

## Supporting all language teachers in multilingual classrooms

This module aims to help teachers:

- **improve the quality of language teaching** for all learners in multilingual classes by building on the linguistic and cultural diversity of their learners and encouraging them to draw on their experience and skills;
- **bridge the attainment gap between migrant and non-migrant learners** by developing a better understanding of the learners' specific needs and resources, acquiring knowledge and skills in second language teaching (for teachers of the language of schooling), and developing collaboration between teachers of foreign and home languages and teachers of the language of schooling;
- promote a **positive attitude to linguistic and cultural diversity** by developing an understanding of the principles and values underlying pluralistic and intercultural approaches, and by also developing their own ability to use such approaches in their classrooms.

The Supporting Multilingual Classrooms initiative will draw on a wide range of ECML projects and resources which focus on quality language education, the integration of plurilingualism into the school curriculum, linguistic and cultural diversity, home languages, intercultural awareness, CLIL, learner autonomy and the critical use of Open Educational Resources.



**Mercè Bernaus** is emeritus professor of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. She coordinated plurilingualism/culturalism projects at the European Centre for Modern Languages like ConBaT+ and Language Educator Awareness (LEA). The Council of Europe and the ECML published the materials produced by those projects. Recently, she is engaged in the ECML Training and Consultancy program for member states. She is collaborating in workshops dealing with “Supporting Multilingual Classrooms” Since 2007 she has been involved in the Pestalozzi program of the Council of Europe cooperating in teacher training courses. She also did teacher training courses for teachers in Caucasian countries organised by the Confidence Building Measures Division of the Council of Europe’s Directorate of Political Affairs.



**Brigitte Gerber** taught English in upper secondary schools for a number of years while also training teachers of English. She currently works as a lecturer in English didactics and teacher trainer at the University Institute of Teacher Education - University of Geneva. She has been involved in several ECML projects related to the CEFR and FREPA, is a member of the FREPA training and consultancy team, and is currently co-coordinator of the *Supporting Multilingual Classrooms* initiative. Her main areas of interest are: plurilingualism, educational language policy and the training of teacher trainers.