



The European Union Multilingualism Policy



Directorate General Education and Culture

Languages in the European Union



- 😊 **25 Member States**
- 😊 **450,000,000 citizens**
- 😊 **Over 80 languages**
- 😊 **Over 60 regional or minority languages**
- 😊 **in 138 different language communities**





Chronology:

1989 - LINGUA Programme

1995 - White Book "Teaching and Learning"

1995/2006 - Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci I-II

2001 - European Year of Languages

2003 - Action Plan 2004-2006

2007/2013 - Life Long Learning Programme





Why?

- ☺ **communication**: to work, study, travel, trade, to have fun;
 - ☺ **understanding**: tolerance, solidarity, openness to other cultures;
- ...languages, a basic skill for all European citizens





Key messages:

- ☺ Learning a *lingua franca* alone is not enough
- ☺ Mother tongue + two other languages for every citizen
- ☺ Lifelong language learning
- ☺ Meaningful communicative competence (not necessarily native speaker level)





How?

- ☺ Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci Programmes (Life Long Learning Programme 2007-2013)
- ☺ European Languages Label
- ☺ EBLUL, Mercator
- ☺ Studies
- ☺ *Over € 30,000,000 p. a.*





Actions

- ☑ Conference: “regional” and “minority” languages in education
- ☑ Study + Conference on Early Language Learning
- ☑ Inventory of language certification systems
- ☑ Study: economic effects of poor language skills
- ☑ More language assistants in primary schools
- ☑ Encourage take-up of teacher training actions
- ☑ Dedicated Web Portal
- ☑ High-level languages group





Conclusions

- Multilingualism is a core value in Europe: it is what makes Europe unique and contributes to its richness;
- Learning languages provides people with many benefits: career possibilities, deeper understanding of one's own and others' cultures.
- Learning languages can be accessible





The Life Long Learning Programme

Integrated Programme

Comenius

School
education

Erasmus

Higher
education &
advanced
training

**Leonardo
da Vinci**

Initial and
continuing VET

Grundtvig

Adult education

Transversal programme

4 key activities – Policy development; Language learning (KAL); ICT; Dissemination

Jean Monnet programme

3 key activities – Jean Monnet Action; European Institutions;

The Lifelong Learning Programme



☺ Main Generic actions:

- ☺ Individual mobility
- ☺ Partnerships
- ☺ Projects and networks
- ☺ Accompanying measures



Key Activity Languages



Call for Proposals (provisional):

1-Multilateral projects:

Priority will be given to:

- ☉ Projects to develop materials for teaching language awareness and languages to primary and pre-primary learners, namely for less widely and less taught languages;
- ☉ Projects that target the acquisition of competence in languages which reinforce European competitiveness in a global context (e.g. Chinese, Hindi, Arabic, Russian, Japanese, Korean);
- ☉ Projects that develop and/or promote methodologies to motivate language learners;
- ☉ Projects promoting multilingual comprehension between languages;
- ☉ Projects addressing regional and minority languages.



Key Activity Languages

Call for Proposals (provisional):

2-Networks:

Priority will be given to the following types of European networks:

- ☉ linking organizations that promote language learning and linguistic diversity at national or regional level;
- ☉ linking universities which create Chairs in Multilingualism and/or Interculturalism;
- ☉ of good practices that serve to motivate language learners;
- ☉ for language teacher associations, with strong links to national associations;
- ☉ for the promotion and valorisation of multilingual comprehension competences;
- ☉ for the promotion and valorisation of early language learning





Key Activity Languages

Accompanying Measures:

- ☺ Information and publicity campaigns
- ☺ Linguistic Competence Indicator
- ☺ European Language Label
- ☺ Conferences, studies.





More information?

<http://europa.eu/languages/en/home>

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/newprog/index_en.html



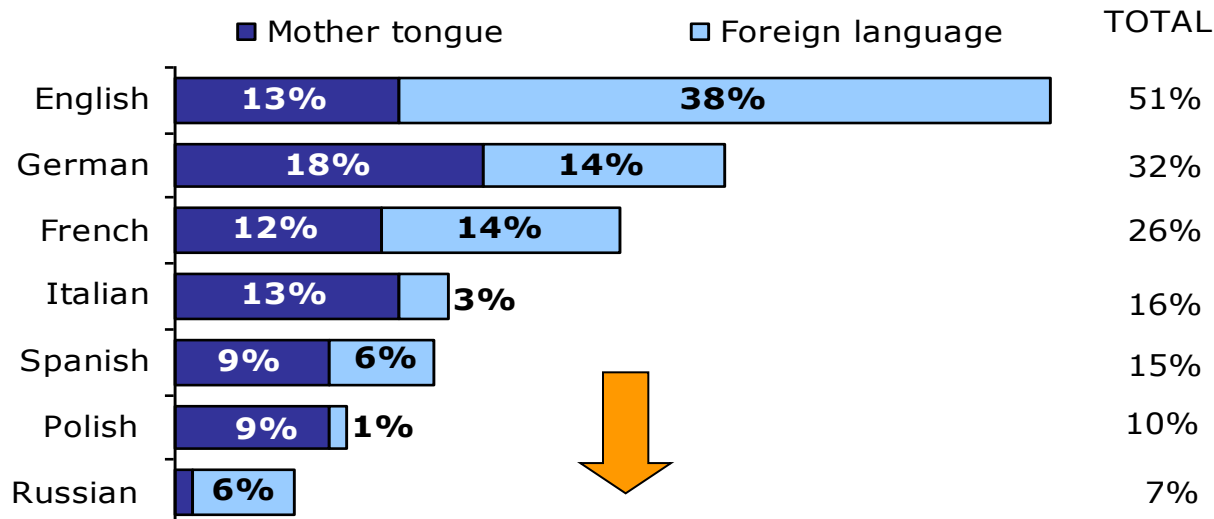
Eurobarometer (EB 64.3): Europeans and their Languages



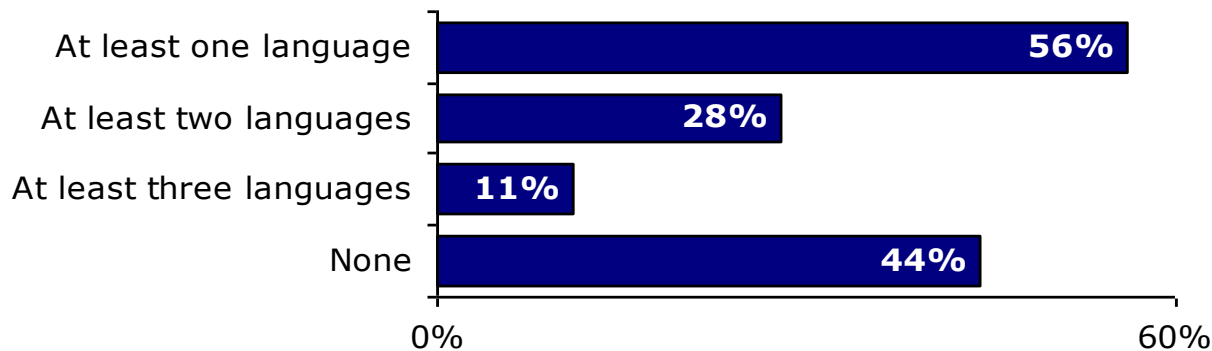
EUROBAROMETER

February 2006

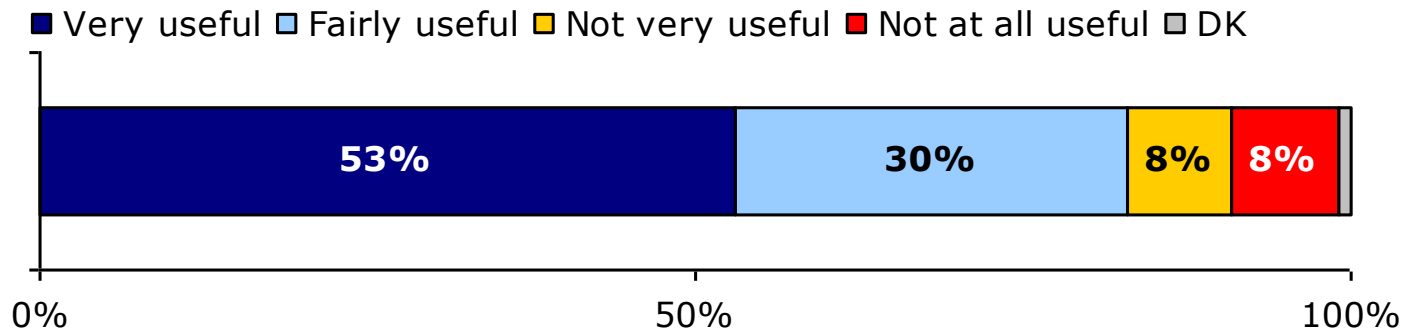
Languages most commonly used in the EU - %



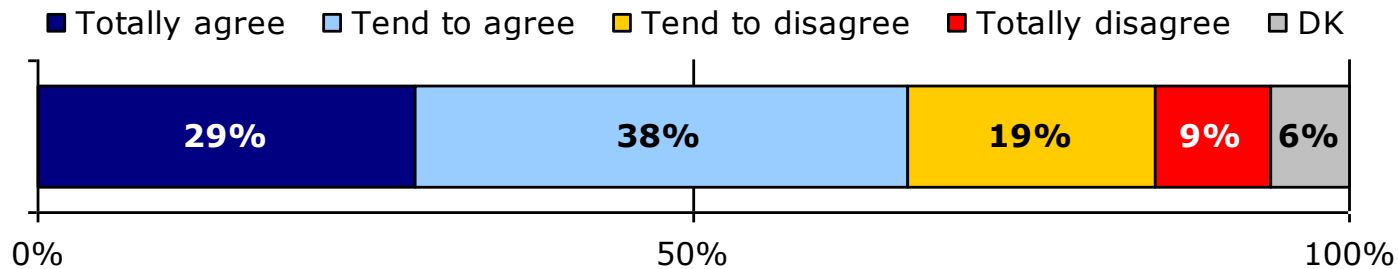
D48b-d Which languages do you speak well enough in order to be able to have a conversation excluding your mother tongue?



QA1 Do you think knowing other languages than your mother tongue is, or could be, very useful, fairly useful, not very useful or not at all useful for you personally?



QA12.1 Please tell me to which extent you agree or disagree with each of the following: Languages' teaching should be a political priority - % EU



Country Results

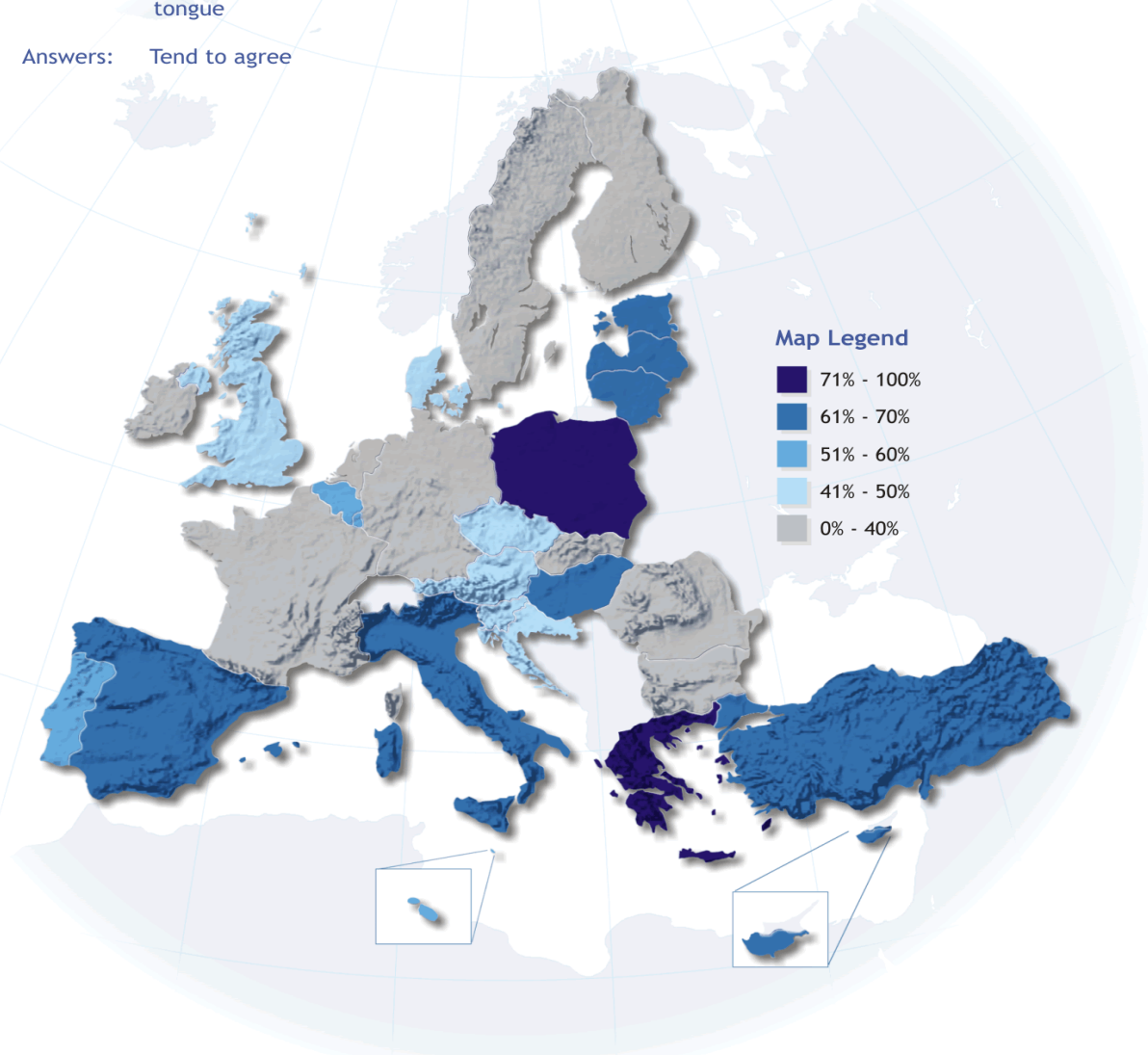
Poland	75%
Greece	74%
Lithuania	69%
Cyprus	68%
Hungary	68%
Italy	66%
Latvia	64%
Spain	63%
Estonia	62%
Belgium	60%
Portugal	54%
Malta	54%
Luxembourg	53%
European Union (25)	50%
Denmark	48%
United Kingdom	48%
Slovenia	47%
Czech Republic	45%
Austria	43%
Finland	40%
Germany	36%
Ireland	34%
The Netherlands	33%
France	31%
Slovakia	30%
Sweden	27%

Other Countries

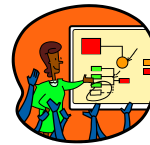
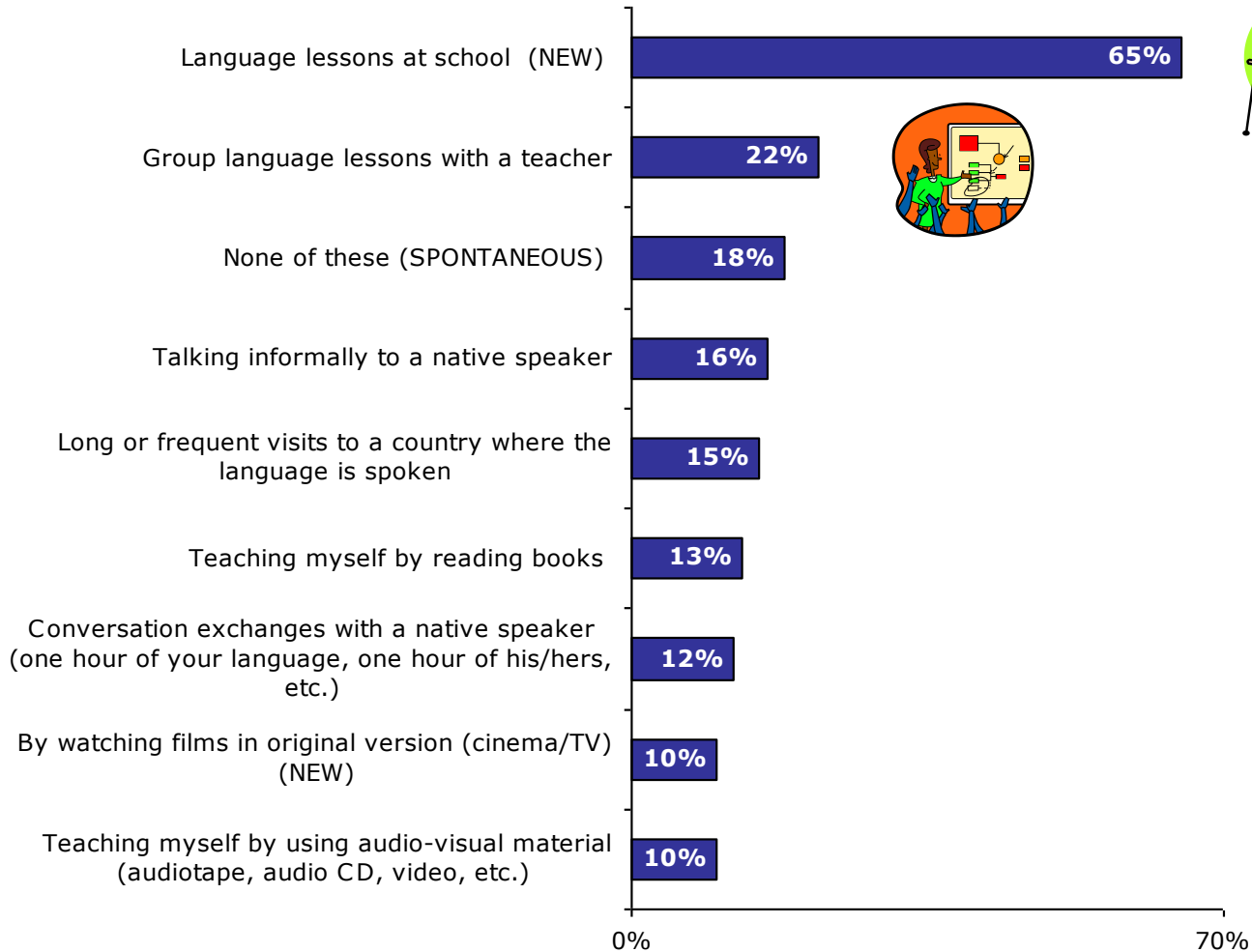
Turkey	63%
Croatia	41%
Romania	37%
Bulgaria	27%

Question: A11.4. Please tell me if you tend to agree or tend to disagree with the following statements:
Everyone in the European Union should be able to speak two languages in addition to their mother tongue

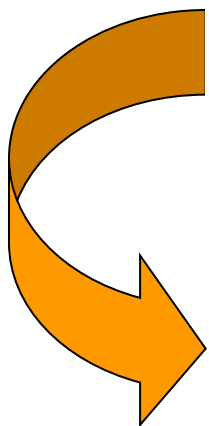
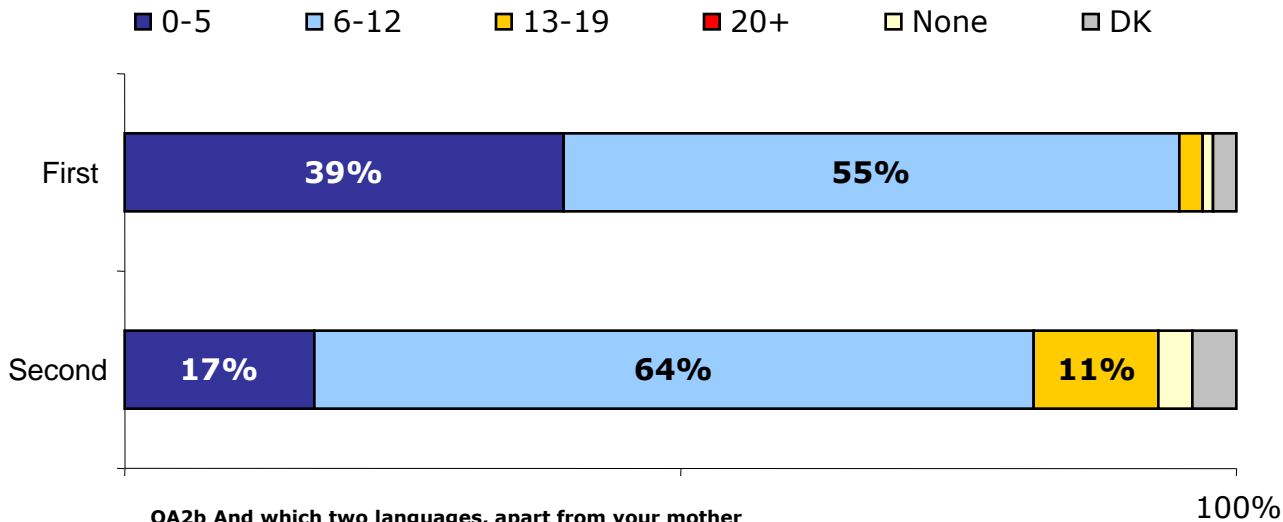
Answers: Tend to agree



**QA7a I am going to read out several ways of learning a foreign language.
Please tell me which of these ways you have ever used - % EU**



QA3 According to you, what is the best age to start learning a first language...and a second language..? - % EU



QA2b And which two languages, apart from your mother tongue do you think children should learn?

