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Politics for languages for social and cultural cohesion
Les politiques des langues pour la cohésion sociale et culturelle
Politik für Sprachen für den sozialen und kulturellen Zusammenhalt

Peaceful coexistence of the different European nations as well as their economic development depend on mutual understanding and close cooperation of European states and on acknowledgement of equal rights to all members within the partnership. Communication and exchange of information are key issues that help to improve understanding of various economic, social and cultural areas, which, in turn, form the most important platform for development of common strategies of the countries that have decided to follow a common route. By acquiring relevant linguistic and intercultural communication skills and competencies, individuals as well as social groups will be able to establish the communication links needed for efficient cooperation. Moreover, intercultural communication promotes strong values at the level of state/nation and European identification, since the multicultural nature of modern societies is underpinned by cultural identification. Namely, different national groups can coexist peacefully and interact to mutual benefit only when led by mutual understanding and empathy. In fact emphatic competence has been listed by experts as one of the most important elements of efficient intercultural communication and social cohesion.

Biography of presenter/ Biographie du présentateur/ Bigraphischer Hintergrund des/der Beitragenden:

Professor of multilingualism and interculturalism, scientific counsellor in the field of early multilinguality, she is a rector of the University of Primorska. She has paid particular attention to the social, psycho-linguistic and didactic aspects of teaching and studying foreign languages; her research findings have been published in numerous papers in French, Italian and English. She has lectured at foreign universities, has been responsible for national development projects, has coordinated international projects. She is a member of numerous boards of experts that have prepared research and education policy in Slovenia as well a member of High Assessment panels within the directorates of European Commission.

In the period 2000 – 2002, she was a member of the Slovenian government. As minister of education, science and sport, she contributed to reforms in the educational system in Slovenia, participated in the drawing up of national strategies related to the integration of Slovenia in European Research Area (ERA) and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). For her work she has received high awards: in 2005, Knight of the Order of the Grand Cross of Merit of the Republic of Italy (Cavaliere della Repubblica Italiana) and in 2006, Knight of the Legion of Honour (Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur) by the President of the Republic of France.

Name of institution/ Nom de l'institution/ Name der Institution:

Rector of the University of Primorska, Former Slovenian Minister of Education
Rectrice de l'Université de Primorska, ancien ministre de l'Education de Slovénie
Rektorin der Universität Primorska, ehem. slowenische Bildungsministerin