A Framework For Consultation on a Foreign Languages in Education Strategy for Ireland

Submissions Summary: Further/Higher Ed and Business & Enterprise
Summary of all submissions

Number of submissions in this sector

- Further Ed 2
- Higher Ed 13
- Enterprise and Business 5
Incentivise school mgt, teachers and guidance counsellors to establish contacts with third level colleges in their area

Better inform students of languages options as part of CAO choices

Establish awards for companies to recognise outstanding multilingual performance

Companies that trade internationally should communicate the importance of foreign languages
Accreditation for online learning that would continue through third level
 Universities should recognise MLs as distinct Arts/Humanities discipline

 Actively support and encourage FL competence as a core graduate skill

 Promote FLs as electives where possible so more students could take a FL

 Teach languages in context
Learning and Teaching:

- Colleges should collaborate more in providing a greater variety of languages at different levels.
- Establish a co-ordinated strategy for provision of Asian languages in Ireland.
- Increase access to study of Asian languages.
- Teach ALL language programmes through the TL.
- Universities should ensure heightened visibility of, and engagement with the linguistic and cultural diversity that defines it.
Teacher Education

- Produce teachers with higher levels of subject knowledge who can teach using CLIL
- Introduce specialised pathways for language teachers
- Include a language requirement on PME programmes
- Develop a teaching profession for Asian languages
- Create jobs for Asian language teachers
Assessment and Qualifications

- Apply the CEFR
- Provide formal accreditation for students doing languages as part of other degree programmes
Quality Assurance

- Create a Languages Advisory Board
- Have a Languages Policy Unit in DES
- Create a Languages Strategy Implementation Group
- Create Institutional Level Implementation Groups
- Establish Irish Council for Asian Studies
- Invest in CPD for all professionals involved in language training
- Reduce the teacher/student ratio
- Require all language degree students to spend significant time in a Target Language country
Supporting multilingualism – the role of the education system

- Award bonus points for foreign languages
- Support retention of LC foreign language matriculation requirement
- Publicise career pathways
- Fund successful initiatives which enable students to enter the labour market
- Support research targeted at identifying the problems
- Persuade third-level to equip all students with strong language skills & intercultural knowledge
- Focus Erasmus programme in non-English speaking countries
- Offer vocationally oriented language training to adult learners
Supporting multilingualism – the role of employers

- Work with FE and HE sectors to develop flexible language learning routes
- Develop international dimension to all undergrad placements
- Make international experience & FL competence important criteria in graduate recruitment
- Employers need to use CEFR so that graduates can match skills to what employers seek
- Expand no of internships combining marketing/sales with languages