



Federal Union of European Nationalities

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Europäische Akademie Bozen

Network for multilingualism and linguistic diversity in Europe - RML2future

After the Network for Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity has been selected as one of the projects accepted for funding under the EU-programme Lifelong Learning, it will start its activities in the year 2009. The network will work on active language policies and language promotion, with the aim to contribute to increased European multilingualism actively including the regional or minority languages.

In many regions of Europe the European minorities contribute to bilingualism and multilingualism and therefore to the creation of language friendly environments. This should be used in a positive way in favour of the minorities and of European multilingualism. The minorities can contribute positively to the multilingualism of the citizens. The condition for this is that a positive image for multilingualism and linguistic diversity in Europe is disseminated.

The basis of the network are the more than 100 organisations of the European autochthonous, national minorities that are represented in FUEN and in the youth organisation YEN. The network is in particular working for the preservation of the small and smallest languages in Europe.



Lifelong Learning Programme



Education and Culture DG



Multilingualism

From the description of the network

The network RML2future is dedicated to the promotion of multilingualism and linguistic diversity in the Europe of the 21st century, actively involving the regional and minority languages (RML).

The aim of the network is to promote the European objective of multilingualism, according to which each European should learn two additional languages beyond the proficiency of his/her mother tongue. In the course of this the European regional and minority languages are integrated and the pursuit is followed to use this resource of natural bi- and multilingualism. Because it is the potential of multilingual regions that must be exploited in regard to the European objective and in the context of a positive effect for maintaining linguistic diversity.

For the multilingual regions in Germany, Denmark, Austria, Belgium and Italy that have been selected for the first years of the action of the network, scenarios for language transmission in the context of European multilingualism using the minority languages will be developed. These scenarios serve subsequently for the use of the results to other multilingual regions, comprise scientific results and guidance for professionals and decision makers. These scenarios will be supported by actions in the field of early language learning, languages in adult education and certification and testing of language proficiency.

To exploit the regional education potentials in cooperation between professionals, experts and decision makers and to create the establishment of language friendly environments in the regions, integrating the minority languages, the network is aiming at the acquisition of necessary know-how in the field of language planning and language policies amongst the participants.

Partners:

- Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN),
Applicant / Contractor, Germany, www.fuen.org
- European Academy in Bolzano (EURAC) –
Coordinator, Italy, www.eurac.edu
- German-speaking community in Belgium –
Agency for European Education programmes, Belgium, www.dglive.de
- Højskolen Østersøen,
institution for adult education, Denmark , www.hojoster.dk
- Council of the Carinthian Slovenes,
Austria, www.nsksk.at
- Youth of European Nationalities,
Netherlands, www.yeni.org



The network pursues the objective of developing into a centre of competence in the field of regional and minority languages as well as multilingual regions. In the evaluation report of the experts you can read regarding:

Innovative character:

The network can be regarded as one of the first attempts to create a sort of comprehensive device (“competence centre”) presenting an innovative approach to promoting the policy of multilingualism by exploiting and valorising the potential of the minority regions and minority languages in Europe:

These regions and their languages are viewed as resources for building language friendly communities and acquisition of two and more foreign languages as well as bridges for the languages of the neighbouring countries; the regional asset of bilingualism will be exploited pro-actively towards multilingualism in early school education and life long.

Impact

On the longer term, the emphasis will be put on transfer to other regions to be identified by leading organisations like FUEN and YEN (some of them have already contributed to the preliminary requirements analysis). The strong, broad networking structure of these organisations, the reliable channels for reaching the target groups and a clear vision of the methodology can ensure significant and measurable impact.

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