



The European Union's Multilingualism Policy

Trieste, 16 October 2009

Why a European Multilingualism Policy?

EU today:

- 27 Member States
- 500 million citizens
- 23 official languages (60 minority languages, approx. 450 world languages)
- Language and identity(ies), culture(s), history, society, geography...



Our approach:

- Main aim of the EU Multilingualism Policy: the promotion of language learning and linguistic diversity in Europe.
- Mother tongue plus two;
- Language learning at a very early stage;
- Promotion of language learning and linguistic diversity via the Lifelong Learning Programme.



Legal and political framework:

Shared competences in education including language learning:

- Member States responsible for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems and their cultural and linguistic diversity.
- European Union to encourage cooperation between Member States and to support and supplement their action.



Multilingualism: an asset for Europe and a shared commitment

- **Multilingualism for intercultural dialogue and social cohesion**
- **Multilingualism for prosperity** – competitiveness and employability
- **Lifelong language learning** in all sectors of education and training.
- **The media, new technologies and translation**
- **External dimension of multilingualism**



The Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-2013):

<p>Comenius School education</p> <p><i>Languages</i></p>	<p>Erasmus Higher education & advanced training</p> <p><i>Languages</i></p>	<p>Leonardo da Vinci Vocational education and training</p> <p><i>Languages</i></p>	<p>Grundtvig Adult education</p> <p><i>Languages</i></p>
<p>Transversal Programme</p> <p>4 key activities - Policy Cooperation; Languages; ICT; Dissemination and exploitation of results (valorisation)</p>			
<p>Jean Monnet Programme</p> <p>3 key activities - Jean Monnet Action; European Institutions; European associations</p>			



The Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-2013):

- Language learning oriented activities supported by the LLP: partnerships between schools and regions (Comenius) or between adult education organisations (Grundtvig); assistantships for future teachers and in-service teacher training (Comenius); linguistic preparation for mobility in Europe (Erasmus and Leonardo); student placements (Erasmus); language learning adult workshops (Grundtvig); multilateral projects, networks and conferences (Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo, Grundtvig, KAL).

Key Activity Languages (KA 2):

- Multilateral Projects;
- Networks;
- Accompanying measures.

(The actions supported under this key activity shall address teaching and learning needs concerning more than one sub-programme area. If the proposal addresses the needs of a specific sector covered by one sub-programme only, it will then be developed within the relevant sub-programme.)

KA 2 Multilateral projects:

- To develop new language learning materials; and/or
- To promote language awareness and access to language learning resources.

KA 2 Networks:

- development of language policies;
- support the exchange of information about innovative techniques and good practices;
- adapt and disseminate products of former projects to potential end-users.

KA 2 Accompanying measures :

- Accompanying measures will support communication activities, and events for the dissemination and exploitation of results.

Why individuals learn languages?



Source: Eurobarometer „Europeans and their language“
February 2006



More info:

- http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/index_en.htm
- Communication "Multilingualism: an asset for Europe and a shared commitment":
http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/pdf/com/2008_0566_en.pdf
- Lifelong Learning programme
http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc78_en.htm

