Mission Statement/Ráiteas Misin An Ghrúpa: One Voice for Languages

Background: Towards the end of 2011, largely at the instigation of the authors of the EU report *Languages for Jobs*, it was agreed to explore the establishment of an umbrella group which would promote the importance and benefits of language learning for Ireland. This group would represent all levels of the education system and all its partners, including parents' associations. It would also welcome representatives from industry, the arts, foreign embassies and cultural institutes.

One Voice for Languages - promoting the knowledge of other languages as an essential skill in 21st century Ireland

The One Voice for Languages Group aims to be a unified voice for various language networks and associations in Ireland. The group will be inclusive and will cooperate with various members from across Irish society as well as with experts in linguistics, thereby highlighting all aspects of language learning and teaching in a multilingual and multicultural context.

All members of the group One Voice for Languages firmly believe that it is both timely and appropriate that such a group be established and that it should seek to encourage a greater awareness of the critical importance of language learning not only in terms of increasing employment possibilities and meeting industry needs, but also its broader value in the spheres of education, the arts and in the context of supporting social cohesion and intercultural understanding.

One Voice for Languages – highlighting language needs across all sectors of society

Building on ample research evidence regarding the numerous benefits of language learning and as a response to repeated calls from high level industry leaders, employment specialists, advisory bodies and experienced linguists, the One Voice for Languages group intends to raise awareness at government level of the deficit in appropriate language skills and the important role the learning of other languages can play in the improvement of literacy levels. An appreciation at government level and among the wider public regarding the significant cognitive, social, developmental, cultural and linguistic enhancement that can be attained through the learning of additional languages will also be promoted.

One Voice for Languages – highlighting the exciting potential of language learning for our young people, for Ireland's economy and for Irish society

The Ireland of today is indeed a rich tapestry of languages. The last census indicates that there are over 160 languages spoken by the new citizens of this country and both in the contexts of social cohesion and resource potential, it is imperative that we harness this enormous linguistic wealth and foster awareness of the many benefits of learning languages and of acquiring additional communicative and intercultural skills. We hope to support the Irish government in capitalising on the significant varied language and cultural backgrounds of the new Irish population and to equip our young people with the language skills they need to fully integrate and assume their role in the global marketplace.

The past number of years has seen an acknowledgement of the need to improve and support the teaching and learning of the science, mathematics and engineering fields and this promotion targeted at education providers, industry and Irish society at large has yielded positive results. It is hoped that One Voice for Languages can begin the dialogue in ensuring that language learning may now also be accorded the same priority and commitment and that its diverse network of members can contribute to this debate which we believe is of fundamental importance to the educational and economic future of this country.

One Voice for Languages -
What we believe: languages are essential, valuable and exciting
What we want: language issues to be raised at the highest levels of government

and to be brought to the consciousness of the country as a whole
What we will do: act as a rallying point and a powerful voice for all interested in language issues

ONE VOICE
FOR LANGUAGES

Cúlra: I dtreo dheireadh na bliana 2011, ar mholadh údair thuarascáil AE *Languages for Jobs*, socraíodh go mbunófaí scáthghrúpa chun bolscaireacht a dhéanamh ar na tairbhí a bhaineann le foghlaim teangacha in Éirinn. Bheadh ionadaithe ann ó gach leibhéal den chóras oideachais, chomh maith leis na páirtithe uilig, cumann tuismitheoirí san áireamh. Bheadh na baill ionadaíoch chomh maith ar thionscalaíocht, ar na healaíona, ar thaidhleoirí eachtrannacha agus ar institiúidí cultúrtha.

One Voice for Languages: Inniúlacht ar theangacha mar scil riachtanach sa 21ú haois a chur chun cinn: Tá sé mar aidhm ag an nGrúpa One Voice for Languages feidhmiú mar ghuth comhaonaithe do ghréasáin agus cumainn éagsúla teangacha in Éirinn. Beidh baill an ghrúpa i dteagmháil agus ag obair i gcomhar le baill áirithe an phobail, le saineolaithe sa teangeolaíocht agus dá bharr sin, cuirfear béim ar ghnéithe iomadúla a bhaineann le foghlaim teangacha i gcomhthéacs ilteangach agus ilchultúrtha.

Creideann na baill go léir gur mithid agus gur tráthúil grúpa dá leithéid a bhunú chun an ríthábhacht a bhaineann le foghlaim teangacha a chur abhaile ar an bpobal, mar go gcuireann cumas sna teangacha go mór le féidearthachtaí fostaíochta agus le sothláthrú riachtanais na tioncalaíochta. Chomh maith leis sin, tá aidhm níos leithne i gceist; sé sin, go dtuigfí an luach a bhaineann le cumas teanga i réimsí an oideachais, na n-ealaíona agus an ilchultúrachais.

One Voice for Languages – ag cur béime ar riachtanais in earnálacha uile an phobail: Ag tógáil ar an réimse leathan taighde a shoilsíonn na buanna a bhaineann le foghlaim teangacha i gcoitinne, agus i ngeall ar mholtaí ó cheannairí na tionscalaíochta, ó shaineolaithe fostaíochta, ó chomhalachais chomhairleacha agus ó shainteangeolaithe; tá sé i gceist ag One Voice for Languages na heasnaimh reatha maidir le teangacha agus an tábhacht a bhaineann le teangacha i gcothú na litearthachta a chur ar a shúile do lucht an rialtais. Cuirfear na buntáistí cognaíocha, forbartha, cultúrtha agus teangeolaíochta seo in iúl go forleathan ionas go dtuigfidh lucht an rialtais agus an pobal i gcoitinne an tábhacht a bhaineann leo.

One Voice for Languages – ag cur béime ar an buanna spreagúla a bhaineann le foghlaim teangacha do dhaoine óga, do ghéilleagar agus do phobal na hÉireann: Is táipéis shaibhir teangacha í Éire an lae inniu. De réir an daonáirimh is déanaí, tá níos mó ná 160 teangacha á labhairt ag nua-shaoránaigh na tíre seo. Ba chóir go rachfaí i dtír ar chúlraí ilghnéitheacha nua-dhaonra na tíre seo, ar mhaithe le comhtháthú sóisialta agus féidearthachtaí acmhainne, agus ar mhaithe lenár ndaoine óga a chumasú sna scileanna teanga atá de dhíth orthu chun ról iomlán comhtháite a ghlacadh ar an margadh domhanda.

Le roinnt blianta anuas, tuigtear go bhfuil gá le feabhas a chur ar mhúineadh agus ar fhoghlaim na heolaíochta, na matamaice and na hinnealtóireachta. Tá toradh fónta cheana féin ar chur chun cinn na n-ábhar seo a bhí dírithe ar thacaíocht ó sholáthróirí oideachais, ón tionscalaíocht agus ón bpobal i gcoitinne. Táthar ag súil go bhféadfadh One Voice for Languages tús a chur le plé chun féachaint chuige go dtabharfar an aird chéanna ar theangacha agus go dtabharfar an tosaíocht chéanna dóibh agus go mbeidh deis ag gréasáin éagsúla a chuid ball páirt a ghlacadh sa díospóireacht a bhfuil mórthábhacht ag roinnt léi ó thaobh thodhchaí oideachasúil agus eacnamaíoch na tíre.

One Voice for Languages -
Mar a chreidimid: Tá teangacha luachmhar, riachtanach agus spreagúil
A bhfuil uainn: Ceisteanna teanga a ardú ag an leibhéal is airde rialtais

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www.onevoiceforlanguages.com

agus a chur ar a shúile do phobal uile na tíre
Mar a dhéanfaimid: Gníomhú mar ghlór cumhachtach
agus mar shlógadh dóibh siúd go léir ar spéis leo ceisteanna teanga