

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.



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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.



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Conference on European language policy for regional and minority languages 17-18 January 2012

Programme

Tuesday 17 January: European language policy

09:30 hr Opening

President of EURAC, **Dr. Werner Stuflesser**

Governor **Luis Durnwalder**

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

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

Introduction to the conference

Dr. Michl Ebner, President of the Chamber of Commerce Bozen/Bolzano and former Member of the European Parliament. The Agency for Linguistic Diversity and for Language Learning – the aims of the Ebner report from 2003 and its implementation

Dr. Christian Gsodam, Advisor to the Secretary General, Committee of the Regions of the European Union

Prof. Alexander Bröstl, Member of the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Presentation **MENON** Study of the European Parliament, **Dr. Walter Kugemann**

Presentation **EUROMOSAIC** Study, **Prof. Peter J. Weber**

Presentation **NPLD** – Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity, **Meirion Prys Jones**

Presentation **Poliglotti4.eu**, **Cor van der Meer**

Presentation of the new EU programme “**Erasmus for All**”, **Teresa Condeço**, Multilingualism Policy Unit, European Commission

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 **EUROPEADA 2012** with dinner together



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Wednesday 18 January 2012: RML2future conference on language promotion with practical contributions and presentations, and launch of common projects ideas 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**

I) Keynote speech: Language promotion today: strategic language planning from small to big

II) Language planning in practice, based on the example of the Ladins

III) The network RML2future and its activities: What are we doing?

- a. 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
- b. The Lifelong Learning programme and “Erasmus for All” from 2014 on. And where can we find the relevant opportunities for us? Concrete planning of projects and mobility between multilingual regions; supporting our young RML-talents.
- c. Looking into the future: the FUEN/RML2future follow-up project on raising awareness for multilingualism to achieve more creativity and innovation
- d. The competence centre – almost realised?! Planning for the coming three years

IV) Discussion with professionals from the multilingual regions: “If we would be able to wish anything, it would be...?”

13:30 hr Lunch and evt. departure to the airport

The afternoon is dedicated to give the participants of the conference the chance to exchange and deepen their knowledge in specific fields. According to registration and interests, specific topics can be discussed more intensively in small groups.

Options:

Contact seminar for multilateral school partnerships – the launch of possible school cooperation between the multilingual regions

Early multilingualism – presentation and discussion with Ladin kindergartens and working further on the recommendations of the Third Regional Conference on early multilingualism

The advertising agency for ProML (Pro Multilingualism – the two-year project pertaining an awareness raising campaign): language promotion based on the example of the European Football Championship of the autochthonous, national minorities EUROPEADA 2012

Language planning and language certification for a language – what does it really mean?

Visit to South Tyrolean education establishments (on request and based on interest)



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