

## Note to editors



### **New Executive Director at the European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe in Graz**

#### **Waldemar Martyniuk has taken up his functions on 1 October 2008**

Strasbourg/Graz, 1 October 2008 - Following the nomination of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Terry Davis, Mr Martyniuk, Polish national, has been nominated to the post of the Executive Director at the European Centre for Modern Languages in Graz.

Mr Martyniuk, who is Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics at the Centre for Polish Language and Culture of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, has taken up his functions on 1 October 2008.

Asked about the new impetus he wishes to give to the Centre, Mr. Martyniuk stated: "Working for the Council of Europe made me aware of the fact that an unrestricted access to good quality education is a crucial pre-requisite not only for personal development, but also for social cohesion and intercultural dialogue in contemporary Europe. As all education is language based and goes via language, an adequate development of the linguistic abilities of an individual in a lifelong learning process is then to be considered a fundamental human right – well in line with the Council of Europe's principles. It is in this context that I would like to see the ECML to further develop its role as true centre of excellence and innovation for modern European language educators – an institution that raises awareness, creates and disseminates useful and innovative tools, trains multipliers, initiates projects and networks, etc. I am convinced that the ECML has accumulated enough professional potential and experience for this to happen."

The new Director is a teacher trainer and an author of textbooks, curricula and testing materials for Polish as a foreign language. He translated the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages into Polish (2003); he was seconded to the Council of Europe's Language Policy Division in 2005-2006.

The European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) is an enlarged partial agreement of the Council of Europe with 34 member states, based in Graz, Austria. Its mission is to develop European concepts for efficient language teacher education in the form of materials, tools and instruments for practical use. Montenegro, the 34th and most recent member, joined the Centre on 7 August..

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