# Language Rich Europe Factsheet

**LRE Experts’ Network Now Live**

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**What is Language Rich Europe?**

Language Rich Europe is a project, co-financed by the British Council and the European Commission, which promotes knowledge sharing about good policy and practice in language learning and teaching across Europe, and encourages Europeans to learn more languages at all stages of their lives.

It is a networking project which will bring together over 1,200 policy makers and practitioners from 24 countries and regions to discuss and develop better policies and practices for multilingualism. Network members are drawn from the fields of education, business, public services and the media.

**What does it do?**

LRE provides a commentary on language policies and practices in participating countries and regions while giving stakeholders the opportunity to get together to share good practice.

* **Research and Analysis:** Through our network of experts and partners we have conducted an analysis of language policies and practices in Europe, comparing them against selected European Commission and Council of Europe recommendations. The results of this research are currently being published as drafts for consultation at regional, country and European level.
* **Consultation:** With this initial research as our basis, our cross-sector network has come together in a series of over 80 interactive events across Europe to share knowledge and good practice.
* **Outcomes:** The result is the official project report, *Trends in Policies and Practices for Multilingualism in Europe*, edited by Guus Extra and Kutlay Yagmur (Tilburg University) and published in 18 European national and regional languages plus in Turkish and Arabic as major immigrant languages in Europe, in both book form (Cambridge University Press, December 2012/ early 2013) and as part of our interactive website: [www.language-rich.eu](http://www.language-rich.eu). Further, key recommendations for policy makers at the regional, country and European level will be presented at the European Parliament in March 2013.

**Who is involved?**

The project is co-financed by the European Commission under its Lifelong Learning Programme. It is managed by the British Council with supervision from a steering group made up of partner organisations. Over 30 partners from across Europe are involved in the project, contributing both funding and expertise.

The research has been led by the Babylon Centre for Studies of the Multicultural Society at Tilburg University. The data collected has been complemented by research partners in each country who have provided their own analysis of the findings, supported by examples of good practice and promising initiatives.

**What countries/regions were surveyed?**

The survey covers 15 EU member states: Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom – plus Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland and Ukraine.

In Spain additional research was done for Catalonia and the Basque Country. In the UK, research was done separately for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In the Netherlands additional research was done in Friesland.

**What is covered in the research?**

The research explores policies and practices for the national language, foreign languages, regional or minority languages and immigrant languages in the following domains:

* Official documents and databases
* Pre-primary education
* Primary education
* Secondary education
* Further and higher education
* Audiovisual media and press
* Public services and spaces
* Business

Sample used for domains across Europe

* Further and higher education: 69 VET institutions and 65 universities
* Public services and spaces: 63 cities
* Business: 484 companies in 4 sectors: banks, hotels, supermarkets and construction firms

**What are the stages of the project?**

* November 2010 – April 2011: Design and piloting of the LRE questionnaire
* April – September 2011: Research conducted in 24 countries and regions
* September 2011 – April 2012: Analysis and writing up of data, and translation into languages of participating countries
* May – June 2012: Publication of ‘draft for consultation’ document and initial discussion with stakeholders
* September – November 2012: Follow-up national workshops with stakeholders to discuss findings of the survey
* 3-4 December 2012: International conference in London at the British Academy
* January 2013: National workshops to develop recommendations at national and European level
* 5 March 2013: Final conference in Brussels at the European Parliament to present recommendations to EU institutions

**What is the LRE Experts’ Network on Multilingualism?**

Our online network connects over 1,200 high-level professionals across Europe, drawn from the fields of education, business, public services and spaces, and the media. All members have a professional interest in languages, and the Network provides members with opportunities to share knowledge and learn from each other.

Joining the LRE Experts’ Network will enable you to:

* Identify and connect with experts with the specific profile you are looking for, using our online search function.
* Share your achievements and good practice in your area of work both online and face-to-face with a large European community.
* Get involved in shaping language policy and practice in your country as well as influencing LRE recommendations to the European institutions.
* Develop long-term cross-sectoral co-operation that will last beyond the lifetime of the LRE project.

*Become a member of the Network and link up with your fellow professionals from around Europe!*

*Sign up online at www.language-rich.eu/registration/signup.html*