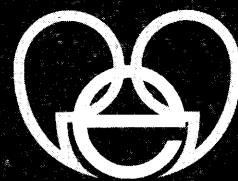
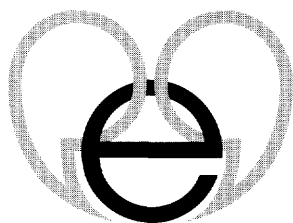


THE EUROPEAN BUREAU FOR
LESSER USED LANGUAGES



ANNUAL REPORT 1994



**THE EUROPEAN BUREAU
FOR LESSER USED LANGUAGES**

ANNUAL REPORT 1994

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THANK YOU....

- to the European Commission for having granted the subsidies which enabled us to carry out the greater part of our working programme;
- to the European Parliament for having adopted the Killilea Resolution and again approving the budget line for lesser used languages;
- to the Ministry of the Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht of the Republic of Ireland, the National Ministry of Education of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Provincial Government of Frisia and the German-speaking Community of Belgium for their subsidies;
- to the French Community of Belgium for having graciously provided offices for our Information Centre in Brussels;
- to the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for having made office space available for the Animation Centre for Teaching through Minority Languages in Luxembourg;
- to the German-speaking Community of Belgium for having taken on part of the cost of our annual assembly in Eupen;
- to the Government of Catalonia for having allowed Imma Pagès to spend an extra two weeks in Dublin to complete the work on her Vade-Mecum;
- to the Presidency of the Regional Council of the Vallée d'Aoste for its contribution to the publication of the brochure, The Vallée d'Aoste, a range of resources;
- to the Government of the Basque Country, the Government of Navarre and the Basque Cultural Institute for their collaboration in organising the cultural evening, The Basque culture, culture of Europe;
- to the Ministry of Education of Catalonia for having allowed us to participate in the "Saló de l'Ensenyament" (or Teaching Fair) in Barcelona.

Thanks also go to all of the institutions and persons who assisted us in our daily work with their knowledge and cultural commitment.



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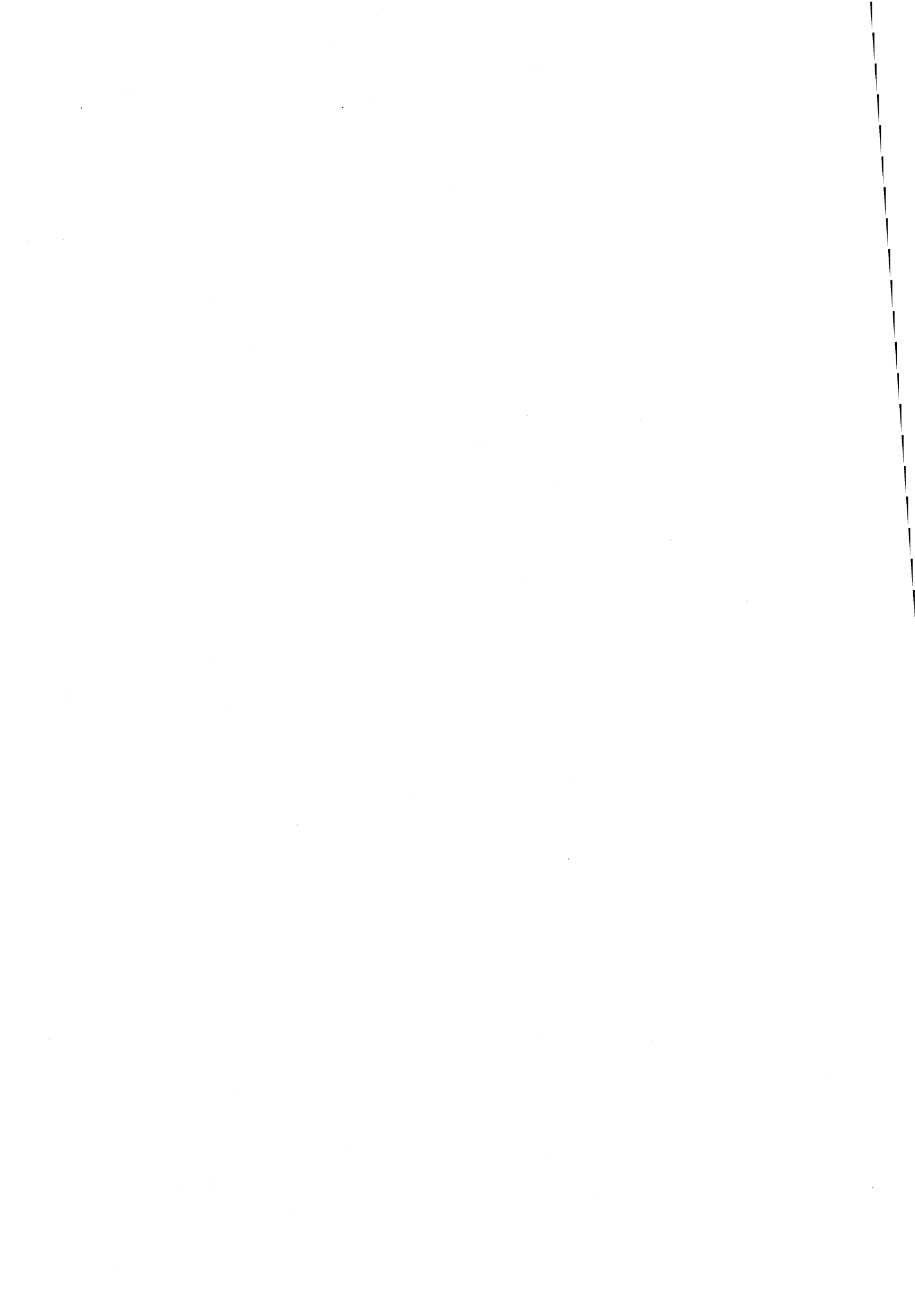
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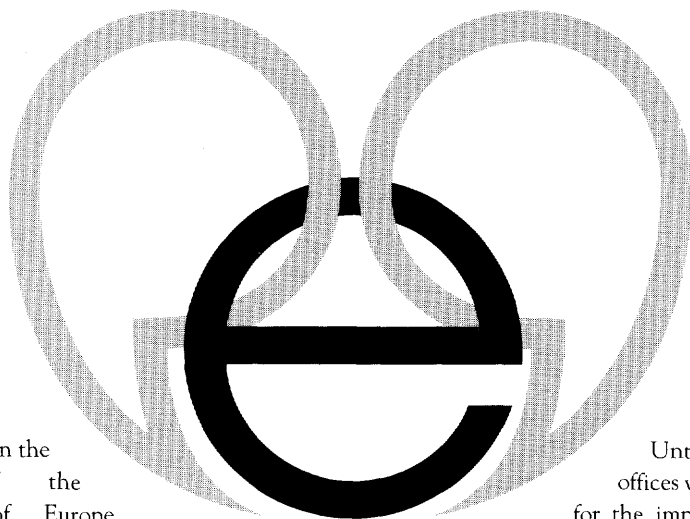
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Cette publication est également disponible en français



THE EUROPEAN BUREAU FOR LESSER USED LANGUAGES

A STRUCTURE SERVING THE LANGUAGES OF EUROPE



Twelve years in the service of the languages of Europe, experience gained and recognition won: the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages has become a veritable "institution" in the field of promoting autochthonous regional languages.

Since the outset, its trump card has been its independence in political, ideological and religious matters. Its policy has been and will continue to be that language and culture are the prerogative of everyman; they belong to everyone but to no one in particular.

Therefore, the Bureau's strategy is based on three main points: seeking legal and political support and funding at European, State, regional and local level, in order to carry out projects concerning the lesser used languages; the publication and dissemination of informational material on the lesser used languages and exchanges of information and experience among the groups active in promoting these languages; the setting up of structures to support autochthonous linguistic communities in various domains.

Until 1993, two offices were responsible for the implementation of this policy: the Dublin Head

Office and the Brussels Information Centre. The former coordinates the work of the Member State Committees and develops contacts with European and international institutions and organisations. The latter works in the field of information and documentation, and publishes and collects essential works on the lesser used languages.

In 1994, a new service was added: EDLUX, the Animation Centre for Teaching through Minority Languages was set up in the city of Luxembourg in premises made available by the government of the Grand Duchy.

The basic idea behind this new centre was to create a structure to provide practical support for the activities of the Bureau's Education Committee, which is responsible for developing a strategic and innovative programme for bilingual teaching. Ms Anne-Sophie Oudin, the manager of EDLUX, took on this task in March 1994 and has been working since then in close collaboration with the members of the Committee.

THE EUROPEAN BUREAU

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES

The activities of the European Bureau can be divided into two main categories: on the one hand, making contacts and developing a "political" and "philosophical" strategy to provide a basis for the growth of the lesser used languages of the European Union, and on the other, the publication and dissemination of brochures to make the general public aware of this theme. There is also a service that provides advice and technical support for linguistic communities which request subsidies from the European Commission for projects to promote regional or lesser used languages.

The Bureau's Council

The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages has a presence in the various linguistic communities through representatives in the field who work for cultural associations or official institutions having some link with lesser used languages. These representatives form Member State Committees which, together, make up the Council of the Bureau.

The Council, the Bureau's supreme decision-making body, met twice in 1994: the first time in Brussels during February, for the annual colloquium with the European Commission, and the second time in Eupen (Belgium) during June, when the Eupen Declaration was written.

The Eupen Declaration

As 1994 was a year of European elections, the Council decided to draft a text to make the next European Parliament aware of the question of lesser used languages.

The Declaration is based on four main points:

- the question of lesser used languages has become a crucial factor in our society in developing a democratic, multicultural European Union. The fourth direct election

of the European Parliament is a political event of the utmost importance for the Council of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages;

- the Council of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages is itself the result of an EP resolution. It thus wishes to further reinforce the links already existing between the Bureau and parliamentary institutions, and in particular to deepen its fruitful cooperation with the Intergroup for Minority Languages, and to extend this cooperation to all members of the new Parliament and particularly to those who will be elected in areas where lesser used languages are spoken;
- the key areas concerning lesser used languages in which cooperation with the new European Parliament should be initiated and strengthened are: education, the media, public administration and legislation, community, commercial and voluntary initiatives;
- the Council of the European Bureau hopes that the new Parliament accepts in full the contents of the texts on lesser used languages already passed. It relies on the commitment of parliamentarians for the practical implementation of the Arfé, Kuijpers and Killilea resolutions.

The media: the concept of diversity makes headway

Green paper on audiovisual policy

On 7 April 1994, the European Commission adopted a Green Paper entitled "Strategic options to strengthen the European programme industry in the context of the audiovisual policy of the European Union." The Committee of the Regions, which was asked to issue an opinion on this Paper, named Mr Denis Haughey of Northern Ireland as its rapporteur. Mr Haughey asked the European Bureau for Lesser Used

Languages, inter alia, to present its thoughts on the subject, and these were then incorporated into the final version of the document.

In the first point of the Opinion, the Committee of the Regions notes, "the importance of films and television programmes in safeguarding and promoting the diversity of national and regional cultures, including the lesser used languages, bearing in mind the high level of artistic and creative vitality shown by many small communities." The Committee of the Regions also "agrees with the Commission that it is absolutely necessary to involve all Union regions in the development of the audiovisual industry and to positively discriminate in favour of regions with low production capacity or where a lesser used language is spoken." Finally, it "hopes that the Commission will successfully coordinate the different strands of activity into an overall policy, capable of developing a European film and television industry that is competitive on the world market, forward-looking, capable of generating new employment, while embracing a contribution to culture, respect for identities and the emergence of a European citizenship."

TV Coproduction Advisory Group

The main objective of the TV Coproduction Advisory Group was achieved in 1992, with the adoption of the "Policy document on lesser used languages in radio and television."

It was then necessary to move on to the second phase of this project: to give concrete form to the statements made in this document. Therefore, the Advisory Group focused mainly on developing cooperation between independent producers and heads of television stations. It is through cooperation that a genuine presence can be achieved on the immense media market.

In 1994, the Advisory Group met once in Brussels to develop its strategy for ensuring contact among the different parties involved. The purpose was to create a structure that would ensure coordination among the various actors in this sphere, who felt the need for more contact among themselves.



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Education: the philosophy of apprenticeship

Education Committee

The former Education Commission, whose members were chosen provisionally from among a few specialists in the field of education, ceased to exist on 10 February 1994. During its meeting in Eupen, the Council of the European Bureau elected the members of a permanent body to take its place: the Education Committee (EDCOM). Its role is to advise the Bureau concerning the implementation of educational policy and to assist the Animation Centre for Teaching through Minority Languages in its work. The members of the new Committee are: Màire Uí Mhaicin, Jantsje Sikma, Gilbert Mercadier, Henri Hostert, Jean Pezzoli and Hans Jürgen Nissen, who serves as the rapporteur to the Bureau's Council.

This Committee adopted the following principles on education:

- linguistic democracy, with particular emphasis on special education for handicapped children and education for vocational training;
- individual and collective rights and the underpinning of legislation regarding these;

- pedagogy which will be appropriate to each particular situation. EDCOM does, however, see a hierarchy for immersion, bilingual and the traditional subject-based approach to teaching;
- linguistic education must be part of an overall global strategy to construct a linguistic community. Each community must propose or find its own strategy. EDCOM, however, would suggest that the Basque strategy be considered as a useful example.

The aim of the above proposals is the provision of European plurilingualism in the context of a true European education as is outlined in the Maastricht Treaty - Articles 126/7/8, the Green Paper on European Education, the Killilea Report, and the Final Resolution from the Assises in Luxembourg.

Animation Centre for Teaching through Minority Languages

The Animation Centre was set up in Luxembourg in March 1994 with the support of the Government of the Grand Duchy, which provided office space. The Centre's Manager, Anne-Sophie Oudin, runs this office under the supervision of EDCOM.

The Centre's priority activities in 1994 were to implement three main projects.

The first has to do with identifying different types of bilingual education in the European Union. The first phase of this project was to collect data on bilingual education in nursery, primary and secondary schools in the various communities where teaching is done in a lesser used language. These data will be gathered via a questionnaire that is adapted to the various school systems, and once the data are pooled and analysed, they will be made part of a systematic inventory.

The second project consisted of preparatory work for exchanges between teachers. This led to the joint organisation with UNESCO's LINGUAPAX project (on language teaching) of a conference on the training of teachers, which will be held in Luxembourg in 1996.



In addition to the coordination of EDCOM activities, the Centre is also planning to ensure the continuity of EUROSOL, a biennial meeting of primary school children who are taught in a lesser used language.

Youth: a growing interest

The Youth Network

In January 1994, the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages set up a Youth Network made up of young people from nine Member State Committees and the five-member Advisory Committee for Youth.

The purpose of the network is to make European initiatives and programmes for youth better known among young people who speak lesser used languages, in order to get them involved in the European adventure via projects. The Youth Network is coordinated by Ms Caoimhe Ní Lochlainn at the European Bureau's Dublin Headquarters.

The Advisory Committee for Youth met for the first time in January 1994: during this meeting, it made plans for a Youth Conference, which was held from 1 to 4 June 1994 in the picturesque setting of Glan-llyn, Wales.

Youth Conference

More than 20 participants from 13 lesser used language communities met in Wales for the annual Youth Conference organised by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages.

The purpose of the Conference was twofold: on the one hand, to recognise the success of the Welsh Youth League (Urdd Gobaith Cymru) and, on the other, to inform young people about European programmes and structures and discuss the development of transnational projects involving young speakers of lesser used languages.

The participants had an opportunity to meet representatives of the Welsh Youth League, which hosted the conference in its residential centre and whose enthusiasm and efforts are very much appreciated in Wales. The League organises the annual Youth Festival (Urdd Eisteddfod): six days of celebration of Welsh culture - both modern and traditional - through song, poetry, dance, the fine arts and a rock contest, in which young people from the European Bureau were able to actively participate.

In addition, the presence of European organisations, such as the European Coordination Bureau, the Youth Forum of the European Union, the Youth Directorate of the Council of Europe and the Exchange Bureau in Ireland, made it possible for young people from lesser used language communities to acquire the information they need in order to successfully complete their projects and programmes.

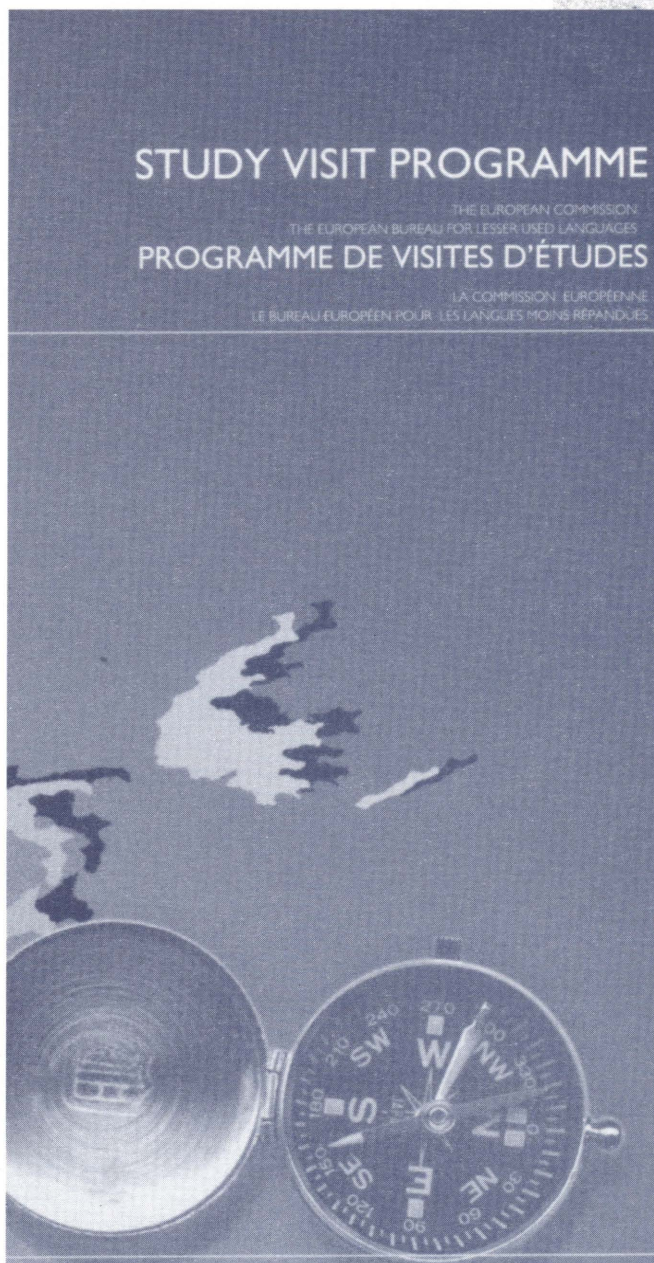
Proposals for the future

Following the annual Conference, two research projects were undertaken at the proposal of the Advisory Committee for Youth:

- the training of young leaders who speak a lesser used language, with emphasis on linguistic competence and questions of interest to young people;
- the publication of a directory of youth organisations and events in the lesser used language communities.

Study visits: an attractive programme

The programme of study visits developed by the European Commission, in collaboration with the Head Office of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, provides a unique opportunity to become familiar with the reality of the lesser used language communities. Seven study visits are organised each year: they last five days, during which the participants visit



schools, radio and television stations, local government and administrative structures, as well as cultural organisations of the region concerned.

The study visits are meant for persons who work to promote and disseminate lesser used languages, i.e., journalists, professors, researchers, administrators, government officials, artists, and persons who train teachers.

During the 1993-1994 academic year, 81 persons participated in this programme. Study visits took place in the following communities: the Basque Country from 7 to 13 November 1993; Brittany from 21 to 27 November 1993; the German-speaking Community of Belgium from 27 February to 5 March 1994; Saterland and North Frisia in Germany from 20 to 26 March 1994; the province of Frisia in the Netherlands from 20 to 26 March 1994; Ireland from 9 to 15 April 1994 and Catalonia from 17 to 23 April 1994.

Documentation and information: an expanding service

The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages is an organisation that is now well established in its field. The numerous letters, requests for information, questions and press articles received speak volumes for the solid foundation and rigour of the Bureau. And since the opening of the Information Centre in Brussels, the Bureau has developed its European contacts even more and has expanded its documentation on the lesser used languages of the European Union.

It was in Brussels, at the heart of the Community institutions, that the Bureau opened this centre which, in its three years of work, has been able to collect a significant amount of documentation on the various lesser used language communities. There are some 500 general and monographic works, 150 magazines in lesser used languages and press reviews, and the Bureau publishes a number of brochures on the subject of the lesser used languages and their place in social and economic life.

The Bureau has also become a veritable advisory service for linguistic communities wishing to

obtain information on the various EU programmes directly involving lesser used languages. Both Brussels and Dublin receive daily requests for information on the "Regional or minority languages and culture" programme and "Study visits" managed by DG-XXII, and on DG-X's "Pilot scheme to provide financial aid for the translation of contemporary literary works."

Two press conferences - one at the Borschette Conference Centre, in collaboration with the European Commission, and the other at the headquarters of the European Parliament, under the sponsorship of the EP's Committee on Culture - were organised by the Information Centre in order to present the Bureau's new publications. And in Dublin, a meeting with Irish journalists provided an opportunity for the Bureau to make itself better known to the general public of the Irish Republic.

Cultural evening: the Basque culture, culture of Europe

The goal of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages in launching the project "Cultural Events in Brussels" was to present minority cultures and to listen to their concerns in an open, informal atmosphere.

In 1994, the Information Centre organised an evening on "the Basque culture, culture of Europe." The Basque Country is a cross-border area - North Euskadi in France and South Euskadi in Spain - which provides a good example of the development and conservation of a lesser used language. The evening's speakers made this clear - with facts and figures at hand - through their enthusiasm as well as their seriousness.

An evocative audiovisual presentation on the territory, language and culture, *Euskal Hitz*, provided an introduction to this both rough and gentle land. Afterwards, the floor was given to the representatives: for the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, Carmen Garmendia, Secretary General for Linguistic Policy of the Basque Government; for the Foral Community of Navarre, José M. Rodriguez Ochoa, Director-General for Linguistic Policy of the Government of Navarre; and for the Northern Basque Country, Txomin Heguy,



Director of the Basque Cultural Institute of Biarritz. In addition, Kris Rogiers, Deputy Chef de Cabinet of the Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, spoke about the European Cultural Charter, and his presentation bore witness to the desire for contact and exchanges among the regions of Europe.

Mercator Coordination

The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages coordinated the four Mercator centres until the end of October 1994. In November, the project was taken over by the Task Force for Human Resources - now DG-XXII.

Mercator - which is an office with computerised documentation and information on the lesser used languages - is made up of four independently functioning centres. Since it took responsibility for this network, the European Commission has begun to set up a project for the interchangeability of computerised data among the four centres, which should improve Mercator's service to the public.

Mercator-Law and Legislation

Nearly 5,000 files concerning legislation - law, decrees, standards, etc. - and 4,000

bibliographical files have been entered into this database.

Important achievements during 1994 include the establishment of a cooperative contract with the institutions collaborating within the Barcelona network and the signing of a convention with the Documentation Centre on European Languages of the University of Girona. This will enable Mercator-Law and Legislation to expand and consolidate its scientific team and to have direct, permanent access to a wealth of interesting information.

Seven issues of the *Bulletí del Centre Mercator: Dret i Legislació Lingüístics* (the vehicle for making the work of the Barcelona Centre known) were published. Mercator-Law and Legislation decided to increase the frequency of publication of this bulletin, however, in light of the important service this offers to the public.

Mercator-Education

Mercator-Education - whose headquarters are in Frisia - launched three major projects in 1994. These projects were presented in Brussels during a press conference organised by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages at the European Parliament.

These three publications, which drew immediate attention from those working in the teaching of

lesser used languages, include: *the Mercator Guide to Organisations*, an updated edition of a directory published two years ago, containing information on some 350 organisations that provide information on the various so-called lesser used languages; *Pre-primary education*, a comparative publication on the various teaching systems in Europe at nursery school level; *Provision of learning materials: for primary and pre-primary education*, a project that is better known by the name LEMA, whose goal is to inform teachers about existing teaching material.

Mercator-General Studies

The Centre in Paris continued its work of gathering computerised data: more than 5,500 files on the lesser used languages have already been established.

In 1994, Mercator-General Studies organised a series of international research seminars to promote lesser used languages in the cultural sphere.

This series of seminars began on 31 January, with a conference on "Minorities and the national problem in contemporary societies." On 21 March, there was a day of information on "Cultural rights and the demands of minorities." On 6 June, there was a seminar on "Regional languages in Europe: analysis of definitions and perceptions." And finally, on 5 December, a colloquium was held on the "Means of transmitting lesser used languages."

Mercator-Media

Four young people will have participated in Mercator-Media projects as of July 1995. They are Rebecca Williams and Mared Roberts from Wales, Xabier Canosa from Galicia and Daviz Guardado from Asturias.

Mercator-Media, whose headquarters are in Wales, continued to update and develop its database on the media and to develop its network of correspondents.

In 1994, the Centre completed the drafting of a new annual magazine - *Mercator Media Forum* - the purpose of which is to promote discussion and exchanges of information among persons working in lesser used languages in the media. This magazine will be launched in early 1995. The other publication which will also be

presented in 1995 is the *Mercator Media Guide Number Two*; the first volume was published in 1993.

THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN BUREAU

Contact Bulletin



Contact Bulletin, an informational magazine of the European Bureau for Lesser Languages, is, in some respects, the historical record of the Bureau and its activities to promote lesser used languages.

Contact Bulletin is published three times a year by the Dublin Head Office,

and its purpose is to disseminate information on the lesser used languages to the general public. At present, 14,000 copies are printed in four languages - German, English, French and Italian.

1994 was an important year for the lesser used languages. On 9 February, the European Parliament adopted the Killilea resolution. Contact Bulletin dedicated nearly a whole issue to this event which, once again, demonstrated the European Parliament's openness towards lesser used languages.

The front page of the second 1994 edition was devoted to the annual Youth Conference, which took place in Glan-Ilyn, Wales, and the "disappointment and anger" of minorities and ethnic groups in Germany, when they were given no place in the country's new Constitution.

The third issue of the Contact Bulletin focused on the new European Parliament, which would begin its real work in the autumn following the June elections. Thus, there is an article on the Intergroup, as well as the usual section on new publications on the lesser used languages.

Unity in Diversity

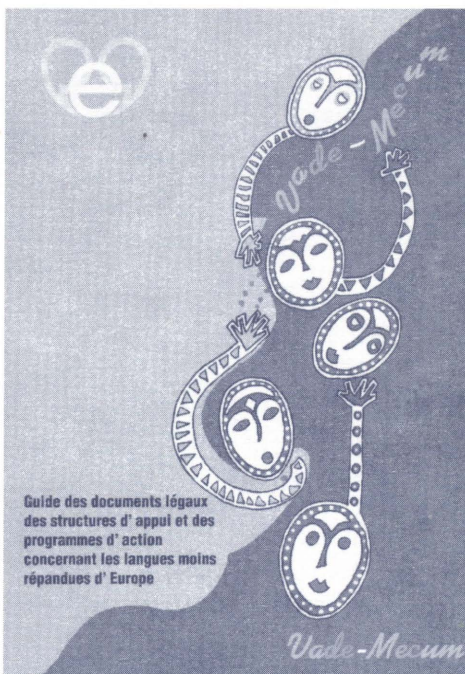
Unity in Diversity is the European Bureau's general informational brochure on the lesser used languages. It had already been published in

German, English, French and Italian, and in 1994 Irish and Dutch versions came out as well.

This pamphlet provides a complete overview of the languages and cultures of the European Union, in which more than 40 autochthonous languages are spoken on a daily basis. Of Europe's 370 million citizens, nearly 50 million speak languages other than the official language of the State in which they live. These other languages are an integral part of our cultural heritage. They include some of the oldest languages in the Western world, and most of them have rich cultural, literary and academic traditions.

While the degree of acceptance, promotion and use of the lesser used languages varies enormously from one country to the next, these languages do have certain characteristics in common. The practice of these languages tends to be limited or marginalised in comparison to other languages which are used in all areas of public life.

Vade-Mecum



Guide des documents légaux des structures d'appui et des programmes d'action concernant les langues moins répandues d'Europe

Vade-Mecum

The *Vade-Mecum* is a guide to legal documents, support structures and programmes of action concerning the lesser used languages in Europe. This is published by the Head Office of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages.

There are numerous texts and provisions adopted by various international institutions on the subject of lesser used languages. However, although these documents are available to the public, they are not always easy to access. Finding a text that was adopted 15 years ago may be a very difficult task involving unavoidable delays which do not suit immediate needs.

The *Vade-Mecum* is the answer to this type of need. It is a collection of basic documents and selected excerpts, accompanied by notes on programmes and services of the European Union and other organisations, notably in the fields of teaching, youth and culture.

The author of this guide is Imma Pagès of the *Consorci per a la Normalització Lingüística* in Barcelona, who worked for the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages for a period of six months.

The Sound of Europe

The Sound of Europe is the first volume in the *Living Languages* collection, a thematic series on the use of lesser used languages in the various spheres of social life published by the Brussels Information Centre of the European Bureau. It was initially published in English and French, followed by German and Italian versions in 1994.

The Sound of Europe looks into the topic of bilingual - or plurilingual - education and the resulting intellectual advantages.

The author, Siân Wyn Siencyn, is an expert in the Welsh language and pre-primary education and has worked in collaboration with Anna Vari Chapalain, the Director of the Children's European Publishing Secretariat.

The Sound of Europe is a lively and colourful publication. It is a treatise on the importance of bilingualism, the benefits and results of bilingual education and recognising the value of the lesser

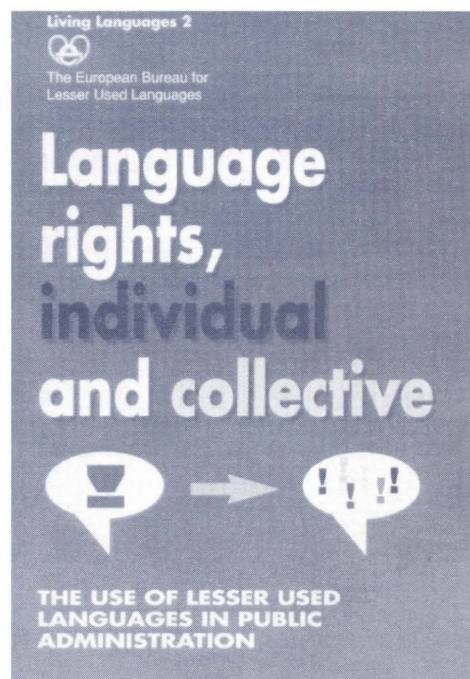
used languages through education, in accordance with the principle that all languages are important for those who speak them and that all languages enhance humanity with their wealth.

After the family, schools are the most important setting for the transmission of language, traditions, culture and values. Lesser used language communities have always recognised this fact. They have long years of experience in bilingual education, which they now offer to a wider audience through *The Sound of Europe*.

Language rights, individual and collective

Language rights, individual and collective is the second work in the *Living Languages* series. It examines the broad subject of the use of the lesser used languages in the public administration. This brochure is available in two versions - English and French - and contains a wealth of ideas and information. It shows what can be done and what is done when this question is addressed in a positive and systematic way.

Strengthening the position of a language in the public services will ensure its prestige and



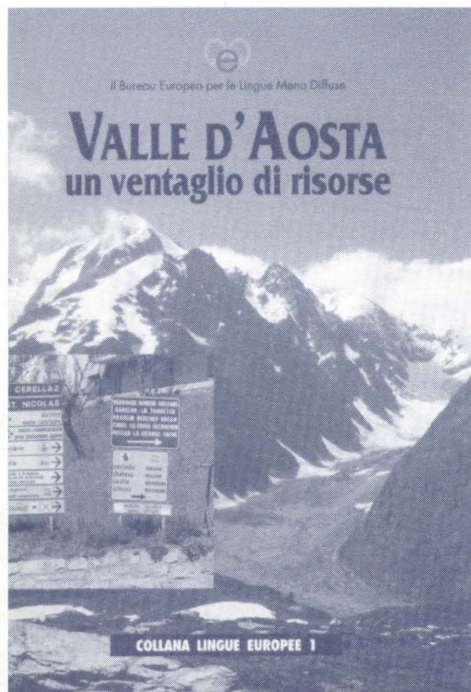
evolution, because this takes it outside the private sphere. It makes the language part of the collective heritage of a society. In a democracy, the citizen expresses his participation and confidence in the community when he feels he is an integral part of that community. Granting him the right to express himself in his mother tongue, without any feeling of discomfort or inferiority, will significantly increase his psychological well-being and encourage him to develop his relationships with his fellow citizens and society.

Language rights, individual and collective was written by Silvia Carrel, the Press Officer at the Information Centre of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages.

The Vallée d'Aoste, a range of resources

European Languages is a monographic collection on the different linguistic communities of the European Union published by the Information Centre of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages.

The first work in this collection is *The Vallée d'Aoste, a range of resources*, whose author is Anna Maria Traversa, a professor of French



language and civilisation in the Vallée d'Aoste. The Vallée d'Aoste is a region in the north of Italy bordering on France and Switzerland which, due to its geographic location, has been a crossroads since ancient times. This mountainous area was settled by the Celts, and then by the Romans and the Burgundians. Beginning in the year 1000, its history was linked with that of the dynasty of the Counts of Savoy for nearly nine centuries.

The Vallée d'Aoste has been Italian since 1861, the year the Kingdom of Italy was united, and since 1948 it has been an Autonomous Region with a special statute enabling it to preserve its special character and cultural identity. Today the area is plurilingual: French and Italian are the two official languages of the region; Francoprovençal is the language of everyday expression; and finally, a Walser-speaking Germanic minority lives in the lower valley.

Database of Cultural Activities

The *Database of Cultural Activities* is part of a vast project undertaken by the Brussels Information Centre of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. Its purpose is to provide information on and create links between the cultural activities of lesser used language communities.

The second aspect of this *Database* concerns the Cultural Documentation Centres, where one can find information in and on the lesser used languages.

The Documentation Centres are, in a sense, the repository of a culture: it is in books, brochures, newspapers, manuscripts and audio-visual documents that one finds the past, the present and the hopes of a community. As it increases awareness of this service to the public, the European Bureau also coordinates a considerable flow of information with which the general public is often not familiar.

The *Database* (which is in the form of a list) is also a working tool for the Centres themselves, which can therefore make contact among themselves and develop exchanges in order to expand their documentation and services.

MEMBER STATE COMMITTEES

BELGIUM

A new President

After ten years in the presidency, Hubert Jenniges, Editor-in-Chief at the BRF (German Radio and Television of Belgium) in Brussels, turned in his resignation on 1 March 1994. Rudolf Kern, a professor at the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve, became the new President of the Belgian Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages.

Goals and accomplishments

The Belgian Committee is now divided into two distinct sections - the Germanic section and the Romance section - and has continued to work in this way.

Two important events marked 1994. Firstly, the Belgian Committee worked with the Dublin Head Office to organise the study visit to Belgium's German-speaking region and the Pays d'Arlon, the area of Belgium where Luxembourgish is spoken. This visit took place from 27 February to 5 March 1994, and there were 11 participants. The visit schedule included the city of Malmedy which, although Walloon, also has German-speakers. Numerous contacts were made with the authorities of Malmedy, particularly with regard to the teaching of German.

Secondly, the Belgian Committee helped to prepare the meeting of the European Bureau's Council, which was held in Eupen in June, and was involved in the drafting of the "Eupen Declaration," which was submitted to the candidates for the European elections. The Declaration was presented to journalists during a press conference organised by the Committee.

The Romance section, which represents the domaine d'oïl dialects in Belgium, contributed to the quarterly magazine *micRomania*. This is published by the non-profit group "Traditions et Parlers populaires Wallonie-Bruxelles" and financed by the French Community of Belgium, the "Union Latine" and the European Union.

A German-speaking parliamentarian in Strasbourg

In 1994, the German language area got its own electoral district and directly elected a representative to the European Parliament. The new MEP is Mr Mathieu Grosch (Christian Democrat), who is the mayor of the German-speaking commune of Kelmis. Thus, the German-speaking Community had a directly elected representative to the Parliament in Strasbourg for the first time. Representation of the German-speaking Community was also guaranteed in the Committee of the Regions of Europe. The Minister-President of the German-speaking Community, Mr Joseph Maraite (also a Christian Democrat) currently represents his community within this body. Finally, this community also became a member of the Council of the Meuse-Rhine Euro-Region. The German-speaking Community can appoint 12 representatives to the institution, which has a right of initiative in sectors involving common policies (the economy, social affairs and culture).

DENMARK

An original initiative

The Danish Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages launched an original initiative for the European elections. It sent out questionnaires on linguistic minorities to the 189 candidates, in order to remind them of the existence of the lesser used languages and, at the same time, to test their knowledge with regard to cultural diversity. The result: the only candidate who correctly answered all of the questions was a representative of the "Euro-pessimists!"

In the run-up to the European elections, the *Nordschleswiger* daily paper made an entire page available to the European Bureau and other bodies promoting lesser used languages, in order to raise public awareness and publicize the cultural question.

Economy and culture

During the month of September, a delegation from the Danish Committee visited the UPS Industrial Innovation Park at the invitation of its director. The purpose of this visit was to discuss regional and international activities and develop economic cooperation between different geographic regions, using the linguistic and cultural potential of the two neighbouring States, Germany and Denmark.

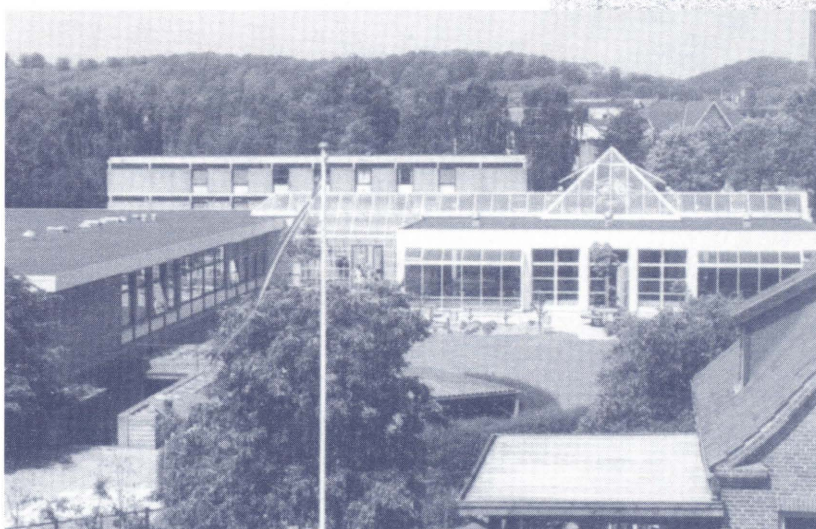
Another instance of cooperation was the active role played by the Danish Committee in the campaign by the Bureau's German Committee during the discussion of the new German Constitution. These Committees drafted a joint statement concerning, in particular, the Sinti and Rom peoples.

Traineeships in North Slesvig

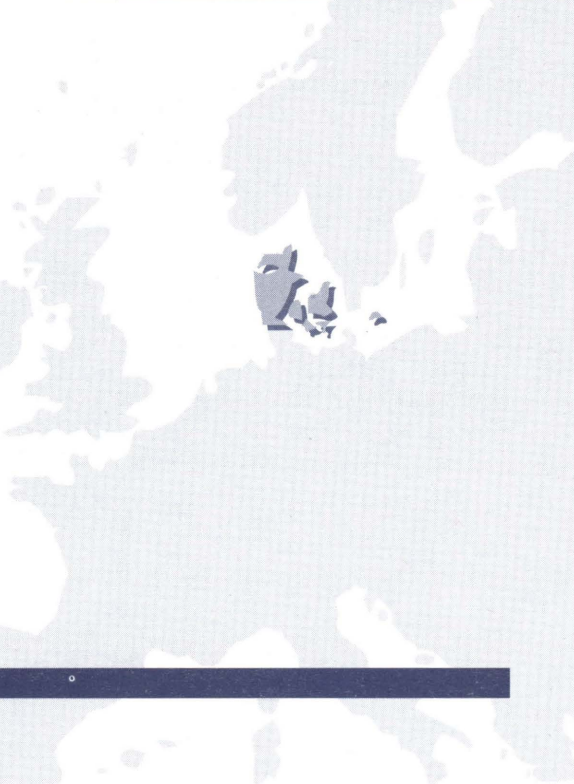
A very interesting idea was put forward by the Danish Committee: that of proposing three-month traineeships in various institutions in North Slesvig to young speakers of lesser used languages, in order to put them into contact with another minority and make them aware of the question of linguistic diversity. This proposal was given the green light by the various partners and will get off the ground next year.

German students in the BIC

For the second year in a row, the *Deutsche Gymnasium* of Apenrade, headed by Hans Jürgen Nissen, sent students to Brussels for a week. The purpose of this initiative was to introduce young people from the German-speaking minority to the mechanisms of the European Union and to non-government organisations working in various spheres (economic, environmental, social, linguistic, cultural) - and to allow them to taste the cosmopolitan atmosphere of Brussels. Two students were received by the Information Centre of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. For one week, the two young people took part in activities for the promotion of lesser used languages, and perhaps discovered that there are millions of speakers of these languages.



© BDN



FRANCE

The French Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages was considerably occupied by two matters during 1994: the new law on French - better known as the Toubon Law, after the text's author, who was the Minister for the Promotion of the French Language in 1994 - and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

The Toubon Law

In collaboration with the French Committee of the Bureau, a senator from Alsace, Mr Goetschy, organised a meeting at the Senate in Paris on 5 April. The agenda included the examination of the Toubon Law and the creation of a High Council of the Languages of France. The decision taken concerning the law on French expressed the following principle: "the provisions of the present law must not be used to the detriment of regional languages." Following this meeting, the Committee members continued their work (via letters, meetings and press conferences) to raise the awareness of the deputies, senators and ministers. The results were positive: some of the Committee's proposals were adopted, in particular the guiding principle that the law on French must not threaten the use of regional languages.

The European Charter

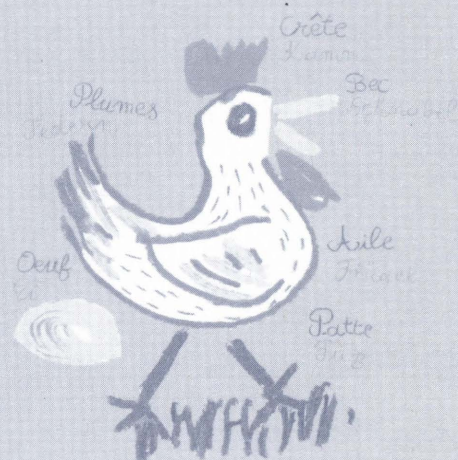
The results were not as satisfactory when it came to the question of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Despite all of the work by the members of the Bureau's Committee within the linguistic communities and, more generally, at the level of the State, at the end of 1994 Prime Minister Edouard Balladur declared the European Charter to be anti-constitutional. Mr Toubon announced this decision in a letter addressed to Charles Castellani, the Secretary of the Committee. The letter reads: "The government is well aware of the necessity of preserving the heritage constituted by the regional languages of France," however "when it comes to the ratification of the European Charter for Regional Languages, the government wanted to examine this question very carefully. After it was studied by various ministers, the Prime Minister concluded

that it was impossible for France to sign this Charter without contravening solidly established constitutional principles."

A bureau for bilingualism in Alsace

During the month of August 1994, a "Regional Office on Bilingualism" was set up in Alsace. This office is located in Strasbourg and headed by Fred Urban who, as a permanent member of the association "Culture et Bilinguisme" and a delegate of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, had already acquired solid experience in promoting regional languages and extensive knowledge of policies pursued in the other countries of the European Union. The objectives of the Regional Office on Bilingualism are to defend the language and regional culture of Alsace and to develop bilingual competency in Alsace. This new initiative is supported by the Regional Council of Alsace and shows the willingness of the administration to contribute to the cultural development of its region.

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GERMANY

The new Constitution

1994 was a very active year for the German Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. However, its work was not always successful. In particular, the new German Constitution adopted in 1994 does not include the desired clause guaranteeing the respect, protection and promotion of minorities and ethnic groups.

And yet, a full-fledged campaign was waged in Schleswig-Holstein. A summit was held in Bonn among representatives of the Frisians, Danes, Sorbs, the Sinti and the Rom, on the one hand, and political decision-makers, on the other, during which the need for such a clause was emphasized. Through its German Committee, the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages organised supportive action as well. Minorities from several European countries sent letters and faxes to the President of the Legal Commission to point out the European aspect of this question and to garner the support of those who were in favour of including this clause on the respect of minorities in the new Constitution. The German Committee also made numerous contacts with the representatives of the political world to raise their awareness concerning this question.

The languages of Germany: a single voice

The most important event organised by the German Committee was a symposium held in Flensburg in the early summer of 1994, which brought together representatives of Germany's lesser used language communities. The theme of this meeting was "Some developments concerning the indigenous linguistic minorities of the Federal Republic of Germany and their relevance for Europe." For the first time, the minorities were able to speak with a single voice concerning some fundamental questions, such as the active participation of the Sinti and Rom peoples, the discussion on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, etc.

New contacts

During its last meeting in Bautzen, which coincided with a Council of Europe workshop on lesser used languages in education, the Bureau's German Committee had an opportunity to meet a representative of the Council, a member of the European Parliament and other political decision-makers for a discussion on the question of minorities.

In addition, the German Committee had a stand at the Berlin Expolingua in November and was able to make the Bureau's activities better known to the German public. The German Committee is in the process of publishing two documents: one is on Germany's current policy on minorities, and the other is an anthology of information on the various lesser used languages in Germany.

Cross-border cultural cooperation

A tradition is being developed between Germany and Denmark: that of cooperation and cultural participation. Just a few years ago, the "majority" and "minority" linguistic communities lived in complete ignorance of one another; today, this is no longer the case. A major cultural event was held in the autumn of 1994: for three days - from 30 September to 2 October - North Slesvig (Denmark) and South Schleswig (Germany) were steeped in lesser used languages and cultures. With financing from the Ministry of Culture of the Land of Schleswig-Holstein, the German, Danish and Frisian minorities organised a whole series of events on their respective languages. These included poetry, novels and choral and orchestral concerts. Various cities and villages hosted exhibits of the works of local artists, and artists born in these regions had an opportunity to return to the country of their birth.



IRELAND

Europe and Irish

As an election year for the European Parliament, 1994 was very busy for the Irish Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. Ireland was proud to have, as one of its representatives to the EP, Mark Killilea, the author of the resolution on lesser used languages which was adopted in Strasbourg on 9 February 1994. Being aware of the sensitivity of the Irish Republic's representatives to the question of lesser used languages and cultures, the members of the Irish Committee brought three points to the attention of those standing for the new European Parliament. These were: the development of the Killilea resolution, the status of the Irish language within the European Union (Irish is a State language but not an official working language of the EU) and increasing the EP's budget line for lesser used languages.

The Irish Committee published various documents in 1994. Among the most important works presented to the press were: the Irish translation of the brochure *The Sound of Europe*, published by the Bureau in 1993 as the first volume in the *Living Languages* collection - which was very successful with the European public as it is very readable and yet quite technical; the Irish version of the video presentation of the European Bureau and of lesser used languages in general. In this way, the Irish Committee opened up channels for editorial collaboration between the Bureau and its Member State Committees. The idea is to translate the brochures that the Bureau usually publishes in German, English, French and Italian into the various lesser used languages.

The Irish Committee also collaborated with the Dublin Head Office in organising the study visit to Ireland, which took place from 9 to 15 April 1994.

A year of visibility

BEO-THEANGACHA 1

AN EORAIP AG CAINT

Coiste na hEirann den Bhiuró Eorpach do Theangacha Neamhforleathana

The number of Irish speakers is on the increase

According to the preliminary results of the 1991 census in the Republic of Ireland, the number of Irish speakers has increased: 1,095,830 persons say they can speak Irish, or 32.5% of the population. In 1986, the percentage of Irish speakers was just 31.1% (1,042,701 Irish citizens). An analysis of these figures by age group shows that 4.6% of children 3 to 4 years old are capable of speaking Irish. As children cannot attend primary school before the age of four, this figure gives some indication of the percentage of children whose parents speak Irish at home. This percentage is up from the 1986 figure, which was 4.2%.

ITALY

Two reports on minorities

In 1994, the Ministry of the Interior's Central Office for the Problems of Border Regions and Ethnic Minorities published two reports on minorities. The first had to do with "The status of minorities in Italy", and the second was entitled "Europe of minorities." The Italian Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages made a technical contribution to this initiative by providing data on the various linguistic communities.

The Italian Committee also proposed the creation of an Intergroup on lesser used languages within the Italian Parliament, in order to inform and raise the awareness of elected officials concerning this question.

Initiatives in the field of education

While awaiting the adoption by the Italian Parliament of a framework law on minorities, the Bureau's Italian Committee tried to make use of the opportunities made available to it by legislation in force. Thus, the proposed paragraphs on linguistic minorities were included in all circulars touching on intercultural questions and sent to the Ministry of Public Instruction.

One of the Committee's representatives, Thomas Luis Prader, who is also a member of the National Commission for Public Instruction, drafted and circulated a statement on "Linguistic minorities and the schools." After being approved by all of the members of the Commission, this statement was sent to the Minister for Public Instruction.

Two important congresses

The Italian Committee organised two important congresses in 1994. The first, which was held in Bova (Calabria) from 13 to 15 May, concerned Greek culture in Italy. The Greek community is a small linguistic minority in Italy, and its survival has been quite precarious. However, the Bova conference drew the attention of Greek political and government officials, who had to admit, inter alia, the need to address the

problem of lesser used languages. The second congress, which was held in San Pietro al Natisone (Friuli-Venetia-Giulia), was organised by the Slovenian community. This event provided an opportunity to take stock of bilingualism in schools.

Promotion of minorities in Venetia

The "promotion of ethnic and linguistic minorities" has been official in Venetia since 23 December 1994, when the President of the Regional Government proclaimed a new law on this subject. While recognising "the ethnic and linguistic communities historically present in Venetia" as "a sign of vitality for Venetian civilisation," the Region "promotes the defence and enhancement of the historical and cultural heritage" of these communities and financially supports the initiatives undertaken for the preservation, revival and development of their cultural and linguistic identity. How will it do this? The Region has agreed to grant annual subsidies to bodies which present cultural projects for the organisation of events, improving museums, research and the publication of documents, the creation of courses on local culture, and revival of original place names.



LUXEMBOURG

During its General Assembly of 18 March 1994, the Luxembourg Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages (EBLUL-LUX) approved another three-year term of office for Henri Hostert, President, Lex Roth, Vice President, Vic Majerus, Treasurer, Lucien Jacoby, Secretary, Aloyse Biel and Paul Rieles, Advisors.

Promoting culture

In 1995, Luxembourg will be the "European city of culture" and, as such, will host a whole series of cultural events and initiatives - exhibits, concerts, meetings and conferences. The Luxembourg Committee took advantage of this wonderful opportunity to promote the language of Luxembourg with the "foreign visitor who wants to get an idea of the language habits" of the country. The Committee drafted a brochure - which will be published in German, English and French - on the role of Luxembourgish in everyday life, in schools, in the press, on road signs, in the public administration, in the functioning of the State, in the European Union, in religious services, in the courts, in literary life, and so on.

EBLUL-LUX was also represented at the 7th International Expolingua Congress held in Madrid from 14 to 17 April 1994, where three sessions were devoted to the history, language and culture of Luxembourg.

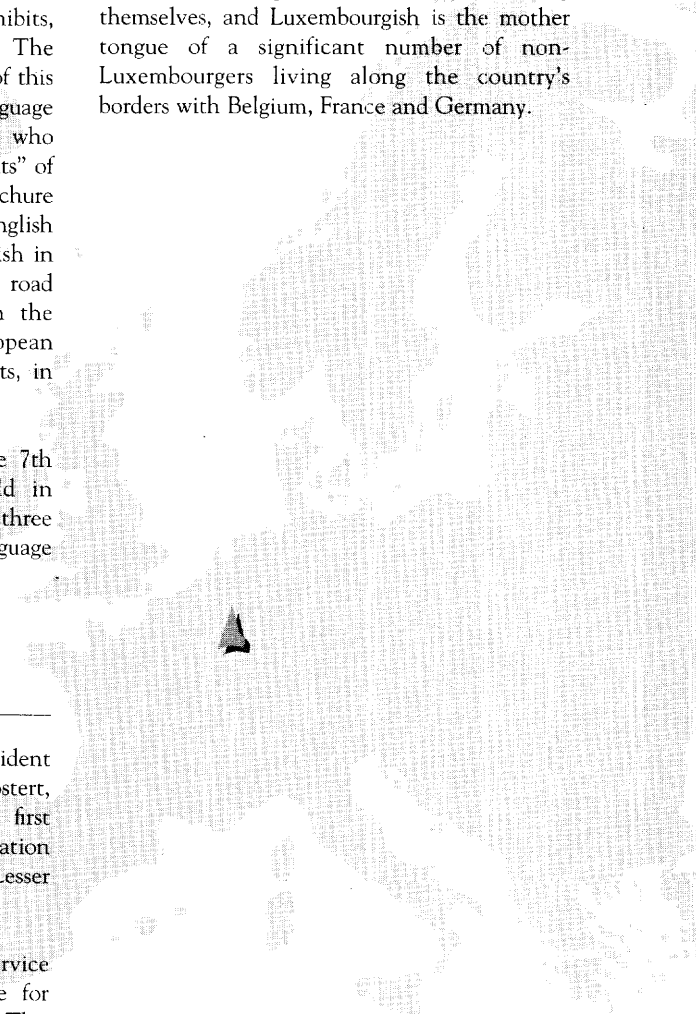
A new service for the Bureau

In response to steps undertaken by the President of the Luxembourg Committee, Henri Hostert, the Luxembourg Government made the first floor of a house near the Luxembourg station available to the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages.

Here the European Bureau set up a new service in March 1994, the Animation Centre for Teaching through Minority Languages. This body will focus on education and strategies for teaching lesser used languages, in collaboration with the Education Committee of the Bureau.

Figures on Luxembourg

Luxembourg is a very heterogenous area due to its strategic position between Germany, Belgium and France and the large number of public and private organisations on its territory. According to Statec statistical data from 1 January 1993 to 1 January 1994, of its 400,900 inhabitants, 124,500 are foreigners: 69% are from Luxembourg, 11% are Portuguese, 5% are Italian, 3% are French, 2% Belgian, 2% German and 1% Spanish. Of 187,000 employees, 47,300 are cross-border workers (51% French, 31% Belgian and 18% German). In the workplace, Luxembourgers speak Luxembourgish among themselves, and Luxembourgish is the mother tongue of a significant number of non-Luxembourgers living along the country's borders with Belgium, France and Germany.



THE NETHERLANDS

New horizons for Frisian television

1994 was very important for the development of Frisian, the only lesser used language in the Netherlands. In February of that year, Frisian Television broadened its horizons. Until then, this station had broadcast just 31 hours of Frisian per year - on Sundays. But since 4 February 1994, Frisian Television broadcasts in this language two hours a day, Monday through Friday. This is an extremely important development, because as television is a means of mass communication, it can make a significant contribution to the development of the Frisian language.

Exhibit on European languages

In collaboration with other Member State Committees, the Netherlands Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages organised an exhibit on the lesser used languages of the European Union. This extremely interesting exhibit was inaugurated at the Burgum town hall and then went on the road to the Frisian capital of Ljouwert. With the help of Mercator-Education and staff from the Provincial Library of Frisia, the Committee held an open house, where a new brochure explaining the objectives of the Bureau was presented to the Provincial Government's representative, Johanneke Liemburg.

Language and promotion

In order to promote the Frisian language, the Committee organised the translation into Frisian and Dutch of the brochure *The Sound of Europe* (the first volume in the *Living Languages* collection), and these will probably be published in the course of 1995.

The Dutch Committee also collaborated with the Dublin Head Office of the European Bureau in organising study visits which took place from 20 to 26 March 1994 in Frisia.

Full recognition

On 14 September 1994, the Lower Chamber of the Dutch Parliament in the Hague approved an amendment to the General Law on Administration, specifically mentioning the use of the Frisian language in the public services. This means that from now on, any citizen can deal with the administration of the Province of Frisia in Frisian. In addition, when requests are presented to the authorities for translation into Dutch of Frisian official documents, the authorities must comply, but they can request payment for these translations. In contrast, if government decisions are of a general nature and concern many types of audience, a translation into Dutch must accompany the text.

SPAIN

The Spanish State Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages is made up of three Subcommittees: one Basque, one Catalan and one Galician.

Two new members

Since 1994, Occitan - Aranese - has been represented within the Catalan Subcommittee, following the admission of the General Council of Aran, the Aran Valley's most prestigious institution for the defence of Aranese. This language was recognised by the Parliament of Catalonia as an "autochthonous" and "co-official" language of this territory. Another new member of the Committee is "L'Olla," an important cultural association of the Valencian community.

Study visits: a new formula

Two study visits were held in Spain during the 1993/1994 academic year: one in the Basque Country in November 1993 and the other in Catalonia in April 1994. These two visits - which were arranged by the Dublin Head Office in collaboration with the Spanish State Committee - were organised on a new basis: an attempt was made to focus on one theme - in this case, the media - with a view to thematic, specialised visits in the coming years.

Publications and collaboration

In order to promote knowledge of the lesser used languages, the Committee initiated numerous collaborative projects - Basque, Catalan, and Galician as well as European. An interesting initiative was the production of a computer game for children on the languages of Europe, in which the Catalan Subcommittee was an active participant. In addition, the Galician Subcommittee lent technical support to a project of the Galician Socio-Pedagogical Association for the publication of about 100 of the most important works of Galician literature.

Questions concerning linguistic rights

An old discussion on the question of linguistic rights was reopened in 1994. In some autonomous communities where bilingualism is legally established, people began to request that the current law on linguistic normalisation be revised. This request was prompted by the fact that the problem of full recognition of lesser used languages in the public sphere had still not been resolved. Others were quite critical, saying that the linguistic policy of promoting the public use of these languages marginalises Castilian. This debate reached its height with the position taken by the Spanish Academy criticizing the process of reviving other languages spoken in the Spanish State. In response to this position, the Catalan cultural organisations drafted a manifesto entitled "Per la llengua catalana" (in place of Catalan, one could read Basque or Galician). The signatories recall that "Catalan is the autochthonous language of Catalonia" and point out that it is "necessary to better define the dual official language system," in order to "move towards a new Europe that is based on the respect of the right to the difference and diversity of all of its peoples, languages and cultures."

UNITED KINGDOM



The UK Committee of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages is divided into three Subcommittees representing Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. In 1994, concrete steps were taken to set up a Subcommittee to represent Cornish.

Teaching in Irish: gaps in training

In Northern Ireland, the Subcommittee noted a lack of qualified teachers for Irish-medium schools at both primary and secondary levels. The only available Irish-language course for primary school teachers does not produce sufficient teachers to meet the needs of the sector, and does not offer appropriate training for those who wish to teach in a "total immersion" situation. The Subcommittee brought this problem to the attention of the general public and was critical of the lack of interim funding for Irish-medium schools which were not entitled to full grant-maintained status, in particular *Meánscoil Feirste* - the only secondary school in Belfast with Irish as the language of instruction with an enrolment of 105 pupils - and *Bunscoil an Iúir* in Newry, which has existed for seven years without government support.

Euróblas: economy and lesser used languages

Scotland has become involved in Euróblas, an international competition for business and language, via the *Commun na Gáidhlig*, whose director is a member of the Scottish Subcommittee. Euróblas was started in Ireland in 1980 and has become increasingly international. It has two main objectives: promoting the use of lesser used languages in all business transactions in companies located in regions where these languages are spoken on a daily basis; and improving the effectiveness of businesses and increasing opportunities for meetings and exchanges of ideas among persons from enterprises participating in Euróblas.

Welsh, an official language

Since the publication of the Law on Welsh, work to promote the use of Welsh has continued. The Welsh language is already quite widely used and has taken on the aspect of an official language: the Welsh Language Board - the government commission for the Welsh language - published guidelines for bilingual projects which organisations in the public sector must follow. The Welsh Subcommittee of the Bureau, which is represented by the members of various Welsh cultural and economic organisations, has promoted a series of intercultural initiatives in various areas of Welsh life. In particular, it helped to create an Economic Forum for lesser used language communities.

Peace in Northern Ireland

On 30 September 1994, the IRA agreed to a cease-fire. This event was followed by the announcement of a halt to the fighting by the Combined Loyalist Military Command on 13 October 1994. What does this new peace mean for the Irish-speaking community? The lack of a coherent policy for interim funding for Irish-medium schools has been interpreted as a negative signal from the government with regard to the Irish language. However, the Irish-speaking community has initiated a campaign for the rights of Irish speakers, particularly with regard to education, economic activity, broadcasting and the development of the Irish-speaking community. The peace process is still in its early stages, and hopes are very high.

CHILDREN'S EUROPEAN PUBLISHING SECRETARIAT

The adventure of Dewi Deinosor

On 8 August 1994, the Publishing Secretariat received a telephone call from ACEN, a Welsh publishing house, proposing a co-publishing project: a series of four books for young children recounting the adventures of a little dinosaur named Dewi.

picked up the ball and contacted various publishers of works in other lesser used languages. By December, the children of nine linguistic communities were able to read Dewi's story in their language: Welsh, Gaelic, Irish, Breton, Occitan, Basque, Catalan, Corsican and Berber.

Dewi Deinosor is the Secretariat's first accomplishment since its move to the city of Kemper in Brittany.

A new informational bulletin

At the end of December 1994, the Children's European Publishing Secretariat published its *Books for Children* bulletin in a new format. This brochure is readable and lively, and its purpose is to provide information on the publication of children's books in regional or lesser used languages. It provides a link between large publishers specialising in children's books and publishers of books in lesser used languages. The reader will also find case studies, as well as concrete offers for co-publishing and specific requests from publishers.



Livres pour Enfants

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 Cette publication est financée par la Commission Européenne
 N° 4 - Décembre 94

La Belle Histoire de "Dewi Deinosor"

8 août 94 : Coup de fil au Secrétariat de Coédition de la part de "ACEN", Maison d'Édition galloise, pour proposer un projet en coédition : une série de quatre livres pour jeunes enfants contenant les aventures d'un petit dinosaure nommé Dewi.

Immédiatement : Le Secrétariat demande à ACEN de fournir les renseignements nécessaires à la mise en forme de l'offre : contenu, textes, illustrations, délais de traduction, calendrier de coproduction, estimation des coûts suivant le tirage souhaité, etc.

9 août 94 : ACEN fournit les renseignements demandés au Secrétariat qui dispose d'un petit mois pour trouver des coéditeurs.

Début septembre 94 : le Secrétariat fournit à ACEN les coordonnées d'éditeurs potentiels ayant déjà donné une adhésion de principe au projet. Les éditeurs pressentis couvrent les langues suivantes : Breton, Basque, Occitan, Catalan, Corse.

Jusqu'à fin septembre : Chacun travaille à ses traductions et les remet à ACEN pour la mi-octobre. Entre-temps, un curieux éditeur s'associe au projet pour la publication de Dewi en langue berbère. La maison d'édition ACEN ayant contacté des maisons d'éditions gaelique d'Écosse et irlandaise, ce sont des enfants de neuf communautés linguistiques différentes qui vont pouvoir lire les aventures de Dewi dans leur langue.

Début novembre : finalisation des différentes versions, dernières corrections.

Fin novembre : expédition des livres à travers l'Europe.

1er décembre : Lancement officiel et présentation à la presse des différentes versions en neuf langues, à Cardiff, en présence des éditeurs.

EDITO

Vous vous trouvez. Chers Éditeurs, devant le bulletin "Livres pour Enfants", nouvelle formule. Depuis quelques mois, le Secrétariat de Coédition fonctionne à Quimper, en Bretagne, à plein temps pour mieux vous servir.

Les articles que vous trouvez dans ce bulletin ont pour but de vous apporter des informations dans le domaine de l'Édition de livres pour enfants en langue régionale ou minoritaires. Il constitue un lien entre grands éditeurs spécialisés livres d'enfants et éditeurs de langues moins répandues.

Nous vous présentons donc des cas d'études : aujourd'hui le Pays de Galles, des papiers écrits par des éditeurs, ainsi que des informations pratiques, sans oublier des offres concrètes de coédition et des demandes précises de la part d'éditeurs.



Le livre pour enfants au Pays de Galles

Au Pays de Galles, l'édition de livres pour enfants en gallois a connu ces dernières années un essor important. Durant l'année 1993, 618 titres au total ont été publiés en langue galloise, parmi lesquels 369 (67%) étaient des ouvrages pour enfants ou adolescents, ce qui représente un accroissement de 82 titres (28,6%) par rapport à l'année précédente. Si l'on se réfère aux années passées, la tendance est à la hausse constante du nombre des publications en gallois et également à l'accroissement du pourcentage d'ouvrages pour enfants.

	1972	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1993
Total d'ouvrages publiés :	198	312	301	360	488	550	618
Ouvrages pour enfants :	53	73	91	163	221	287	369

Pendant cette période, le pourcentage de livres pour enfants est passé de 27% en 1972 à 67% à l'heure actuelle. Ceci reflète un accroissement de la demande en livres pour enfants et adolescents en général, et plus particulièrement dans le domaine de l'éducation, demande stimulée tout particulièrement par l'introduction de la langue galloise dans les nouveaux programmes scolaires nationaux dans les quatre dernières années. Il est également permis d'affirmer que le gallois continue à gagner en popularité, et que de ce fait, nous sommes en présence d'un marché en expansion. L'enseignement en langue galloise continue à monter en puissance, en particulier dans les régions les plus anglicisées du Pays de Galles.

La mise en place des nouveaux programmes d'éducation a permis l'introduction du gallois comme faisant partie intégrante des programmes scolaires, soit comme matière principale, soit en initiation, et ceci dans la majorité des écoles du Pays de Galles - certaines écoles ayant bénéficié d'une exemption temporaire. Tout ceci a eu pour effet de stimuler les besoins en manuels scolaires et en matériel de lecture, tout en créant une demande nouvelle en livres gallois pour les apprenants de la langue.

Il n'est donc pas surprenant, le nombre global de livres pour enfants approchant les 400 par an, que nous disposions à présent de la palette complète des ouvrages, qui vont des petits livres épais pour les très jeunes enfants à un dictionnaire pour les jeunes, qui vient de sortir. Il s'agit de Geiradur Gomer i'r Ifanc, de D. Cierant Lewis, un volume de 748 pages comportant 22 000 entrées, abondamment illustré et possédant 32 pages entièrement en couleur.

L'édition en gallois n'a pas laissé passer l'événement que représentait la dernière coupe du monde de football - pour la première fois, un ouvrage en gallois a été publié sur ce thème par Gwasg Carreg Gwalch, "Cwpan y Byd '94", qui s'est vendu à 1 600 exemplaires au Welsh Books Council Schools Book Club, ainsi qu'à 700 exemplaires sur le marché normal, pour un tirage total de 2 300.

Une étude des publications portant sur l'année 1984 a révélé qu'approximativement un tiers des titres pour enfants étaient des

This was the beginning of the "Dewi adventure."
 Anna Vari Chapalain, the Director of the Children's European Publishing Secretariat,



EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN BUREAU

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Linguistic policy and the European Commission

The European Commission - in particular the Task Force for Human Resources, now DG XXII - administers a budget line subsidizing the activities of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, as well as projects from lesser used language communities.

During 1994, the Commission received 250 requests for subsidies falling under the budget line for "Regional languages and culture," and 179 of these were accepted.

For the first time, the European Commission published an activities report on the lesser used languages of the European Union for the years 1989-1993. This document is divided into three parts: the first is a general introduction to the topic of lesser used languages; the second has to do with the specific activities of the European Commission in favour of these languages; and the third contains recommendations in view of future developments in the EU.

Annual colloquium

In 1994 the European Commission also organised its annual colloquium with the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages and linguistic experts. This was held in Brussels on 11 February. This year's theme was "Linguistic policy in the regions of Europe." The presence of official representatives - such as Mr Lenarduzzi of the Task Force, Mr Landáburu of DG-XVI, Mr Albanese of the Council of Europe and Mr Ron Jones of the Welsh Language Board - contributed to a rich and relevant discussion, and participants were enthusiastic about the information they were able to gather.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The Killilea resolution

1994 was the year of the European Parliament: a new assembly was to be elected in June. There were great expectations in the field of lesser used languages: it had been feared that the Parliament would not adopt the Killilea resolution on the linguistic minorities of the Union before the end of the 1989-1994 legislature.



But hope was not disappointed, and on 9 February 1994, the EP adopted the resolution by the Irish MEP, Mark Killilea, by a large majority - 318 for, 1 against and 6 abstentions. "An almost unanimous decision," commented Mr Dónall Ó Riagáin, Secretary General of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages. "It is a great victory for us, because it shows once

more that the European Parliament is respectful and conscious of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the European Union." And Mr Killilea added, "One of the essential elements in ensuring a lasting peace is to develop principles and practices which will enable people to live harmoniously together while respecting each person's and each community's identity."

While this document covers earlier resolutions, it also contains new points: support for the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, the setting up by the European Commission of a programme for lesser used languages based on the LINGUA programme, the publication by the European Commission of a scientific map of the lesser used languages in the EU, support for European organisations representing the lesser used languages and, in particular, the activities of the European Bureau.

An increase in the budget line

The new European Parliament also confirmed its position of previous years by again adopting the budget line for lesser used languages: 3,750,000 Ecus were granted for 1995.

Convention for the protection of minorities

On 10 November 1994, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the "Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities." While not defining a "national minority," the document's starting point is an undisputable principle: the safeguard and development of human rights and fundamental liberties, including linguistic freedom. The parties undertake to "recognise that the right to the freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes freedom to receive and impart information and ideas in the minority language," and that "every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing."

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

By the end of 1994, 13 governments had signed this Charter: Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland. Of these countries, two have ratified the Charter, which must now be applied to their legislation: Finland (9 November 1994) and Norway (10 November 1993).

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