Development of standards on language education

Education is a central part of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages. The Mercator Research Centre in Ljouwert/Leeuwarden has recently carried out a study on behalf of the Council of Europe on the development of minimum standards for education in minority languages. Different states have applied different levels of ratification for Article 8 on education. The aim of the study is to provide a description of conditions and provisions to establish common standards for the teaching of minority languages. In the study nine countries have been compared on the several dimensions that are part of the charter. For each state a short description of every dimension is given for one minority language for which the Charter has been ratified. On the basis of the comparison recommendations have been made concerning educational models, including: the number of hours to teach in and through the minority language; the education goals; teaching materials, teacher training; the inspectorate and the legal position of the languages in the school system. The Common European Framework of Reference and the European Language Portfolio have been an integral part of the study as tools that help to contribute to the construction of European standards.

Biography of presenter/ Biographie du présentateur/ Bigraphischer Hintergrund des/der Beitragenden:
Cor van der Meer is researcher at the Frisian Academy and member of the management team of the Mercator Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning. He was born and grew up in Fryslân in the Netherlands. He is a graduate in sociology from the university of Groningen. He is co-author of the report on “the Development of Minimum Standards on Language Education in Regional and Minority languages”.

Name of institution/ Nom de l’institution/ Name der Institution:
Mercator: European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning / Fryske Akademy