



SUPPORTING



MULTILINGUAL  
CLASSROOMS

# Multilingual classrooms

## The perspective of the European Commission

**Kristina Cunningham**

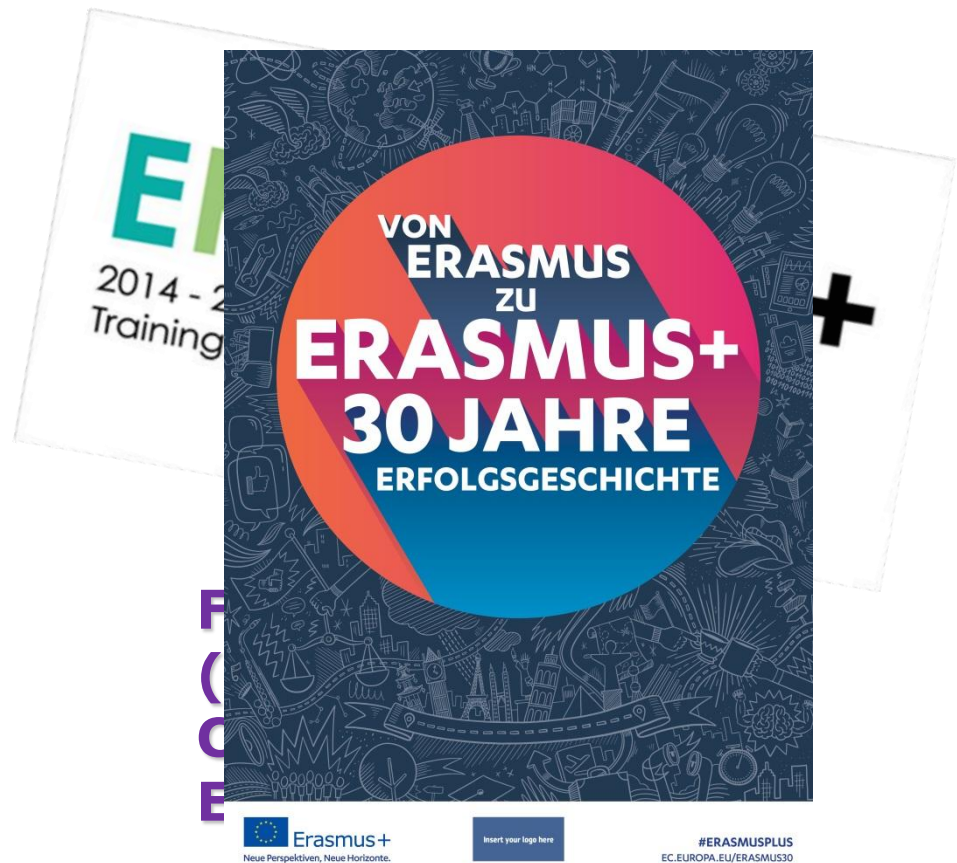
**Unit EAC B.2**

**Schools and multilingualism**

# Role of the European Commission



**Policy Cooperation  
with Member  
States**



# European Community 1987 – a building site with visions about a multilingual, mobile and well educated European youth

- Celebrating 30 years of the Treaty of Rome
- Twelve Member States
- Nine official languages
- No European competence in education and training
- Eurydice: a new research unit under the DG Research, Science and Education

# European Union 2017: A common market place for countries united by shared objectives, principles and values, with opportunities for young people, English as lingua franca and some existential difficulties

- Celebrating 60 years of the Treaty of Rome
- 28 Member States
- 24 official languages
- Education and training as "soft law" competences
- Cooperation within ET 2020
- Education and Training Monitor
- Structured collaboration with OECD, Council of Europe...
- Erasmus+, the EU flagship programme for Education, Training, Youth, Sport

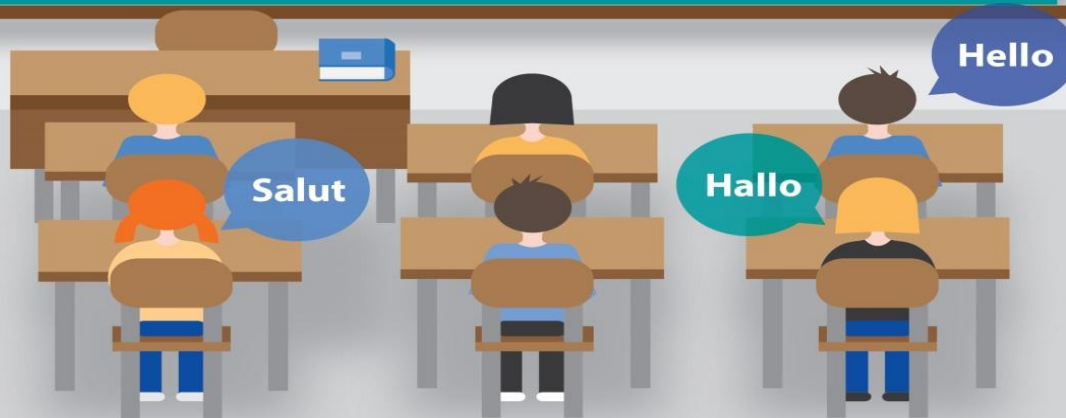
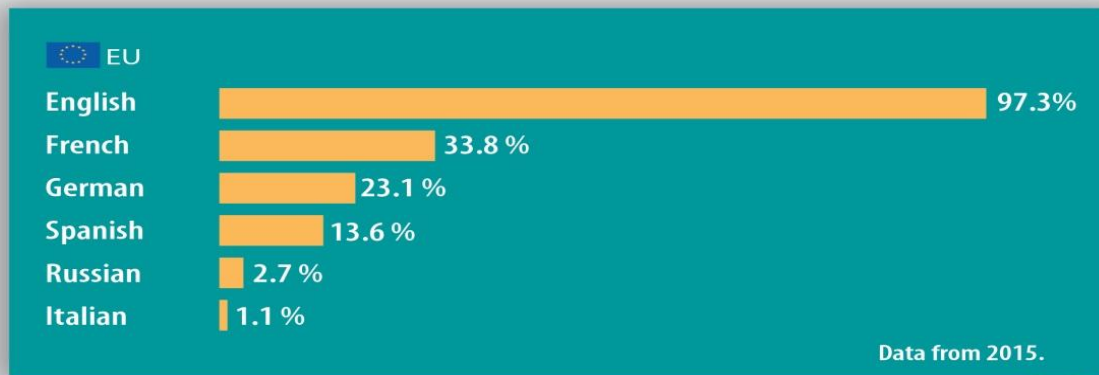
# Barcelona, March 2002: EU Heads of State and Government called for action "to improve the mastery of basic skills, in particular by teaching at least two foreign languages from a very early age"

ESPAÑA 2002  
Presidencia de la Unión Europea  
Ue2002.es



# "Everybody" learns English in school!

**Which are the most studied foreign languages?**  
(% of pupils at lower secondary level)



# 59% of all school children learn two foreign languages in lower secondary

How many pupils learn two or more foreign languages?  
(% of pupils at lower secondary level)



 EU  
**59 %**

Data from 2015.

United Kingdom: data not available.  
\* Luxembourg: although the official languages in Luxembourg are French, German and Luxembourgish, for the purpose of education statistics, French and German are counted as foreign languages.  
Denmark, Greece: data from 2014.

	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
8:30 - 9:30					
9:30 - 10:30	Language 1		Language 1		
10:50 - 11:50					
11:50 - 12:50					
2:00 - 3:00				Language 2	
3:00 - 4:00					



## Foreign Languages at School in Europe

The Barcelona European Council of 2002 invited EU countries to take action to teach children at least 2 foreign languages from a very early age

At what age must students start learning foreign languages?



In 19 education systems, students must start learning foreign languages earlier than they did in 2007.



In 11 education systems, learning a 2nd foreign language is not compulsory.

Vocational education students have less opportunity to learn 2 foreign languages

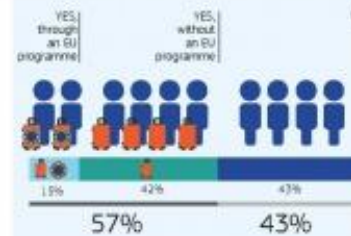


Most learnt languages in lower secondary education



## Foreign Languages at School in Europe

Do foreign language teachers travel abroad for professional reasons?



Expected minimum CEFR level of attainment at the end of general upper secondary education

1st foreign language



Education systems that expect:

- A2 level
- B1 level
- A2 level

2nd foreign language



Did you know?

5-10% of the primary curriculum is dedicated to foreign language learning in the EU



In the EU, about 60 regional/minority languages have official status

In 11 education systems, primary level teachers teach foreign languages alongside the other curriculum subjects

For more information read the survey report: Key Data on Teaching Languages at School in Europe 2017

<http://ec.europa.eu/erasmus>



# European Survey on Language Competences

*54,000 pupils*

*14 countries*

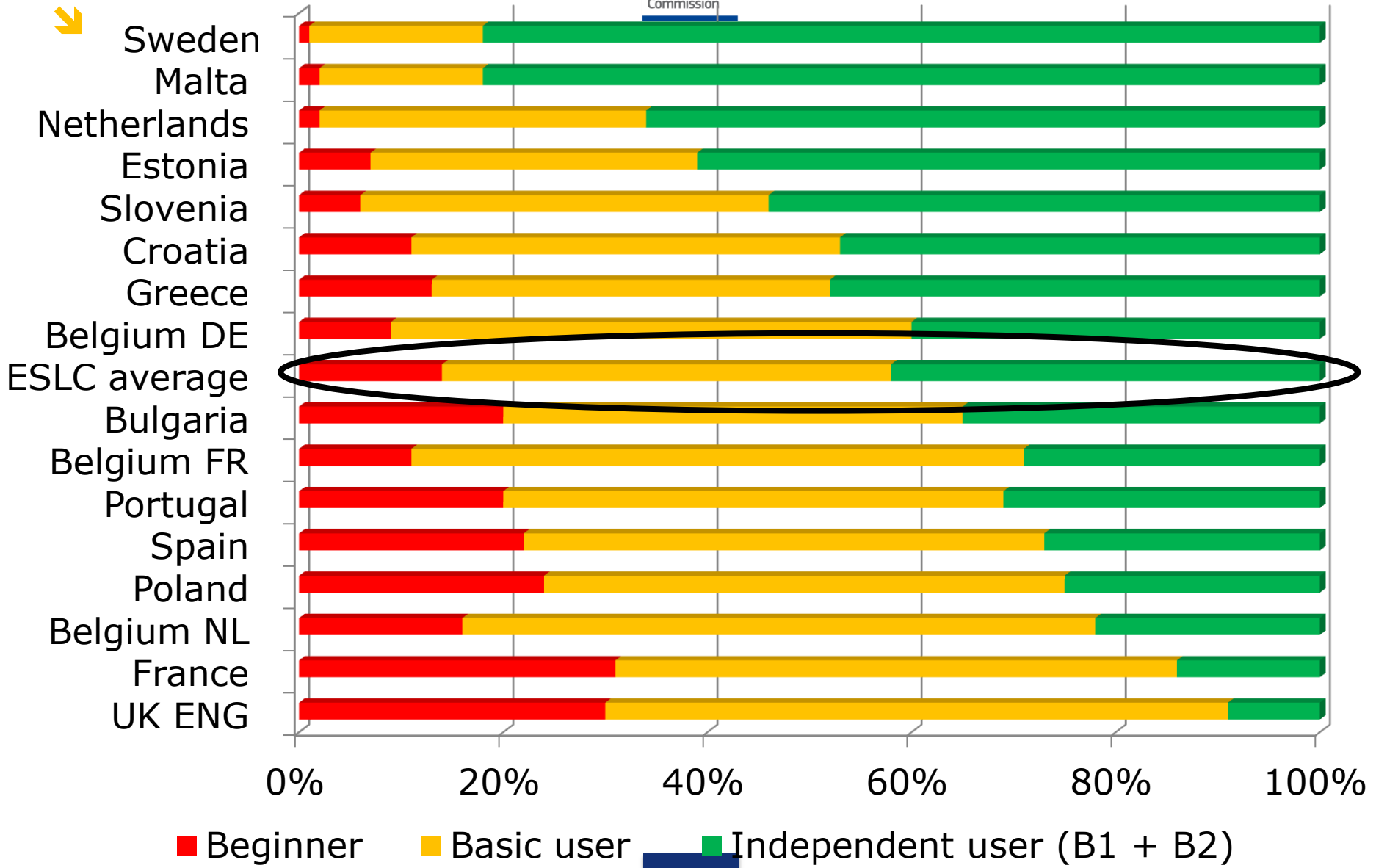
*5 languages*

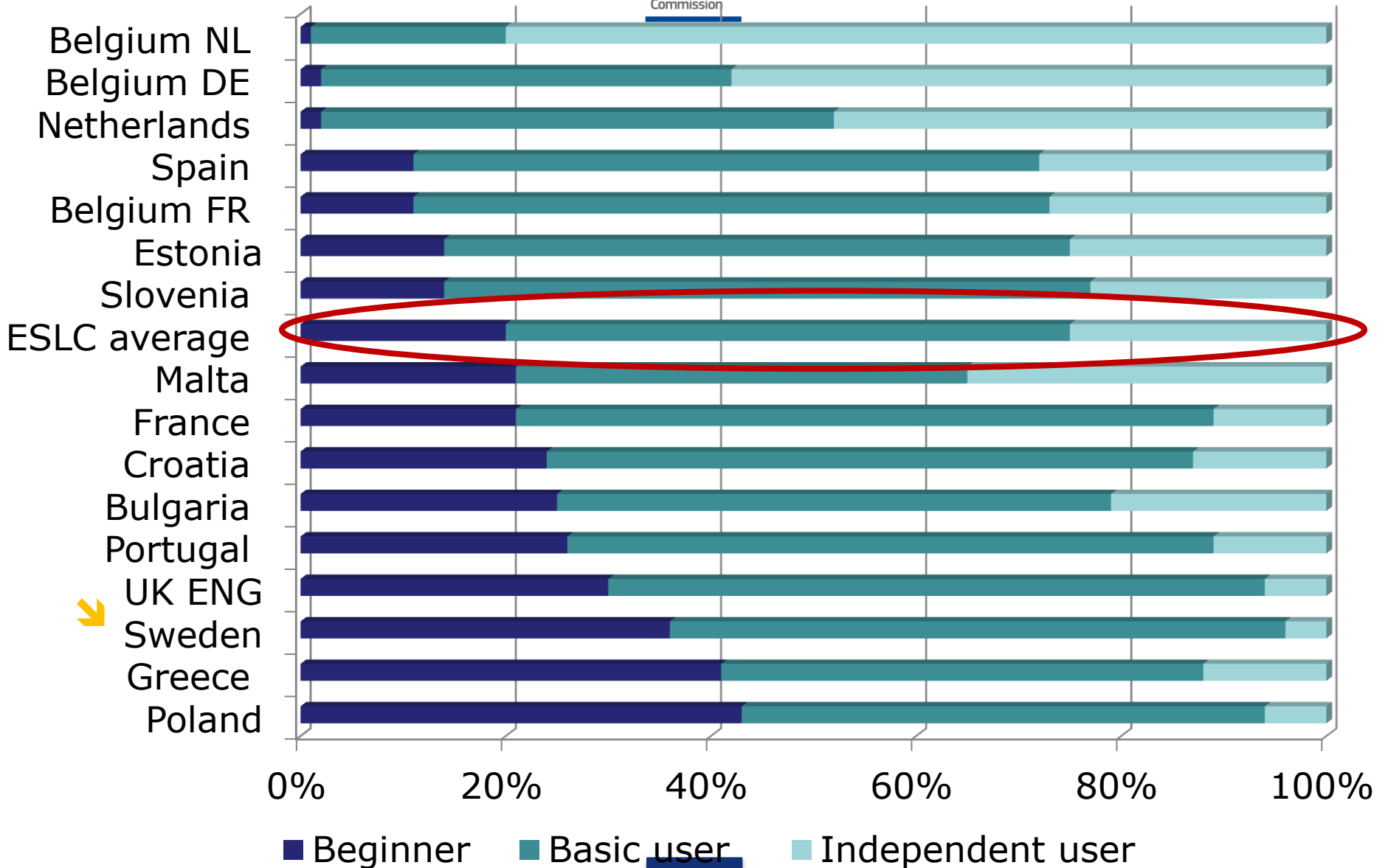
*3 competences*

*Background data*

**Report published 2012**







## ***Proposal for a European benchmark for language competences***

***By 2020, at least 50% of 15 year-olds should attain the level of independent user of a first foreign language (compared to the present 42 %).***

***By 2020, at least 75% of pupils in lower secondary education should study at least two foreign languages (compared to the present 61 %)***

## ***Council conclusions on multilingualism and the development of language competences, May 2014***

***At least 50% of 15 year-olds should attain the level of independent user of a first foreign language (compared to the present 42 %)***

***Mapping of national assessment methods according to CEFR for comparable results on EU level***

***Focus on teaching methodologies that produce better results in schools***

# BARCELONA OBJECTIVE 2002

## "MOTHER TONGUE + 2"



8-9 years old



13 years old

# BARCELONA OBJECTIVE 2002

## "MOTHER TONGUE + 2"

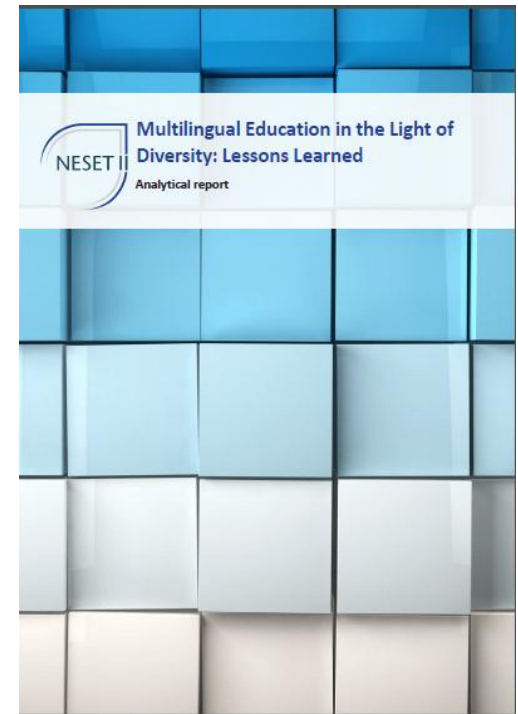
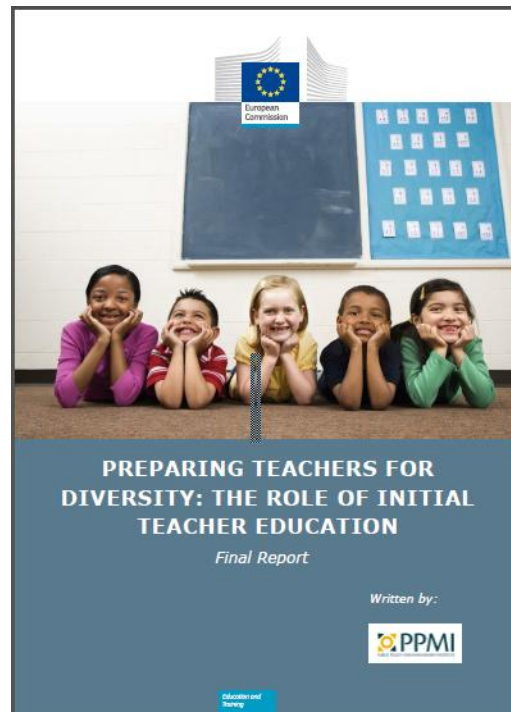
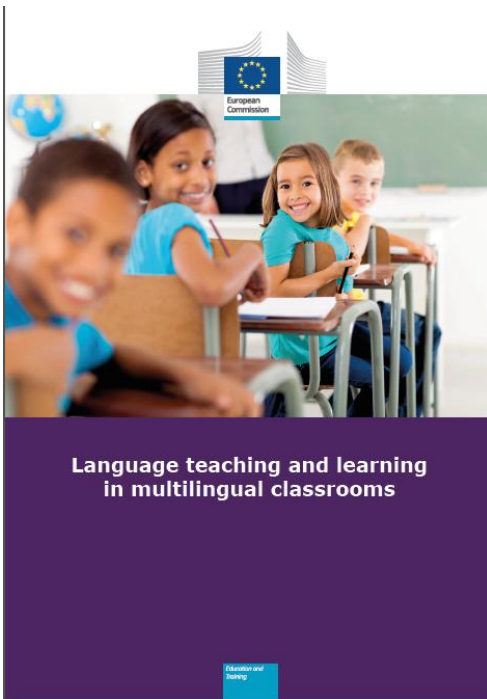


5 years old



8-9 years old

# Language teaching and learning in multilingual classrooms





## Macron à la Sorbonne 26 septembre 2017



*"L'Europe doit être cet espace où chaque étudiant devra parler au moins deux langues européennes d'ici 2024".*

## Juncker in Gothenburg 17 November 2017



*Contribution to the Social Summit: Commission Communication on strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture*

## Recommendation on improved language learning – a comprehensive approach

- *Stronger link to literacy? (Review of the Key Competence Framework for lifelong learning)*
- *Recognise individual language competences?*
- *Emphasis on multilingualism in ITE and CPD?*
- *Relaunch the discussion on indicators and benchmarks? (policy support)*
- *Introduce a monitoring system at EU level?*

# School Education Gateway

## - for anyone involved in school education



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### SchoolEducationGateway



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**Editor's pick**



#### Teaching social and civic key competences for equality, tolerance and active citizenship

News | 17.02.2015 |  |  | 

Values such as equality, peace, justice, non-discrimination, non-violence, tolerance and respect for human dignity are the cornerstones of modern, democratic and multicultural societies. Such values can be reinforced through the provision of human rights education, citizenship education and education in mutual respect and understanding.

[Read](#)



#### Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims – Addressing Islamophobia through Education (2015)

Policy | 16.02.2015

#### Latest news & events

Teaching social and civic key competences for equality, tolerance and active citizenship

News | 17.02.2015 |  |  | 

10 years of successful school collaboration through eTwinning

News | 23.01.2015 |  |  | 

Is your classroom eSafe? Join Safer Internet Day

News | 23.01.2015 |  |  | 

[See all news](#)



#### Teaching and learning: achieving quality for all. Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2013/4

Policy | 16.02.2015

- ✓ Tools for Erasmus+:
  - ✓ Catalogue of courses
  - ✓ Partner-finding
  - ✓ Mobility opportunities
- ✓ Articles and examples of good practice
- ✓ Discussion fora
- ✓ News and information on events
- ✓ <http://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/nl/pub/index.htm>



# TA Courses on Cultural Diversity & Newly Arrived Migrants

*Course series of 3 short courses:*

- **Cultural Diversity in your Classroom**
- **Raising Awareness about the Situation of Newly Arrived Migrants**
- **Integrating Newly Arrived Migrant Students in Schools**

*Delivered in 2016 and 2017*

*Total enrolment of 6166 across courses and years*

*Average of 96% positive course reviews*

*Participants produced lesson plans and action plans to implement at classroom and school level*

*Focus of all courses was a mix of sharing relevant information (e.g. about the situation of newly arrived migrants) and how to practically address the topic in the classroom/school (e.g. through a lesson plan, reaching out to external organisations, etc.)*

*Ongoing course follow-up via alumni groups with a task to curate lesson plans, etc.*

# European Toolkit for Schools



European Toolkit for Schools School Education Gateway

ABOUT SCHOOL GOVERNANCE TEACHERS SUPPORT TO LEARNERS PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVEMENT

[Home](#) > [Resources](#) > [European Toolkit for Schools](#)

## European Toolkit for Schools Promoting inclusive education and tackling early school leaving

- Are you interested in finding more effective ways to support your pupils?
- Do you want to improve attendance or reduce drop-out?
- Are you looking for ways to improve the involvement of parents in your school?
- Do you have a large number of pupils whose mother tongue is not your language of teaching?
- Are you considering introducing more collaborative approaches to teaching and learning?

Then read on! This online resource provides you with a range of materials designed to help you!

[Read more](#)

 Latest resources

### Questionnaire



### Videos



Please select subtitles in the available EU languages from the Settings menu on YouTube (lower-right corner of the video screen).



European  
Commission

