



Multilingualism European policy context

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The wider context: Union of Skills



The need for more and better skills

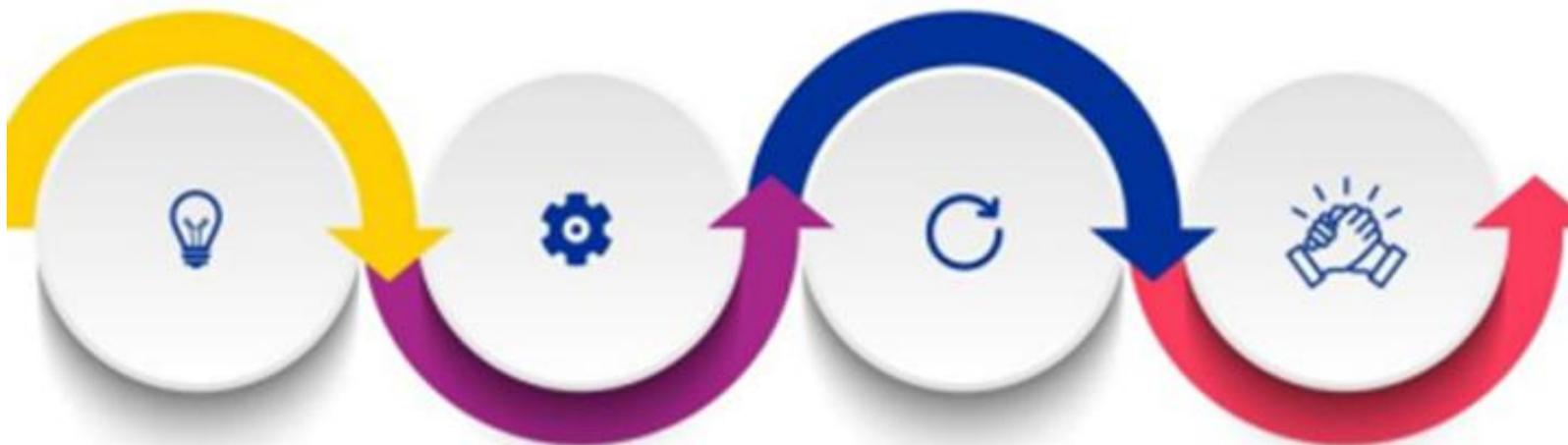
Skill shortages and gaps in Europe – Europe does not produce enough skilled workers in both quality and quantity.

Transformation speed gap – Education and training systems and providers struggle to keep pace with rapid technological transformations and the changing skills needed.

Fragmented governance and skills intelligence – Multitude of stakeholders with variety of perspectives and insufficient consolidation and coordination.



UNION OF SKILLS



Building skills
for quality lives and jobs

Upskilling and reskilling
for the digital & green transition

Circulating skills
across the EU for competitiveness

Attracting, developing and retaining talent
for Europe's future



Skills and qualifications are transparent, trusted and recognised



Building skills for life

- **Action Plan on Basic Skills (including literacy and citizenship)**
- STEM Education Strategic Plan
- 2030 Roadmap on the future of digital education and skills
- Basic Skills Support Scheme (pilot)
- **AI in education** initiative
- **EU Teachers & Trainers Agenda**
- European competence framework for academic staff
- European Strategy for vocational education and training
- Increasing accessibility of higher education



🔄 Circulate and allocate skills to unlock the full potential of the single market

- **Skills Portability Initiative**
- Common European framework for the automatic recognition of study qualifications and learning periods abroad in school, VET and higher education
- Launch of innovative joint European study programmes with a European degree/label
- A legal status for European Universities alliances
- Pilot a European VET diploma
- Pilot European School Alliances
- Investment Pathway for European Universities
- Strengthen Centres of Vocational Excellence

Multilingualism in the EU

- The EU promotes multilingualism to boost **personal fulfilment**, improve **job opportunities** and encourage **active citizenship**.
- One of 8 **essential competences** for lifelong learning – Council Recommendation 2018
- 2019 Council Recommendation on a **comprehensive approach to the teaching and learning of languages**
- The **2025 Cultural compass** highlights the EU's commitment to protecting, developing and promoting linguistic diversity.

Council Recommendation on a comprehensive approach to the teaching and learning of languages – adopted in May 2019

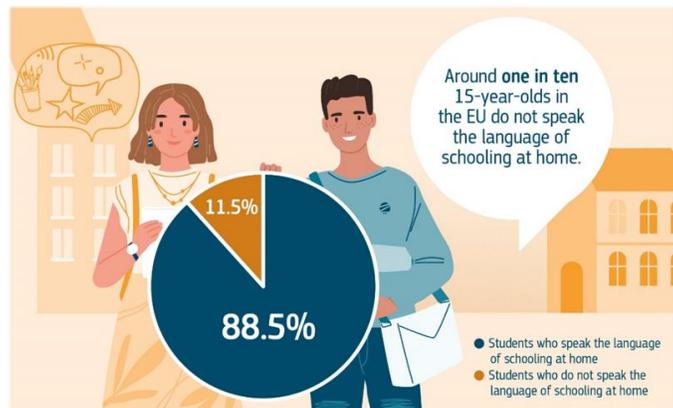


At the end of upper secondary school, young people should be able to...

1. Fully use the language of schooling
2. Confidently use another European language
3. Use a third language with a degree of fluency

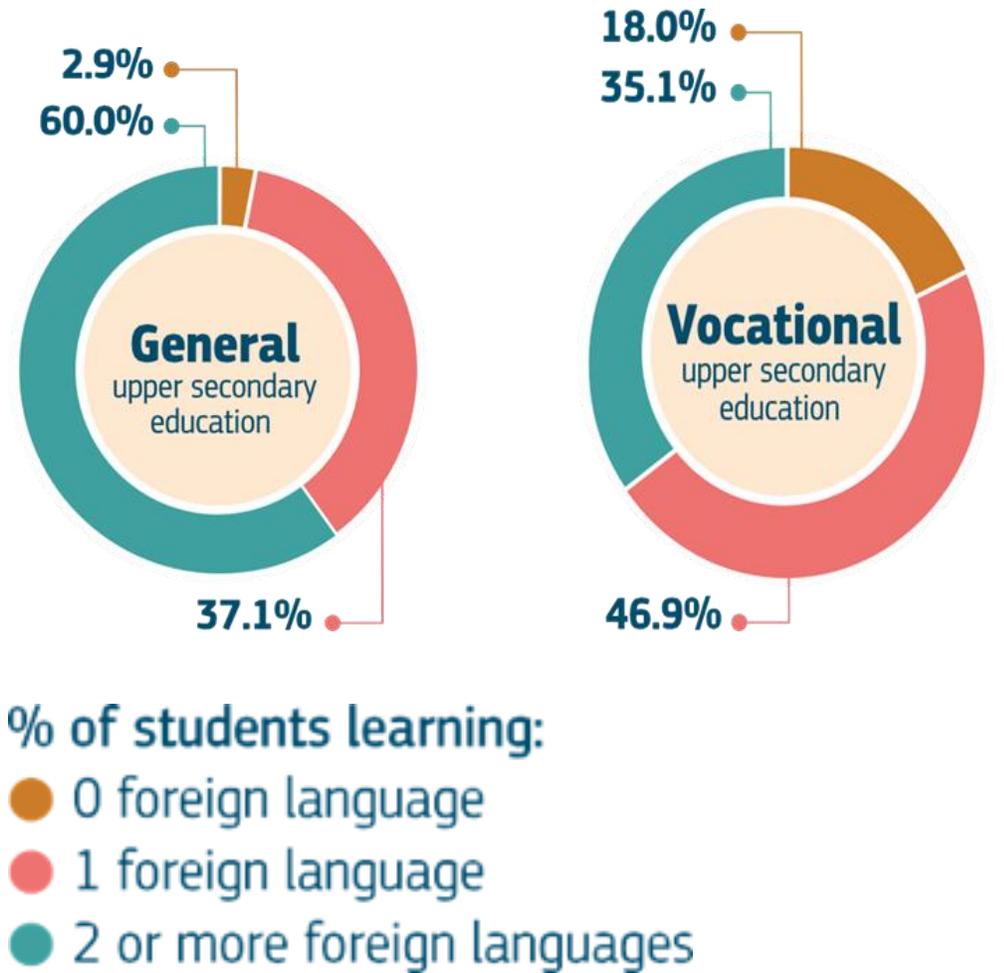
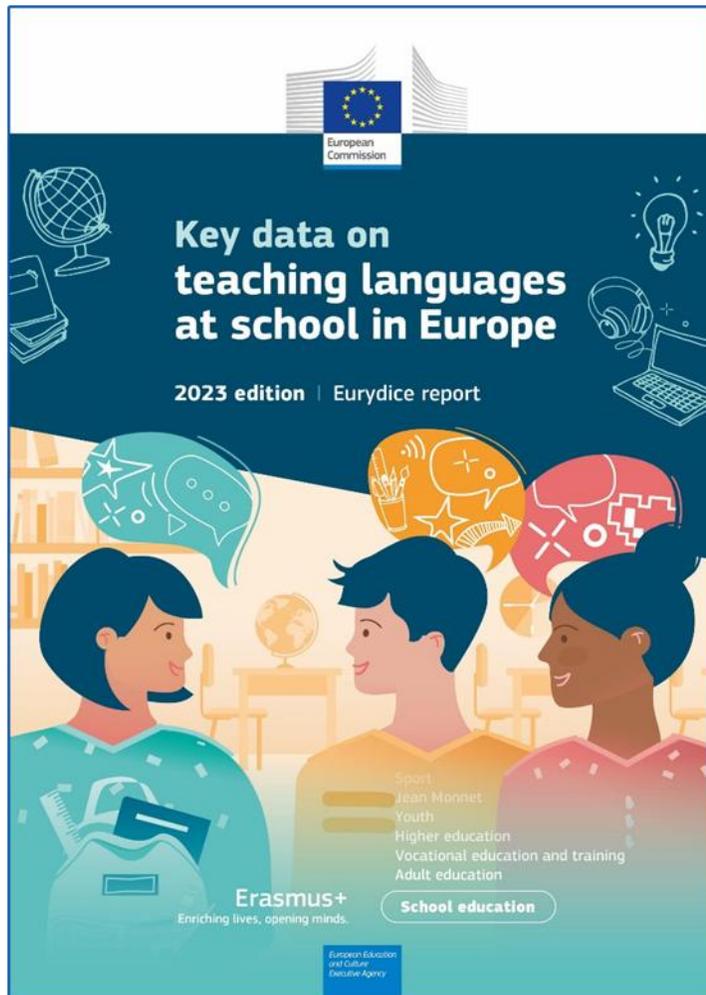
Language awareness

- Value linguistic diversity, using it as a learning resource



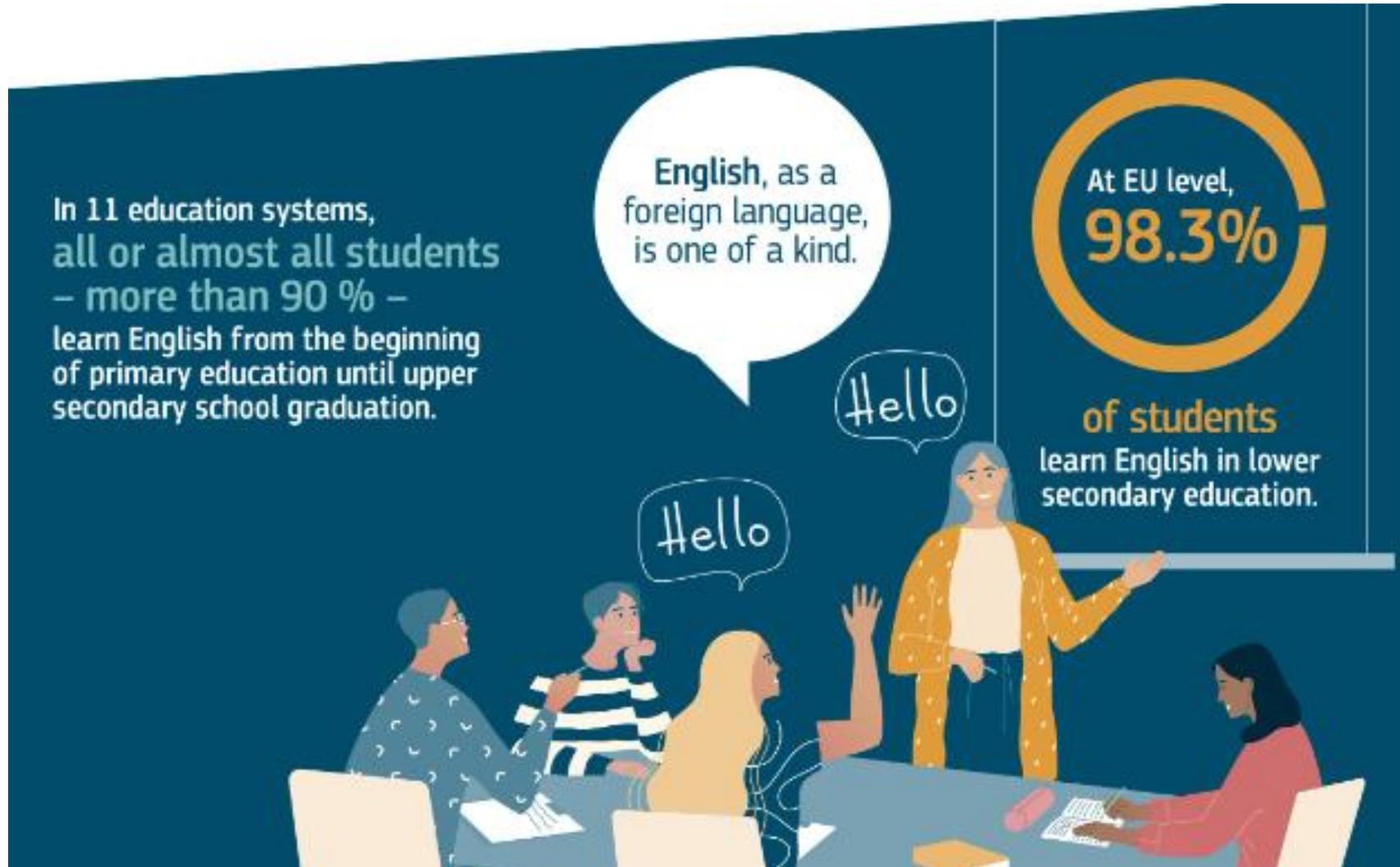
How are we doing?

The learning of two foreign languages



Source: Eurydice, based on Eurostat/UOE data

The most learnt foreign language



Source: Eurydice.



Most Europeans support the promotion of multilingualism

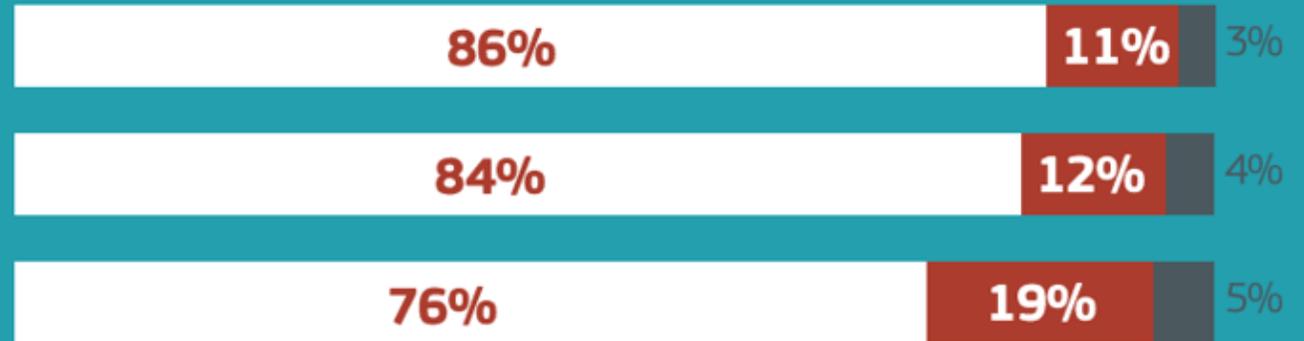


Everyone in the EU should be able to speak **at least one** language in addition to their mother tongue

Regional and minority languages should be **protected**

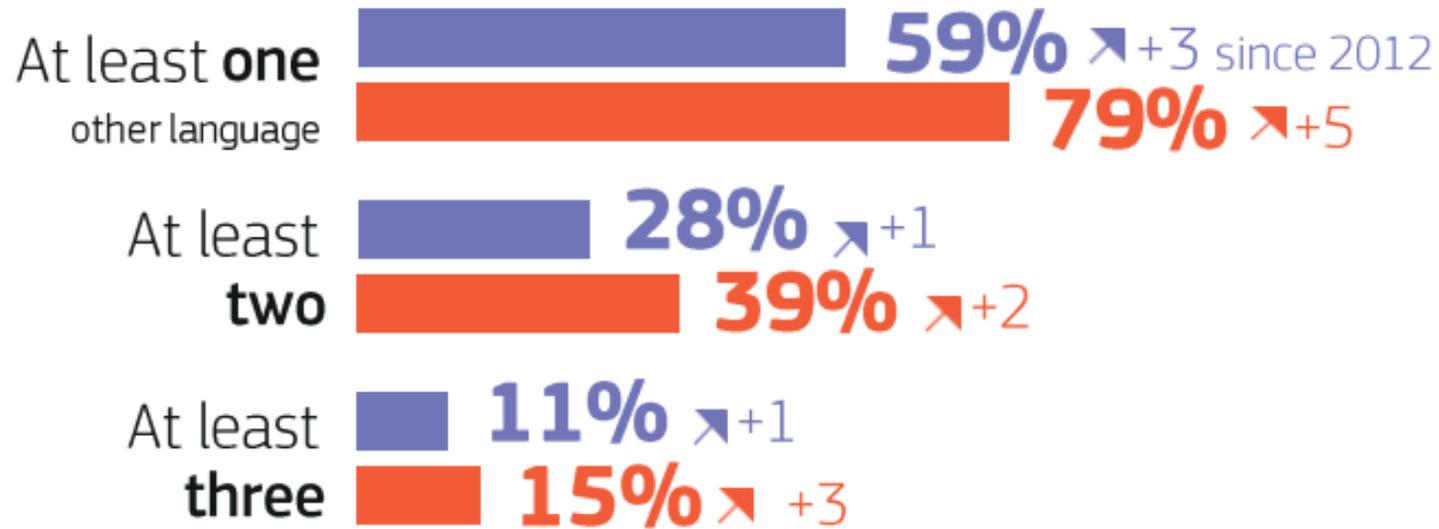
Improving language skills should be **a policy priority**

TOTAL AGREE
 TOTAL DISAGREE
 DON'T KNOW



NUMBER OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES SPOKEN

■ ALL EUROPEANS ■ EUROPEAN YOUTH (15-24 YEAR OLDS)

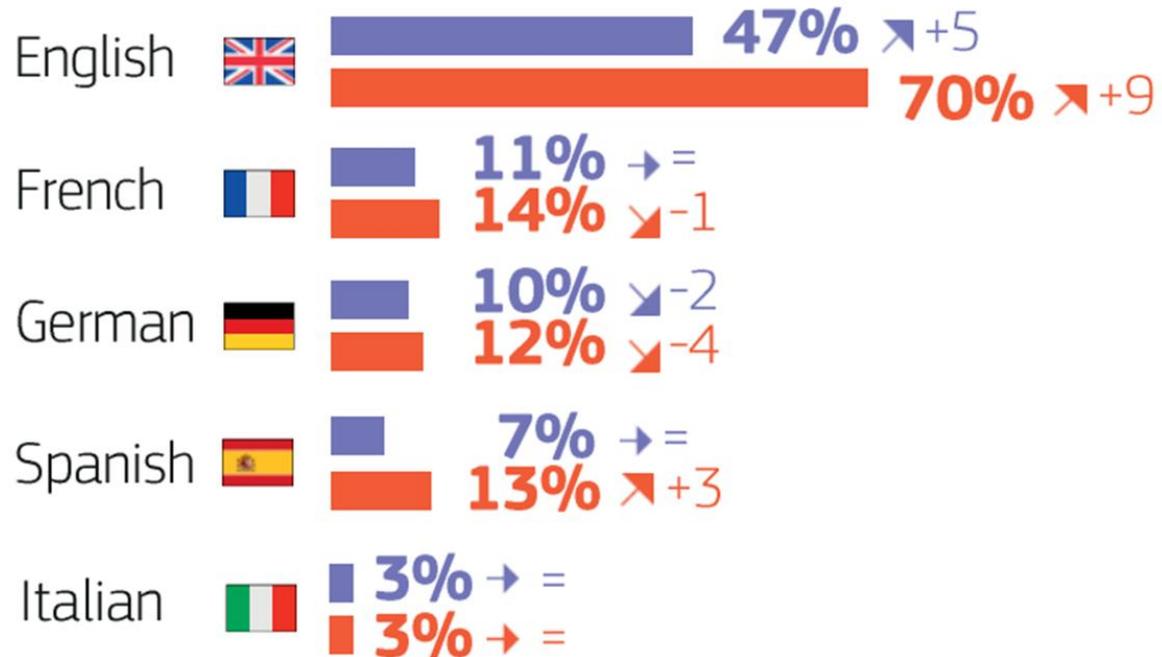


... AND THERE ARE VERY LARGE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COUNTRIES



Most learnt languages

■ ALL EUROPEANS ■ EUROPEAN YOUTH (15-24 YEAR OLDS)



Cooperation with OECD: 2025 PISA Foreign language assessment (English)



Some conclusions from these two reports

- **Citizens believe multilingualism is an important skill and value language diversity**
- **Good evolution** towards the learning of English as a foreign language
- **Need to progress further** on other languages than English (and deal with teacher scarcity)
- **Multilingual classrooms – more efforts are needed:** teacher training in support of the language of schooling and home languages
- **Language technologies and AI impact on language learning and motivation to be closely monitored**



Cooperation with the European Centre for Modern languages (ECML) of the Council of Europe

- Innovative methodologies and assessment in language learning.
www.ecml.at since 2013 – increasing the areas of cooperation
 - teaching and assessment of language skills (according to the CEFR)
 - use of digital tools and AI to support language teaching and learning
 - support for multilingual classrooms
 - Motivation in language learning: [Motivation Manifesto](#)
 - CLIL
 - linguistic diversity



Erasmus+ programme – education, youth, sport

€26.2 billion budget.

Should enhance the learning of (all) languages

KA1: Mobility	Mobility for pupils and staff in school education	
	Short-term projects	Accredited projects

KA2: Cooperation	Small-scale partnerships	Cooperation partnerships
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Cooperation Partnerships for European NGOs

- Erasmus + Programme Guide 2026 - pages 235-243
- They aim to support the development, transfer and/or implementation of innovative practices
- implementation of joint initiatives promoting cooperation, peer learning and exchanges of experience at European level.
- Results should be re-usable, transferable, upscalable and, if possible, have a strong transdisciplinary dimension.

European School Education Platform

- A multilingual integrated online platform for schools, managed by the European Commission
- Includes E-twinning

The screenshot shows the homepage of the European School Education Platform. At the top, there is a navigation menu with the following items: Home, About, Discover, Learn, Teach, Connect, and eTwinning. Below the menu is a large video player. The video is titled "Language learning through creativity" and is subtitled "Applying innovative practices at the Athenée Royal, Beaumont (BE)". A yellow button labeled "Watch the video" is positioned at the bottom left of the video player. The video content shows a person interacting with a screen displaying various language-related graphics, including a sign that says "Correct" and another that says "gustaba".

This thumbnail features a blue background with a circular inset showing a person working. The text reads "Language learning through active and creative practices" and "Practice video". It includes logos for the European Union and Erasmus+ at the bottom.

PRACTICE VIDEO

Language learning through active and creative practices

Published on 25 September 2024

This thumbnail shows a stack of colorful books with headphones on top, set against a world map background. The text reads "Lessons learned: CLIL and paths forward in bilingual education" and "Expert article".

EXPERT ARTICLE

Lessons learned: CLIL and paths forward in bilingual education

Published on 24 September 2024

This thumbnail features a hand holding a gold coin labeled "B2" and a silver coin labeled "B1". The text reads "Step by step: Using the CEFR in the classroom" and "News item".

NEWS ITEM

Step by step: Using the CEFR in the classroom

Published on 23 September 2024

Other actions

- The **European Language Label** is awarded to the most innovative language learning projects in each Erasmus+ programme country – Part of the EITA awards ceremony – see awarded projects in the [website](#)



EN

European Innovative Teaching Award

[Home](#) | [The Award](#) | [Highlights](#) | [Projects](#)

European Innovative
Teaching Award 2025
Awards Ceremony - 9 December

[Learn more >](#)



The European Day of languages

- Every 26 September - we organize events across Europe with different partners – occasion to give visibility to innovative projects



European Digital Credentials

The European Commission makes available a full infrastructure to create, issue, view, store, share and verify European Digital Credentials for Learning (EDC).

- Designed to promote cross-border recognition of credentials.
- Multilingual, electronically sealed, digital presentations of learning credentials.
- Formal education, online courses, non-formal learning, diplomas, micro-credentials ...

