

NETWORK CLILiG ROBOTICS**Croatia – Slovenia (and Rhineland-Palatinate)****Ref.: CLILiG Robotics 2026/27**

Dear colleagues,

We hope you had a relaxing holiday; we wish you and your pupils plenty of luck and success for the coming school year.

As in previous years, we would like to provide you with some information on the progress of the CLIL robotics programme at the start of the school year.

At the end of the 2025/26 project year, we announced a reorganisation. In this context, we will primarily be offering workshops in the coming year: introductory workshops to CLIL robotics at various levels of proficiency, for teachers and pupils, at project or information days, for internal or inter-school competitions, as well as for other interested parties from the fields of education, business and other sectors. We will then provide further information on the possible continuation of the championship projects in the second half of the school year.

Background:

We designed and launched the CLILiG robotics projects with the aim of offering an extracurricular programme combining language learning with robotics and AI, something which did not (and does not) exist in this form. The project offer was thus seen as an impulse for the entire – interdisciplinary – teaching programme. We drew up a concept for this, which has also been registered with a notary.

In this context, the national championships were intended to serve as an additional incentive to engage intensively with robotics and AI, not only from a technological but also from a societal perspective. And, of course, this was to be done within the context of promoting German as a lingua franca, but with a multilingual approach from the very beginning: in the respective national languages, in German, but – with a view to integrating teachers from STEM subjects – also in English: across disciplines, schools and national borders.

Since 2019 in Croatia and 2021 in Slovenia, CLILiG robotics championships have been held annually across the country with the support of numerous partner organisations. To date, more than 30 primary and secondary schools have taken part in the seven championship rounds in Croatia, whilst over 20 have participated in the five rounds in Slovenia. In 2025 and 2026, the first two International CLILiG Robotics Championships were held at Tehno-Park Celje and at Zaprešič Secondary School.

We were delighted by the feedback from teachers, principals and headmasters, supporting instances from diplomatic, business and media sectors, and above all from the pupils involved. The fact that some teachers have informed us that their involvement in CLILiG Robotics was counted towards their teaching hours for German also shows that CLILiG Robotics has been well received within the Croatian-Slovenian educational landscape.

The support provided for the CLILiG robotics programme included the concept and the organisational structure, as well as 10 LEGO Mindstorms robots, which were funded from private sources and made available free of charge in Croatia and Slovenia. Over the years, their use has inevitably led to a reduction in their operational capabilities; at present, not all robots are fully functional. On the other hand, several winners of the CLILiG robotics championships received robots as prizes, whilst other schools have been able to purchase their own

robots for use in the classroom, meaning that CLIL robotics has become increasingly established within the Croatian-Slovenian educational landscape.

None of this would have been possible without the support of numerous organisations, in the form of sponsorship in kind (catering for workshops and award ceremonies) and prizes (trophies, non-cash prizes, tickets, printing of certificates), the provision of facilities (venues for workshops and award ceremonies), and participation in national and international judging panels.

We would therefore like to express our sincere thanks to the German Embassies in Zagreb and Ljubljana, which have supported both national championships since the launch of the national projects and have also jointly assumed patronage of the International CLILiG Championship in 2025 and 2026, to the Agencija za Odgoj i Obrazovanje, the associations of German teachers (KDV and SDUNJ), the Goethe-Institut Slovenia, the publishers Hueber, Ljevak, Mladinska Knjiga and Školska Knjiga, the German Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Croatia and Slovenia, all local authority and business partners, and all institutions and schools in Croatia and Slovenia that have opened their doors for workshops and award ceremonies.

Special thanks are due to our colleagues in Ogulin, particularly Sunčica and Dragan Sabljak, with whom the idea for the CLIL robotics project was developed, and who are involved in evaluating the projects year after year.

Please bear with us as we take this opportunity to point out that all our CLILiG robotics projects were offered and carried out free of charge, and that we, as organisers, neither expected nor received any fees or reimbursement for expenses incurred.

However, the international expansion of the projects is leading to an increasing demand on time and resources; furthermore, the intellectual rigour required for research into and reflection on complex issues – including the challenges, opportunities and risks associated with robotics and AI – demands extensive and intensive engagement.

We would therefore like to use the coming school year to engage in an even more in-depth dialogue with you and your pupils on this topic. As mentioned, this can take place in the form of conferences and/or workshops, as an introduction to CLIL robotics at different levels of knowledge, for teachers and pupils, at project or information days, for internal or inter-school competitions, but also for interested parties from the fields of education, business and other sectors.

We could also bring robots along to events in this context, which could be used to actively involve a larger number of interested people in their practical application.

We would then use the discussions held during these events to restructure the championship projects accordingly, and we would provide further information on this before the end of the school year, so that you can plan accordingly in your schools for the subsequent period.

With this in mind, we look forward to hearing from you and receiving your suggestions,

and would like to wish you all the best for the start of the new school year once again.

See you soon,

and with warm regards,



Gerald & Monica Hühner