

# Mediation in Language Learning and Teaching

## Newsletter 3 EN – May 2021

Dear Colleagues, Language Teachers, Specialists in language education,

Welcome to another, this time the third Newsletter of the MiLLaT project.

If this is the very first Newsletter which you are reading and you would like to find out more about 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](https://millat.uw.edu.pl/), and/or read our previous Newsletters: [Newsletter 1](#) and [Newsletter 2](#)

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 the programme Erasmus+, Action 2.

## What we have done recently

The Helsinki Team ran a workshop on mediation at the 29th Communication Skills Workshop, which was held online on 9 April 2021. The theme of the CSW was “Motivation and Engagement in Language Teaching and Learning”, and their workshop was entitled “Making mediation more visible in language teaching”. If you would like to know more, see the presentation below:

<http://millat.uw.edu.pl/.../UH-MiLLaT-presentation-for...>

## What we are working on now

As you already know, our focus in 2020 was to collect mediation activities within second language teaching and their piloting which was done by the colleagues from the other project member universities.

From January 2021 until April 2021, the authors worked on their activities taking into consideration the suggestions and comments given by the piloting colleagues and a final choice of activities divided into two categories was made:

1. **Asynchronous activities** (Moodle) – 20 activities.
2. **Traditional activities** (during the face-to-face lessons taught in class) – 42 activities (due to the restrictions related to the pandemic situation the number of activities is higher because the teaching and learning was moved to the online environment). **Synchronous** (online via different platforms, e.g. Zoom, MS Teams etc.), **polysynchronous** (combination of both Moodle and face-to-face classes, possibly online via different platforms, e.g. Zoom, MS Teams etc.)

# Mediation in Language Learning and Teaching

Currently, the MiLLaT team is working on two e-guides which will help teachers in using the collected descriptions of mediation techniques used during their teaching and is going to introduce more closely mediation itself, how to implement it into their lessons and will help them with using the

1. asynchronous activities.
2. traditional, synchronous, polysynchronous activities.

Completion of these e-guides is planned for the late July and we believe that also thanks to them the teachers will be attracted to the topic of mediation in language teaching and learning, and they will find it easier to understand what mediation is and how to identify mediation and implement it into the individual language activities; they will also gain better self-confidence in this field and they will feel encouraged to focus more on mediation when preparing their lesson plans.

The e-guides will be divided into the theoretical and practical parts. The theoretical part will briefly explain what the term mediation means and what types of mediation there are and will set it within the context of European language education, as well as describe the relevant teaching methods and key competences in lifelong learning. The practical part will provide its readers with the possible ways of working with the individual activities. Each e-guide will introduce 20 activities.

## [Sample synchronous activity for English, B2](#)

### What we are preparing

You can already look forward to 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021, as the 1<sup>st</sup> International MiLLaT Conference – **Mediation in Language Learning and Teaching** is going to take place. **Its organizers are the project members from the Language Centre at the University of Warsaw.**

The conference is designed for teachers from different types of schools (universities and colleges, secondary schools, language schools) and its goal is to disseminate mediation in language learning and teaching, to make the general public aware of the mediation activities and strategies, share the proven methods in language teaching and learning both in traditional class environment and also via online platforms.

#### The keynote speakers are going to be:

**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;

**prof. Radosław Kucharczyk** from the Institute of French Studies at the University of Warsaw who focuses on the implementation of European language policy including the mediation into the language teaching and learning;

**Dr. Piotr Romanowski** from the Faculty of Applied Linguistics of the University of Warsaw who focuses on multilingualism and multilingual teaching and learning;

**Andrew Walkley**, experienced English teacher and the author of a number of textbooks and methodological guides.



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## Mediation in Language Learning and Teaching

More details to be found [here](#).

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 and feel free to explore our further project activities.

**If you would like to know even more about the project, please go to [the project MiLLaT website](#).**

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

Best wishes,

The MiLLaT TEAM