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The Montessori Method with Children in Language Learning 0 - 14 MMC

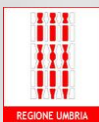
My vision of the future is no longer people taking exams and proceeding then on that certification . . . but of individuals passing from one stage of independence to a higher one, by means of their own activity through their own effort of will, which constitutes the inner evolution of the individual."

—Maria Montessori, *From Childhood to Adolescence*- 1948 -



The course can be fully funded by ERASMUS + Mobility Program and any National and International education funds. For Italian teachers, by
Carta del Docente

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Ente formatore Regione Umbria

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Erasmus+

Background:

The ability to understand and communicate in more than one language is essential in present's globalized world and what facilitates and fosters the learning of a foreign language is how early students start studying it and with what methodology.

As underlined by Krashen, Dulay and Burt in *Language Two* (1982), people who handle more than a language have higher verbal skills than the monolinguals and are even more skillful in understanding the meaning of new words. In the countries where the educational systems provide for the learning of one or more foreign languages in the early age, following the learning abilities typical of infant age, the passage to higher levels of education proved to be facilitated and the majority of the population reaches significant competences in other new foreign languages.

For this reason, the European Council, within the Strategic Framework for Education and Training (ET 2020), following the resolutions of the European Council in Barcelona 2002, has produced a Manual whose year 2011 version lists a series of guidelines, among which:

“The target language (TL), that is the language studied, shouldn't be presented as a separated subject but as an instrument of communication to carry out other activities”. In order to achieve such an objective, it is essential to create a “language” environment inside their classes where young students can find motivation and the right references.

Making students accustomed to mental opening and flexibility, to compare themselves to others and thus appreciating the consequent enrichment and benefits they can get from it, has become a fundamental principle for every teacher and trainer. The knowledge of foreign languages is the primary vehicle through which these principles are realized. Training the citizens of the world who are able to study, work and in few words “live” in a **globalized, multiethnic, multicultural and multilingual world**, is one of the objectives of the European Council and is **the main “responsibility”** of a teacher of foreign languages with children.

Maria Montessori (1870-1952) is an Italian educator famous all over the world whose revolutionary pedagogy, based on a deep study and analysis of the child and his learning abilities, is considered the basis of the modern pedagogy. Montessori philosophy is so effective that even nowadays it is synonymous of high-quality education. Città di Castello (Italy) has a close connection with this Italian pedagogist and her revolutionary studies, because in Città di Castello she founded her first primary schools and experimented with the method. In Città di Castello she held the first training course for teachers and again in Città di Castello she printed her first book: *“Corso di Pedagogia Scientifica”*.

Montessori name is synonymous with high quality education and **Lingua Più**, years ago, began applying the Montessori principles in teaching foreign languages, with the aim of improving the quality of its foreign language teaching methodology, both with children and adults. This is a very innovative methodology: in 2017 we carried out researches in 9 EU countries that have demonstrated that this structured application does not exist anywhere else. The participation in EU projects improved the methodology. In the project “*MMLT - The Montessori Method in Language Training*”, **Lingua Più** was the core partner. EACEA financed this project and the realisation of a Manual for teachers, written by **Lingua Più** who has the intellectual copyright of it.

MMLT has now two different branches: **MM**A - The Montessori Method with Adults in language training / **MM**C - The Montessori Method with Children in language learning

Hundreds teachers of foreign languages, from all over the world, have been trained by **Lingua Più** on this methodology.

Target group:

- ⇒ Language teachers with children 0-13
- ⇒ Teacher trainers
- ⇒ Students of foreign languages
- ⇒ Staff in the field of foreign language teaching and training (teaching and non-teaching): principals and vice principals, management, heads of departments, coordinators, student guidance counselors.

Language of the course:

English

Objectives:

Montessori language teaching can be defined as an approach based on a **full immersion** in a language environment with **self-corrective activities**, **fostering autonomy** and the quintessence of **problem-solving learning** by developing the **critical ability** towards a foreign language.

The full application of Montessori's principles enables a **natural language learning** among young students by **fostering the use of communication** in the target language, communication that will become more and more familiar thanks to the acquisition of new sounds.

Language learning is not presented as a school subject, but as a communicative tool that is

integrated with all other subjects and routines.

Participants will be shown how to encourage students to build up their own personal language code.

In fact, a language is made of “communicative acts” and not of single words.

As stated by Dr. Montessori, after observation of children followed by scientific research, those communicative acts should be adapted to the child’s age, personal capability and pace.

- ▶ How to prepare teacher’s own didactical material based on the principles of **MMC**. The material should match not only child’s age but also his cognitive development.
- ▶ How to foster oral production following child’s pace, considering also Montessori’s “sensitive periods”

As **sub-objectives**, participants will:

- ⇒ acquire a common teaching/training method, to facilitate mobility and transnational exchanges
- ⇒ improve their professionalism, increasing their career opportunities on international level
- ⇒ get effective tools for raising the motivation on foreign language learning, thanks to this accessible, adaptable and flexible method

Methodology:

The course provides theoretical studies and practical application of the **MMC** methodology through the encounter of Montessori pedagogy in its traditional application with the application in foreign language teaching

Extra activity (only for the in-site program):

Guided tour of Città di Castello and neighbouring touristic villages and towns (not included in the price)

Course place (for the in-site program):

Città di Castello - Italy

The gorgeous Città di Castello is situated on the northern fringes of Umbria, in the shadow of the Apennine Mountains. It sits in the fertile green valley of the River Tiber and is surrounded by verdant hills covered with olive groves, vineyards and pockets of wild untamed woodlands.

It is one of the main towns in Umbria region with its 45,000 inhabitants. The town centre, with its architecture from medieval and Renaissance period, is still surrounded by the old medieval walls and its narrow-cobbled streets echo to the sounds of locals, as they go about their business.

There is such a lot to see in and around Citta di Castello, famous for the contemporary artist Alberto Burri one of the most important modern artists, whose collections is preserved in two one-artist museums. The Pinacoteca (National Museum), former Vitelli family's Palace, strikingly decorated by Giorgio Vasari, houses collection of some of the most important artists from Medieval and Renaissance ages - Raffaello, Rosso Fiorentino, Piero della Francesca, just to mention some. Citta di Castello is a tranquil and pleasant place to stay, with easy access to Perugia and Assisi, to the south, and Rome only a two-hour drive away. The Rimini coastline is just 70 Km east and Florence is an hour and a half north of this fabulously interesting tourist destination.

Trainers

The course is coordinated by:

Mrs Roberta Marsili, expert linguist and director of the language center for over 15 years. Mrs Marsili, after achieving several proficiency certificates in English, received a certificate for Linguistics Teaching of Italian as a foreign language at the University for Foreigners of Perugia, and the certificate of Director of Language Institute issued by British Institutes.

She participated in many national and international conferences about modern methodologies in language teaching, as well as in seminars on "The Metacognition" organized by CEPU.

She wrote 2 manuals on the application of Montessori Method with Adults: "Free Style Montessori on the Job Learning – Frojol" and "Montessori Method on Language Training – MMLT".

The course will be held by:

Mrs. Laura Gastaldi, teacher of English as L2 and teacher of Italian for foreigners since 1999. Mrs. Gastaldi wrote 2 manuals on the application of Montessori Method with Adults: "Free Style Montessori on the Job Learning – Frojol" and "Montessori Method on Language Training – MMLT".

Follow-up:

Lingua Più will open a dedicated platform since the week before the beginning of the course. It will be active for 1 week after the end of the course, for any possible questions, notes and clarification (**for the in-site program**). **Lingua Più**'s trainers and coordinator will be available for all participants, for an unlimited period, for suggestions, information and anything they may need on the application of **MMC** methodology

Course fees (choose your favourite):

- ⇒ **a) Fully in-site course € 500,00:** 7 days of intensive course with theoretical studies, workshops for the application and practical activities.
- ⇒ **b) Fully asynchronous course € 280,00:** Theory: in self-learning with commented video – presentations (about 30 hours) and Practical application in self-learning with commented video – presentations (about 16 hours)
- ⇒ **c) In-depth live training € 115,00:** for clarification and possible further study of the practical application. It can **only** be combined with courses **a)** or **b)**

Live sessions are organised with respect to the number of participants and can last up to 2 days:

in individual session: 4 hours

in semi-individual session (2 - 4 participants): 6 hours

in group session (4+ participants): 8 hours

⇒ **Prices include:**

- ⇒ all didactic materials and the follow up, as in the program

Prices don't include:

- ⇒ accommodation, meals, trip costs and all personal costs (if applicable).

How to enrol

Fully asynchronous course: 1) access the following link: <https://elearning.linguapiu.eu/>. Available for computer, tablet and mobile phone. 2) choose the desired course by clicking on “**purchase MMC**” 3) go through the whole payment procedure 4) once you have received confirmation of the correct payment transaction, you will receive your login and password in your email inbox (check the SPAM folder) 5) return to the link above and go to “**login**” by entering the credentials you received. At this point you can start following the course. *Please read carefully the information about the structure course structure as written in main page " MMC course".*

Fully in-site course and live sessions: send an email to: info@linguapiu.eu

Cancellation terms:

In case of cancellation **before the enrolment deadline**, full reimbursement, deducted the possible bank fees and any other costs arisen by the money transfer and administrative costs.

For cancellation **after the enrolment deadline**, no reimbursement will be given.

In case of cancellation of the course by **Lingua Più**, the participants are totally refunded for the mentioned course fee.

.In case of cancellation of the course by **Lingua Più** or by the participant, no costs, for whatever purpose, can be charged to **Lingua Più Associazione Culturale**, such as, but not limited to, accommodation fees, journey fees and whatnot, considered those fees as part of the exclusive relationship between the participant and the service providers.

Type of Certification of Attendance awarded

⇒ *Certificate of Attendance* including description of training content and duration.

Notes:

- ❖ Min 3 - max 25 participants per session (**applicable only for in-site program a)**)
- ❖ Sessions with less than 3 participants are available, please ask for info (**applicable only for in-site program a)**)
- ❖ Participants with special needs are welcome

Training Sessions:

a) Fully in-site course.

- ▶ On demand

b) Asynchronous:

- ▶ Always available in the app

In-depth live training:

- ▶ Available every first Friday of each month. Booking required at least 15 days in advance

THEORETICAL STUDIES Programme

Neuroscience

How children learn a foreign language

The Traditional Montessori Method

Maria Montessori's biography

The Traditional Method

The 6 Montessori Characteristics as selected by the "Dutch Montessori Association"

The Montessori Teacher

Analysis of Maria Montessori Decalogue

The four Montessori learning periods and the Absorbent mind

The Montessori 3 period lesson

Hand is a psychic organ

The child's obedience according to Maria Montessori

The **MMC** theory

What a foreign language is

What foreign language learning is today

Why the Montessori Method applied to language training works

The 12 Montessori Principles applied to **MMC**

The **MMC** teacher

Final reflections and activities on the theory

Self reflection and activities on the 3 Montessori Maxims

MMC teaching is ... the teacher's new role

Do you accept to teach like this? Do you really follow the 3 Montessori maxims?

"Short essay on final reflections" for the practical part

PRACTICAL APPLICATION Programme

Activities to confirm and reinforce the Theoretical studies - **Fully in-site course**

Books by Maria Montessori on which research in materials development is based

Analysis of traditional Montessori materials and their use in language teaching

How to use the main **MMC** resources and tools

Examples of the practical application of the 12 Montessori Principles and the 6 Characteristics

Examples of the application of the Montessori 3 period lesson in foreign languages

MMC teaching materials developed by **Lingua Più** and their use

Examples of **MMC** lessons - variations in accordance with age and abilities

How to prepare didactical materials in accordance with **MMC**

How to adapt and use existing didactical and non-didactical materials in accordance with **MMC**

The importance of environment: arrangement of a **MMC** classroom

Activities: prepare your own **MMC** lessons and materials with comparison

How to adapt **MMC** lessons and materials for the online live teaching **In-depth live training**