Regional Conference of the network “RML2future” – Network for Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity in Europe in Celovec / Klagenfurt around the European Day of Languages.

Together with the Council of the Carinthian Slovenes in Austria, the Network for Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity, RML2future, organises the **third Regional Conference from 25-27 September 2011 in Celovec / Klagenfurt, Austria**. The aim of the network is to promote multilingualism and linguistic diversity in Europe, actively involving the regional and minority languages.

Pre-school and school education play an important role in early language learning. During the 3rd Regional Conference of the network RML2future on the subject of Early Multilingualism the main topic will be a discussion on the European objective of multilingualism from an early age on in the context of minority languages and the bilingualism and multilingualism that is already there in multilingual regions.

The experiences and projects implemented in daycare centres and schools in Carinthia, in the border region of Austria, Slovenia and Italy in regard to bilingual, trilingual and quadrilingual language teaching give a good basis for reflection.

To enable a successful Regional Conference for all of us, we provide you with some information in advance:



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Evropski dan jezikov / European Day of Languages: 26 September



The European Day of Languages is celebrated each year and has its origins in the enthusiasm with which it was celebrated in 2001 (the European Year of Languages).

The European Year of Languages 2001 consisted of several initiatives: contests, festivals, radio and television shows, open days in language centres, free introductory courses, conferences, seminars and publications. For more information, see <http://edl.ecml.at>

The European Day of Languages aims at raising attention for the importance of language learning, to raising awareness for all languages spoken in Europe and promote lifelong learning. This day is also a good occasion to strengthen existing partnerships, on local, regional, national or international level.

On 26 September therefore in all 47 member states of the Council of Europe activities will take place in which linguistic diversity and learning other languages are celebrated.

Also we, the Network for Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity in Europe, would like to contribute to the 10th European Day of Languages and therefore we organise our third Regional Conference around the European Day of Languages.

In several parts of the programme, such as our visit to a school in Celovec / Klagenfurt, the offer to school students to get to know the regional and minority languages and a language quiz, will raise attention for this.



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**Celovec ob Vrbskem jezeru / Klagenfurt am Wörthersee / Klagenfurt on Lake
Wörthersee**

www.klagenfurt.at



Klagenfurt on Lake Wörthersee, German **Klagenfurt am Wörthersee**, Slovenian **Celovec ob Vrbskem jezeru**, is the capital of the Austrian federal Land of Carinthia. It has 94,303 inhabitants (1 January 2011) and is the largest town of Carinthia and the sixth town of Austria. The town lies in the centre of the Klagenfurt Basin and has a surface area of 120.11 km².

Klagenfurt was mentioned for the first time in a document from 1192/99. There are several important buildings in Klagenfurt such as the Land House and the cathedral.

Today the statutory city of Klagenfurt is the seat of the Carinthian government, the county Klagenfurt Land, the Diocese Gurk, the Alpes-Adria University, an international airport and several other institutions and businesses. Because of its buildings and the close distance to Lake Wörthersee Klagenfurt also is a centre of tourism in the south of Austria.

In Klagenfurt also the three Slovenian representative organisations are located, the Council of the Carinthian Slovenes / *Narodni svet koroških Slovencev*, (www.nsk.at), the Union of Slovenian Organisations / *Zveza slovenskih organizacij* (www.slo.at) and the Community of Carinthian Slovenes / *Skupnost koroških Slovencev in Slovenk* (www.skupnost.at). Furthermore the two main cultural associations of the Carinthian Slovenes have their seat here, the Christian Cultural Union / *Krščanska kulturna zveza* and the Slovenian Cultural Union / *Slovenska prosvetna zveza*.

In Klagenfurt there are two bilingual primary schools, one private (Hermagoras - Mohorjeva) and one public (VS 24 - LŠ 24). Also the Slovenian high school (*Slovenska gimnazija*) and the bilingual federal commercial academy (*Dvojezična zvezna trgovska akademija*) are located here.

Slovenska narodna skupnost na Koroškem - koroški Slovenci
The Slovenian minority in Carinthia – the Carinthian Slovenes

Where do the Carinthian Slovenes live?

The traditional area of settlement of the Carinthian Slovenes ranges from Hermagor in the west to Lavamünd in the east along the Austrian – Italian and Austrian – Slovenian border. It essentially consists of three valleys: the lower Gailtal-valley, the Rosental-valley and the Jauntal-valley.



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Since when has the Slovenian minority been living in Carinthia?

Slovenes have settled in Carinthia after the fall of the Roman Empire in the end of the sixth century and therefore are already living in this area for more than 1400 years. That also means that in Carinthia, Slovenian has been spoken for a longer time than German.

How did the Slovenians become a minority?

In the 19th century a quarter to a third of the Carinthian population spoke Slovenian. In the traditional area of settlement, except for some small language enclaves, only Slovenes were living. Over the years the strong and targeted policy of assimilation led to a clear drop in the Slovenian-speaking population.

What provisions are there to protect the Slovenian minority?

Apart from the basic State Act from 1867 and the Articles 66, 67 and 68 from the State Treaty of St. Germain from 1920, in the first place Article 7 of the Austrian State Treaty from 1955 must be considered as the Magna Carta of minority protection. In the year 1976 a new Ethnic Group/Minority Act was adopted, which however was suspended by the Constitutional Court, because it breached Article 7 of the State Treaty. In recent years Austria committed to several European norms of minority protection (European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages). Furthermore the Republic of Austria committed to minority protection in the form of a constitutional provision adopted by Parliament in 2000.

In 2011 the Austrian Parliament decided to revise the Ethnic Group/Minority Act as having constitutional status. The Austrian minority politicians created a legal system that theoretically gives the minority relatively a lot of protection and rights, which however are not implemented in practice. The recently adopted constitutional Ethnic Group Act is extremely restricted in interpretation, is contrary to the provisions of Article 7 of the State Treaty and takes away fundamental rights from people belonging to the Slovenian minority in Carinthia that they had before, especially in the area of the language use with authorities. Foremost however the new Ethnic Group Act is still far away from the protection for the minority as guaranteed to them by the State Treaty.



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Narodni svet koroških Slovencev – NSKS
Council of the Carinthian Slovenes

www.nsk.s.at



NARODNI SVET
KOROŠKIH SLOVENCEV

The organiser of the third Regional Conference of the network RML2future is the Council of the Carinthian Slovenes / Narodni svet koroških Slovencev.

NSKS (Narodnih svet koroških Slovencev) is the political stakeholder that advocates the minority rights in Carinthia, mainly based on Article 7 of the Austrian State Treaty of 15 May 1955. One of the most important aims of the Council is to preserve, and expand the Slovenian and bilingual establishments like kindergartens, elementary schools, secondary schools and colleges.

The Council of the Carinthian Slovenes is a service facility that can be used by everyone who belongs to the Slovenian minority and unites many different associations.

The Slovenian school association pursues several approaches in Carinthia in order to implement a number of innovative projects on bilingual, trilingual and quadrilingual language transmission in pre-school and school education, and to create connections to Slovenia and Italy.

The Council of the Carinthian Slovenes as partner in the network RML2future

Pre-school and school education plays an important role in early language learning. In the working package on the subject of Early Language Learning, which is managed by the Council of the Carinthian Slovenes, the main objective is to use the minority language as the bilingualism and multilingualism that is available in the region by nature in order to reach the European goal of multilingualism from early childhood on.

The objective is to find new ways to offer each child the opportunity to grow up in three languages. It is important in this regard to create awareness for linguistic diversity and for the languages that exist in the region as well as in neighbouring regions anyhow. It will help later in picking up other European and world-languages.

This pursuit is supported by the exchange of proven methods and techniques, by meetings and exchange of experiences, having working group meetings and discussions, visits to the regions and by compiling guidelines.

The experiences in Carinthia, in the border region between Austria, Slovenia and Italy, and the projects that were implemented in schools and daycare centres in regard to bilingual, trilingual and quadrilingual language transmission offer a basis for reflection.



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PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Venue:

The Regional Conference will take place on Sunday and Monday in Mohorjeva / Hermagoras House and on Tuesday in Carinthia Stadthotel:
On Sunday the participants will be guided from their hotel to the venue Mohorjeva House at 18:45 hr (see city map on the last page).

Mohorjeva / Hermagoras House

Viktringer Ring 26
9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee
www.mohorjeva.at/hermagoras

The entrance to the event is on 10. Oktoberstraße/street 25.

Carinthia Stadthotel Kampitsch KEG

8. Mai Straße 39
9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee
www.stadthotel.co.at

Accommodation and arrival:

The participants of the Regional Conference will be accommodated in three hotels, which all are at a distance by foot of not more than 5 minutes from the venue. The hotels are informed about your arrival. The participants fee for the conference of 170 Euro includes accommodation and breakfast in the hotel. You should simply check in at arrival with your name and tell that you are a participant of the Regional Conference.

City Hotel am Domplatz

Karfreitstraße 20
9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee
www.cityhotel-klagenfurt.at
Location of the hotel: <http://cityhotel-klagenfurt.at/lage/>

Hotel Goldener Brunnen

Karfreitstraße 14
9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee
www.goldener-brunnen.at

Carinthia Stadthotel Kampitsch KEG

8. Mai Straße 39
9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee
www.stadthotel.co.at
Location of the hotel: http://www.stadthotel.co.at/www_neu/lage.html



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Arrival:

You should travel directly to your hotel. On the websites of the hotels you find the location of the hotel and how you get there, in case you are *travelling by car*.

The first two hotels (City-Hotel and Hotel Goldener Brunnen) are side by side.

Arrival by plane

Klagenfurter Airport (KLU) is about 5 km from the hotels.

From the airport **Bus 42** is going to the city centre. You should get off at bus stop Karfreitstraße (for all hotels). It takes about 22 minutes.

Information about the buses in Klagenfurt: <http://stw.at/mobilitaet-busse-online-auskunft-auskunft.php> (also in English)

A **taxi** from the airport to the city centre will be about 15 Euro (Tel.: +43 463 511 661).

Arrival by train

Klagenfurt main railway station (Hauptbahnhof) or the IC-bus station are about 800-1000 meters from the hotels.

From Klagenfurt railway station **Buses 40, 41, 42 and 81** are going to Klagenfurt city centre. You should get off at bus stop Domplatz (for all hotels). It takes about 4 minutes.

The hotels can also easily be reached by foot. It will take you about 8-10 minutes.

Arrival and departure

In order to make a good planning, we kindly ask you to inform us about your arrival and departure times at the conference, by mail to office@nks.at before Thursday 22 September. If we do not receive further information from you, we expect you to arrive on Sunday 25 September and depart on Tuesday 27 September 2011. This is necessary for the different parts of the programme!

Meals:

Meals for the participants are included in the conference fee of 170 Euro for the participants; if you do not need accommodation, the costs for meals will be 50 Euro.

If you are a **vegetarian**, we kindly ask you to inform us by mail before the start of the conference.



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Programme

Attached we send you the programme of the Regional Conference. There may still be some changes.



Language of the conference

The language of the conference will be predominantly German, and partly English. Interpretation to German and English will be provided.

Bringing information materials

We kindly ask all the participants to bring information materials about their own region, in particular on the subject of early multilingualism, e.g.:

- Information about the region (e.g. language(s), number of speakers)
- Facts and figures on pre-school establishments in your region
- Information on establishments with more than one language (bilingual to quadrilingual models)
- Information on linguistic/language pedagogical models of multilingualism and language teaching
- Legal framework for kindergartens
- Information on forms(s) of school(s): kindergartens, daycare centres, shared care by parents, school care

These materials are the basis for our Tržnica International – Market of the Regions on Monday.

Registration

We will do the **registration for the conference** on Sunday and Monday morning. We will have a registration desk. In case you did not transfer the conference-fee before the start of the conference, you should pay in cash at the registration desk when you arrive: 170 Euro (without accommodation 50 Euro) per person.

Account:

Account at Kärntner Sparkasse

Account number: 04400571461

Bank code: 20706

IBAN: AT052070604400571461

BIC: KSPKAT2KXXX

Narodni svet koroških Slovencev – Rat der Kärntner Slowenen

please indicate: Regional Conference Klagenfurt and name of the participants.



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RML2future

Network for multilingualism and
linguistic diversity

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Veselimo se na vas in na regionalni posvet! We look forward to the conference and to meet you there!

Prisrčno Vas pozdravlja tim omrežja RML2future

With kind regards on behalf of the team of the network RML2future

Contact information

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More information: <http://www.rml2future.eu>, <http://www.nssk.at>



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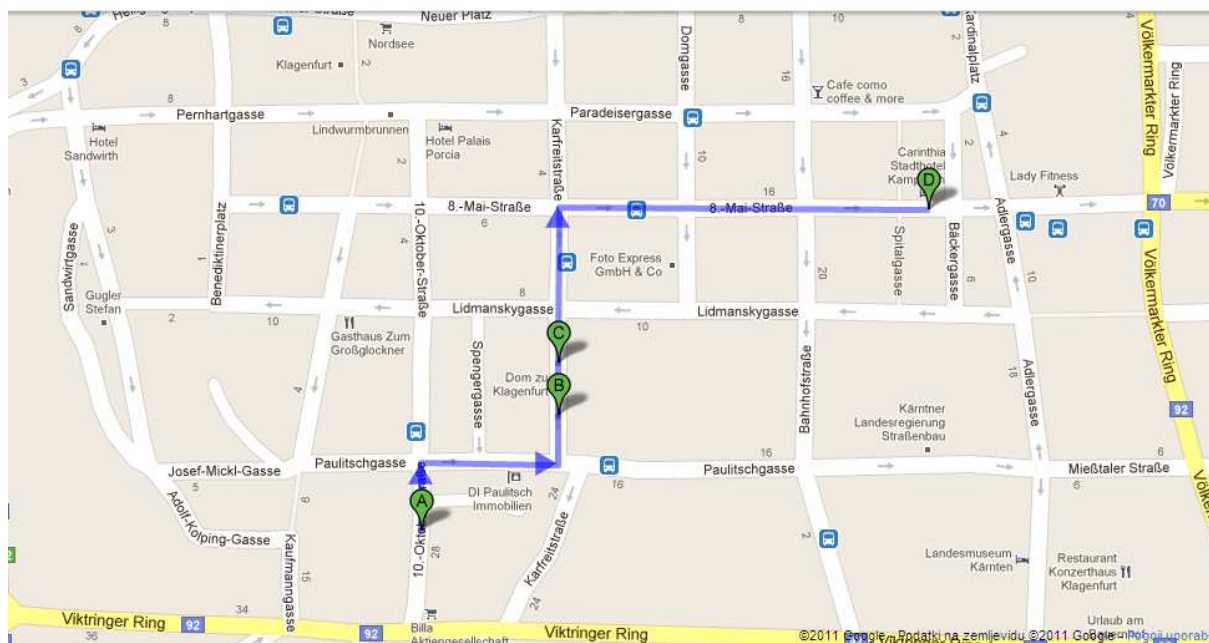
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Detail from the city-map



- A: Mohorjeva / Hermagoras (Venue on Sunday and Monday)
10. Oktoberstraße 25
9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee
- B: City Hotel am Domplatz
Karfreitstraße 20
9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee
- C: Hotel Goldener Brunnen
Karfreitstraße 14
9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee
- D: Carinthia Stadthotel Kampitsch KEG (Venue on Tuesday)
8. Mai Straße 39
9020 Klagenfurt am Wörthersee



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