

Information about the EC - Project Nr. 519055-LLP-1-2011-1-IT-KA2-KA2NW
AMuSE – Approaches to Multilingual Schools in Europe

By now multilingualism has become a reality in day-to-day-life in European society and at European schools. Nevertheless, education policy and teachers in general are often disposed towards monolingualism and do not make use of the full potential of multilingualism. EU-policy supports multilingualism as a guiding principle for EU-citizens; however, the difficulties to transfer and to implement these goals are often to be found on the level of national education policy.

In the “Lifelong Learning Programme”, set up by the European Commission¹, the University of Teacher Education Vienna (Pädagogische Hochschule Wien) participates in the international project „AMuSE“ together with the following partner institutions:

- European Academy Bozen (EURAC) – Co-ordinator
- Göteborgs Universitet, Sweden
- Zurich University of Teacher Education, Switzerland
- University Tartu Ülikool, Estonia
- Middle East Technical University Ankara, Turkey
- University of Teacher Education Vienna, Austria

The overall goal of the AMuSE Project is to develop and to gather existing know-how for policy makers in education. These instruments should provide support in changing school models as well as initiate processes and programmes to achieve multilingual schools.

The team at the University of Teacher Education Vienna will work in two main areas during the first project phase (until mid-2013):

Area 1: Multilingualism in schools

Under the scientific leadership of Mrs Elisabeth Furch, existing models in dealing with multilingualism at Austrian elementary schools, special needs schools and secondary modern schools in minority regions and urban areas will be collected, evaluated and presented. In addition, this research aims at outlining if and how far the current teacher education reflects the social reality concerning multilingualism in schools in Austria, esp. in Vienna.

Area 2: Expert Meeting September 24th - 25th 2013

The second area of work concentrates on the organisation and implementation of an expert meeting “Multilingualism in teacher education – multilingual students as language facilitators and cultural mediators” (draft title). This expert meeting will take place in Vienna and will bring together all experts within the AMuSE-project, scientists, policy makers and other experts in the field of education from Austria and other countries. The meeting aims at informing participants about the status quo of multilingualism in teacher education; furthermore, other relevant issues of multilingualism will be discussed. The target groups of the expert meeting are:

- National und federal educational authorities
- Experts in teacher education at universities and departments of education who are involved in training of multilingual students and teachers
- Experts at schools and universities presenting examples of good practice

Our motto:

„*Multilingualism is THE resource of our future.*“ (Elisabeth Furch 5/2012, Vienna, Austria)

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