The European Union Multilingualism Policy

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Why a European Multiligualism Policy?

EU today:
" 27 Member States
" 500 million citizens
" 23 official languages (and the others&)

" Is English enough?
" Language and identity(ies), culture(s), history, society, geography&

Legal and political framework:

- *Article 149 of the Treaty:*

*The Community shall contribute to the development of quality education by encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, by supporting and supplementing their action, while fully respecting **the responsibility of the Member States for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems and their cultural and linguistic diversity.***

Legal and political framework:

- The Lisbon strategy (languages as basic skills);

- A new Communication on Multilingualism (2008);

- The main aim of the EU Multilingualism Policy: the promotion of language learning and linguistic diversity in Europe.

EU Multilingualism Policy:

Three main axes:

- economic competitiveness, growth and better jobs;

- lifelong learning and intercultural dialogue;

- multilingual communication between the citizens and the European institutions.

Economic competitiveness, growth and better jobs:

- The ELAN study;

- Study on new technologies and linguistic diversity;

- The Business Conference/Business Forum.

Multilingual communication…:

– Programmes for the Training of Interpreters and Translators;

– Support to ICT to improve communication between EU citizens and EU institutions (Advanced Technological Platform for Multilingual Communication; Terminology Databases open to the public etc)

Lifelong learning and intercultural dialogue :

- Working group on languages and intercultural dialogue (2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue);
- Study on Language and Intercultural Skills;
- The Lifelong Learning Programme(2007-2013)

The Lifelong Learning programme (2007-2013):

- The promotion of language learning and linguistic diversity is a general objective of the LLP as a whole.

- Languages are present in (almost) all sectoral programmes and key activities.

LLP: Structure

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

Key Activity Languages (KAL):

- Multilateral Projects;

- Networks;

- Accompanying measures.

Key Activity Languages (KAL):

- Studies

- Information campaigns

- European Indicator of Language Competence

- European Label

KAL Total Budget 2008: 12,150 m€

KAL's Multilateral projects:

- To develop new language learning materials;

- To promote language awareness and access to language learning resources.

KAL's 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.

Accompanying Measures

Projects for:

- communication activities,
- thematic monitoring of projects;
- dissemination and exploitation of project results.

EU's influence:

- The review of the whole educational system in the light of a lifelong language learning approach;

- The introduction of early language learning in primary and sometimes in pre-primary;

- The introduction of some CLIL (content and language integrated learning) in the curricula;

- An increased offer of languages at secondary level;

EU's influence:

- An increased investment in language teacher training;

- A review of final examinations and certificates to align them to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages;

- The use of European programmes and tools developed by the Commission and by the Council of Europe to audit national education systems, develop suitable language materials and tests, promote language teacher training abroad and European cooperation in school..

More info:

" http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/lang/languages_en.html

" The Lifelong Learning Programme: http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/newprog/index_en.html