CORCOLAND: Collaborative Research on Communicative and Language Development

Marseille, 21-24 April 2026

Brief Project Description

Communication and language development in early childhood are fundamental processes underpinning learning, social engagement, and cognitive growth. Yet, research in this field faces persistent challenges: major differences exist in how infant and adult mutual contributions are analysed, how multimodality is captured (e.g., gaze, movements, vocalisations, facial expressions), and how individual dyadic characteristics are taken into account. Fragmentation in research protocols, the scarcity of translinguistic and cross-cultural studies, and the lack of shared methodologies further limit comparability and the broader impact of findings.

Several CIVIS universities host research groups with long-standing expertise in early communicative development. These teams share theoretical frameworks and employ complementary approaches, offering a unique opportunity to build synergies across linguistic, cultural, and methodological boundaries. This initiative aims to consolidate a network of collaboration among three CIVIS institutions (Aix-Marseille Université, Stockholm University, and Universidad Autónoma de Madrid), and to lay the groundwork for a broader international platform dedicated to this topic. The project has four main objectives:

- To establish a stable research network focused on early communicative and language development from a multimodal perspective considering the mutual adjustment of the partner.

- To share and harmonise research protocols, enabling cross-linguistic and cross-cultural data comparison and enhancing the potential for large-scale collaborative funding.

- To promote mutual training and researcher mobility within the CIVIS alliance.

- To design a joint workshop and prepare a collaborative application for external funding.

To achieve these goals, we propose an initial four-day meeting structured into three blocks:

1.-Research Progress and keynotes: Through scientific presentation and keynotes, exchange of current findings, methods, and analytical frameworks used across the participating groups.

2.-Training: A focused session titled "New methods for new and old questions" – including hands-on discussions on multimodal analysis (e.g., coding schemes, motion tracking, AI-assisted tools), comparative cross-species approaches, and integrated frameworks for analysing the interplay between modalities (e.g., touch

and vocalisation, gesture and movement, parental responsiveness and child development) and partners (leading role, synchronization of partners).

3.-Future Planning: Collaborative planning of a recurrent annual CIVIS workshop on Communicative development, coordination of student exchanges and research stays, and exploration of funding opportunities (e.g., European funding calls).

Project Participants

Aix-Marseillle Université (France)

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Preliminary Program

	CORCOLAND: Collaborative Research on Communicative and Language Development		
	Event	Place	Nb estimate
Day 1 - Tuesday 21/04/2026			
12:00	BUFFET	Marseille	15
13:00-17:00	Welcome & program presentation	Marseille	15
	7 presentations (each partner): questions and tools	Marseille	15
evening	FREE		
Day 2- Wednesday 22/04/2026			
10:00	Visit lab Aix	Aix-en-Provence	15
	PhD talks	Aix-en-Provence	15
12:00	LUNCH	Aix-en-Provence	15
14:30	Visit lab Marseille	Marseille	15
	PhD talks	Marseille	15
16:30	COFFEE BREAK	Marseille	30
17:00	CONFERENCE	Marseille	30
20:00	RESTAURANT (small team)	Marseille	7
Day 3 - Thursday 23/04/2026			
10:00	Capacity building 1 : example computational approach	Aix-en-Provence	15
11:30	Capacity building 2 : example : movement analysis	Aix-en-Provence	15
13:00	BUFFET	Aix-en-Provence	15
14:00	Capacity building 3 : example : Longitudinal approach	Aix-en-Provence	15
15:30	Capacity building 4 : example: language recording	Aix-en-Provence	15
17:00	Capacity building (invited) : Envisionbox	Aix-en-Provence	15
20:00	SOCIAL EVENT - BUFFET	Aix-en-Provence	20
Day 4 - Friday 24/04/2026			
10:00	Building of the next event	Marseille	7
12:30	BUFFET	Marseille	15
14:00	FRIOUL VISIT	Marseille	15