#### Introduction



# **EFNIL & Taalunie**

as actors withing the ECSPM

## Survey

- Johan Van Hoorde as a candidate for the ExComm
- My native language: **Dutch**
- My organisation: Nederlandse Taalunie
  - official language policy body for Dutch
  - founding member of EFNIL

#### • EFNIL

**European Federation of National Institutions for Language** 

#### Johan Van Hoorde





#### Johan Van Hoorde

FNIL

- ° Ghent, 1956
- Germanic languages / philosophy
- Lecturer Business Communication Univ. Antwerp
- Staff member Taalunie since 1991, policy agent in:
  - spelling grammar terminology
  - speech and language technologies
  - language consultation by citizens
  - European collaboration: co-founder of EFNIL
  - Member of Executive Committee of EFNIL

### Dutch language area





#### Dutch as a native language

A pluricentric language, official language in the Netherlands, Belgium (Flanders – bilingual region of Brussels), Surinam and various smaller islands in the Carribean area

- 22 million native speakers
  - ± 16 million Netherlands
  - 6 million Flanders Brussels
  - 500.000 Surinam
- ± 40 th language in the world
  [Polish (40M), Greek (14M), Swedish (9M)]

#### Dutch as a foreign language

- 1,250,000 learners of Dutch als L2 (~95,000 adults)
- 400,000 pupils learn Dutch as a foreign language in secundary schools in Germany, Belgium (French region) and the North of France
- 30,000 students at universities abroad
- ± 180 sections of Dutch at universities in 40 countries
- 2,500 annual exams for the certificate of Dutch as a foreing language

#### Nederlandse Taalunie

*Intergovernmental organisation*, established in 1980 by the Netherlands and Belgium for a common policy in the field of Dutch language and literature

- <u>Member states</u>
  - Netherlands
  - Belgium: Flemish Community
  - Surinam (associated member)
  - Antillean islands (declaration of collaboration)
- Fields of Activity
  - Language policy language planning
  - Language teaching & learning (home abroad)
  - Literature and language-based culture

## Why did we want EFNIL?

FNIL

Many of the challenges and issues at stake are common to all / most languages & countries of Europe

- Collect empirical data (ELM)
- Exchange information best practices
- Develop common vision

social-economic challenges for Europe and the world, their implications for the language landscape & the contribution language policy and planning has to offer

- Influence political agenda: both national and European level
- More collaborative work, if not by all members then in partial coalitions and partnerships

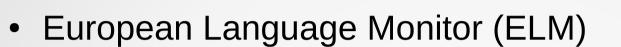
## What is EFNIL?

- European Federation of National Institutions for Language
- Established in Stockholm in 2003
- 39 member institutions in 28 countries
- Annual conferences and General Assembly each autumn

<u>Themes</u>: a.o. foreign language teaching, pluricentricity, language & economy, minority languages, language technology, language in higher education, linguistic prejudice

- Projects: ELM, LLE, (Efnilex), ELIPS
- Legal person according to Luxemburgish law since 2016
- More info: www.efnil.org





A rich and complex empirical basis for the development and evaluation of national and European language policies

Up-to-date information on language situation in the various European countries (EU and non)

- Data collection through questionnaire
- Data renewed every 3 years this autumn ELM3
- Renewal of data offers a longitudinal dimension to ELM
- See: www.efnil.org/projects/elm/data-query



Language Legislation Europe (LLE)

IIF

A survey of language related legislation and ruling in the various European countries (EU and non)

- Descriptive texts for each country in French and English
- Description includes: language within the constitution, language laws, status of minority languages, language ruling within non-linguistic areas such as consumer's rights, areas of contention with European Commission
- See: www.efnil.org/projects/lle

## EFNILEX

- Project on automatic generation of online prototype bilingual dictionaries
- Feasibility of modern, cost-effective method for development of dictionaries, esp. for those languages for which there are not yet good quality dictionaries available
- Prototypes available for:
  - Hungarian Lithuanian and v.v.
  - Dutch French and v.v.
- Terminated in 2016
- See: www.efnil.org/projects/efnilex

## **ELIPS**

European Languages and their Intelligibility in the Public Space (ELIPS)

Use of languages as instruments for government, legislation and public administration

- <u>Aspects</u>:
  - Plain language easy-to-read language
  - (Multilingual) terminology for legislation and public administration
  - Unbiased communication in terms of gender, social class, race, religion etc..
- Start with questionnaire spring 2018
- See: www.efnil.org/projects/elips

#### Eager to work with you!!

FNIL

So sorry for not being with you in person but eager to know you and to work with you in the future

A special word of thanks to Bessie and Guðrún for their perseverance and preparatory work!!!!!!



Thanks for your kind attention.