



EURONETLANG

European network of language minorities



Education and Culture DG

'Europe for Citizens' Programme

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“Minority languages: European, national and local policies and laws”

SHKODER 6th-9th May 2013

Introduction

The second event related to the Euronetlang will be focused on national, local and European policies and laws concerning minority languages.

After the event of Orosei in October 2012 (whose discussion was about the laws promoting the protection of minority languages), the event in Shkoder will have a more practical approach. A complete knowledge of projects and European programmes will be encouraged in order to raise awareness about the possibilities of having our ideas financed by the EU.

Talking about minority languages together with the European plans of active citizenship gives the possibility of getting to know other languages and cultures, strengthening the sense of belonging to a “Europe United into Diversity” in order to recall our common history and common background on which, at the end, Europe is based upon. (For example, there are Arabesque communities in the Southern Italy and in Albania, Occitan communities in the Northern Italy and in the Southern France, Italian and Croatian culture, Sardinian history etc.)

The year 2013 has been claimed to be “The European year of citizens” with Decision of the European Parliament and Council of 23rd November 2012. Its immediate target is to raise the awareness of being European citizens in order to become familiar with the rights of freely moving inside the Union, without any borders, above all the cultural differences. (here it is the official website <http://europa.eu/citizens-2013/it/join-debate>).

The “Europe for citizens” Programme, that funded the Euronetlang project, specifically encourages projects and the development of themes connected to the year of citizens. Among other Programmes, it is worth to mention also “Human rights and citizenship”, “Youth in Action”, “Culture and Lifelong Learning Programme” (in which it is possible to mention the Erasmus programme) and Media, Science and Society 2013.

The first day of the event (6th May) will be dedicated to the presentation of the “Europe for citizens” programme within the priorities foreseen in 2013 as the “European year for citizens”. The importance of citizens in the European environment is connected to their



fundamental role in the discussion of the future of Europe, encouraging them to acquire further knowledge about their rights. In the same day, the Euronetlang project will be summarized according to the second event specific topic.

In the morning of the second day (7th May), the partners will share their experiences connected to the projects and initiatives already taken within the framework of local and national policies. Each delegation will be given the possibility to present a new work, whether in progress or already realized, that contains an added value in promoting the language and the culture of their own territory. This can be considered as the European value of the meeting: ideas and suggestions can also be adopted by different partners of different territories. Sharing suggestions, knowledge, problems, solutions etc, will lead to the draft of a dossier of good practice related to the topic of improving the protection of minority languages. After the presentation of the realized/in-progress projects, an opened debate will be encouraged to build up proposals and to make up ideas for the future. In the afternoon, a visit to the historical places of Scutari is foreseen, namely the museum, the cathedral etc.

On the last day (8th May) topics associated to the multilingualism of Europe and of its policies will be discussed. The EU recognizes the different identities of Europe and it actively promotes the freedom of speech and press in the different European languages, without forgetting about the importance of the integration between the member States. These two complementary objectives are referred to the extreme linguistic complexity of Europe. For instance, Europe counts 23 official languages and more than 60 regional idioms, some of them officially recognized at a local level. The European linguistic policies aim at preserving the linguistic diversity and the knowledge of them, not only on behalf of a cultural identity and of a social integration, but also for the economic value languages do possess. The more languages a person knows, the more favourable working conditions he/she can meet in an integrated Europe.

Concerning the financial assistance, at the moment none of the programmes mentioned before are specifically built in order to protect minority languages, but the supported actions can comprehend an approach also referred to languages. The final day will be also dedicated to the presentation of programmes that can be shaped in order to foster actions promoting the culture and the languages of minorities (e.g. Youth Exchanges, Lifelong Learning Programmes, Media & Culture).

The event will lead to a first attempt of creating a shared network that will become a concrete platform for further projects.

NB:

All the participants are invited:

- to bring their contributions and leaflets of their townhalls;
- to bring their typical food and specialities;
- to propose new and old projects in order to make the conference smoother and rich of meaning.

