

Why languages matter! Language education for democratic culture

This presentation will explore a major shift in language education in Europe, arguing for the crucial role language educators play in developing and maintaining democracy and what this means in practice. A fresh impetus has been given to this shift by the publication of a holistic Recommendation from the Council of Europe on the importance of plurilingual and intercultural education for democratic culture. The presentation will select some key aspects of the Recommendation and demonstrate practically how these can support educators and teacher educators in creating more linguistically inclusive classrooms and schools and contributing to a shift in societal attitudes towards multilingualism. A range of practices and materials will be shared, including some of the many rich (and free) resources available online from the European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe.