

Complex learning environments

What is it about?

Complex learning environments (CLE) refer to vibrant spaces where many languages and cultures thrive. CLEs involve dynamic real-world interactions and cater to diversity by being adaptable. Students are not forced to fit the room or activity; the room or activity changes (physically, socially, and digitally) to fit the student. Digital tools empower learners to step outside the physical classroom walls, giving them access to real-world resources and opportunities to experience different language encounters not available locally. Learning languages is about connecting with different cultures in a meaningful way. By integrating different technologies, including AI, different learning spaces and multimodal, adaptable learning activities, CLEs address the reality of today's classrooms, i.e. their linguistic and cultural heterogeneity and the resulting need for flexible teaching methods. In this way, CLEs reflect and best prepare learners for the real plurilingual, complex world outside the classroom.

Why is this important and what can be done?

Plurilingual and intercultural learning depends on ... [complex] "learning environments where languages flourish" ... [which] ... provide access to learning opportunities in a wide range of languages (See Explanatory Memorandum p. 32). Thus, there is a need to:

- design curricula and learning environments that prioritize dynamic, real-life interactions in multiple languages, and move beyond traditional methods and learning spaces;
- integrate digital tools into teaching practices that create virtual connections, allowing students access to authentic tasks and interaction with global resources and communities;
- ensure that digital tools and AI encourage critical reflection and are used in ethically and socially responsible ways;
- create authentic action-oriented activities for increasingly diverse learner groups to engage with diverse linguistic and cultural contexts, essential for developing the plurilingual and pluricultural competencies needed for democratic societies.

For guidance on related Council of Europe resources, please refer to the full [Toolbox Entry](#)