



International Federation of Language Teacher Associations
Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Langues Vivantes

London, 9th June 2017

Dear friends and colleagues,

FIPLV News Update June 2017

I must once again apologise for not writing for a while. I had been planning to send you a News Update in April but it turned out to be a rather hectic time. I will aim at sending you the next one after the summer, so please send me any information, news, announcements etc at any point before then and I can save it and share it in my next mailing.

Of course, we are regularly using the FIPLV website (fiplv.com) as well as our Twitter (@fiplv) and Facebook accounts to share information on associations and their activities, as well as about research into the importance of multilingualism, and policy and practice issues at local, national and international levels. We would urge you to inform your members of this as classroom teachers have informed us that they appreciate it. Furthermore, many of our member associations say that membership of FIPLV is important to teachers and other language professionals in their contexts, as it connects them to a world-wide network of teachers of many languages, raises the global profile of their work, supports them in making a case for language learning in their own countries, and enables them to showcase their own innovations. It also brings the high status of being able to say they are part of an international NGO with direct contact to and influence at UNESCO and the Council of Europe, as well as close connections to the European Union. Many member associations add this to the list of benefits for teachers when encouraging them to join their national association or international federation; and of course it comes with no additional time demands on you.

We hope that your national and international conferences and events are going well this year. We do look out for them and try to follow and share on Twitter and Facebook so that more people can benefit from them even if they can't attend. Please remember to send us information about all of your events, especially those that could be attended by people from other countries. We are very happy when we are able to disseminate conference dates and calls for proposals through our website and social media, knowing that they do attract the attention of people who otherwise would not know about them. This year we were particularly pleased to be represented by our President, Paolo Balboni, at the conference of our new member association, the Slovene Association of Teachers of Languages for Specific Purposes, where Paolo did a keynote presentation. Please take a look at the conference website, where you will get an overview of the programme and be able to read the abstracts. It may give you some ideas for your own events: <http://www.sdutsj.edus.si/englishconference2017.html>.

We are rapidly approaching the launch of our newest FIPLV Region, the East European Region (EER). This will take place at a major conference in Varna, on the beautiful Black Sea coast of Bulgaria, 22-25 June 2017. The organising team from BETA has worked

tirelessly to organise what promises to be an excellent conference; proposals were submitted for presentations in five languages and there will also be plenary presentations in a range of languages, thanks to support from our members such as IDV and MAPRYAL. We thank all of you for supporting this and look forward to seeing some of you soon. Please take a look at the website: <http://www.beta-iatefl.org/annual-conference/conference-call/>. We will also be holding the Executive Committee and World Council meetings there prior to the conference. If you are unable to attend but are interested in learning more about how to get involved with the EER, please contact me or the FIPLV Honorary Treasurer, Sylvia Velikova.

In April, I was invited to a meeting of the Executive Committee (Vorstand) of our member association IDV (Internationale Deutschlehrerinnen- und Deutschlehrerverband) in Newcastle, England (<http://idvnetz.org>). This provided an enjoyable opportunity to discuss further collaborations between FIPLV and IDV and for me to gain a deeper understanding of this wonderful association and I thank the Executive for their kind invitation and warm welcome. Amongst our wide-ranging discussions, one area was particularly interesting and of relevance to all, namely that IDV really appreciated their membership of an international organisation with such close links to UNESCO and other international organisations. As a result of this, we will do more to inform you more directly of opportunities for you to engage directly with these organisations. There are many ways in which we can collaborate with and support our international unilingual member associations/federations as our work with IDV is demonstrating, so please get in touch with any ideas you may have.

Once again we have continued to be actively involved with the Council of Europe and the European Union, whilst also maintaining our contact with UNESCO. Thank you to those who returned comments on the proposed changes to the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). We are pleased to make it possible for your voices to be heard in such significant developments. We have also had a number of involvements with the European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe. FIPLV Vice President, Judith Richters and I participated in a one-day colloquium in Graz, entitled "*Ensuring quality in language testing and assessment: the contribution of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)*". This was livestreamed but if you missed it, you will find videos, presentations, and photos in ECML's *European Language Gazette* Issue Number 35: <http://www.ecml.at/Resources/Newsletter/Gazette35/tabid/2978/Default.aspx>. This event was followed by a meeting of the Professional Network Forum, a group of international NGOs that have signed Memoranda of Understanding with ECML and of which FIPLV was one of the founding partners. You will find more information about the PNF here; <http://www.ecml.at/Aboutus/professionalnetworkforum/tabid/137/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>. For further information from the ECML, please always check the *European Language Gazette* that can be found on the ECML website. Issue 36 can now be found here: <http://www.ecml.at/Resources/Newsletter/tabid/1385/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>. We will continue to announce through our website and social media when they are published.

In May, I was once again invited by ECML to moderate the meeting of ECML National Contact Points and National Nominating Authorities. This is always an excellent opportunity to meet with key representatives of all of the ECML Member States and to remind them of the importance of Language Teacher Associations in their national contexts. They are aware of your associations and would be very happy to hear from you (if your country is an ECML member); you can find their contact details here:

<http://www.ecml.at/Aboutus/MemberStateRepresentation/tabid/1255/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>. I also spoke to them about ways in which they can collaborate with you on mediation events and other activities and introduced them to the searchable online Directory of language associations/organisations that was developed by our project LACS (Language Associations and Collaborative Support). I would recommend that you take a look at the tools that were produced in this project and let me know if you wish to add any other organisations/associations to the Directory: <http://lacs.ecml.at>. I am sure that many will still be missing and we would like to make it as comprehensive as possible. I would also remind you of the mediation tool on the same page that will help you all to use ECML materials in your own contexts. These are valuable and very practical resources and we encourage you to share them with your members on your websites and through your communications.

Also in relation to ECML, Judith Richters, our Vice President, was invited to participate in a think tank in Graz and will be joining a project that focuses on the language of schooling. More information on this at a later date.

I am pleased to inform you that the *Supporting Multilingual Classrooms* consultancy, which I am coordinating with Brigitte Gerber from the University of Geneva, has been extended once more and this year we have been carrying out workshops in nine countries. This is funded jointly by the ECML of the Council of Europe and the European Commission and involves tailor-made workshops in European countries who have applied for such support. You will see more about this here: <http://www.ecml.at/TrainingConsultancy/Multilingualclassrooms/tabid/1816/Default.aspx>. On this page you will also find a link to an online seminar that was led by Sarah Breslin, Executive Director of ECML and myself in February, which will give you a flavour of the focus of these workshops and the materials that are available to you and your members free of charge.

Our other engagement with the European Union includes our membership of the European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism (ECSPM), a major new alliance which will provide policy briefings with which to advise the European Commission and EU Member States. Please take a look at the website of ECSPM: <http://ecspm.org>. With this, FIPLV's advocacy of language teaching is further extended to the European Commission. Also, we were once again invited to attend the Stakeholder Forum of the EU funded MIME project (exploring Mobility and Inclusion in Multilingual Europe). This time it will take place in Riga so we have invited our Latvian member association to represent us there. We do occasionally have such opportunities for you to represent FIPLV, so please look out for our emails.

I am also delighted to introduce you to our first Associate Member, a category of membership that enables us to bring a wider range of organisations into our network. We envisage this to include small businesses that are doing excellent work and want to have contact with language teachers around the world, or language centres and other professional organisations. They will mainly offer interesting opportunities to you, including free resources. We are in discussion with a number of potential Associate Members, but a special place goes to our first; Bili.



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Please take a moment to look at this great resource. You can also find links to it on the FIPLV website: <https://fiplv.com/members-2/fipltv-associate-members/>

We hope to bring you information about further Associate Members in our future mailings.

I think that is probably enough information for now as I know how busy you all are. There are other projects and collaborations emerging but I will be able to say more about those in my next News Update. I will also be able to update you on developments in planning for the next World Congress with our hosting association, ACTFL, which will be held in New Orleans, USA, 16-18 November 2018 with pre-convention workshops on the 15th. I will also be able to announce the amazing language professionals who have been awarded the FIPLV International Award for 2016. We have had a record number of nominations and the successful ones will be approved by World Council this month.

To finish, there are, as always, a couple of issues that I would ask you to address:

1. I am once again attaching the latest version of our membership list. Please could you check it and write to me with any changes. This one is dated 31st March but it may still be out of date so please check for me.
2. Please also remember to send us a copy of your annual report for 2016. It used to be the case that we requested an annual report from our members, following a specific format. It is a valuable way of sharing with other associations the kinds of activities you are involved in. However, to save you time, we are now happy for you to send us any report you provide to members or others. It can be in the original language produced too as we would like much greater visibility of other languages on our website. If you like, you can provide a short summary in English, French or German, but this isn't essential. I have put some of your reports on the website, but there are still many of them missing.

3. If you are aware of any colleagues who would like to gain some experience of volunteering for an international organisation, please let me know. There are many tasks to be done and we have lots of ideas for new ways of supporting you, but FIPLV is a completely volunteer organisation and there are limits to what we can achieve. We are lucky in that some of us work in posts which enable us to travel and meet colleagues and to promote FIPLV at no cost to FIPLV, but having a few more keen volunteers would be really helpful. It's probably also something good to add to a CV and of interest to some of our younger colleagues.
4. Please feel free to use the information contained in this News Update in any way. We would be really pleased if you could forward it to anyone else – this is largely going to FIPLV contacts so it may be useful for you to forward it to your Executive Groups etc. Maybe you'd like to post it on your website, especially if you have a link to FIPLV there.

Thank you as always for reading this update. I still hope that our newsletters will contain more photos in future, but rather than wait till I had more time for that, I decided to send you a more simple update.

On behalf of FIPLV Executive, I thank you for all of your hard work in the name of language learning and teaching and for the time you dedicate, often unpaid, to the professional development of others. It is the opportunity to meet people like you that helps me to continue in this role, despite all of the demands on our time. In the challenging world we live in, it is more and more important to bring people together in the task of opening minds to other languages and cultures and to contributing to a more peaceful future.

With warmest regards

Terry

Professor Terry LAMB
FIPLV Secretary General