

Lorenzo Rocca:

Language Support for Migrants - a new Council of Europe Toolkit for migrant inclusion and empowerment

Acquiring the (s) language of the reception country is a key factor facilitating the integration process of migrants, whether they seek access to education, employment, welfare, permanent residency, family reunion, or citizenship. It is also crucial that young migrants of school age are sufficiently proficient in the language of schooling, essential for their success as well as for interactions in the local community.

The Council of Europe has been committed to advancing the linguistic integration of migrants, focusing on the language support required to facilitate their inclusion in host country societies through the development of a series of resources organized into practical ‘toolkits’ (Carlsen, Rocca & Sheils, 2023).

In this contribution I will present the last Council of Europe milestone, the new *Language Support for Migrants (LSM) Toolkit* comprising 80 resources launched in 2024. The LSM Toolkit has been created to meet both the specific needs of teachers providing language support in mainstream educational programs or formal language learning settings, as well as the needs of teachers working in the compulsory school. It is also aimed at volunteers working in the community, in refugee reception centers or alongside teachers. In addition, some of the LSM tools are specifically designed to address the needs of migrants with a very low level of literacy (Minuz et al., 2022) or with little formal schooling, while others provide guidance for stakeholders such as those responsible for designing formal or non-formal language support provision, and/or those in charge of defining the content of pre-service and in-service training programs for teachers.

References

- Carlsen, Rocca & Sheils, *Education for Integration: The Case of Adult Migrants*, in *Quality and Equity in Education*, Edited by Byram, Fleming and Sheils, 2023
- Minuz, Kurvers, Schramm, Rocca, Naeb, LASLLIAM, *Literacy and second language learning for the Linguistic Integration of Adult Migrants*, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2022
- Council of Europe, *Language Support for Migrants*, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/language-policy/toolkit-2024>

Lorenzo Rocca is responsible of the language projects department at the Società Dante Alighieri in Rome. Since 2006 he gained expertise in coordinating projects at national and supranational level focused on the migration context; he has published papers, reference guides, syllabi and specifications referred to his field of research. Within ALTE Lorenzo is the chair of the LAMI SIG since 2008, an elected member of the Board of Trustees and of the Standing Committee since 2016. He is a language expert of the Council of Europe since 2014 and a member of the CLIQ scientific committee since 2013. In 2020 he was awarded with the national scientific qualification as Associate Professor.