

## **СЕКЦІЯ 2. Розвиток сучасних ЗВО і ЗЗСО України та світу**

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### **THE ROLE OF MULTILINGUALISM IN STRENGTHENING CULTURAL DIALOGUE IN EUROPEAN EDUCATION**

In our world, which is more connected than ever, being able to speak multiple languages is super important for understanding different cultures, building empathy, and working together. In European schools, knowing many languages is not just good for your own future; it also helps different groups talk to each other and understand their cultures better. As Europe celebrates the presence of so many languages, schools all over the world are starting to teach kids about languages and different cultures from a very young age.

Multilingualism encourages people to connect with various cultural viewpoints actively, making communicating across different countries easier. When learners study several languages, they are not just acquiring new ways to express themselves but also gaining a deeper understanding of how language influences identity, social rules, and perspectives on the world. By learning multiple languages, students are better able to grasp and value cultural differences, which can break down stereotypes and promote respect for one another. Actually, the European Commission highlights how crucial multilingualism is for building European unity and cultural understanding. They back initiatives that encourage students to learn at least two foreign languages besides their native language.

In European education, multilingualism is at the heart of several initiatives aimed at enhancing unity and diversity. For instance, the Erasmus+ program

provides intercultural experiences and language immersion, enabling young people to engage directly with peers from other countries and backgrounds [1, 16].

Language is not just a way to communicate; it is like a window into different cultures. When students learn languages like French, German, Spanish, or even less common regional languages, they get a glimpse into unique histories, traditions, and ways of life. The work “*High-Level Meeting and Policy Paper on Multilingualism*” by Garcia Lopez highlights that learning multiple languages does not just give you new linguistic abilities but also helps build intercultural understanding, which is becoming an essential part of what it means to be a citizen in the 21st century [2, 5]. On top of that, knowing many languages helps people become more culturally aware, which is vital for having meaningful conversations in our interconnected world.

Even though everyone agrees that it’s really important to teach multiple languages in school, actually doing it across Europe is tough. The European Commission has pointed out a big problem: not everyone has the same chance to learn different languages, particularly in rural areas or places that are struggling economically [5]. Kids in these areas often do not get the same opportunities to learn several languages as kids in cities or richer areas. This difference makes it hard for everyone across member states to become equally skilled in languages and culture, which in turn creates obstacles to people moving around freely and feeling included.

A big worry is the lack of qualified language teachers. As Bessie Dendrinis pointed out in her work “*Multilingualism and language policy in the EU today: A paradigm shift in language education,*” many European countries, especially for less commonly taught languages, do not have enough trained professionals to provide high-quality, culturally sensitive instruction. Without well-prepared educators, bringing multilingual and intercultural learning together is much harder [1, 22].

However, there is a real chance to make big strides in teaching multiple

languages in schools. The ECML pointed out that new technology is opening up fresh ways to get students excited about learning languages. Things like online tools, apps on your phone, and digital platforms give students flexible, fun, and culturally diverse ways to pick up new languages. These kinds of tools help overcome local shortages of resources and make it possible to have genuine language experiences right in the classroom.

As we consider the path ahead, it is crucial to strengthen the place of multilingualism in European education. This can be achieved through tangible policy measures and creative teaching methods. The European Commission's blueprint for multilingualism highlights the significance of introducing languages early on, proposing that children who learn multiple languages from a tender age often exhibit enhanced cognitive agility and a more open-minded perspective towards diverse cultures [4]. By integrating language learning into the curriculum from the earliest stages, we can establish a robust basis for multilingual skills that will last a lifetime.

Language learning should go beyond just learning grammar and vocabulary. The work *“High-Level Meeting and Policy Paper on Multilingualism”* highlights that to really promote understanding between different cultures, education needs to include cultural topics, relevant social issues, and genuine communication activities. This could involve learning through projects, examining real-life cases from different cultures, intercultural training courses, and talking about cultural identity and differences. These approaches help learners see how language relates to the social world around them [2, 6-10].

We also really need to make teacher training a priority. It is not just about teachers having excellent language skills; they also need to be culturally aware and use fresh, creative teaching approaches. Providing teachers with ongoing chances to improve and connect with educators from other countries can help them better equip their students to become fluent in multiple languages and more sensitive to different cultures [1, 22].

Policymakers have a crucial part to play in making sure national education plans fit neatly within the bigger picture of EU goals. When it comes to language policy, it is important to put a spotlight on linguistic diversity, give a boost to the use of minority and regional languages, and offer both financial and structural backing for language initiatives in areas that might not have as much representation [3, 30]. To turn the idea of multilingualism from just a nice idea into something that's actually happening on the ground, it is vital to have everyone on the same page – governments, schools, and international bodies all working together effectively.

**Conclusion.** Multilingualism is much more than just a valuable linguistic skill; it is a fundamental element in fostering intercultural dialogue and promoting European integration. As we live in a time of increasing globalization, migration, and cultural interaction, it is crucial to equip students with the skills to communicate across different languages and cultures. This is vital for creating inclusive, democratic societies. European education systems have certainly come a long way, but there is still work to be done to guarantee that every learner gets the chance to become a multilingual citizen who is confident, competent, and culturally aware. By working together, innovating, and investing consistently, we can ensure that multilingualism continues to enhance cultural understanding and unity across Europe.

#### REFERENCES

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