

# Language Skills Recognition: Does it Really Matter?

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# Foreign language competences

## Personal level

- Improvement of skills
  - Creativity
  - Memory
  - Problem solving
  - Dealing with abstract concepts
  - Skills and grades in math
  - Analytical skills
  - One's own language (vocabulary & other language skills)

# Foreign language competences

## Personal level

- Foreign languages...
  - ... open the door to art, music, dance, fashion, cuisine, film, philosophy, science...
  - ... lead out of confinement and narrowness
- International travel is made easier and more pleasant through knowing a foreign language

# Foreign language competences

## Interpersonal level

- Communication skills
- Listening
- Flexibility
- Respect for other people
- More positive attitude and less prejudice toward people who are “different”
- More effective and responsible participation in a multi-cultural world

# Foreign language competences

## Interpersonal level

- Fostering of the understanding of the interrelation of language and human nature
- Expansion of one's view of the world
- Appreciation of cultural diversity
- Dealing with another culture enables people to gain a more profound understanding of their own culture.
- As immigration increases, we need to prepare for changes in our societies

# Foreign language competences

## Professional level

- An advantage in the global market
- A competitive edge in career choices
- An enhancement of opportunities in government, business, medicine, law, technology, military, industry, marketing, etc.  
(New jobs are created as a result of foreign trade)

# Our assumptions

## Mobility

- **“Language and cultural skills** of mobility students” (Fernandes, 2018)

# What do we do?

## All partners

- “Enhancement of a foreign language” ➔ Advantages of Erasmus mobility

(“Aperfeiçoamento de uma língua estrangeira”; U.Porto – SRI:

<http://www.lettras.up.pt/gapro/default.aspx?l=1&m=77&s=0&n=0>)



# What do we do?

- Before the mobility: assessment of outgoing students
  - The students are supposed to “prove” or to “certificate” their language skills before going abroad
    - An official certificate
    - An exam at the University language centre
    - A teacher's statement

# What do we do?

- Before the mobility: improvement of outgoing students' language skills
  - Not informed (5/9)
  - At the University language centre
    - reduced registration fee
    - free (in autonomy)
  - On an online platform ([ISF – Idiomas Sem Fronteiras](#))
  - Teletandem (Unesp)

# What do we do?

- After the mobility: assessment of language skills
  - Not informed (7/9 universities)
  - ULille
    - “International label”: mobility + language certificate + intercultural classes “prize”
    - Discretionary
  - UGent
    - Mandatory language test on online linguistic support (OLS) platform: “At the end of your stay, you will get a new invitation by email to take the final language test” (<https://www.ugent.be/student/en/class-exam-exchange-intern/exchange-ugent-students/erasmus.htm>)

# What will we do?

## Reference

FERNANDES, Maria de Lourdes (2018). “Nuts and Bolts of the Bologna Process”. *Teachers Peer Training Week of the Rec-Mat Project*. Valladolid (Spain): University of Valladolid, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you!

¡Gracias!

Merci !

Obrigada!

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