

# How would you define language learning environments?

Find out what really matters to you when defining language learning environments. Answer the following questionnaire by choosing only one answer for each question: answer A, answer B or answer C. Try to be as spontaneous as possible. There are no wrong answer but only **your** answers.

## Language and Languages

- 1. How would you use the linguistic diversity of your learning environment as a resource, rather than seeing it as a problem?**
  - A. By informing everyone about the advantages of a plurilingual competence
  - B. By promoting projects and activities that can give space to learners' plurilingual repertoires
  - C. By using more languages in the schoolscape and in the school official communication
- 2. How can schools create a better school climate?**
  - A. By building an environment for language learning in which students can feel confident when expressing themselves in all languages
  - B. By giving parents a role and involving the community in the promotion of plurilingualism
  - C. By designing spaces for interaction and reducing the use of impersonal or bureaucratic language

## Valuing all languages

- 3. How can languages be at the core of the learning environment?**
  - A. By enhancing the language dimensions of all school subjects
  - B. By promoting access to different languages
  - C. By implementing projects based on pluralistic approaches (intercomprehension, integrated language learning, language awakening, intercultural approaches)
- 4. How can testing and assessment promote the role of languages?**
  - A. By promoting informal forms of assessment and self-assessment
  - B. By involving students through self-assessment tools and activities
  - C. By designing tests to assess plurilingual competence

## Interculturality

- 5. How would you develop intercultural competences in your school environment?**
  - A. By making all people aware of the value of diversity
  - B. By promoting concrete activities involving all the people who make up the cultural and linguistic landscape of the school community
  - C. By investing resources in projects, tools and activities which allow people to experience diversity (in cultural and linguistic terms)
- 6. How would you foster interconnections?**
  - A. By valuing intercultural experiences
  - B. By fostering students' interest in intercultural networking activities
  - C. By finding supplement funding to extend international cooperation

Curricula**7. Why should languages be at the core of the school curricular choices?**

- A. Because all teachers are language teachers
- B. Because we all use the language not only to communicate but to learn
- C. Because this would make CLIL, bilingual education, content-based instruction... easier to implement.

**8. What should a school offer learners in terms of language teaching / learning?**

- A. Staff who are trained to value language learning and teaching
- B. The opportunity to learn more than two foreign languages
- C. Modern equipment specially designed for language learning and teaching

Everyday languages**9. How can foreign language learning become a target for everyone in your learning environment?**

- A. By giving a space to language learning in all school activities
- B. By connecting language learning to a personal and/or professional project
- C. By investing resources in structures and tools which are specific to the learning of languages

**10. How can the school respond to the changing needs of contemporary society?**

- A. By giving value to the life experiences of culturally different students
- B. By valuing all initiatives which enhance the mediation function of schools
- C. By making the school website (and other tools for external communication) more international

How to interpret your answers

- **If you have a majority of A-answers, you value CULTURE a lot.**  
Cultural features such as content, project, process, events, curricula, etc. play a major role from your point of view. You're probably right to consider language learning environments through intercultural aspects, values, language diversity, etc. but maybe you could combine these elements with other issues. How about funding, time and space? How about personal and professional development?
- **If you have a majority of B-answers, you value PEOPLE a lot.**  
Investing on people and involving as many people as possible is the real asset for you. People play a major role from your point of view. You're probably right to consider people at the core of language learning environments but maybe you should combine these elements with cultural and structural considerations. How about intercultural aspects, values and projects? How about funding, time and space?
- **If you have a majority of C-answers, STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS are at the fore.**  
Structural features such as funding, schedule, timeline, equipment, tools, classroom design etc. play a major role from your point of view. You're probably right to consider language learning environments through concrete material and technical aspects, but maybe you could combine these elements with cultural and personal considerations. How about intercultural aspects, values and projects? How about personal and professional development?
- **If your answers are quite balanced between A B and C, it probably means that you are already aware of what language learning environments should be like**  
You take into account cultural, structural and personal features to develop language learning environment. You're probably aware that intercultural aspects, personal development and school design are very much linked together. You now need to define your priorities and identify the strengths of your context.