



Education and Culture DG

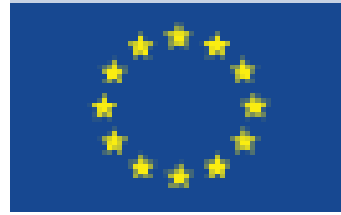


Multilingualism and Migration in the EU

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Strasbourg, 24 June 2010



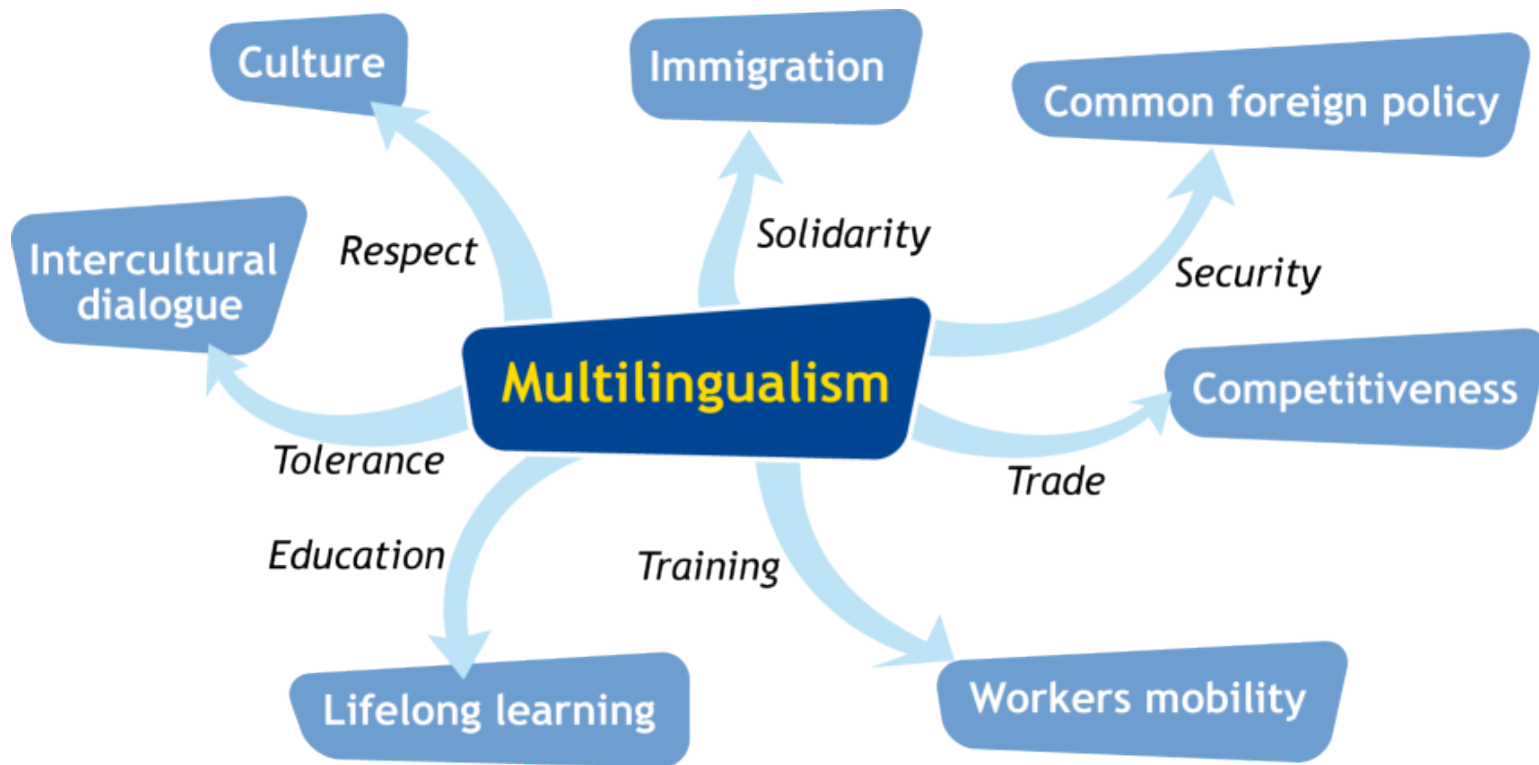
- 500 million citizens
- 27 Member States
- 3 alphabets
- 23 official languages
- 175 nationalities
- 60 regional/minority languages
- Host-country language teaching
- Untapped linguistic resources : heritage languages

*“Linguistic diversity is a challenge for Europe but,
in our view, a rewarding challenge”*

*Amin Maalouf,
Group of Intellectuals for Intercultural Dialogue*



Multilingualism is central



Multilingualism : the role of the EU



- **Develop quality education**
- **Encourage cooperation between Member States**
- **Support and supplement Member State action, while fully respecting their responsibility for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems and their cultural and linguistic diversity.**

2002 : Barcelona EU Council



**Language objective :
Mother Tongue + 2**

Multilingualism: an asset for Europe and a shared commitment



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 18.9.2008
COM(2008) 566 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Multilingualism: an asset for Europe and a shared commitment

{SEC(2008) 2443}
{SEC(2008) 2444}
{SEC(2008) 2445}



Long term agenda

Promote multilingualism for intercultural dialogue and social cohesion

- ✓ Teaching host country language for jobs and integration
- ✓ Valuing migrant's linguistic competences for intercultural dialogue and economic competitiveness





The EU and migration

➤ Better integration of migrants in the work force

➤ Labour migration policy

European Platform Against Poverty

Develop a new agenda for migrants' integration to enable them to take full advantage of their potential



The EU and migration

- Promote harmonious integration by balancing migrants' rights and duties, including **specific measures to promote language learning**
- **Respect for the identities** of the Member States and the EU and for their values
- Combat **discrimination** against migrants
- Evaluate families' **capacity to integrate** through their knowledge of the **host country language**

Language support



Green paper

- Language is key factor
- Early language support
- Promote learning of heritage language

Consultation

- Policies for learning the language of instruction
- Qualified teachers, continuous support, parents
- Debate on added value of heritage language

Council conclusions

- Developing adequate policies for teaching the host country language
- Teacher training for managing linguistic diversity
- Consider possibilities for developing mother tongue





Androulla Vassiliou

**EU Commissioner for Education,
Culture, Multilingualism and Youth
2010-2014**

More information :

Multilingualism :

http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/index_en.htm

Education :

http://ec.europa.eu/education/index_en.htm

