

Languages for Europe Think Tank – 31 January 2008

Multilingualism and intercultural dialogue

Introduction

Since our last meeting in June, three things have happened of significance to us:

- The Final Report of the EU High Level Group on Multilingualism was published in October (see on our Think Tank [website](#));
- Glasgow University's proposal to the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Knowledge Transfer (KT) Fellowship Scheme was not successful;
- Our internal British Council project proposal was successful and we have now appointed Tony Buckby as Project Owner and Nadine Ott as Project Manager for "Languages for Europe: 'on the edges' (multilingualism, intercultural awareness and European citizenship)" – see below for draft of 21Nov07.

We now need to develop our thinking and our proposal into one which Nadine and Tony can use in discussions with potential partners and stakeholders to flesh out a full project proposal for 2008/09. We would like to involve Think Tank members in brainstorming ideas to contribute to our thinking about appropriate potential directions for this project.

The proposal shows a number of areas we might focus on but there are of course others. We are now into the EU Year of Intercultural Dialogue (ICD) and we need to think about how a project focusing on multilingualism will fit with that initiative. We could think about the impact multilingualism has on social cohesion and integration on the one hand and on the protection and promotion of the majority national culture on the other. Or how multilingualism relates to politics and to business.

We propose that where possible members meet and/or discuss before the end of January and bring to our meeting some initial thoughts about what aspects of such a project would be useful in their countries and/or networks. In Berlin we will focus on regional as well as country issues.

Task for our January meeting

Think Tank members are invited to read the attached draft proposal for a project on "*Languages for Europe: 'on the edges' (multilingualism, intercultural awareness and European citizenship)*" and comment during our meeting on issues of concern for us, such as:

- What might be realistic / sensible / possible project objectives and outcomes?
- What research issues should we explore? How?
- What audiences or target groups should we aim to reach?
- What outputs would be useful for our target audiences?
- Which potential partners and networks should we aim to work with?
- And in what ways?
- Which countries should we involve? And focus on?
- What are the risks involved in this project?

TOB / TB / NO

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