



Plurilingual Education for Immigrants

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Since 1981, Foyer have promoted multicultural projects in Dutch-speaking pre-schools and primary schools in Brussels. At present, more than 500 students are involved in programmes in Italian, Spanish and Turkish in six school. These students are able to take a part of their courses in their mother tongue.

Starting at pre-school level, students who speak a different language (than French or Dutch) at home (LCO), follow a mixed programme: some of the classes are given in their mother tongue and the rest in Dutch. As they progress through school, the number of classes in the mother tongue diminishes and those in Dutch increase. The goal is for students to master their mother tongue sufficiently to be able to communicate, that they also acquire a good knowledge of the two major languages in Belgium, so that by the time they leave school they are tri-lingual.

Multicultural teaching has a positive impact on the linguistic integration of students. From a linguistic perspective, learning a foreign language is easier if the knowledge of the mother tongue is sufficiently developed. From a psychological perspective, including creating an identity, self-confidence, motivation to integrate, etc., this approach recognizes and validates the foreign mother tongue within the school.

In order to improve the quality of his plurilingual education Foyer works on different themes and more specifically languages portfolio, awakening to languages and intercultural teaching. Beside the numerous publication Foyer produces exhibitions on multilingualism and language use and multilingual games boxes.