

European Day of Languages - 26 September 2015



The European Day of Languages 2015 – a time to focus on the languages of schooling, the forgotten languages...

Each year, on 26 September, the European Day of Languages is celebrated by the Council of Europe and thousands of citizens from across Europe and around the world.

It is a day when we celebrate the rich mosaic of different languages that coexist in all our countries, both from Europe and other regions of the world. Languages evolve constantly and are strengthened by borrowing from other languages, which contributes to and enriches our linguistic and cultural heritage.

So, in this year, 2015, why don't we turn our attention to the languages that are seldom invited to this annual festival? These are the languages used in our schools as the medium of instruction and of learning. Sometimes they can create barriers that result in academic underachievement, as several international surveys illustrate. Educational success depends on a good command of the language of schooling.

The Council of Europe has been working to address this challenge, through its [Language Policy Unit](#), its [European Centre for Modern Languages](#) and through cooperation with the [European Commission](#), notably in the area of multilingual classrooms. The Council of Europe's [Recommendation](#) on the importance of the languages of schooling for educational success offers its 47 European Member States concrete and innovative support to help them ensure that all pupils can reach their educational potential.

On this European Day of Languages, let us highlight the importance of the languages of schooling for teaching, learning and communication. Every child should be given an equal chance to succeed.

Educational success can determine the future, so let us act now.

www.coe.int/EDL

Background information on the Day

The European Day of Languages (EDL) is a day to encourage language learning across Europe.

At the initiative of the Council of Europe, the European Day of Languages has been celebrated every year, on 26 September, since the European Year of Languages in 2001.

The specific aims of the Day are to:

- alert the public to the importance of language learning in order to increase plurilingualism and intercultural understanding;
- promote the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of Europe;
- encourage lifelong language learning in and out of school.

The dedicated website for the Day is available in 31 languages and hundreds activities are registered in the [events' calendar](#) of the site. The EDL activities which take place in Europe and increasingly on other continents are organised mainly by schools, universities, language and cultural institutes and associations.