



HOW YOU CAN LEARN LANGUAGES



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Hello from Europe

A world of words

We live in an age of global communication, and the currency of communication is language. Experts estimate that there are a staggering 5 000 to 10 000 languages spoken in the world today, not to mention all the dialects and variants of those languages. Of these, the top 12 account for about three fifths of humanity, while the top 30 are spoken by more than three quarters of the world.

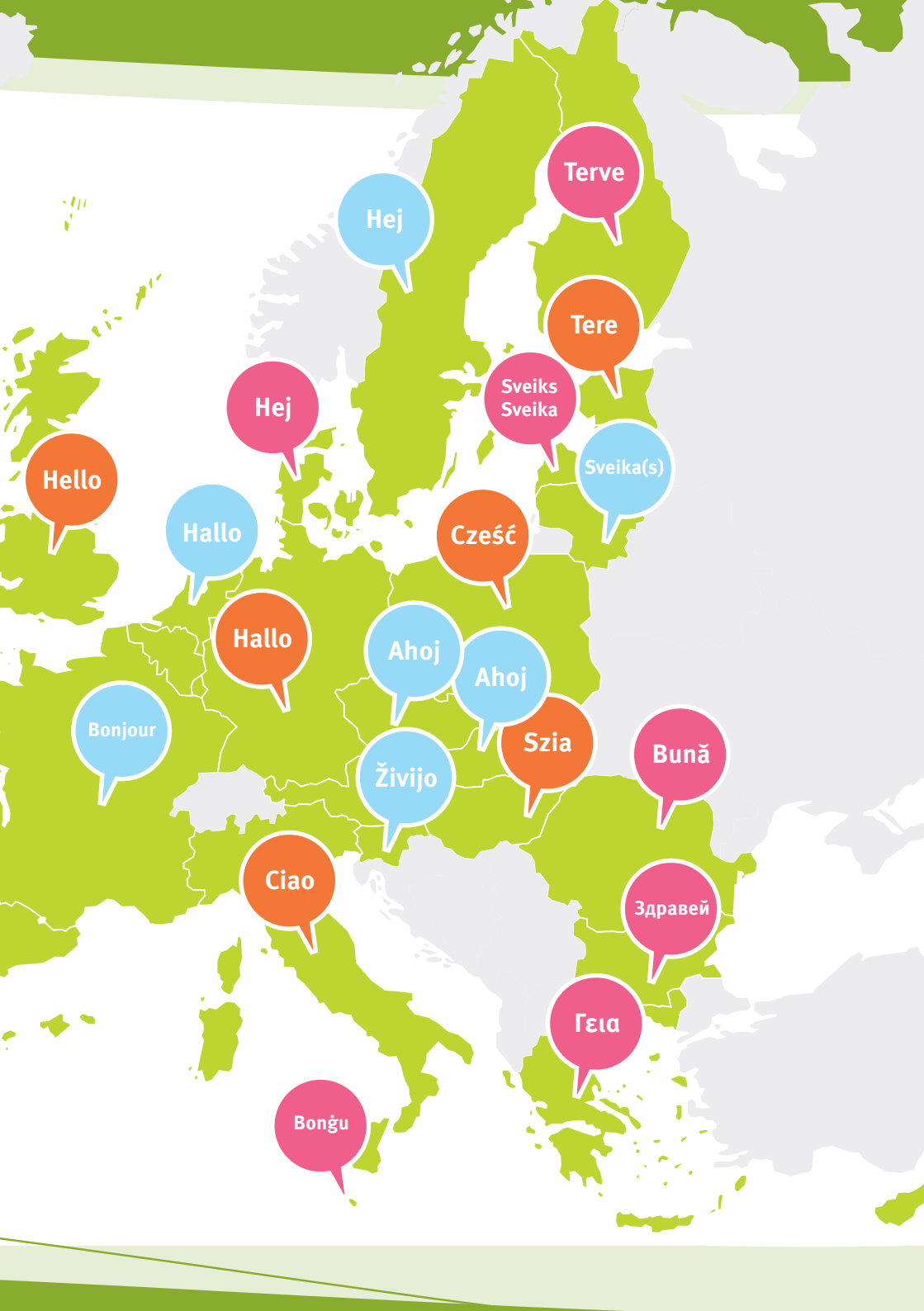
Between them, the EU's half a billion citizens, in 27 Member States, speak 23 official languages, not to mention all the regional and minority languages. German is the most widely spoken as a first language, with about 90 million native speakers. It is followed by English, French and Italian.



Dia duit

Olá

Hola



Hej

Terve

Hej

Tere

Sveiks
Sveika

Sveika(s)

Hello

Halo

Cześć

Halo

Ahoj

Ahoj

Bonjour

Szia

Bună

Živijo

Ciao

Здравей

Γεια

Bonǵu



As part of its efforts to promote mobility and intercultural understanding, the EU has designated language learning as an important priority and funds numerous programmes and projects in this area. This brochure explores what learning a language can do for you, its joys and challenges, how you can improve your language skills, and what the EU is doing to support language learning. And remember: you do not need to acquire a perfect command of a language to enjoy it.

Moving with the times

With all this linguistic diversity both within Europe and across the world, there are many advantages associated with learning and knowing a foreign language. It can help people make friends, enjoy their foreign holidays and travel more easily, advance in their careers or indulge in the pleasures of other cultures. Learning a language can also help broaden people's horizons.

Moreover, the European Union has essentially become borderless and all citizens have the right to live, to study or to work wherever they want to within its borders, but the lack of language skills still represents an invisible barrier to free movement. Learning a language can help improve your ability to move around freely.



‘One who speaks a foreign language just a little takes more pleasure in it than one who speaks it well. Enjoyment belongs to those who know things halfway.’

*Menschliches, Allzumenschliches 9, Aphorismus 554: Halbwissen
— Der, welcher eine fremde Sprache wenig spricht, hat mehr Freude daran,
als der, welcher sie gut spricht. Das Vergnügen ist bei den Halbwissenden.*

Friedrich Nietzsche



Talk of the town

There is a certain aura of genius attached to speaking languages. But multilingualism is not only the preserve of academics and bookish linguists; plenty of European celebrities are also multilingual. Take football, a sport not traditionally associated with linguistic prowess, but which is replete with players who are fluent and articulate in several languages.

For instance, former French captain and national hero Zinedine Zidane speaks French, Italian, Spanish, Arabic and Berber. Ruud van Nistelrooy, the famous Dutch striker, speaks four languages, while his compatriot 'Lucky' Guus Hiddink, the celebrated football coach, speaks five languages. The popular English striker turned TV commentator Gary Lineker, when playing for Barcelona, did television punditry in Spanish.

'I've really enjoyed learning Spanish and Japanese. Getting to grips with a new language can be great fun, and you learn so much about other people and what makes them tick,' he says.

Tackling mobility

There is good reason for footballers to learn foreign languages, given their level of international mobility. 'In my experience, if you go to a foreign country, the people there will always appreciate it if you have taken the trouble to learn their language,' observes former England manager, the Swede Sven-Göran Eriksson.

Europe's tennis courts also buzz with players who can serve and volley in more than one language, including Belgian champions Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin, the Swiss legend Roger Federer and the Russian Elena Dementieva.



Athletes in plenty of other sports also speak more than one language. ‘Although I’m known first and foremost as an athlete, my foreign language skills have given another dimension to my career.

I regularly use French and German when I travel to compete in Europe,’ says British marathon runner Paula Radcliffe.

The language of opportunity

Learning a new language — like learning music — requires some effort but is enormously rewarding, and the journey can be as enjoyable as the arrival, as anyone who has embarked on this road can tell you.

‘For me, learning a language is all about communicating with people from other parts of the world and other cultures, which is very important given my passion for travelling,’ says Celia, a Spaniard who

speaks four languages. ‘I really enjoy learning languages, although at times it is a bit frustrating to see that you still have an awful lot to learn even though you have a good command of the language.’

In addition, jobs relating to languages, including translation and interpretation, are good career options across the EU. Linguists can often pursue careers in a variety of sectors, including tourism and publishing, and in multi-national organisations or companies.

Knowledge of a language can help unlock a foreign culture and society.



‘The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands but in seeing with new eyes,’

La Prisonnière, ‘Le seul véritable voyage, [...] ce ne serait pas d’aller vers de nouveaux paysages, mais d’avoir d’autres yeux’,

Marcel Proust

And knowing a foreign language can equip you with those eyes, because it enables you to speak to people in their own language and provides you with first-hand insight into the culture and literature of a place.

In fact, a new language can be considered a verbal land of opportunity. As Frank Smith, the psychologist, put it: ‘One

language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.’

Deepening understanding

Knowledge of foreign languages is an important medium of understanding between peoples from different societies. As the world shrinks to become a global village and grows gradually



into an international community of humanity, the need for intercultural dialogue and understanding becomes all the more pressing. But just one lingua franca is not enough, as Nelson

Mandela, South Africa's freedom leader, put it: 'If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.'

'He who knows no foreign language knows nothing of his own'

*Maximen und Reflexionen IV 237:
Wer fremde Sprachen nicht kennt, weiß nichts von seiner eigenen.*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



The write stuff

Some people attain such a command of another language that they can actually write in it. One of the best-known examples of this was Joseph Conrad, a Polish writer who is widely regarded as one of the greatest English-language novelists ever. This achievement is all the more remarkable considering that Conrad did not learn English until he was well into his twenties, picking it up on his voyages with the British merchant navy.

Other multilingual writers include the Czech–French novelist Milan Kundera, who personally revises the French translations of his books, and the Russian–American writer Vladimir Nabokov, who penned his first nine novels in Russian before producing some of the English language’s greatest modern classics.

A contemporary example is Vassilis Alexakis who writes in both French and Greek. In 2007, he received the Grand prix du roman de l’Académie Française, one of France’s most prestigious literary awards. One of his most famous works, *Les mots étrangers* (Foreign words), features a cultural and linguistic voyage through France, Greece and the Central African Republic, where the narrator decides to learn the country’s main language, Sango.



Investing in language

Some individuals learn a language for purely practical purposes. 'I learnt French for strictly professional reasons and as a means of communication with the inhabitants of the country I live in,' explains Angel, a Bulgarian IT specialist who lives in Belgium.

Others have mixed motives for learning a language. 'Learning French has benefited me professionally,' says Simon, a British manager. 'It has also made it possible for me to get to know French-speaking people all over the world.'

Learning a language can enable you to take advantage of job and study opportunities. It can also help you improve your career by providing you with a competitive edge. Dušan, a Czech consultant, says that his German

language skills opened up career opportunities for him and facilitated his contacts within the Austrian and German banking sector. He observed how attitudes to language have changed rapidly as a result of political change in the former Czechoslovakia: Russian used to be compulsory, was subsequently rejected for political reasons and has recently been in demand again, mainly for commercial purposes.

Competitive edge

Having multilingual staff can enhance the competitiveness of your business, if you are an entrepreneur or business manager. Hence, a shortage of language skills can carry an economic price. For instance, 11 % of SMEs surveyed in a recent EU-wide study said that they had lost contracts because their company lacked the necessary language skills.



One Italian producer of chemicals and abrasives for the automotive industry which is in the process of entering foreign markets has found it challenging finding staff with the necessary linguistic talent to act as go-betweens. The company has been striving to persuade Italian universities to promote language learning.

The situation is not much different in Poland. ‘I have talked to frustrated people at local chambers of commerce who have helped small companies ... More often than they would like to admit, it was all wasted as the companies didn’t have anybody with language skills,’ explains Sabina Klimek, a member of the EU-backed Business Forum for Multilingualism.

This multilingual reality is one that many employers and workers are aware of.

For instance, many jobs in Belgium require applicants to be competent in at least the country’s two official languages and another major European language. In fact, an impressive three quarters of large companies in Europe have an established scheme for recruiting staff with language skills.

Likewise, many European universities are offering programmes in foreign languages, both to lure foreign students or to enhance the mobility of local students. Some Lithuanian universities offer programmes in English, French, German and Russian. In Belgium, the Czech Republic and Romania, some universities offer graduate programmes in natural sciences, history or geography with a minor in foreign languages, in some cases leading to a double degree.



Language for all

Disadvantaged groups in society, including the socially or economically marginalised and the physically or mentally challenged, often lack the opportunity, motivation and access to the resources necessary to improve their language skills. The EU-funded Allegro ⁽¹⁾ project aimed to bring language learning to disadvantaged groups through innovative, easy-to-access approaches to language teaching.

For many of those who took part in the project, it enhanced their belief in their abilities. 'We are as good as everyone else,' a Spanish learner with mental health issues said. It also challenged the perceptions of teachers regarding the abilities of learners from certain backgrounds. 'It was a privilege to teach such well-motivated and enthusiastic students,' remarked a teacher who taught inmates at Nottingham prison. The feeling was mutual. 'This is good. You tell that European Commission we want more Dutch,' said one of the prisoners.

(1) <http://allegro.acs.si>



Taking the plunge

People who have not yet embarked on the road to learning a foreign language, may feel concerned or afraid, like looking at the sea when they do not know how to swim. But studying a language is a little like learning to swim, surprisingly straight forward once you have taken the first plunge.

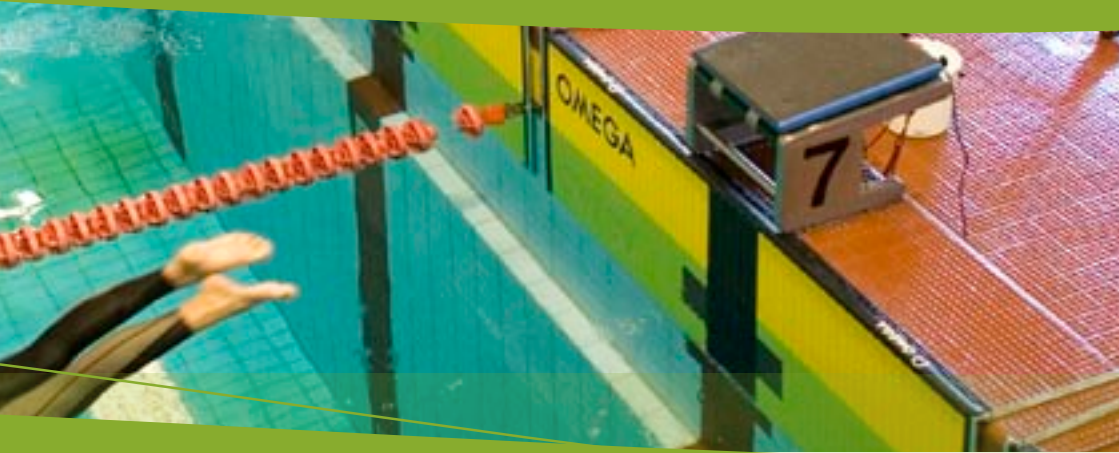
Despite the fact that people of all social backgrounds and education levels are capable of acquiring a foreign language, many people feel that it is a challenge that they are not equipped for. Although many people discover a passion for languages inspired by their teachers, this attitude can begin in school, when the value of a language is not yet appreciated and exams are a turn-off. 'School doesn't usually equip you

to communicate,' recalls Caroline, a Belgian office worker. 'People's school experience can also make them reluctant to learn languages in later life.'

A question of timing

The demands of life are often major barriers. 'I'm always so busy. I don't have the time to study properly,' complains Reinald, a Belgian graphics designer. But many learners have found that making time is incredibly enriching.

Speaking a major world language can also act as a demotivator. 'If you've got English, you don't really need anything else,' reckons Neil, a British editor. 'But making the effort gives you an extra depth of enjoyment and understanding.'



Some even believe they are too old to learn. 'At my age, it's very hard to learn a language,' says Daniel, a manager

in his late fifties. But as millions of mature learners have discovered, it is never too late to pick up a language.

Subtitles not necessary

The glittering world of European cinema has a large ensemble cast of multilingual stars, including the French actress Juliette Binoche and actor Jean Reno, the British actresses Charlotte Rampling and Vanessa Redgrave, the Spanish actress Penelope Cruz and actor Antonio Banderas, the Swedish actor Max von Sydow and the Greek actress Irene Papas.

'I had the luck that my parents educated me in three languages. With my mother I spoke Dutch, with my father Italian, and at school I learned German. But my host language is Italian,' explains Swiss-Italian actress and model Michelle Hunziker.



As easy as A, B, C ...

Many people are put off learning a language because they have the impression that it will take them a lifetime to learn all the words and grammar. However, evidence suggests that, with the right approach and motivation, most people can pick up at least a basic command of a foreign language.

A good example of this is that people from disadvantaged backgrounds often grow up without ever learning to use a foreign language, and sometimes they may even be barely literate in their mother tongue. But this has more to do with their social circumstances rather than innate ability, as was amply demonstrated by the EU-backed Allegro project.

While learning a language — even your native tongue — can be transformed into a lifelong endeavour, you do not need to become a writer, poet or orator in the foreign language.

Youth versus wisdom

Children are widely perceived as being the best language learners. Kids have more flexible minds, fewer inhibitions, abundant supplies of time and enjoy mimicking, which are great helps, and their superior ability at picking up accents makes them sound more convincing. However, adults have their own advantages: they have a more developed awareness of the mechanics and structure of language, and they grasp grammar more easily. Immigrant adults often acquire a similar command

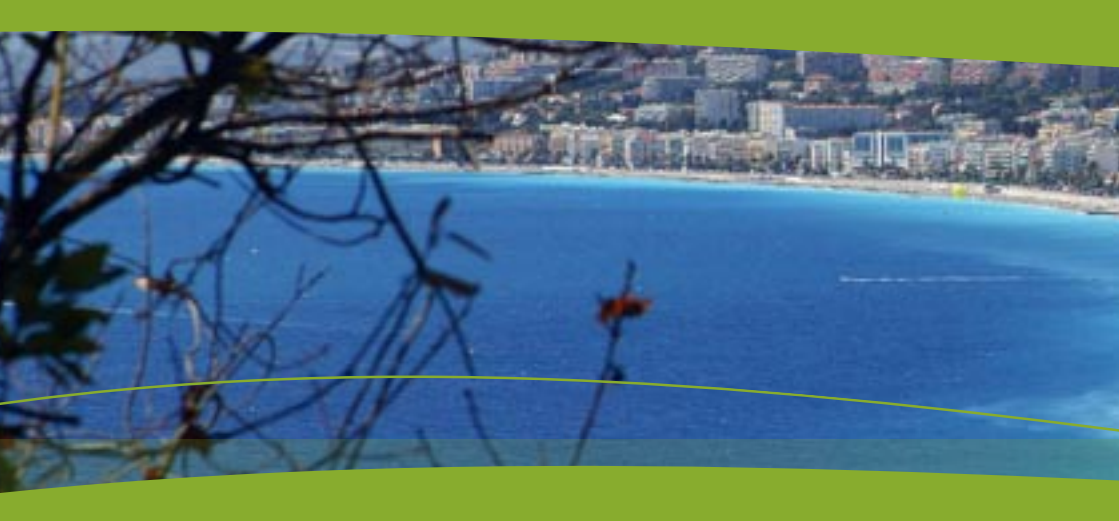


of the host language as their children but rarely manage the accent.

This is why the claim that someone is ‘too old’ is something of a fallacy. The EU-funded JoyFLL project made this point in a novel and innovative way by taking advantage of the often-strong intergenerational bond between grandparents and their grandchildren to encourage both to improve their language skills.

Choose your level

In fact, without any knowledge of a language, people can understand a surprising amount. This is especially the case in languages which belong to the same linguistic family. However, this also works to a lesser extent with completely unfamiliar languages through what is known as ‘discursive competence’ and ‘intercomprehension’.



Intercomprehension: ‘water’ in the major European language groups

Germanic	Romanic	Slavic
Vand (Danish)	Eau (French)	Вода (Bulgarian)
Water (Dutch)	Aqua (Italian)	Voda (Czech)
Water (English)	Água (Portuguese)	Voda (Croatian)
Wasser (German)	Apă (Romanian)	Woda (Polish)
Vatn (Icelandic)	Agua (Spanish)	Вода (Russian)
Vatten (Swedish)		Вода (Serbian)
Vatn/vann (Norwegian)		Voda (Slovenian)
		Voda (Slovakian)

There is even an EU-funded website ⁽²⁾ offering fun interactive activities that demonstrate this intercomprehension.

⁽²⁾ www.eu-intercomprehension.eu



Speaking in tongues

How much of a language you learn depends on your need, desire, motivation, ability and the amount of energy you can dedicate to the endeavour. Academics or highly skilled professionals, such as doctors, working in a foreign language obviously have to reach a very high degree of competence.

However, for many other purposes, an intermediate level is desirable and attainable for most learners who acquire enough knowledge to communicate in a variety of situations.

Even acquiring some basic knowledge can be incredibly rewarding. To prove this, the EU-backed InLET⁽³⁾ project used the occasion of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens to introduce visitors to the Greek

language by teaching them a few useful key phrases that would make their stay more enjoyable. The FEEL⁽⁴⁾ project did a similar thing with the languages of the 10 countries which joined the EU in 2004.

A word from the wise

Whether you are a novice or an advanced learner, there are always things, other than attending language courses, you can do to improve as a language learner. Drawing on the experience of teachers and other learners, here are some useful tips and tools.

Tips

- ‘Practice makes perfect’ is an ancient adage but it is as true as ever. A language does not appear magically, it comes through lots and lots of practice. ‘Practise, practise,

⁽³⁾ <http://www.ea.gr/ep/inlet/>

⁽⁴⁾ <http://www.feel.vdu.lt>



practise,’ advises Sandra from France. ‘I didn’t become fluent until I started using the language in my daily life.’

- **Don’t be embarrassed.** Many people, particularly as they get older, are reluctant to practise a foreign language because they feel shy or are anxious about making mistakes. ‘People will not mock you if you make an error,’ Simon, a British manager, assures fellow language learners. ‘They will be pleased and impressed at your ability, even when this is still quite limited.’
- **Have fun** and enjoy the experience. If approached like a dull and wearisome task, studying a language will not be effective and your motivation will weaken. There are plenty of resources available that inject an element of fun into the learning process.

‘Language learning is not a test, you need to take pleasure in it,’ suggests Cristina, a consultant from Italy.

- **Customise your learning experience.** Everyone learns in different ways, so it is best to experiment until you find what works best for you. Plan your language learning in a way that suits you and your daily routine.
- **Use the language regularly.** Like your car, failing to take your language for a regular spin can make it sluggish and rusty.
- **Be realistic.** Don’t try to learn everything at once. Set clear and realistic targets.
- **The past is no guide.** Some people think because they did not manage to learn a language at school, they



will not be able to do so in later life. However, lots of people who did not do well at school learn a language when they are older, partly thanks to enjoyable and effective modern methods and a greater motivation to learn.

- **New thinking.** Learning a language also entails learning to understand other ways of thinking and doing things.
- **Immerse yourself.** Expose yourself to the target language as much as possible.

Brain gymnastics

There is a popular belief that learning several languages clutters your brain. However, evidence suggests that the more languages you learn, the easier it gets to acquire additional ones. 'It helps if you know more than one language. You have a little head start on adapting, you can get your mouth around certain words and vowel sounds a little easier,' observes Danish-American actor Viggo Mortensen.



Linguists have also discovered that knowing more than one language can benefit people in other areas, such as strengthening their reasoning skills and helping them to perform better academically. For instance, researchers have found that bilingual children are better at solving problems that include misleading information.

There are other advantages to picking up languages, according to celebrity advocates. The British comedian and Monty Python star John Cleese believes that ‘learning a language makes our minds stronger and more flexible. Actually using it gives us an entirely new experience of the world’.

How and where can I learn a foreign language?

- **Choose your approach.** There are so many different methods and approaches to learning, including classroom learning, self-study and telephone courses, immersion courses abroad, virtual learning and more. Choose the mix that suits you.
- **Staying the course.** Language schools are easy to find in most places —

just pick up a phone book or surf the Internet. However, selecting the right one is important. It is a good idea to visit the school and talk to a teacher before enrolling, look for independent reviews of the establishment and ask friends and acquaintances for recommendations.

- **Tap into the media.** Today, with television and radio channels from around the world easily accessible via satellite, cable and the Internet, it has



become easy to find content in the foreign language you want to learn.

- **Net of languages.** The Internet has become a powerful language learning resource, with much of the materials and tools available for free. It is easy to find online language courses, dictionaries, educational games, forums, chat rooms, support, videos, listening exercises, abridged content, and more. In addition, the Internet carries plenty of authentic content, such as newspapers and magazines, in all languages.
- **Language tandems.** Arrange a one-on-one conversational exchange with a native speaker who wishes to learn your language. That way, you both get a chance to practise.
- Become a member of a **language club**, which are popular venues

across Europe, not only for language learning but also for socialising.

- **Cultural materials.** As you progress in the language, savour the culture through books, music, films, etc. Films on DVD can usually be viewed — in audio or with subtitles — in several languages. In addition, there is an increasingly broader range of audio-books, often read by famous authors or actors, available in many languages.
- **Pen pals** are a traditional way of enhancing your skills in a foreign language, learning more about the local society and culture, and making friends. In the digital age, the Internet can be a powerful tool for communicating across linguistic and social borders. In addition to specialised websites, language learners can make ‘friends’ and acquaint-



tances in their target language through social networking sites, such as Facebook and MySpace. Lingu@net Europa provides a database of e-mail pals, while Lingoland ⁽⁵⁾ is an attractive online platform to promote linguistic and cultural exchanges between school-children in a number of European countries.

Action speaks louder than words

Languages are an important priority for the European Union. Language is an integral part of our identity and the most direct expression of culture. In Europe, linguistic diversity is a fact of life. In a European Union founded on 'unity in diversity' the ability to communicate in several languages is a must for individuals, organisations

⁽⁵⁾ <http://www.lingoland.net>

and companies alike. The Union not only celebrates multilingualism — it also seeks to encourage it. In fact, the promotion of language learning and linguistic diversity is one of the EUR 7 billion 'Lifelong learning' programme's objectives (2007–13). All the sub-programmes — Comenius ⁽⁶⁾ (for schools), Erasmus ⁽⁷⁾ (for higher education), Grundtvig ⁽⁸⁾ (for adult education) and Leonardo da Vinci ⁽⁹⁾ (for vocational education and training) — support language learning.

Although all languages in the world are eligible for support, the main focus of

⁽⁶⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc84_en.htm

⁽⁷⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc80_en.htm

⁽⁸⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc86_en.htm

⁽⁹⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc82_en.htm



the programme is on EU languages in order to promote better communication and mobility within Europe. The programme supports school partnerships, assistantships and teacher training, linguistic preparation for mobility in Europe, multilateral projects and networks, conferences, study information campaigns and mobility actions.

Language aids

Some of these actions are particularly aimed at enabling teachers to come together and develop language learning methods and materials. The 'Uniting Europe through cultures' project is working to design a comprehensive training programme for teachers in adult education which, among other things, promotes the study of languages that are not readily available in European educational institutions.

One interesting option to help you acquire and improve your language skills is to apply for an EU mobility grant which enables you to go and study, train or work in another country. This not only enables you to gain additional knowledge and new skills, it also helps you acquire a better command of other languages and deeper insight into the social and cultural make-up of other countries.

Learning on the move

Erasmus, one of the EU's most famous educational programmes, is named after the famous Dutch humanist who himself was a polyglot and spent his life moving between the major European centres of learning of the 15th century. The scheme enables students to spend between three months and a year studying at a university in another



European country in order to advance their studies, learn about a different society and culture, and improve their language skills. Mathieu, a Frenchman who studied law at the Sorbonne in Paris, began his love affair with the Spanish language and culture during an Erasmus exchange. ‘While the choice of Spain conjured up images of sun, fiestas and siestas in the minds of my fellow students in Paris, for me Madrid was more about being in the heart of a dynamic country and a very rich and exciting culture,’ he recalls. ‘My Erasmus exchange only lasted six months, but I wanted to experience more of Spain, so I decided to do a traineeship and then a Master’s, which extended my stay by another two years!’

In a similar vein, the EU-supported European Voluntary Service enables young people to do worthwhile work in other countries while improving their language

skills and gaining a deeper understanding of the culture of the host country.

The Brussels melting pot

With 27 Member States, the EU operates using a dizzying cocktail of 23 official languages. This means that the Union uses more languages than the United Nations, which has over 190 members, but works with only six official languages!

The European Commission’s translation and interpretation services, with some 1 750 translators and 500 staff interpreters, are the largest in the world.

However, despite the need to work with an ever-growing number of languages (originally, there were only four), the EU institutions function surprisingly smoothly.



Whether it is European parliamentarians, or MEPs as they are known, debating the latest draft legislation or EU leaders considering recent global developments, interpreters in specially equipped booths are on hand to make their words mutually intelligible.

The total cost of operating in the EU's official languages is less than EUR 2.55 per citizen per year — a surprisingly low price to pay for democracy and fairness.

Articulating democracy

It is, however, an important display of EU democracy in action: it promotes transparency, responds to citizens' right to know, as well as respects and helps preserve the Union's cultural and linguistic diversity.

All EU legislation must be available in all the Union's official languages.

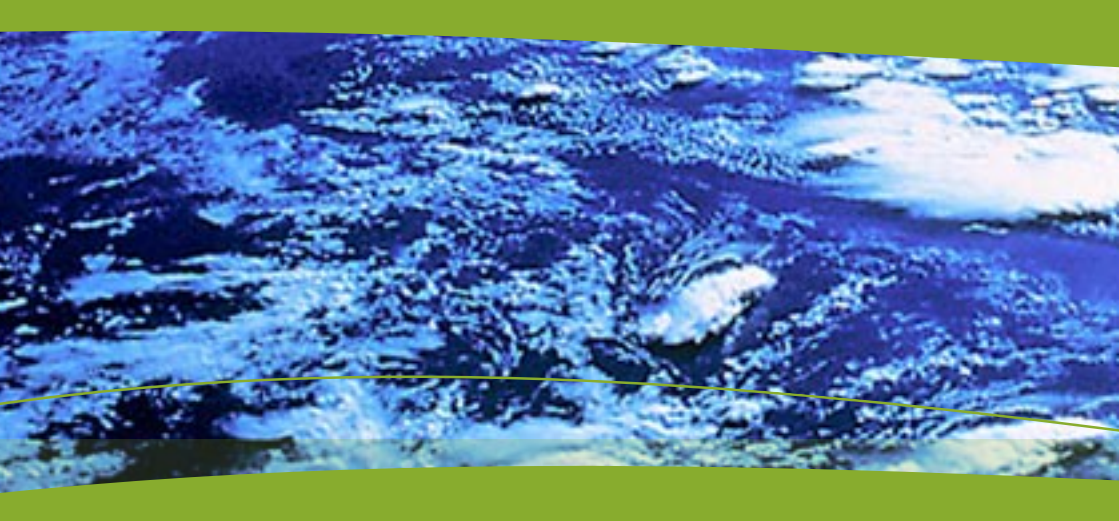
This makes sense because the law is both complex and affects everyone, so citizens and lawmakers have a right to access its semantic subtleties in their own language. Citizens can also address their grievances to the EU Ombudsman in their native tongue.

Likewise, MEPs have the right to speak on behalf of their voters in their native language, as do European ministers attending official EU Council meetings.

In this way, the EU preserves its cultural diversity while making sure we all speak the same language of democracy

General links

- The EU's **Multilingualism website** provides the latest updates on EU initiatives and events linked to



languages: http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/index_en.htm

- The **Europa Languages Portal** provides information on all the EU's official languages, including language learning: <http://europa.eu/languages/en/home>
- There are numerous **funding opportunities** available under the various EU programmes to enable citizens to improve their language skills: http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/eu-programmes/index_en.htm
- A list of European **language and culture institutes**: http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/networks/index_en.htm#a1
- **EVE — the electronic platform containing results of projects** financed by the

European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/eve/alfresco/faces/jsp/browse/browse.jsp

Language projects

- The **eTandem Europa** service is a match-maker for language learners across Europe wishing to learn each other's languages in tandem. It helps learners find a partner in another country; they then help improve one another's language skills via e-mail, voice-over Internet or video-conferencing. Website: <http://www.slf.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/index.html>
- **Communicating in multilingual contexts (CMC)** is an online resource targeted at university students which helps them to improve their communication skills in six European languages (Dutch, English,



Italian, Portuguese, Slovenian and Spanish) before they move abroad to study.
Website: <http://www.cmcproject.it>

- **Hocus & Lotus** is a fun language-learning site for young children (between 2 and 10 years of age) which contains a wealth of learning and teaching materials based on the latest in psycholinguistics. It helps children pick up the basics of the new language (English, French, German, Italian and Spanish) through the adventures of two characters, Hocus and Lotus, who are part dinosaur, part crocodile ('dinocrocs').
Website: <http://www.hocus-lotus.edu>
- **Around Europe in 80 days** is a self-learning website which is designed for individuals and groups studying at home or in the classroom. Learners take a virtual journey around Europe in order to improve their listening, reading, writing and comprehension skills at three different levels. It is available for eight languages: English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Spanish and Swedish. Website: <http://europensemble.crdp-nantes.eu>
- **Lingu@net Europa** provides language learners with useful resources, support and advice to help them in their quest to acquire and improve a foreign tongue. It contains a self-assessment test, information on learning strategies and a meeting point where learners can make e-mail pals, chat online or take part in discussions.
Website: <http://www.linguanet-europa.org>
- **Lost in...** This interactive language-learning computer game is targeted at English and German speakers who wish



to learn Czech, Danish, Dutch or Polish. It is suitable both for absolute beginners and for more advanced learners. Website: <http://www.lost-in.info>

- **Mission Europe** invites listeners to go on radio adventures to save Berlin, Paris or Kraków, improving their German, French or Polish in the process. This fun computer adventure was developed by three public radio broadcasters with EU support. Website: <http://www.missioneurope.eu>
- **Oneness** offers online courses for those interested in some of the smaller European languages — Estonian,

Finnish, Lithuanian, Polish and Portuguese. Website: <http://www.oneness.vu.lt>

- **Soccerlingua** helps reluctant teenagers get their heads around foreign languages — English, French, Portuguese, Swedish and Turkish — by tapping into their love of the ‘beautiful game’, football. Website: <http://www.soccerlingua.net>
- **Taste the language** shows that learning languages can be delicious by offering free food and language taster sessions. Website: <http://www.tastethelanguage.net>

For more information on the European Commission’s multilingualism policies and activities:

E-mail: eac-info@ec.europa.eu



Notes

European Commission

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