

*The linguistic integration of adult migrants:  
ways of evaluating policy and practice*

24–25 June 2010



# Introduction to the conference

**David Little**

# The 2008 seminar

## Background

- A growing number of Council of Europe member states are defining specific language requirements for migrants seeking residence or citizenship status, and applicants are increasingly required to take language and knowledge-of-society tests
- Requirements relating to language training and tests are usually based on the proficiency levels of the Council of Europe's *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (CEFR)

# The 2008 seminar

## Aims of the 2008 seminar

- To present the results of a survey of policy and practice in Council of Europe member states
- To explore Council of Europe principles in relation to language policies for the integration of adult migrants
- To consider the need for quality assurance in the design and implementation of language programmes
- To address key issues in language testing and assessment
- To share examples of policy development and practice

## Supporting documentation

- *The role of languages in policies for the integration of adult migrants* (Concept Paper)
- Five thematic studies
- Five case studies

# The 2008 seminar

## Outcomes

- Participants reported that the seminar was very relevant to their needs and the supporting documentation and seminar presentations were very helpful
- They suggested that in future the Council of Europe might
  - make information of various kinds available on its website
  - develop additional tools to support the linguistic integration of adult migrants
  - provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and experience
  - foster discussion on specific themes
  - organize further conferences and seminars

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# The 2010 conference

## Aims

- To address language issues related to family reunification, permanent residence, nationality/citizenship, and access to the labour market
- In doing so, to consider key issues in the evaluation of policy and practice in these areas

## Supporting documentation

- *Adult migrant integration policies: principles and implementation* (Jean-Claude Beacco)
- *The linguistic integration of adult migrants: evaluating policy and practice* (David Little)
  - Based on the 2008 concept paper and thematic studies
  - Includes key questions for discussion

# The 2010 conference

## Why evaluation?

- Member states need ways of measuring
  - the impact of their policies on migrants and the host society, taking account of shared values
  - especially in a time of economic recession, whether or not policy implementation gives value for money

## What should be evaluated?

- The extent to which
  - policies concerning linguistic integration have clear, principled objectives
  - account is taken of migrants' linguistic and educational background
  - language programmes are based on an analysis of migrants' needs and the action-oriented approach on which the CEFR is founded
  - the status of language programmes (obligatory or optional) impacts on learner motivation and learning outcomes
  - programmes are cost-effective and subject to quality assessment
  - formal tests conform to international standards of good practice
  - consideration has been given to using alternative forms of assessment

# The 2010 conference

## An essential underlying question

- How can the Council of Europe help member states to meet the challenges posed by the linguistic integration of adult migrants?

## Some possible answers

- Council of Europe expert assistance with self-evaluation of language policy and practice
- Support for national, regional or European events concerned with (aspects of) the linguistic integration of adult migrants
- Regular updating of the survey of language requirements and language training provision for adult migrants
- On the basis of the documentation prepared for this conference and its outcomes, a set of guidelines/indicators for the evaluation of policy and practice regarding the linguistic integration of adult migrants



# The 2010 conference

## Programme

- *Language requirements for adult migrants in Council of Europe member states: report on a follow-up survey* (Claire Extramiana and Piet Van Avermaet)
- *Presentations of national/regional projects (lunch break)*
- Two phases of discussion based on the conference document, with plenary introduction and feedback
- A round table in which the conference is reviewed by representatives of
  - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)
  - Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC)
- Closing session
  - Paulina Polownia, Adviser to the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
  - Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport (DG IV)