

### ●● Focus on Language Learning

We should always keep in mind that one of Europe's great riches is its diversity. This richness is expressed partly, through Europe's different languages. The year 2001 was designated the European Year of Languages by the European Union and the Council of Europe. Forty-five countries participated in the Year with the general aim of encouraging language learning throughout Europe. A total of **190 co-financed projects** took place at local, regional, national and transnational level, promoting a wide variety of languages.

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/lang/languages/actions/year2001\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/lang/languages/actions/year2001_en.html)

#### What's up?

##### **Erasmus Mundus (2004-2008) Towards a European label of excellence for universities**

On January the 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 a new «Erasmus» programme, called «Erasmus Mundus», came into being. It will become operational at the start of the new academic year in 2004-2005.

Like its famous elder sibling, Erasmus Mundus is intended to encourage the mobility of students.

But this time, the beneficiaries are postgraduate students from all over the world. Another difference is that Erasmus Mundus is meant to be a label of excellence, designed to strengthen the position of European higher education in the world knowledge market. Every year some 500.000 students from all over the world follow a course of study or pursue a specialisation in the European Union.

The programme should reach its real cruising speed by 2008.

It will gradually set up an international network of cooperation among European and third-country universities.

More information: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/mundus/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/mundus/index_en.html)

#### European Initiatives

##### **Europe of cultural co-operation (FR-EN)**

The Council of Europe has been active in the area of languages for almost forty years.

Its programmes are co-ordinated by two complementary bodies: the Language Policy Division in Strasbourg (France) and the European Centre for Modern Languages in Graz (Austria).

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

##### **European language portfolio**

It is a document in which those who are learning or have learned a language - whether at school or outside school - can record and reflect on their language learning and cultural experiences.

The portfolio contains a language passport which its owner regularly updates. A grid is provided where his/her language competences can be described according to common criteria accepted throughout Europe and which can serve as a complement to customary certificates. The document also contains a detailed language biography describing the owner's experiences in each language and which is designed to guide the learner in planning and assessing progress. Finally, there is a dossier where examples of personal work can be kept to illustrate one's language competences. **PFD version to download**

[http://culture2.coe.int/portfolio/inc.asp?L=E&M=\\$t/208-1-0-1/main\\_pages/welcome.html](http://culture2.coe.int/portfolio/inc.asp?L=E&M=$t/208-1-0-1/main_pages/welcome.html)

##### **Publication: Learning a language differently**

This book gives a broad outline of more than 30 years of the European Youth Centre language courses policy. Over the years its methodology had turned away from a "pure" language courses to courses integrating into the programme two other dimensions: youth work and intercultural learning.

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int) (FR-EN)

#### Read in COYOTE

[www.training-youth.net](http://www.training-youth.net)

Issue N° 0, July 1999

##### **Methodological developments in intercultural learning through language**

This training course was the first of the partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission. This article describes aims and methods of this training session.

Issue N° 7, July 2003

##### **Approaching an unknown language without anxiety thanks to "plurilingual discovery"**

This article describes the approach adopted by a group of French instructors who have been experimenting with a new method of language learning called *plurilingualism*. The main objective is to give people confidence in approaching a new foreign language. The authors discuss two experiments in training French applicants for EVS (European Voluntary Service) in Romance language countries.

##### **T-KIT on Methodology in Language Learning**

n° 2 (FR-EN-DE)

Discover this T-Kit especially produced for language trainers and teachers. This global methodology simulates authentic communication situations and requires active participation and initiative of the learner.

### ●● Internet sites

#### **EFVET - European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training**

This group is seeking to develop new approaches to teach languages. The objective is to improve teaching by selecting and visualising language teaching methods with an emphasis on communication activities. [www.efvet.org](http://www.efvet.org)

**Tandem Partners** The **best** way of learning a foreign language is communication with a native speaker who wants to learn your language. It is a give and take solution where you are the teacher (of your own language) AND the student (of a foreign language). Look for your partner! [www.languages.dk/tandem/index.htm](http://www.languages.dk/tandem/index.htm)

#### **Foreign Language and Culture** EN only

This "amazing" list of useful links will allow you to look for the language you need. Many more links related to culture, travel, language methods and courses. [www.speakeasy.org/~dbrick/Hot/foreign.html](http://www.speakeasy.org/~dbrick/Hot/foreign.html)

