



PROGRAMME

Thursday 24 September 2009

Premises in the morning:
CHARLEMAGNE Building, 170 Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat
Room Lord Jenkins
Interpretation: EN, ES, DE, FR, IT, RO, SV

08:30 Registration

09:00 - 09:30 Welcome coffee

9:30 – 13:00 PLENARY SESSION

Chair: **Vladimir Šucha** Director of Directorate C, Culture, Multilingualism and Communication, Directorate-General for Education and Culture, European Commission

09:30 - 09:45 WELCOME

Leonard Orban

Member of the European Commission, Commissioner for Multilingualism

Why does the European Commission promote early language learning?

Main policy developments on early language learning in the European Union

09:45 – 10:00 OPENING ADDRESS

Jonas Hassan Khemiri

Swedish-Tunisian author as Swedish language ambassador

Why is early language learning important - the Swedish perspective

10:00 – 13:00 LECTURES

10:00 - 10:45 Keynote lecture 1

What the Brain Likes Most: Early Language Learning and the Brain

Scientific findings on the benefits of early language learning for the child's intellectual development

Prof. Dr. Piet Van de Craen (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium)

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 - 12:00 Keynote lecture 2 :

Early Language Learning in a Multiple Immersion Program in Finland

Scientific expertise on early language learning didactics

Prof. Dr. Siv Björklund (University of Vasa, Finland)

12:15 - 13:00 Keynote lecture 3 :

Early language learning for learners with special needs

Is early language learning possible or beneficial for slow learners?

Is it beneficial for learners with migration background?

Professor Dr. Hristo Kyuchukov (University of Nitra, Slovakia)

Premises in the afternoon:

Albert Borschette Conference Centre (CCAB), 36 Rue Froissart Straat

Rooms: 3A, 3B, 3C

Interpretation: EN, ES, DE, FR, IT

13.00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 17:30 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS, FOLLOWED BY DEBATE



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Workshop 1: Why should my baby learn foreign languages?

Benefits of early language learning, goals, best practice, conditions for success

Chair: **Prof. Dr. Jasone Cenoz** (University of San Sebastian, Spain)

Members:

- * **Prof. Dr. Paolo Balboni** (University of Venezia, Italy)
- * **Prof. Dr. Rita Franceschini** (University of Bozen/Bolzano, Italy)
- * **Eva Hammes di Bernardo** (Ministry of Education, Saarland, Germany)
- * **Prof. Dr. em. Richard Johnstone** (University of Stirling, United Kingdom)

Workshop 2: Learners with special needs

Slow learners and children without solid knowledge of the teaching language/best conditions for these learners

Chair: **Prof. Dr. David Marsh** (University of Jyväskylä, Finland)

Members:

- * **Prof. Dr. Monica Barni** (University for Foreigners in Siena, Italy)
- * **Dr. Renate Csellich-Ruso** (Independent Expert for didactics and communication, Vienna, Austria)
- * **Prof. Dr. Jelena Mihaljević Djigunović** (University of Zagreb, Croatia)
- * **Prof. Dr. em. Tony Stockwell** (Pedagogical Foundation EFFECT, Triesen, Liechtenstein)

Workshop 3: Promoting early language learning

Promotion strategies, challenges and key messages

Chair: **Professor Dr. Traute Taeschner** (University of Rome, Italy)

Members:

- * **Professor Dr. Carmen Alario Triguero** (University of Valladolid, Spain)
- * **Ingrid Lottenburger** (German-Czech Forum of Women, Berlin, Germany)
- * **Professor Dr. Meilutė Ramonienė** (University of Vilnius, Lithuania)
- * **Professor Dr. Antonella Sorace** (University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom)

19.00-20.00 Cocktail
Hilton Hotel Brussels
38 Boulevard de Waterloo/Waterloose Steenweg, 1000 Brussels

Friday 25 September 2009

Premises:

Albert Borschette Conference Centre (CCAB), 36 Rue Froissart Straat

Room 0D

Interpretation: EN, ES, DE, FR, IT

Chair: **Vladimir Šucha**

Director of Directorate C, Culture, Multilingualism and Communication,
Directorate-General for Education and Culture, European Commission

09:00 - 09:30 Coffee

09:30 - 09:45 Information Campaign on Early Language Learning

- * Introduction by Directorate-General for Education and Culture
- * Presentation by P.A.U. Education (Pierre Antoine Ullmo)



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09:30 – 11:30 PLENARY SESSION

Reports and conclusions

Workshop 1 - report and conclusions / Discussion

Workshop 2 - report and conclusions / Discussion

Workshop 3 - report and conclusions / Discussion

12:00 – 13:00 CLOSING SESSION

(Conclusions and outlook)

Odile Quintin

Director General for Education and Culture, European Commission

In the afternoon of the 25th September, conference participants are welcome to participate in the celebrations organised by the European Commission in Brussels in the framework of the European Day of Languages 2009.