



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTURE

Youth, Education and Erasmus+
Schools and multilingualism

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EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES 2018

The EU now has 500 million citizens, 28 Member States, 3 alphabets and 24 official languages, some of them with a worldwide coverage. Some 60 other languages are also part of the EU's heritage and spoken in specific regions or by certain groups. In addition, immigrants have brought a wide range of languages; it is estimated that at least 175 nationalities are now present within the EU's borders. The harmonious co-existence of many languages in Europe is a powerful symbol of the EU's aspiration to be united in diversity, one of the cornerstones of the European project.

The European Commission's recently adopted proposal for a Council Recommendation for a comprehensive approach to language teaching and learning, acknowledges that learners may wish to include less widely taught and learned languages in their personal language portfolio. Many interesting pedagogical approaches are to be found in bilingual regions and multilingual classrooms around Europe.

The [European Day of Languages](#) is a yearly opportunity to raise awareness around language learning and linguistic diversity and to celebrate the linguistic heritage of the European community. This year, the European Commission will organise a public event in Brussels under the European Year of Cultural Heritage. The programme will be developed in partnership with EUNIC, the European Union National Institutes of Culture (mainly through collaboration with the Hungarian Balassi Institute, this year in charge of the coordination of the Transpoésie project) and the NPLD, the Network for Promotion of Linguistic Diversity, will be focusing on linguistic heritage and learning of heritage languages.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Brussels, 27/9 2018, Charlemagne Conference Centre, Rue de la Loi 170, Room Alcide de Gasperi

12:00-13:30 Panel debate (open to the general public)

The panel debate will showcase examples of successful pedagogies building up language competences in multilingual regions. Short presentations and a moderated discussion will be complemented by videos, poetry readings and songs, demonstrating the richness of Europe's linguistic heritage.

13:30-15:00 Lunch buffet and exhibition

Exhibition in the catering area featuring information about a large array of non-official languages spoken in the European Union, as well as selected educational institutions, successfully teaching three languages, one of which is a regional – or heritage – language. [The Transpoésie project](#) (multilingual poetry in the Brussels Metro) will be featured as a prominent example of how poetry travels across linguistic borders.

15:00-16:30 Expert panel (by invitation)

The expert panel will frame an in-depth discussion about how increased language awareness in schools generally can underpin successful language teaching and learning pedagogies. The objective of the panel will be to develop proposals for how such pedagogies can be proliferated, with a view to improving the learning outcomes in the fields of literacy and multilingual competences.