



Minority languages and the labour market

Opportunities and challenges?

FORUM
DER EUROPÄISCHEN MINDERHEITENREGIONEN
OF EUROPEAN MINORITY REGIONS

Draft programme for the 7th Forum of European Minority Regions

"Minority languages and the labour market - opportunities and challenges?"

Time: 30 November- 3 December 2023

Place: Opole and Katowice in Poland

Thursday, 30 November

Arrival of the participants during the evening and afternoon.

Accommodation at Hotel Mercure Opole, Krakowska 57/59, 45-018 Opole, Poland

Friday, 1 December

Venue: The Parliament of the Opole Voivodeship, Sejmik Województwa Opolskiego

ul. Piastowska 14 - Ostrówek, 45-082 Opole

9:30-10:30 Introduction and welcome

FUEN vice president **Bernard Gaida**

President of VdG **Rafał Bartek**

The Marshal of Opole, **Andrzej Buła** and other Polish politicians.

10.30 - 10:50 Keynote lecture by **Antonio di Paolo**, Professor at the University of Barcelona kicks off by presenting research findings on the added value of minority languages for the labour market.

10:50 - 11:20 Keynote address by **Bengt-Arne Wickström**, Professor in economics at the Andrassy university in Budapest.



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11:20 - 13:00 Advantages of speaking the minority language in the private sector.

Session moderated by Dr **Daive Zaffi**, representative of Südtiroler Volksgruppeninstitut-Bozen, Italy

Àngels Jerico Dindinger, Head of language policy and **Sergi MontalvÀ Furió**, Head of accreditation and training in Valencia, Spain

Maria de Lluç Muñoz, International Secretary, Internacional Plataforma per la Llengua. Balearic Islands, Spain

David Nagy, lawyer and politician, Hungarian in Slovakia

Bogna Koreng, Head of the MDR-Studios Bautzen/Budyšin.

13.00 - 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 16:00 Advantages of speaking the minority language in the public sector.

Session moderated by **Eoghan Ó Cruadhlaioich**, Secretary General of the Committee of the Gaeltacht and the Irish speaking communities, in the Oireachtas, the Houses of Parliament, Ireland

- **Paul Bilbao-Sarria**, General Director of Armentia Ikastola (Basque-immersion education centre), the Basque Country, Spain
- **Onno Falkena**, Journalist at Omrop Fryslân Radio & TV and board member of the Dutch minority languages umbrella organisation EBLT, Friesland, the Netherlands
- **Vicent Climent**, Professor at Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain
- **Jaan Siitonen**, CEO of the language ambassadors, Finland

16:00 -16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 - 18:00 Challenges for the minority organisations

Session moderated by Dr **Nils Erik Forsgård**, visiting professor at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany.

- **Ultan Ó Fátharta**, Development Executive, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Ireland
- **Sabrina Rasom**, Director of the Ladin Cultural Institute, Trentino, Italy
- **Eugenia Natsolidou**, founder the Macedonian Educational and Cultural Movement, Greece
- **Bernard Gaida**, FUEN vice president

18:30 Dinner at the hotel and presentation of the minorities in Poland



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Saturday, 2 December

Venue: Parliament of the Silesian Voivodeship, Sejmik Województwa Śląskiego, ul. Ligonia 46, 40-037 Katowice

Session moderated by FUEN vice president Gösta Toft.

8:15 - 10:15 Bus transport from Opole to Katowice

10:30 - 11:00 Press conference

11:00 - 11:30 Welcome speech by **Maria Materla**, Member of the Sejmik of the Silesian Voivodeship, Chairwoman of the Committee for Foreign Cooperation and European Integration of the Sejmik of the Silesian Voivodeship

11:30 - 12:00 Keynote speech by **Romuald Jonczy**, Professor of Economics at the University of Economics in Wrocław

12:00 - 12:30 Keynote speech on bilingual education of the Polish minority in the Zaolzie region, Czechia, towards the challenges of the cross-border labour market by Professor **Joanna Kurowska-Pysz**, WSB University, Dąbrowa Górnicza

12:30 - 14:00 Examples of a multilingual cross-border labour market

Session moderated by **Joanna Hassa**, managing director of Verband der deutschen sozial-kulturellen Gesellschaften in Polen, Poland

Jean Faivre, representative of Unser Land, France

Maurizio Tremul, President of Unione Italiana, Slovenia and Croatia

Grégory Dalbert, Policy Advisor of the Government of the German-speaking Community, Ostbelgien, Belgium

Andrea Vukelić, Serb national council, Croatia

14:00 - 15:00 **Lunch**

15:00 - 15:30 Conclusions by **Gösta Toft**, Vice President, FUEN

Thematic visits in Katowice

17:00 - 19:00 Bus transport from Katowice to Opole

20:00 **Networking event at Hotel Mercure Opole**



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Sunday 3 December

- 10:00 Evaluation of the event
- From 12.00 Departure of the participants