

# RML2future

Network for multilingualism and  
linguistic diversity

*It's never too late ...  
monolingualism is easy to cure!*

*Es ist nie zu spät ...  
Einsprachigkeit ist heilbar!*

## DOCUMENTATION

### Kickoff meeting on Early Multilingualism

in Celovec / Klagenfurt (Austria),  
20–22 January 2010

[www.rml2future.eu](http://www.rml2future.eu)

RML2future – Network for Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity in Europe  
under the lead of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)

[www.language-diversity.eu](http://www.language-diversity.eu), [www.rml2future.eu](http://www.rml2future.eu)

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[www.eurac.edu](http://www.eurac.edu)



[www.dglive.be](http://www.dglive.be)



[www.hojoster.dk](http://www.hojoster.dk)



[www.nsk.at](http://www.nsk.at)



[www.yeni.org](http://www.yeni.org)

## KICKOFF MEETING

on Early Multilingualism in Celovec/Klagenfurt (Austria),  
20–22 January 2010

Dobrodošli! Herzlich willkommen!  
Welcome! Benvenuti! Dobro došli!

Carinthia (Slovene *Koroška* German *Kärnten*) is the southernmost federal Land of the Republic of Austria.

Celovec ob Vrbskem jezeru / Klagenfurt am Wörthersee, the capital of the Austrian federal Land of Carinthia, is the largest town of Carinthia and the sixth-largest of Austria with 94.303 inhabitants (1 January 2011).

All three organisations representing the Slovenes are located in Celovec / Klagenfurt: the Council of the Carinthian Slovenes / *Narodni svet koroških Slovencev* ([www.nsk.at](http://www.nsk.at)), the Union of Slovene Organisations / *Zveza slovenskih organizacij* ([www.slo.at](http://www.slo.at)) and the Community of Carinthian Slovenes / *Skupnost koroških Slovencev in Slovenk* ([www.skupnost.at](http://www.skupnost.at)). Furthermore the two main cultural associations of the Carinthian Slovenes have their seat here: the Christian Cultural Association / *Krščanska kulturna zveza* and the Slovenian Cultural Association / *Slovenska prosvetna zveza*.

web

www.klagenfurt.at

# Kärnten Koroška



## Slovenska narodna skupnost na Koroškem – koroški Slovenci *The Slovenian minority in Carinthia – the Carinthian Slovenes*

The traditional area of settlement of the Carinthian Slovenes ranges from Hermagor in the west up to Lavamünd in the east along the Austrian-Italian and Austrian-Slovenian border. Essentially it encompasses three valleys: the lower Gailtal-valley, the Rosental-valley and the Jauntal-valley.

After the collapse of the Roman Empire the Slovenes settled in Carinthia at the end of the sixth century and hence they have been living already in this area for 1400 years. This also means that in Carinthia, Slovene has been spoken for a longer time than German has.



In the 19th century a quarter to a third of the Carinthian population was speaking Slovene. In the traditional area of settlement, with the exception of small linguistic enclaves, only Slovenes were living. Over the years, the fierce and targeted policy of assimilation led to a clear decline in the Slovene-speaking population.

**More information about Carinthia / Kärnten / Koroška and links to organisations and institutions:**

- Council of the Carinthian Slovenes, [www.nsk.s.at](http://www.nsk.s.at)
- Minority Office of the government of the Land of Carinthia, [www.volksgruppenbuero.at/images/uploads/kaernten.pdf](http://www.volksgruppenbuero.at/images/uploads/kaernten.pdf)
- [www.volksgruppenbuero.at/images/uploads/zbornik\\_ogris\\_finsc2.pdf](http://www.volksgruppenbuero.at/images/uploads/zbornik_ogris_finsc2.pdf)
- [www.elnet.at/dossier/wer\\_sind\\_die\\_kaerntner\\_slowenen/56](http://www.elnet.at/dossier/wer_sind_die_kaerntner_slowenen/56)
- Working Group of private bilingual and multilingual kindergartens, [www.kinder-mehrsprachigkeit.de/deutsch/t\\_slowenen.htm](http://www.kinder-mehrsprachigkeit.de/deutsch/t_slowenen.htm)
- Enotna Lista – Unity List; [www.elnet.at/](http://www.elnet.at/)
- Koroška dijaška zveza – KDZ; [www.kdznet.at](http://www.kdznet.at)
- Mlada EL, [www.mladael.at/](http://www.mladael.at/)
- KSŠŠK – Klub slowenskih študentk in študentov na Koroškem [www.ksssk.at](http://www.ksssk.at)

## Informative partner meeting at the Carinthian Slovenes



*Which new impetus can the Carinthian Slovenes give to other European minorities?  
What can the Carinthian Slovenes learn from other minorities in Europe in the field of education?*

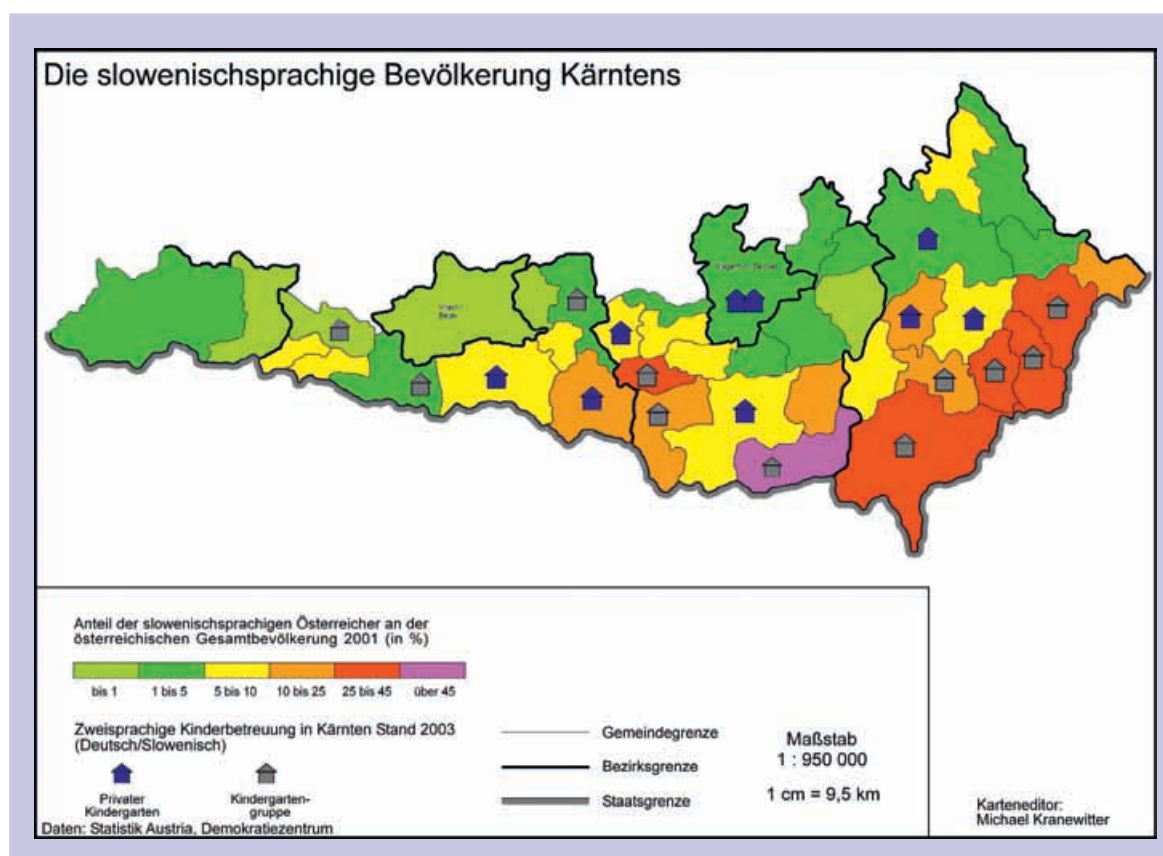
These questions were explored in Klagenfurt / Celovec from 20 till 22 January at the partner meeting of the network RML2future, which is led by FUEN. The meeting was organised by the Council of the Carinthian Slovenes, partner

organisation in the network RML2future and responsible for the working package of “Early Language Learning”. The meeting took place in Mohorjeva / Hermagoras House, which houses many Slovene organisations under its roof.

The participants of the intensive and informative partner meeting had the opportunity to speak with competent experts and to deal with the issue of early language learning on the basis of the examples of bilingual and







multilingual models for the Carinthian Slovenes as well as the cross-border model in the Alpes-Adria region: the border region of Carinthia, Slovenia and Italy (Friuli).

Apart from the political representatives of the Carinthian Slovenes, discussion partners of the network were e.g. the chairman of the Working Group of the private bilingual and multilingual kindergartens Mag. Stefan Kramer, their scientific adviser and author of models of language learning in the preschool sector Univ. Prof. Georg Gombos (University of Klagenfurt/Celovec), the leader of the Centre for Multilingualism and Intercultural Education at the Pedagogical College of Klagenfurt/Celovec Mag. Ferdinand Stefan, the inspector for the bilingual minority school system at the Carinthian primary schools Sabine Sandrieser, deputy-chairwoman of the Slovenian pedagogical association and teacher of Slovene at the Federal Education Institute for Kindergarten Pedagogics (BAKIP) Mag. Lucija Ogorevc-Feinig, and further Antonilo Pasquaiello, director of the schools in the Friulian border municipality of Tarvisio/Tarvis/Trbiz, as well as employees of the bilingual kindergarten “Naš otrok/ Unser Kind” (translation: our child) in Celovec/Klagenfurt.

The overall impression of the meeting was that the Alpes-Adria region is an almost ideal regional example for researching the practical implementation of multilingualism as called for by the EU (every European citizen should speak two additional languages next to his own mother tongue), whereas the specific situation of the minority languages of course has to be taken into account. The importance of the evaluation of minority language programmes and their sustainability was particularly highlighted as was effective promotion of multilingualism and therefore also of minority languages.

In Carinthia itself, more working meetings followed on the subject of “Early Language Learning” in 2010 and 2011, with the involvement of the network, and their results formed the basis for the RML2future Regional Conference in Carinthia in 2011.

Apart from getting to know the town of Celovec/Klagenfurt, the agenda of the partner meeting of the network also dealt with planning the next steps to work on in 2010 and the planning of the next Regional Conference in Eupen, Belgium in February 2010, as well as the planning for the dissemination and exploitation of the meetings and results.

### Extract from the agenda

- Talk with representatives of the Working Group for bilingual and multilingual kindergartens and the authors of existing models for bilingual kindergartens and the cross-border kindergarten “Tri roke – Drei Hände – Tre mani” (translation: three hands) in Nötsch / Čajna
- Visit to the bilingual kindergarten “Naš otrok / Unser Kind” (translation: our child); talks with an educator and representative of the association “Naš otrok / Unser Kind”
- Presentation of the Centre for Multilingualism and Intercultural Education
- Dinner with representatives of the Slovenian minority from the fields of politics and culture, the pedagogical association and the inspector for the bilingual school system
- Planning and discussion of the working area of “Early Multilingualism” within the network
- Activity reports by the partners
- Planning and preparation of the Regional Conferences in Eupen and Aachen
- Dissemination and exploitation by the network RML2future
- Agenda planning and practical matters



### Participants

Edgar Hungs – Agency for European Education Programmes VoG,

German-speaking Community in Belgium

Timo Iwersen – Højskolen Østersøen, Denmark

Janko Kulmesch – Council of the Carinthian Slovenes NSKS, Austria

Hester Knol – Youth of European Nationalities YEN, the Netherlands

Judith Walde – Federal Union of European Nationalities FUEN, Germany

Sabine Wilmes – European Academy Bozen/Bolzano EURAC, Italy

*Representatives from the region Carinthia, active in the field of preschool and school education:*

- Univ. Prof. Georg Gombos, scientific adviser and author of models of language learning in the preschool sector, University of Klagenfurt
- Stefan Kramer, chairman of the working group of private bilingual and multilingual kindergartens and his colleagues
- Sabine Sandrieser, Inspector for the bilingual minority school system at the Carinthian primary schools
- Ferdinand Stefan, leader of the centre for multilingualism and intercultural education at the Pedagogical College in Klagenfurt / Celovec
- Lucija Ogorevc-Feinig, deputy-chairwoman of the Slovenian pedagogical association and teacher at the Federal Education Institute for Kindergarten Pedagogics (BAKIP)
- Antonilo Pasquaiello, director of the schools in the Friulian border municipality of Tarvisio / Tarvis / Trbiz
- Employees of the bilingual kindergarten “Naš otrok / Unser Kind” in Klagenfurt / Celovec.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Goldener Brunnen in Celovec / Klagenfurt



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