

Network for multilingualism and linguistic diversity in Europe
Netzwerk für Mehrsprachigkeit und sprachliche Vielfalt in Europa

**Conference on European language policy for Regional
and Minority Languages
17.-18.01.2012 Bozen**



The added value of regional and minority languages in multilingual and cross-border regions is undisputed.

Preserving linguistic and cultural diversity is a stated aim of the EU Fundamental Rights Charter, it is included in the Lisbon Treaty and laid down in documents of the Council of Europe. Nevertheless, the promotion of regional and minority languages on the European level is insufficient. The potential offered by the languages is not utilised sufficiently. The number of speakers is declining and assimilation wears on.

Increasing demands, developments in the society, economy and politics and the search for the advancement of a united Europe require a clear position in regard to the future of the regional and minority languages and their communities, and as a consequence thereof, strengthening the regions in Europe.

Following these principles, during the conference we would like to give fresh impetus to strengthen regional and minority languages in the general political debate as well as concretely within the context of the new Lisbon Treaty and the composition of the future funding programmes of the EU from 2014 onwards.

Furthermore the conference will be used to advance the networking efforts between European representatives of regional and minority language communities, based on the "JOINT STATEMENT OF COOPERATION" between FUEN and the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD).

Common actions and strategies on the European level are required, thereby including all the international organisations and a strong and united voice of the interest groups / NGOs on the European level.

The decisive factor in political networking is to always keep an eye on the connection between the political decision making level and the practical work and implementation of policies in specific language communities.

What affects the professional, what are the challenges and opportunities in creating networks of people who daily work for preserving the languages?

The second day of the language conference will mainly deal with the challenges and opportunities of the professionals. The experiences of the network RML2future from the last three years will be presented and proposals for networking and inspiration for their own work, for support and networking on the European level will be discussed.

The conference is directed towards representatives, activists, education policy makers and professionals from European regional and minority languages and representatives of multilingual European regions, towards cooperation partners and everyone who is interested.



www.fuen.org



www.eurac.edu



www.dglive.be



www.hojoster.dk



www.nsk.at



www.yeni.org

The network is supported by the European Commission and the Autonomous Region Trentino-South Tyrol.
Gefördert wird das Netzwerk durch Mittel der Europäischen Kommission und der Autonomen Region Trentino-Südtirol.



Network for multilingualism and linguistic diversity in Europe
Netzwerk für Mehrsprachigkeit und sprachliche Vielfalt in Europa

Conference on European language policy for Regional and Minority Languages

17-18 January 2012

Preliminary programme (tbc)

Tuesday 17 January: European language policy

09:30 hr Opening - Governor **Luis Durnwalder**

Words of welcome by Regional Assessor and FUEN-vice-president **Martha Stocker**

Moderated by **Peter J. Weber**, University of Applied Languages in Munich, external evaluator of RML2future

Introduction to the conference

Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth

Michl Ebner, the Agency for Linguistic Diversity and Language Learning – the aims of the Ebner report from 2003 and its implementation

Alexander Bröstl, 20 years European Language Charter – the role of the monitoring and reporting system of the Council of Europe

Presentation MENON Study of the European Parliament, Professor Walter Kugemann

Presentation EUROMOSAIC Study, Peter J. Weber

Presentation NPLD – Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity

Presentation Civil Society Platform on Multilingualism

Presentation RML2future – Network for Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity in Europe

Panel discussion: why is it that we don't succeed in establishing a well-functioning network that includes all the relevant actors? – effective cooperation for the regional and minority languages on European level, with representatives of NPLD, FUEN, Poliglotti, EBLUL, Mercator; moderated by **Johan Häggman**.

16:30 hr Conclusion, **Martha Stocker**

18:00 hr Evening programme with dinner



www.fuen.org



www.eurac.edu



www.dglive.be



www.hojoster.dk



www.nsk.at



www.yeni.org

The network is supported by the European Commission and the Autonomous Region Trentino-South Tyrol.
Gefördert wird das Netzwerk durch Mittel der Europäischen Kommission und der Autonomen Region Trentino-Südtirol.



Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme



REGIONE AUTONOMA TRENTO SÜDTIROL
AUTONOME REGION TRENTIN SÜDTIROL
REGIONE AUTONOMA TRENTO SÜDTIROL

Network for multilingualism and linguistic diversity in Europe Netzwerk für Mehrsprachigkeit und sprachliche Vielfalt in Europa

Wednesday 18 January 2012: RML2future Conference on language promotion with practical contributions and presentations, and launch of common projects plans for regional and minority languages.

- 9:00 hr Opening by **Dr. Florian Mussner**, Provincial Councillor for Ladin Culture
Welcome by Regional Assessor and FUEN-vice-president **Martha Stocker**
- 9:15 hr Keynote speech: Language promotion today: language planning from small to big – strategic language planning based on an example
- 9:40 hr The network RML2future and its activities: What are we doing?
- 9:50 hr Three examples:
Language promotion: looking into the future – ProML, ProMultilingualism - Awareness raising tools for multilingualism for creativity and innovation
- 10:10 hr Study visits on language certification in selected multilingual regions: results and possible recommendations
- 11:00 hr Research within the network: development of learning scenarios for all levels of education for the purpose of raising awareness and understanding for regional and minority languages amongst both the majority as well as the minority population
- 11:30 hr RML2future, looking back and to the future: discussion with professionals from the multilingual regions: If we would be able to wish anything, it would be...?
Preparation for the key subjects that will be discussed in the afternoon
- 12:00 hr The new EU-programme “Erasmus for all” (from 2014) – What does it consist of and which new features will it provide for us?

14:00-17:00 hr **Language promotion in practice**

The afternoon is dedicated to allowing the participants of the conference to exchange and deepen their knowledge in specific fields. According to registration and interests indicated in advance of the conference specific topics will be discussed more intensively in small groups.

Options:

1. Contact seminar for multilateral school partnerships – the launch of possible school cooperations between the multilingual regions
2. Comenius-assistants in Europe, funded by the EU – assistants in schools for regional and minority languages: supporting our young RML-talent
3. Early multilingualism – presentation and discussion with Ladin kindergartens and working further on the recommendations of the Third Regional Conference on early multilingualism
4. The advertising agency for ProML (Pro Multilingualism – the two-year project pertaining an awareness raising campaign): language promotion based on the example of the EUROPEADA 2012
5. Language planning and language certification for a language – what does it really mean?
6. Visit to South Tyrolean education establishments (on request and based on interest)



www.fuen.org



www.eurac.edu



www.dglive.be



www.hojoster.dk



www.nsk.at



www.yeni.org

The network is supported by the European Commission and the Autonomous Region Trentino-South Tyrol.
Gefördert wird das Netzwerk durch Mittel der Europäischen Kommission und der Autonomen Region Trentino-Südtirol.

