



The Treatment of Co-official and Foreign Languages in Galicia: the Galician Foreign Languages Implementation Plan

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Abstract

Nowadays, languages are a tool of communication and expression of identities, they are also a mean to reach more social cohesion, prosperity and better labor expectancies. Taking this idea into consideration, the Galician government, Xunta de Galicia and its Council of Education, understand that promoting a plurilingual society can help future generations for future challenges.

Tackling the plurilingualism as an advantage, not as an obstacle, the Galician Council of Education establishes bridges and links between society and education, between the needs of the Galician society, which requires a plurilingual society and the educational scope.

We belong to a plurilingual autonomous community which deals with two co-official languages, Spanish and Galician and a third foreign language, mainly English. In order to satisfy the needs of the Galician society, the Galician Council of Education has developed the Galician Foreign Languages Implementation Plan (GFLIP). The main goal of this plan is that students acquire an effective and good command of foreign languages at the end of compulsory education which can be done through four core ideas: students, teachers, schools and families.

As regards students, they are given the opportunity to participate in foreign language courses in Galicia and abroad and European programmes.

As regards teachers, the Council of Education has developed teachers' training programmes, in-service and on-line referring to foreign languages and international methodological and linguistic courses in UK, Canada, France, Germany and Portugal for CLIL and non-CLIL teachers.

The third idea refers to schools which are given with four courses of actions such as: bilingual classes, plurilingual schools, native language assistants, visiting teachers and e-twinning projects.

As regards families, they are informed about the advantages of learning and improving their native and foreign languages and also to promote families' participation with the school and teachers in the development of the GFLIP.