

RML2future

Network for multilingualism and
linguistic diversity

*It's never too late ...
monolingualism is easy to cure!*

*Es ist nie zu spät ...
Einsprachigkeit ist heilbar!*

DOCUMENTATION

Kickoff meeting on Language Certification

in Eupen (Belgium),
9–11 June 2009

www.rml2future.eu

RML2future – Network for Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity in Europe
under the lead of the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)

www.language-diversity.eu, www.rml2future.eu

Editors: Judith Walde, Madlenka Kowar

Photos: RML2future Team

Translation: Frank de Boer

Layout: Jadwiga Weidlich

Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)

Schiffbrücke 41

D-24939 Flensburg

Germany

info@fuen.org

www.fuen.org



in cooperation with



www.eurac.edu



www.dglive.be



www.hojoster.dk



www.nsk.at



www.yeni.org

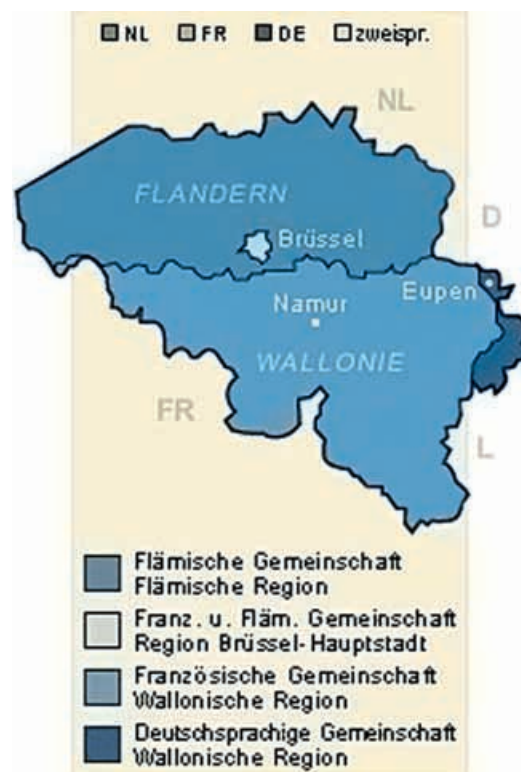
KICHOFF MEETING

on Language Certification in Eupen (Belgium),
9–11 June 2009

Language certification and testing of language skills

The German-speaking Community in Belgium

The German-speaking Community (DG) is the smallest of the three official communities of Belgium. On a territory of 854 square kilometres about 73 000 inhabitants are living. Most of them are German-speaking Belgians, but they include as well Walloon, Flemish and foreign citizens. The area consists of the municipalities of Amel, Büllingen, Burg Reuland, Bütgenbach, Eupen, Kelmis, Lontzen, Raeren and St. Vith. The German-speaking Community in Belgium has its own political autonomy. This political autonomy contributed significantly to the fact that the German-speaking Community considers itself as a full-fledged constituent part of the Belgian State.



web



More information on the history of the region:

www.grenzgeschichte.eu (German)

www.dglive.be/en/Desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-1263/2264_read-27181/

The Network RML2future in Eupen

The kickoff-meeting of the working group “Language certification and testing of language skills” took place in Eupen, Belgium from 9 till 11 June 2009. Besides the representatives of the project partners from Germany, South Tyrol, Denmark, Belgium and YEN also professionals from the Ministry of the German-speaking Community in Belgium, department of education, training and employment, unit for pedagogics and from the Autonomous College in the German-speaking Community participated in the talks and discussions.





Within the network, the German-speaking Community is the expert partner specialised in the field of certification and testing of language skills.

The implementation and application of the DG provided the practical example for this

subject. Assessments of language skills are already taking place successfully within the German-speaking Community. On the basis of the experiences and results of the procedures used (such as DELF-tests) the potential for application in other minority languages was to be explored now.

Focus on Language Certification for Minorities

The first meeting in Eupen in June 2009 was directed at establishing contacts and getting to know the structure of the DG, and at planning the concrete approach within the thematic area.

In differentiating between different forms of language evaluation the situation of each and every region and the application of language procedures had to be explored for the minority languages. To that end study visits to selected multilingual regions (Lusatia, German-Danish border region, Carinthia and South Tyrol) were undertaken.

An overview of the instruments and methods for assessing language skills was elaborated and presented on the basis of recognised and widely used procedures as well as on the basis of established formats, such as e.g. the Common European Framework of Reference for language learning. Within the report the

factors required for the adaptation to minority languages are listed and open questions, such as on the limits to and the advantages and disadvantages of evaluation and each individual procedure, were discussed.

At the end of the kickoff meeting preparations were made for the First Regional Conference on the subject of certification and assessment of language skills. The conference aimed at establishing contacts between different target groups and at mainstreaming targets, open questions and results to date from the regions.

Besides the full working schedule the partners had the possibility during the lunch and coffee breaks, and also during dinner, to get spoiled by the culinary delicacies in Belgium.

A very special thank you is due to all the representatives of the German-speaking Community in Belgium, especially to Edgar Hungs for perfect preparation and planning of the meeting. The partners look forward to meet again in Eupen!



Extract from the agenda

- Topic 1: Presentation of the thematic area of language certification and testing of language skills
Getting to know the German-speaking Community (DG) in Belgium and its history, policies
The education system in the DG in detail: testing language skills, evaluation and results
- Topic 2: Project management
- Topic 3: Project meeting of the Network
- Topic 4: Preparation of the First Regional Conference of the Network in Eupen



Participants

Angela Hansen – Højskolen Østersøen, Denmark

Edgar Hungs – Agency for European Education Programmes VoG, German-speaking Community Belgium

Hester Knol – Youth of European Nationalities YEN, the Netherlands

Susann Schenk – Federal Union of European Nationalities FUEN, Germany

Judith Walde – Federal Union of European Nationalities FUEN, Germany

Sabine Wilmes – European Academy Bozen/Bolzano EURAC, Italy

Representatives of the German-speaking Community in Belgium:

Corina Senster, pedagogical adviser in the Ministry of the German-speaking Community, unit for pedagogics

Stephan Boemer, director of the Autonomous College of the German-speaking Community

Joseph Dries, chief of cabinet of the German-speaking Community

Accommodation: Ambassador Hotel Bosten in Eupen



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission and the Autonomous Region Trentino-South Tyrol. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission and the Region cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



RML2future

Network for multilingualism and
linguistic diversity

www.language-diversity.eu