



EMPOWERING LANGUAGE PROFESSIONALS
VALORISER LES PROFESSIONNELS EN LANGUES
SPRACHLEHRENDE IN IHRER ROLLE STÄRKEN

CONBAT+

CONTENT BASED TEACHING + PLURILINGUAL/CULTURAL AWARENESS



ConBaT+ an ECML project

University of Ottawa

30 September 2010

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Adding a plurilingual dimension to Content-Based Teaching

Mercè Bernaus

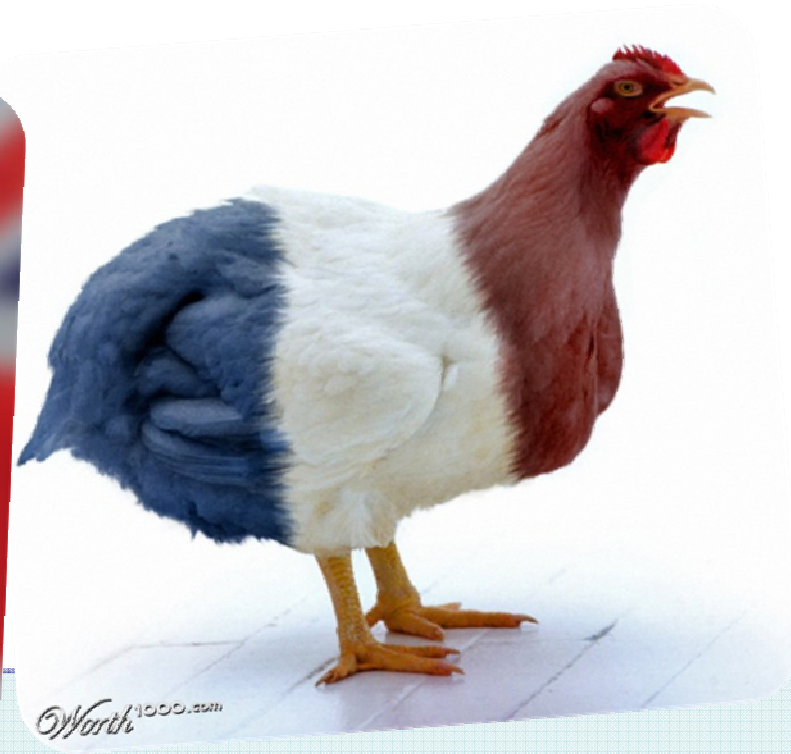
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Are we “normal people”?





That's the way people see us



But, who are the “strange people”?
The plurilingual people?



Or the monolingual people?



We are for Plurilingualism

That's why we're building
bridges with ConBaT+



The aims

- To raise plurilingual, pluricultural and intercultural **COMPETENCE** among primary and secondary school teachers and their pupils.
- To empower teachers to create **QUALITY** cross-curricular materials in English, French, and Spanish, as an L2, for primary and secondary school learners.
- To introduce the **LANGUAGES** and **CULTURES** present in the classroom into a number of subjects.
- To motivate teachers to **IMPACT** on a reform of language learning and teaching.
- To strengthen professional **NETWORKS** by providing several international and national meetings.

ConBat + “Bridgers”



ConBaT +

- In multilingual and multicultural Europe language teaching is the key to a successful school experience for
 - Native speakers learning their L1 at school
 - Speakers of other languages learning the school language as a new language
 - Students learning foreign languages
 - Students with specific needs learning their L1, an L2 or FL(s).

ConBaT +

- The problem with Plurilingualism
 - It runs against the logic of the Nation-State, National Languages and National (Linguistic) Identities.



ConBaT +

- The problem with Plurilingualism
 - It runs against the logic of the Nation-State, National Languages and National (Linguistic) Identities.
 - Political parties make a case on nationalism and its symbols, language being the most representative one.
 - The school, as a reproduction system, resists against the idea of considering, incorporating or empowering “other” languages

ConBaT +

- The problem with the Content-based Approach
 - It runs against the logic of “Linguisticism” and the image of Language Teachers as experts.



ConBaT +

- The problem with the Content-based Approach
 - It runs against the logic of “Linguisticism” and the image of Language Teachers as experts (not subordinated to other “academic fields”)
 - A view of language teaching in need of the texts of other academic fields may logically lead to the disappearance of the language expert versus “curricular experts” with language proficiency and certain “language teaching skills”.

ConBaT +

- Solution to these problems are not under the scope of any single project.
 - They belong to the sphere of social change which requires
 - Socio-political, educational and even economical measures and changes to occur.



ConBaT +

- The possible contribution of ConBaT + to the solution of these problems may be
 - TO SHOW THAT A PLURILINGUAL, CONTENT-BASED APPROACH IS FEASIBLE.



ConBaT +

An approach to the approach

What ConBaT + is not



What it is not

- ConBaT + is not just Content -Based Teaching
 - because it is not just a question of content-based teaching/learning using a foreign language

What it is not

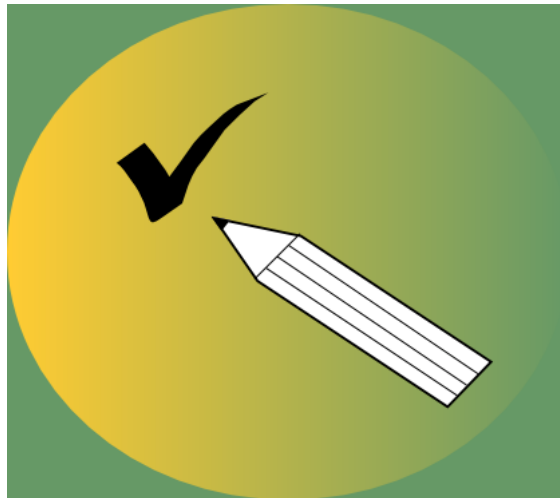
- ConBaT + is not just plurilingualism
 - Because it is
 - not only related to language awareness or attitudes but to language learning
 - not only related to “foreign” languages but to the learners’ mother tongue or community languages

What it is not

ConBaT + is not
ideologically neutral



What ConBaT + is



Ideologically, ConBaT+ is

- open-minded,
- respectful and tolerant,
- socially concerned,
- intercultural,
- empathetic to the other,
- a choice to engage ...



What ConBaT+ is

- ConBaT+ is related to language learners and language users.



What ConBaT+ is

- ConBaT+ is related to language learners and language users
 - To satisfy their “basic” needs
 - learning the host country’s main language for school or work
 - To satisfy their perceived social expectations
 - learning a “prestigious” foreign language
 - To satisfy their high-level communicative demands
 - learning the school language as a first language.

What ConBaT+ is

- It is something for schools to think about
 - Networking & team cooperation is required.
 - A whole-school linguistic project could be a good start in the implementation of ConBaT+.



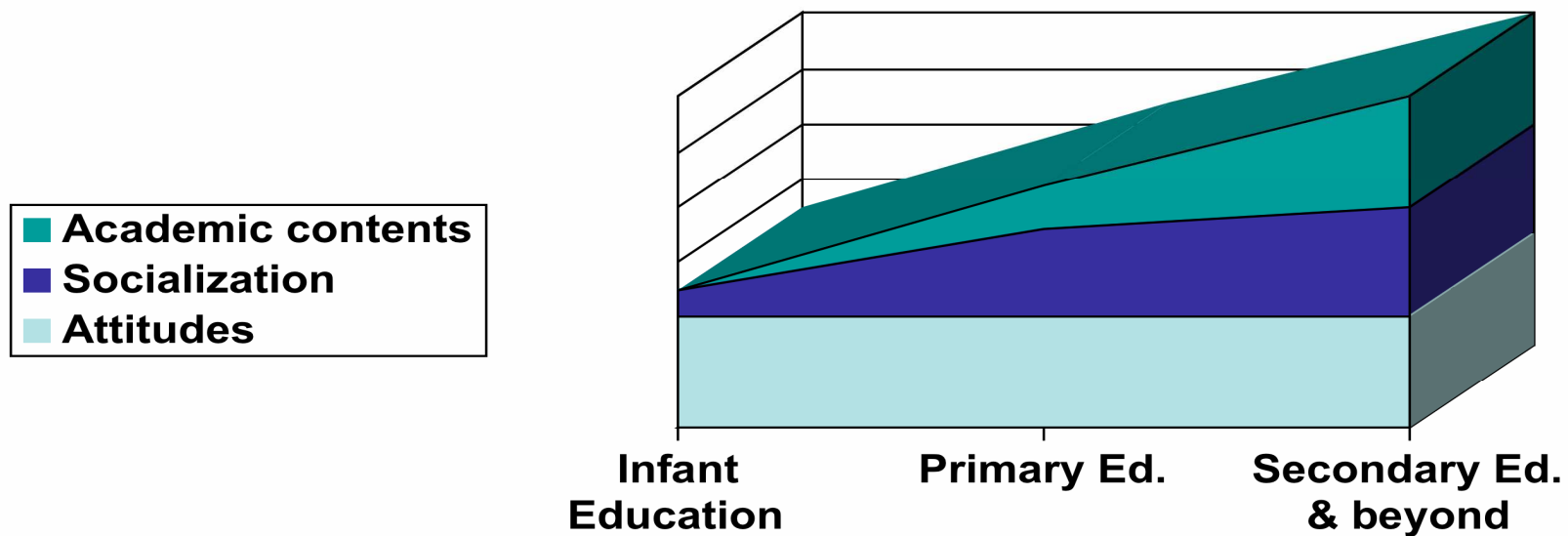
What ConBaT+ is

- ConBaT+ is context-dependent
 - What and how to teach depends on
 - Languages studied,
 - Levels of proficiency,
 - Subject contents,
 - School organization,
 - Participation of families and communities
 - Availability of intercultural mediators/interpreters
 - ...



What ConBaT+ is

- ConBaT+ is evolutive



What ConBaT+ is

- It is pluricultural
 - It aims at helping learners develop their multiple identities
 - Linked to as many languages they may speak or want or need to speak.



What ConBaT + is

- It is community-focused
 - It views the school as a means to transform society.
 - It invokes the community to assist the school in (language) education.



In conclusion,

Plurilingualism & Content-based Teaching are the challenges of 21st Century Language Teaching



Would you like to participate?



Impossible

The adventure of a brave snail who
faced the impossible

















<http://combat.ecml.at>

Remember:

**Quite often it seems impossible
until you do it!!**

