

LET'S BECOME PLURILINGUAL!



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Learn languages of the multilingual continent.

There is no need to prove that English – the language you are learning, is important, not only for communication with native speakers but first of all as lingua franca i.e. for communication with partners from non-English speaking countries.

But did you consider governing¹, at least partially, another language – say a language of your friend from abroad or of the country where you spend your summer holiday? No doubt any additional language may bring a comparative advantage for you.

Even if it's only a few words, you'll get a warmer welcome when you travel on holiday or for a visit. And if you persevere², you'll find new doors opening all the time: you'll meet new people, acquire new ways of thinking, and perhaps improve your career prospects.

And you'll get a real feeling of achievement. What is more, Europe is a great place to learn languages, with so many language communities and so many cultures living close together.

A young man from Sicily tries to learn some Polish. His motivation is straightforward³ – he says that he made acquaintance with a girl from Poland and he desires to visit her soon.



Every day a new quotation translated into many languages. See www.verba-volant.net

Quotation of the day:

A sensible conclusion is that languages are 'difficult' in inverse proportion to the strength of motivation for learning them.

Reg Hindley

Do you recognise languages? Make a guess!

1. Razuman je zaključak da je učenje jezika 'teško' u obrnutom razmjeru prema snazi motivacije za njihovo učenje
2. En fornuftig konklusion er at sprog er svære i omvendt proportion af den motivation vi har for at lære dem
3. On perusteltua päätellä, että kielten 'vaikeus' on käänteisesti verrannollinen niiden oppimismotivaatioon
4. On peut raisonnablement dire que les langues sont difficiles en mesure inversement proportionnelle à la force des motifs qui nous portent à les apprendre
5. Die logische Schlussfolgerung, dass Sprachen 'schwierig' sind, entsteht aus dem inversen Verhältnis zur Motivation, sie zu erlernen
6. Ésszerű következtetés az, miszerint a nyelvek 'nehézsége' fordítottan arányos a tanuló motiváltságával
7. È ragionevole concludere che le lingue sono 'difficili' in modo inversamente proporzionale rispetto alla forza della motivazione che porta a impararle
8. Rationaliter inferre possumus linguas, quo minor sit vis discendi, eo difficiliores esse
9. Można rozsądnie podsumować, że języki są 'trudne' w stosunku odwrotnie proporcjonalnym do siły motywacji do uczenia się ich

1. Croatian, 2. Danish, 3. Finnish, 4. French, 5. German, 6. Hungarian, 7. Italian, 8. Latin, 9. Polish



Celebrating linguistic diversity, plurilingualism, lifelong language learning

26 September - European Day of Languages

is intended to raise public awareness⁴ of the need to protect and promote Europe's rich linguistic heritage⁵. It is also aimed at achieving public recognition of the fact that each language has unique value, and that all languages are equally valid as modes of expression⁶ for those who use them.

Adrian Butler, Executive Director of the European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe writes:

Our continent as a whole is multilingual, but the great majority of European countries also operate routinely with several languages. These vary⁷ in size and status from national languages to regional or minority languages, not forgetting the many languages of the immigrant communities who have settled in our society.

Therefore it is of capital importance to encourage plurilingualism - citizens with a degree of communicative ability in a number of languages.

This ability to communicate in other languages is important at many levels:

- it facilitates⁸ mobility, exchange and commerce between our countries and so is a positive factor in economic development;
- it stimulates understanding and interaction with citizens of other countries and cultures;
- it opens a window to the rich cultural heritage of our continent, which should be shared and maintained for the benefit of future generations;
- it is an objective of social policy⁹, encouraging a sense of inclusion¹⁰ and shared democratic citizenship among all sectors of the community.

Council of Europe Secretary General Walter Schwimmer encapsulated¹¹ the Organisation's views on the occasion of the European Day of Languages (26 September) last year, when he said:

The Council of Europe would like to reiterate¹² its message that language learning is an excellent way to spread tolerance and mutual understanding among peoples. Linguistic diversity is a reality and is one of Europe's strengths. It is a part of our cultural heritage and our identity.

Language is the armory of the human mind, and at once contains the trophies of its past and the weapons of its future conquests.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

"I don't know where to start" /Read on for some good advice!/"

Practical tips

- Speak as much as you can (talk to your friends, to foreigners you meet, even to yourself!)
- If you go to a country where the language you are learning is spoken, but people speak to you in your language, or English, explain that you would prefer to speak their language.
- Memorise the things you need to say most often – when meeting people, shopping, buying things etc.
- Most people never achieve a perfect accent in another language. That does not matter as long as people understand.

- Reading and listening a lot is very important. The more you listen, the better you'll speak. Reading will help you to write better.
- Read and listen to texts where the language is used naturally (newspaper, TV, radio).
- Remember you don't have to understand every word to get the gist.
- Don't be afraid of making mistakes. You can work gradually on reducing them. What matters most is getting your meaning across.

Learning new languages takes time and effort. But everybody can do it, and it's well worth it.

Resources:

How you can learn languages, www.eurolang2001.org, A GUIDE, PRODUCED JOINTLY BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE www.logos.net

Letter by Adrian Butler, Executive Director, European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe, Graz, Austria

Prepared by the Information Office of the Council of Europe in Bratislava www.coe.sk

1ovládat; 2vytvrdite; 3priama; 4uvedomenie si; 5dedičstvo; 6spôsoby – metódy vyjadrenia sa; 7sa líšia; 8ufahčuje; 9je cieľom – záměrem spoločenskej stratégie; 10zahnutia; 11uzavrel – shrnul; 12/ri:itðreit/ znovu zopakovať

EXPOLINGUA Praha

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Vstup volný pro ohlášené školy

FOR LEARNERS OF ENGLISH

1-2

Friendship



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