

Multilingualism, also for children with an auditive or communicative disability!



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE - Leeuwarden, 10 February 2012

Until now most logopedists and therapists believe that children with an auditive or communicative disability such as, deafness, down-syndrome or autism should be brought up in one language. Drs. Mirjam Blumenthal, researcher at the Royal Kentalis, proves the opposite with her presentation! As an example she showed a video of a seven year old who is deaf due to Meningitis since his first year but who speaks three languages with ease. Even though the boy is an exceptional case it illustrates Mirjam Blumenthal's theory.

Blumenthal is one of the 40 specialists participating in the Poliglotti4.eu expert seminar. The seminar was being organised by the Mercator Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning, part of the Fryske Akademy on 9 and 10 February in Leeuwarden/Ljouwert within the frame of the European Poliglotti4.eu project. Experts from all over Europe came together in the capital of the bilingual province Fryslân to discuss themes on Early Language Learning. One of the main outcomes is the fact that the earlier one starts with more languages, the better it is, and that yields for everyone.

More information on the seminar can be found on www.mercator-research.eu or www.poliglotti4.eu

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Poliglotti4.eu is a project promoting multilingualism in Europe - the result of the deliberations of the EU Civil Society Platform on Multilingualism. The project will result in the creation of an On-line Observatory, reporting on best practice in language policy and language learning. The observatory will provide policymakers, teachers, learners and civil society organisations with a powerful toolkit for benchmarking and enhancing their activities, in non-formal and informal education and learning sectors. The project is co-funded through the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP).

The nine project partners are: Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE); British Council (BC); Danish Cultural Institute Benelux (DKI); EU National Institutes for Culture in Brussels (EUNIC in Brussels); European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA); European Theatre Convention (ETC); Fundación Academia Europea de Yuste (FAEY); Goethe-Institut Brüssel (GI); Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning (Mercator).

CONTACTS

Project Management:

EUNIC in Brussels

Ulla - Alexandra Mattl

Tel: 0032 (0)471 51 44 80

E-mail: co-ordinator@eunic-brussels.eu

Press & Public Relations:

European Theatre Convention

Heidi Wiley

Tel: 0049 30 28441 461

E-mail: hwiley@etc-cte.org

*Platform member organisations are: **ACT** - Association of Commercial Television in Europe, **ALTE** - Association of Language Testers in Europe, **CEATL** - Conseil européen des associations de traducteurs littéraires, **CEPI** - European Coordination of Independent Producers, **CMFE** - Community Media Forum Europe, **Culturelink** Network, **EAEA** - European Association for the Education of Adults, **EAFI** - European Association of Terminology, **EBLUL** - **EuroLang** European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, **ECA** - European Council of Artists, **ECSWE** - European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education, **EEE-YFU** - Youth for Understanding, **EEU** - European Esperanto Union, **EFIL** - European Federation for Intercultural Learning, **EFNIL** - European Federation of National Institutes for Language, **EFVET** - The European Forum for Vocational Education and Training, **ETC** - European Theatre Convention, **EWC** - European Writers' Council, **EPC** - European Publishers Council, **Club of Madrid**, **EUNIC** - European Union National Institutes for Culture: **BC** - British Council, **DKK** - Det Danske Kulturinstitut, **GI** - Goethe-Institut, **EUROCLIO** - European Association of History Educators, **FEP** - Federation of European Publishers, **FUEN** - Federal Union of European Nationalities, **ISSA** - International Step by Step Association, **MERCATOR** - Network of Language Diversity, **Literature Across Frontiers**, **RECIT** - Réseau européen des centres internationaux de traduction littéraire, **YUSTE** - European Academy of Yuste Foundation



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.
This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

