



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Linguistic diversity in Europe needs strong multilingualism policies

Civil society organisations meet EU stakeholders in Madrid.

[Madrid, 02 December 2011] **Poliglotti4.eu**, the EU co-funded project on multilingualism and language policy, has gathered for a Stakeholders Meeting at the Spanish Representation of the European Commission in Madrid on 1-2 December 2011, presenting the first results of this two-year civil society project, with participants engaging in lively discussions and interventions.

This meeting was attended by a wide range of experts, policy makers and stakeholders as well as members of the EU Civil Society Platform on Multilingualism in the field of

- Migrations, languages and social inclusion, including languages and public services
- Language learning and Education
- Language policies, including minority languages
- Language, Culture and the Media

Guest speaker, Belén Bernaldo de Quiros, Head of the Multilingualism Policy Unit at the European Commission DG EAC, underlined the importance of fostering language competencies amongst European citizens and presented the new EU programme « Erasmus for All ». It is an instrument in the framework of the EU 2020 strategy of which the objective is the investment in knowledge and education. During the next year the programme will be negotiated with the EU Council and EU Parliament.

In addition to English the **Poliglotti4.eu** website has been launched in French and German. Furthermore, preliminary research results in the following areas were presented and will soon be available on the project website: local and regional provision of adult language training; language policy and practice in public services; early language learning.

Project partners of EU organisations representing the non-formal and informal learning as well as the arts and cultural sector agreed upon the highly relevant influence civil society actors play in shaping innovative language learning approaches and multilingual services in the European public space. In order for this to be achieved, convincing multilingualism policies are required.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Poliglotti4.eu is a project promoting multilingualism in Europe - the result of the deliberations of the EU Civil Society Platform on Multilingualism. The project will result in the creation of an On-line Observatory, reporting on best practice in language policy and language learning. The observatory will provide policymakers, teachers, learners and civil society organisations with a powerful toolkit for benchmarking and enhancing their activities, in non-formal and informal education and learning sectors. The project is co-funded through the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP).

The nine project partners are: Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE); British Council (BC); Danish Cultural Institute Benelux (DKI); EU National Institutes for Culture in Brussels (EUNIC in Brussels); European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA); European Theatre Convention (ETC); Fundación Academia Europea de Yuste (FAEY); Goethe-Institut Brüssel (GI); Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning (Mercator).

The **Civil Society Platform on Multilingualism (CSPM)** was set up by the European Commission in October 2009 to promote multilingualism in Europe in the areas of culture, media and non-formal education. Members are non-governmental organisations committed to promoting multilingualism, operating at a trans-national or European-wide level. Its twenty-nine members are: ACT-Association of Commercial Television in Europe; ALTE-Association of Language Testers in Europe; CEATL-Conseil Européen des Associations de Traducteurs Littéraires; CEPI-European Coordination of Independent Producers; Club of Madrid Brussels Office; CMFE Community Media Forum Europe; Culturelink Network; EAEA-European Association for the Education of Adults; EBLUL-Eurolang Brussels; ECAEuropean Council of Artists; CSWE-European Council For Steiner Waldorf Education; EEE-YFU- European Educational Exchanges - Youth for Understanding; EEU-Europa Esperanto-Unio; EFIL-European Federation for Intercultural Learning; EFNIL-European Federation of National Institutions for Language; EFVET-The European Forum for Vocational Education and Training; EPC-European Publishers Council; ETC-European Theatre Convention; EUNIC in Brussels-EU National Institutes for Culture in Brussels; EUROCLIO-European Association of History Educators; European Association for Terminology; European Writers' Council; Federation of European Publishers; FUEV-Föderalistische Union Europäischer Volksgruppen; ISSA-International Step by Step Association; Literature Across Frontiers; Mercator Network of Language Diversity Centres; RECITRéseau Européen des Centres Internationaux de Traducteurs Littéraires; FAEY-Fundación Academia Europea de Yuste.

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