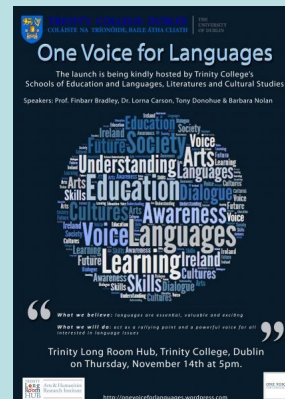


ONE VOICE FOR LANGUAGES

GDI/GSAI Roundtable
15/11/2014



Background

Late 2011: Proposal to set up an umbrella group to

- Promote benefits of language learning across the lifespan and in all sectors of society
- Raise language issues at political level
- Fight prevalent utilitarian views/fragmented approaches
- Present a unified voice across stakeholders
- Avoid duplication of effort & share best practice

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

Mar a chreidimid: Tá teangacha luachmhar, riachtanach agus spreagúil

A bhfuil uainn: Ceisteanna teanga a ardú ag an leibhéal is airde rialtais 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

Official launch
14th Nov 2013, LRH

Purpose & structures

- Inclusive forum for anyone interested in language(s)
 - Cross-language, cross-sector, cross-region
- Response to immediate challenges AND
- Long-term impact on policy and language appreciation/ practices in society (culture change)
- No formalisation of membership
 - Flat structure → individual activism
 - open/public meetings/year – everybody welcome!
- Committee to drive actions between meetings
 - Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, 3 HE reps, 2 SE, 1PE
 - committee meetings (face-to-face and Skype)

Work to date

2011–date: series of public meetings (DCU, DIT, TCD)

- Working out of remit, structures, name
- Targeted actions:
 - Fight closure of MLPSI
 - Respond to DES Consultation on a Foreign Languages Strategy in Education
 - Respond to NCCA Draft Primary Language Curriculum
- Long-term actions:
 - Subgroups (Language awareness, Language policy, CLIL, Database) → task forces
 - Repository of research, policy documents ... on OVFL website (www.onevoiceforlanguages.com)
 - Materials for dissemination (OVFL mission statement, launch flyer/bookmark, OVFL info flyer)

Challenges, lessons, solutions (?)

- Representativeness <> individual activism
 - Strength in numbers (clout)
 - Many hands make light work (flexible, task-oriented sharing of workloads)
 - Requires several (coordinated) “drivers”
- Proactive communication/dissemination
 - Email list, website, Facebook, Twitter, information material
 - Press releases, contacts in industry & politics
 - Organisation of/attendance at relevant events
- Culture change needed at all levels, from individual to societal. Individual/grassroots initiative as important as top-down processes.


Linking up

- Get onto the OVFL mailing list (individually).
- Consider becoming involved in one of the subgroups.
- Attend as/send a GDI/GSAI representative to public OVFL meetings. Next meeting: 6th Dec 2014, place tbc.
- Stay in touch – let OVFL know about your work, share resources, findings, ...
- In planning your own work, consider the wider context/ possible collaborations (e.g. CPD).
- Use OVFL site as a resource.
- Enlist OVFL support for your own actions.

Website: www.onevoiceforlanguages.com

Email: info@onevoiceforlanguages.com

 OneVoiceForLanguages

 OVFLanguages #lovelanguages #learnlanguages #langopps