

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. Today, we would like to inform about the current state of three ENViL working groups and coming meetings.

Working groups

* Visual Literacy and Art Museums

One of our working groups was founded through the initiative of Lode Vermeersch, a scholar in Visual Literacy at the University in Leuven, Belgium. He has been in close contact with Museum M, the art museum of Leuven with an excellent collection of mainly medieval and 19th century art and vibrant high quality exhibitions in contemporary art (www.mleuven.be). As the museum is being closed for renovation the board of the museum is reconsidering the concept of presentation as well as of mediation in the museum. It was decided that the guiding idea for this further development of the museum is Visual Literacy. Thus the staff of the museum invited ENViL to give feedback to their ideas, concepts and plans. This was done at two workshops in Leuven, in which four ENViL members took part (group (Piet Hagenaaars, NL; Lode Vermeersch, BE; Franz Billmayer, AT; Ernst Wagner, DE). The results of these meetings were presented at a public conference in Leuven last November (Beyond the image | Fostering visual literacy in museums) that was attended by about 80 participants. The results will have an impact on the coming presentation: "Exhibiting art is an art in itself. As a museum, we keep our finger on the pulse of international museum developments, and research how our collection should best be displayed. How do viewers read an artwork? And what role can museums play in enhancing that experience? These are just some of the central questions in the research project *Visual Literacy*. In this project, we collaborate with KU Leuven and an international network of researchers [ENViL]. In June 2017, the first results will be presented in a completely renewed display." (www.mleuven.be/en/research)

At this meeting we got in touch with the director of The Toledo Museum of Art, a Museum in Ohio that is dedicated to the concept of Visual Literacy since years (see www.vislit.org). Brian Kennedy invited ENViL to cooperate with his initiative within the US framework of art museums. A first meeting with him, the board and the staff will take place in early March in Ohio.

* Validation of the Visual Literacy Competence Model through empirical research

ENViL has partnered with HSD University of Applied Sciences in Cologne and DIPF (The German Institute for International Educational Research - www.dipf.de) to apply for funds from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The title of the research project is “Visual Literacy in Cultural Education: What is it and how can it be fostered? - Development of an Assessment Instrument and Investigation of Instructional Quality”. The application was successful and on this base an ENViL working group (Andrea Karpati, HU; Mira Kallio-Tavin, FI; Viola van Lanschot-Hubrecht, NL; Franz Billmayer, AT; Ingrid Hoepel, D ; Ernst Wagner, DE) met the head of research (Ulrich Frick) in January in Cologne to develop a first set of test items.

* Theory

Members: Carl-Peter Buschkühle (chair), Marc Fritzsche, Diederik Schönau and Ernst Wagner.

The group’s activity is based on the model of competencies (CEFR-VL) as developed by ENViL in the Comenius Project. The initial focus is threefold:

- finding a more sound scientific and theoretical basis on what it suggests;
- finding a structure in the various concepts of competences (sub-competencies);
- testing the CEFR-VL on its ability to include all perspectives taken in Visual Literacy in the European countries.

The first activities has taken the form of an exchange of thoughts trough e-mail, in which the participants exchange their ideas on what aspects of the model and its scientific foundation should be addressed and in what way. The discussion is currently taking place and will hopefully result in a first draft on the elaboration of the theoretical and scientific assumptions underlying the model in respect to the goals of Visual Literacy.

Anyone interested to join the discussion is welcome to do so (contact: cpbuschkuehle@aol.com).

Upcoming events and possibilities to meet

*** The next plenary ENViL meeting** will take place in **Budapest, 22 June 2016, 13:00 - 23 June 13:00**, day before the opening of **ELTE Workshop on Arts Education**

Topics of our meeting:

- Reports of working groups
- Further development of the network
- presentation and discussion of a basic text (short and easy to understand version of CEFR-VL that can be used in to translate into many languages
- Organisational issues

* ELTE Workshop on Arts Education (EWAE)

ENViL members are welcome to join the EWAE. It is a peer-reviewed scientific event with a printed, indexed conference book.

Submission deadline will be 16 April, notification of authors: 10 May.

Registration fees: Early Bird: Till 21 May: normal fee, 100 €, reduced fee for students: 70 €, later registration: From 22 May: normal fee: 130 €, reduced fee for students: 90 €. Information and preliminary program attached.

*** Paris Conference : 21-22 March 2018 *save the date***

Two-days conference on « *CEFR_VL as a tool for assessment* » (provisional title)
As you probably know, the next InSEA Regional Congress will take place in Finland, in Summer 2018. The conference in Paris will be in connection with the congress and be open to all InSEA members.

More information and the preliminary program in upcoming newsletters, after the meeting in Budapest.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Budapest or in the context of the working groups.

Christiane Herth, chair

and the steering committee: Franz Billmayer (Austria), Folkert Haanstra (Netherlands), Christiane Herth (France), Gabriella Pataky (Hungary), Diederik Schönau (Netherlands), Ernst Wagner (Germany).