

**APROBAT**

În ședința Biroului permanent al  
Camerei Deputaților



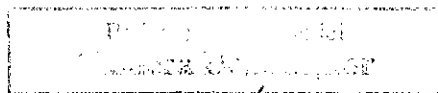
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**Parlamentul României**

**Camera Deputaților**

**Comisia pentru învățământ, știință, tineret și sport**

## **INFORMARE**

**privind participarea la**

**Reuniunea Președinților Comisiilor pentru educație, știință, cultură și dezvoltarea societății informaționale a parlamentelor statelor membre ale Uniunii Europene - „Uniți în diversitate: aspecte politice și sociale ale evoluțiilor limbilor și culturilor în UE ”**

**Vilnius, 26-27 Septembrie 2013**

Reprezentanți ai parlamentelor statelor membre ale Uniunii Europene, ai Parlamentului European și ai Comisiei Europene s-au reunit în perioada 26-27 septembrie 2013, la Vilnius, Lituania, pentru a discuta despre politica UE în ceea ce privește multilingvismul, diversitatea lingvistică la nivelul UE, cât și despre modurile în care pot fi satisfăcute necesitățile multilingvistice ale societății europene în spațiul digital.

Reuniunea a fost găzduită de Seimas (Parlamentul Lituanian).

În cadrul acestui eveniment, România a fost reprezentată din partea Camerei Deputaților de către domnii deputați Daniel Vasile Oajdea, președintele Comisiei pentru tehnologia informației și comunicațiilor, și Alin Adrian Petrache, membru în Comisia pentru învățământ, tineret și

sport, iar, din partea Senatului, a participat domnul senator **Georgică Severin**, membru în Comisia pentru cultură, artă și mijloace de informare în masă.

Reuniunea s-a desfășurat în jurul ideii conform căreia diversitatea lingvistică este o caracteristică esențială a identității europene și a moștenirii culturale. Diversitatea asigură participarea socială și cetățenia fiecărui individ din statele membre. În curs de globalizare și odată cu fenomenul migrației, importanța cunoașterii limbilor străine a crescut în particular la nivelul UE, astfel încât învățarea limbilor a devenit unul din obiectivele cheie ale politicilor europene în domeniul educației.

Creșterea economică sustenabilă și competitivă a Europei depinde și de adaptabilitatea la transformările digitale în toată complexitatea acestora. În zona multilingvismului, tehnologia informației și a comunicării (TIC) va oferi numeroase avantaje, nu numai în ceea ce privește piața europeană, dar și în ceea ce privește comerțul cu statele din lumea a treia. Soluțiile tehnologiei vor servi în acest sens ca un pod unic între limbile statelor europene.

O idee de ansamblu care a fost promovată este aceea că Uniunea Europeană și statele membre sunt încurajate să confere mai multă atenție problemei pe care o au mai multe limbi europene, și anume că acestea nu pot fi utilizate pentru a comunica folosind tehnologia modernă. Prezervarea diversității moștenirii culturale și lingvistice a Uniunii Europene, prin sprijinirea politicilor de protecție și stocare a resurselor lingvistice pentru dezvoltarea tehnologiei limbajului, este, în altă ordine de idei, o prioritate a politicilor educaționale la nivel comunitar, dar și în statele membre.

Participanții la această întâlnire au fost deschiși poziției UE de a oferi suport pentru cercetări substanțiale în vederea transformării mediului online într-un mediu mai accesibil din punct de vedere lingvistic, astfel încât să fie evitată cât mai mult excluziunea socială și lingvistică.

Participanții la această întâlnire au încurajat inițiative ca prioritizarea finanțării pentru reducerea decalajului digital pentru ca toate limbile europene să ajungă la standarde europene. În aceeași ordine de idei sunt încurajate parteneriatele de tip public-privat pentru dezvoltarea resurselor și instrumentelor multilingvistice digitale.

În cadrul discuțiilor, membrii delegației românești au subliniat faptul că, în România, minoritățile naționale beneficiază de învățământ în limba maternă, cetățenii beneficiind și de învățământ în limbi de circulație internațională.

Printre măsurile de revitalizare lingvistică întreprinse la nivel național, delegația românească a subliniat organizarea anuală de concursuri și olimpiade atât naționale, cât și internaționale în limbi precum: maghiară, rromani, turcă, rusă, slovacă, ucraineană, sârbă, cehă și croată. Astfel, studierea limbii materne (fie ea limbă națională sau a minorităților naționale) și a civilizației românești este considerată un element fundamental pentru păstrarea identității naționale. Învățământul românesc este un factor important de promovare a cooperării ce contribuie la dezvoltarea schimbului de informații și valori, prin intermediul comunicării.

Membrii Parlamentului României s-au implicat, totodată, activ în secțiunile reuniunii, contribuind la clarificarea unor aspecte legate de situația României în ceea ce privește evoluția revitalizării lingvistice și posibilitățile de care dispune România în acest moment pentru atingerea scopurilor vizate de întâlnirea în cauză.

Deputat,  
Alin Petruche

Draft 25.09.2013

**MEETING OF THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION,  
SCIENCE AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
INFORMATION SOCIETY “UNITED IN DIVERSITY: POLITICAL AND SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS OF EU LANGUAGES AND CULTURES”**

**CONCLUSIONS**

Vilnius, 26–27 September 2013

**Introductory remarks**

The Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees on Education, Science and Culture and the Committees on the Development of Information Society “United in Diversity: Political and Social Development Aspects of EU Languages and Cultures” was held in the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on 26–27 September 2013.

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**Conclusions of the Meeting**

***EU policy on multilingualism in times of information technology***

1. Linguistic diversity is an essential characteristic of European identity and cultural heritage. This diversity ensures social participation and full citizenship to every citizen of each Member State. Due to the processes of globalisation and migration, the importance of knowledge of languages has particularly increased in today's European societies while language teaching has become one of the key objectives of EU language policy in the area of education.
2. The first regulation adopted by the Council of the European Economic Community (15 April 1958) confirmed the equality of the official state languages of the Member States and their status as official and working languages of the European institutions. Since then, EU documents have been translated into all official languages of the EU ~~while~~ and the EU has been spending a ~~lot of~~ substantial funds on the promotion of multilingualism.
3. During the last 60 years, Europe has become a distinct political and economic structure, yet culturally and linguistically it is still very diverse. One classic way of overcoming the language barrier is to learn foreign languages. Yet without technological support, mastering all official languages of the Member States of the European Union and some 60 other European languages as well as receiving information in these languages is an



insurmountable obstacle for the citizens of Europe and its economic, political, and scientific progress.

4. Europe's future sustainable growth and competitiveness depends to a large extent on its ability to embrace the digital transformation in all its complexity. In the area of multilingualism, information and communication technology (ICT) will offer European actors tremendous advantages, not only within the common European market but also in trade relations with emerging markets of third countries. Technology solutions will eventually serve as a unique bridge between Europe's languages.

### ***Endangered European languages and linguistic diversity in the European Union***

5. The objective of safeguarding each and every facet of the European Union's cultural and linguistic heritage has been bolstered under the Lisbon Treaty, because linguistic and cultural diversity is one of the fundamental principles of the European Union, as enshrined in Article 22 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which reads: 'The Union shall respect cultural, religious and linguistic diversity'. All languages, including those which are endangered, reflect historical, social, cultural and ecological knowledge and skills that form part of the richness of the European Union.
6. The European Union and the Member States are encouraged to pay more attention to the extreme danger that many European languages are in if they cannot be used to communicate using modern information technology, and to commit wholeheartedly ~~to a policy of protection and promotion that is up to the job of preserving the diversity of the Union's linguistic and cultural heritage by supporting ambitious protection policies within the language communities concerned and by intensifying storage and digitalisation of language resources and research and development of language technology.~~
7. ~~In times this era of~~ information technology, many languages are at risk of disappearing ~~because of the failure to establish their~~ they are not present in the digital technology space. Those languages which will fail to establish their presence in information technologies and the global digital space may be doomed to face ~~the so-called digital~~ extinction.
8. The study conducted by META-NET (Network of Excellence) concludes that digital support for 21 of the 30 European languages investigated is "non-existent" or "weak" at best. Only English was assessed as having "good support".
9. Survival of languages, particularly of those with fewer users, ~~can be~~ ensured through their full-scale viability in the digital space. Therefore, the Meeting of the Chairpersons of Parliamentary Committees expresses concern over uneven development of language technology ~~space~~ in Europe and insufficient sustainability, applicability and completeness of available language resources.
10. ~~Language~~ Information technology ~~has the potential of~~ is opening up new ways of multilingual communication, ~~corpus development using machine translation and automatic interpretation, as well as information dissemination and retrieval systems for smaller languages.~~ However, the pace of change in this area is so high that efforts aimed at

language planning and ~~expansion-stabilisation~~ are no longer able to address every challenge ~~in~~ time. The fact that ~~users are able to access products faster and in a more user-friendly way~~ the market forces drive companies to give priority to products for the most widely spoken languages results in the slow introduction and dispersion of language technology and tools and the inadequate development of digital language resources for languages that are less widely used, and tools. We have to make sure that we equip all smaller and under-resourced languages with the ~~needed~~-necessary base technologies and allocate ~~our~~ resources, financial included, to that end; otherwise these languages will not be able to serve their users in the digital space. In-stead citizens will be forced by the technology to use another language than their own, which is a violation of their linguistic human rights. are doomed to digital extinction.

11. The participants of the Meeting call on the Commission and the Council to adapt various EU policies and programmes so as to support ~~endangered~~-all European languages and linguistic diversity using EU financial support tools for the period between 2014 and 2020, ~~including making sure that~~ programmes on education and training, youth and sport, culture and media, as well as structural funds ~~and provide~~ all instruments designed to promote languages in new technologies.

***Ways to satisfy the needs of the EU multilingual society in the digital space***

12. The participants of the Meeting welcome the EU's position to support substantial research efforts to make online content more accessible across languages and to reduce linguistic and social exclusion.
13. Seeking to promote multilingualism in the digital space, there needs to be, first and foremost, a much stronger focus on developing transversal skills and basic skills at all levels and making educational resources more available in mother tongue. Schools, universities and vocational ~~and training~~ institutions must increase access to education via open educational resources ('Rethinking Education').
14. It is essential to promote adult language learning through the use of media, new technologies, cultural and leisure activities.
15. The EU is a major employer of translators and an important player in the European translation market. This is why it is necessary to follow the developments in translation training in Europe closely and contribute to them.
16. Europe badly needs high-quality machine translation software for all European and major non-European languages in order finally to overcome language barriers and thus future-proof European languages. The participants of the Meeting are convinced that the provision of new applications and services to citizens would create a host of new opportunities for the European labour market and language industries.

***Promotable initiatives on language and its heritage resource digitalisation***

17. It is vital to design and develop multilingual digital resources and tools necessary for machine translation and ~~semantic~~-advanced analysis of linguistic data, which are a

prerequisite for building quality machine translation software, thereby ensuring the status of equality enjoyed by all official languages of the EU. The participants of the Meeting are of the opinion that digitalisation performs not merely a technological function. Digitalisation of language resources and items of linguistic heritage preserves characteristic features of the languages concerned and keeps record of their historical development. In the digital space, language becomes crucial in expressing the identity and culture of a modern, progressive and creative nation.

18. The participants of the Meeting regret that in reality digitalisation of resources of smaller (non-commercial) European languages and their heritage is becoming a local academic mission, which is often complicated by the lack of human resources and insufficient focus, support and funding by public and commercial institutions. These circumstances constitute a systemic reason contributing to the actual digital divide among languages in Europe.
18. One of the fundamental challenges is that the effort needed to describe a language is the same, regardless whether the language has many or few speakers. The effort needed to provide the necessary language resources and relevant research for the digital representation of English is exactly the same as the effort needed for Lithuanian or any other language. There are just more speakers to share the burden and a greater market to give a proper return on investment for English. This disproportionate situation should be regulated so that every language has an equal chance to be digitally present on an advanced level.

*The participants of the Meeting encourage and welcome the initiatives which:*

19. prioritise funding aimed at the reduction of the digital divide so that all European languages would come closer to the minimum ~~official EU-standard level of for language introduction to information technology development technologies~~; apply public-private partnership (PPP) principles in designing and developing multilingual digital resources and tools;
20. seek, through legal regulation, resolution of the problem of disproportionate costs of international projects;
21. enable consistent integration of smaller ~~(non-commercial)~~ languages into multilingual scientific infrastructures related to the design and development of digital resources and language technology; ensure, at the European level, sustainability and international standards of digital language resources and technologies that build them, and foresee the level of their accessibility and availability.

### **Overview of the presentations and debates**

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