

THURSDAY 27 & FRIDAY 28 APRIL 2006

Conference on Regional and Minority Languages in Education Systems



In the context of its Communication "Promoting language learning and linguistic diversity - An Action Plan 2004-2006" the Commission organised a conference to encourage co-operation and networking on issues affecting regional and minority languages in education and training systems. The conference was not intended to address policy issues with reference to the status of these languages.

Regional and minority languages are an important element of our rich European cultural heritage. For these languages to remain alive, it is essential to ensure that their transmission through the education and training systems adopts the best practices available in Europe.

The focus of the conference was, therefore, on practical recommendations in terms of illustrations of good practice covering, for example, issues referring to bilingual and multilingual education, teacher training and transmission within families.

Ten thematic workshops discussed global issues on the basis of examples of good practice from specific regional or minority languages.

Workshop topics

1. Transmission within families
2. Integration through education - The Ghandi project in Hungary
3. Through bilingualism to multilingualism
4. The effectiveness of bilingual education
5. Teacher-training for regional and minority languages
6. Language awareness and linguistic diversity
7. ICT in multilingual education
8. Interaction in the classroom
9. Education through the medium of a minority language
10. Lifelong language learning

The more general objective of the conference was to situate regional and minority languages in the context of current Commission policy on multilingualism (Commission Communication "A New Framework Strategy for Multilingualism").