Multilingualism in EU

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What is multilingualism?

- Several languages spoken within a geographical area
- A person's ability to master several languages
- A policy requiring an organisation/ a company/an institution to use several languages for communication

European Commission

Why multilingualism?

- Commitment to linguistic diversity
- Commitment to communicate in a language every citizen can understand
- Legal basis for multilingualism
- Commitment to language teaching and learning for personal and professional development
- Greater transparency, legitimacy and efficiency

The cost of not being multilingual

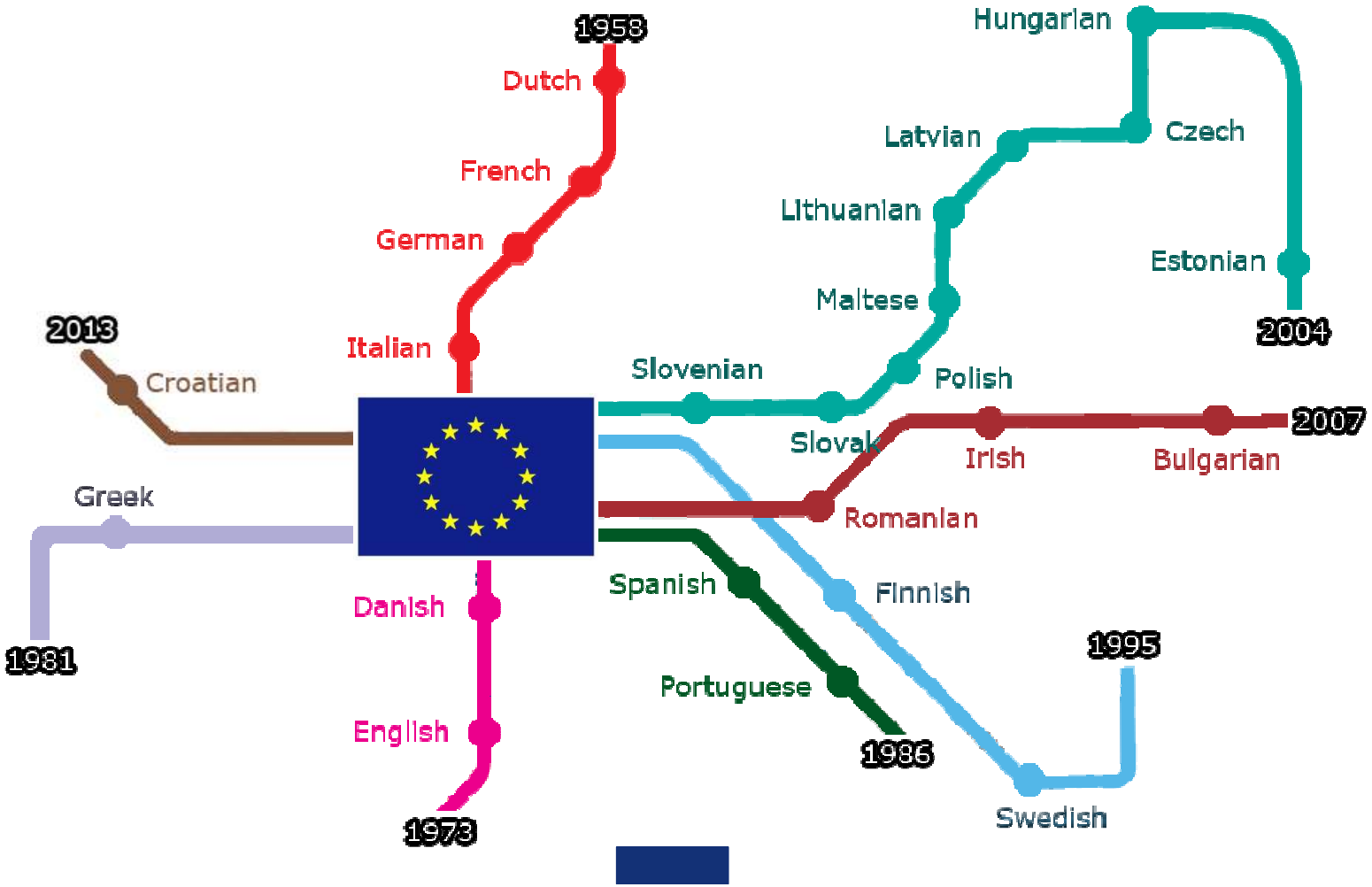
- Multilingualism required by EU economy
- European Digital Market is multilingual
  - 90% of European consumers prefer to browse websites in their own language;
  - 82% of the 4000+ web shops are mono-lingual;
  - 42% of multilingual internet users never purchase online products and services in languages other than their own;
  - "Don't understand, won't buy"
- Language barriers affect private and public services

Europeans and language skills

- Europeans recognise the importance of language skills
- gap between aspirations and reality
  - 1 lg: only 42% teenage pupils
  - 2 lg: only 25% teenage pupils
- Overall goal: "mother tongue plus two"

European Commission

EU official languages



European Commission

DGT – translation from and into all the EU's 24 official languages

European Commission

What else do we do?

Links with schools and universities

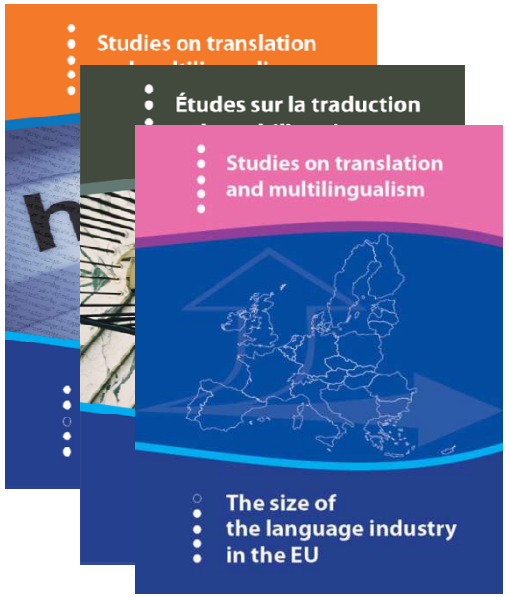
JUVENES TRANSLATORES

Machine translation

Terminology and tools

IATE

Studies



European Day of Languages

Clear writing campaign

EMT

Visiting Translator Scheme

#TranslatingEurope

Translation contest for Europe's budding linguists
Website: ec.europa.eu/translatores
Facebook.com/translatores

European Commission

European Day of Languages 26 September

Thank you very much!

Muito obrigado!

Hartelijk dank!

Ďakujeme vám veľmi pekne!

Go raibh maith agaibh!

Tack så mycket!

Kiitos!

Mulţumesc!

¡Muchas gracias!

Σας ευχαριστούμε πολύ!

Nuoširdžiai dėkojame!

Mockrát děkujeme!

Merci beaucoup !

Vielen Dank!

Suur tänu!

Nirringrazzjawk ħafna!

Liels paldies!

Grazie mille!

Mange tak!

Najlepša hvala!

Dziękujemy za uwagę!

Много Ви благодарим!

Köszönjük szépen!

Hvala lijepa!