

## Evaluation of Activities

Evaluation forms were provided for participants in all the researcher development activities that were organised as part of this three year project. The forms included open-end questions relating to publicity about each particular event, the organisation and content of the activities and areas for improvement. There was also space for participants to give further comments.

The feedback we received was very positive indeed. Positive comments far outweighed suggestions for improvements. We took account of the suggestions for improvement as we prepared each new event.

We summarise below the evaluations of key activities that were organised by the research team here at the project hub: at the MOSAIC Centre for Research on Multilingualism, School of Education, University of Birmingham.

### Learning from the evaluations

The aspects of the research activities that participants valued most were:

- The opportunity to encounter new ideas about theory and method in a changing field
- Linking these ideas with their own research through small group discussions and data analysis workshops
- The opportunity to network with both new and established researchers in the field
- The international nature of the participation

The evaluations also provided evidence of:

- The value of organising events of a short and intensive nature (of one to five days duration), involving different kinds of activities (e.g. lectures, plenary and group discussion, round tables, data analysis workshops, poster sessions etc.)
- The continuing demand in the field of multilingualism for further researcher development activities.
- The need to use multiple means of publicising events e.g. via BAALmail, the Linguists List, UKLEF, university departments and schools, supervisors and, since it has been established, the project website and mailing list.

### The one day events: developing a model of provision

A recurring theme in the evaluations was that time set aside for group discussion and data analysis workshops was much appreciated and that more time could be devoted to this kind of activity. In Follow-up days 2, 3 and 4, more time was devoted to group discussion. And, in fact, Follow up days 3 and 4 were organised by doctoral researchers associated with the MOSAIC Centre for Research on Multilingualism at the University of Birmingham. They adopted a model for a one-day event in which an open lecture by a visiting speaker (a senior scholar) was followed up by an afternoon workshop. In this workshop, two or three doctoral researchers gave brief overviews of their ongoing research, followed by commentary by the visiting speaker and group discussion. Since the end of our ESRC RDI project, this model has been successfully replicated by the doctoral researchers associated with the MOSAIC Centre in three further events which were funded by the Centre for Learning and Academic Development at the University of Birmingham.

### Summary of evaluations

Date	Activities and locations	Number of evaluations
5 -9 July, 2010	First five-day residential course. MOSAIC Centre, University of Birmingham	28 forms
4-8 April, 2011	Second five-day residential course. MOSAIC Centre, University of Birmingham	32 forms
2-3 May, 2012	2-day thematic workshop (w/ Dr K. Jones, Welsh Centre for Language Planning): New times, new mobilities & communicative practices: challenges for minority language research. MOSAIC Centre, University of Birmingham	15 forms & follow-up comments
25-26 March 2013	Final conference: Responding to contemporary multilingual realities, recasting research methodology. MOSAIC Centre, University of Birmingham	38 forms & follow-up comments

Evaluation summaries for each of these four capacity-building activities are below.

 Download the summary for [Researching multilingualism: key concepts, methods and issues. 5 - 9 July 2010 \(356KB, PDF\) \(/Documents/college-social-sciences/education/projects/researching-multilingualism-evaluation1.pdf\)](#)

 Download the summary for [Researching multilingualism: key concepts, methods and issues. 4 - 8 April 2011 \(353KB, PDF\) \(/Documents/college-social-sciences/education/projects/researching-multilingualism-evaluation2.pdf\)](#)

 Download the summary for [New times, new mobilities and communicative practices: challenges for minority language research. 2 - 3 May 2012 \(298KB, PDF\) \(/Documents/college-social-sciences/education/projects/researching-multilingualism-evaluation3.pdf\)](#)

 Download the summary for [Responding to contemporary multilingual realities, recasting research methodologies \(Final Conference\) 25 - 26 March 2013 \(355KB, PDF\) \(/Documents/college-social-sciences/education/projects/researching-multilingualism-evaluation4.pdf\)](#)

