

Language tree



1. Make a drawing of a large tree and provide sticky-notes in the form of leaves.
2. When arriving at the workshop all participants take “leaves” and individually write on them:
 - on the roots: languages I feel at home with;
 - on the tree-trunk: my first language;
 - on the branches: languages I have learnt;
 - Up in the clouds: languages I still want to learn. Tag the leaves to the appropriate places on the tree.
3. In groups: discuss the collective language range within the group. Which languages do you have in common, and which are different?
4. The tree should hang throughout the workshop showing the wondrous range of languages in Europe mirrored at the workshop.

Material: large flipchart sheet
leaves (e.g. post-it)

Upon arrival, all participants take "leaves" and label them with their languages, as in the example. The "leaves" are then glued/pinned to the corresponding places on the tree

Implementation:

In the clouds

Languages that I would like to learn

On the branches

Languages that I have learnt and languages that are still important for me

On the trunk

My first language

On the roots

Languages I feel at home with

Photo: Jim Murphy

Group activity: In small groups you can talk about the language diversity within the group.

- Which languages are common and which are not?
- What are the desired languages?
- What does this say about group members?

Plenary session activity:

- Take up feedback from groups;
- Pointing out the diversity of languages and thus the strength of the groups: "Language is the key to the world" - Wilhelm von Humboldt.