

<b>1. Impact case study title:</b> Language learning and teaching in Macedonia: Policy and delivery	
<b>2. Academic lead name:</b> Professor Alessandro G. Benati	
<b>3. Research cluster:</b> Emerging Methods and Research in Language Sciences	
<b>4. College :</b> CAS	<b>5. Department:</b> English
<p><b>6. Background:</b></p> <p>Inter-ethnic communication was identified as key to building social stability in Macedonia after the political turmoil of 1999-2001. But the three main ethnic groups - Serbian, Macedonian and Albanian - had only a low-level knowledge of each other's languages. Professor Benati was able to apply his pioneering research on how best to help people learn a second language to provide the basis for (a) a fundamental change in the country's language education policy and (b) a significant improvement in grammar teaching methodology throughout Macedonia.</p>	
<p><b>7. Outputs:</b></p> <p>Benati, A. (2019). <i>Key questions in language teaching</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>(Benati, A. (2016) (Ed.) <i>A Guidebook for Language Teaching</i>. High Commissioner For Minority Languages OSCE &amp; British Council Macedonia. (Translated into Macedonian, Turkish, Serb, and Albanian.)</p>	
<p><b>8. Summary of Impact:</b></p> <p>The two major outcomes of this project were the publication of a teaching guidebook, and the development and implementation of a training program for school teachers on grammar teaching. The Guidebook launch sparked wide interest in the professional and academic community. The event was attended by sixty participants including the Deputy Minister of Education and Science, representatives from the Department for the Promotion of `Communities' Languages and faculty deans from state and private universities in the Republic of Macedonia. Hundreds of copies of the Guidebook, published in four languages, Macedonian, Albanian, Turkish and Serbian, were disseminated during the event. The event was covered by the national TV station "Kanal 5" and a number of newspaper articles were published. Since then, thousands of copies of the Guidebook have been disseminated among language teachers throughout Macedonia, in collaboration with the regional offices of the Bureau of Education and Development.</p> <p>444 language teachers from 37 primary and 17 secondary schools from 3 different cities (Skopje, Tetovo and Kumanovo) were trained using the teacher training program on grammar teaching and the Guidebook. Twenty-eight training sessions were delivered in two languages (Macedonian and Albanian). Teachers of other foreign languages (English, German and French) benefited from the training as well as those teaching Macedonian and community languages. Responses and comments received from the training were positive and encouraging. The feedback confirmed that the training was well-designed and provided important insights into language curriculum development. It enhanced teachers' knowledge and ability to develop effective grammar tasks and to deliver them in the language classroom. An additional value of the project is the knowledge sharing and cooperation between institutions that previously worked in isolation from each other. As a result of the success of the project, state advisors from the Bureau of Education Development are cooperating with state and private university professors in adopting a new strategy to develop effective policies and methodologies in teaching a second language in Macedonia.</p>	

### **9. Sources to corroborate impact:**

<https://www.facebook.com/BritishCouncilMacedonia><https://www.facebook.com/BritishCouncilMacedonia>

<http://www2.gre.ac.uk/about/schools/humanities/about/news/ed/a2040-alessandro-benati>

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=7212452>

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1540-4781.2009.00990.x/full>

<http://www.continuumbooks.com/books/detail.aspx?BookId=131256&SntUrl=150124>

[http://jalt-publications.org/jj/issues/2010-05\\_32.1](http://jalt-publications.org/jj/issues/2010-05_32.1)