

EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT FOR LEARNING LANGUAGES

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One of the most important issue politicians at European level have recognised is that education and training are essential to the development and success of today's knowledge society and economy.

Thus, EU education and training policy has become of utmost importance, especially since the adoption of the Lisbon Strategy in 2000, the EU's programme on growth and jobs. It stresses out the idea that knowledge, innovation and everything they bring along are the EU's most valuable assets, particularly as global competition becomes more intense in all sectors. Education in general, meaning quality kindergarten, primary, secondary, higher education and training remains as important as ever. Yet, initial learning is not enough. People's skills must be constantly renewed to enable them to meet the challenges of the new world of technologies, increasing globalization and demographic changes.

This paper will focus on language education as researches quite clearly reveal that language efficacy and cultural knowledge of exports markets increase international competitiveness.

Language learning is being closely related to becoming an integrated member state of the nowadays society, to finding a job and earning a living. There is also a link between language learning and the linguistic needs of the labour market. EU actions in education and training aim to improve the quality of language learning systems and provide greater opportunities for people at all stages of their lives. The point is that while each Member State is in charge of its own education and training system, joint actions can help achieve common aims. One way of doing this is by developing and administrating funding programmes – issue we will refer to further in our paper.

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