



## European Day of Languages 2006

The European Day of Languages takes place on the **26<sup>th</sup> September** every year. Events to celebrate the languages spoken in Europe and to promote language learning take place throughout the continent.

The European Day of Languages was set up by the Council of Europe in 2001, following the success of the European Year of Languages. Its aims are

- to encourage people of all ages to start to learn another language
- to promote events to celebrate cultural diversity and language learning
- to promote communication between the peoples of Europe by breaking down barriers of understanding about each others' languages and cultures

The day is an opportunity to celebrate our differences and similarities, and to show plurilingualism to be a normal part of European life. It is an annual reminder of our need to improve linguistic capability. In the UK the CILT (Centre for Information on Language Teaching) encourages people and organizations to participate and provides a list of events, which can be found at <http://www.cilt.org.uk/edl/index.htm>. More information about European Day of Languages is to be found at <http://www.ecml.at/edl/>

### ***The European Day of Languages at the OU***

#### **Regional events**

Open University **events** on the **European Day of Languages, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2006** will take place at the Regional Centres in R01 London (Camden Town) R04 West Midlands (Birmingham) and R13 South East (East Grinstead). See below for further details.

#### **Podcasting: Let's talk languages!**

In addition, to celebrate the European Day of languages, the Department of Languages in collaboration with Open2.net will be launching *Let's talk languages*, a series of **podcasts** on language learning, including interviews with experts and tips from teachers and learners on how to become a successful language learner. Visit <http://www.open2.net> (and follow the links to *Let's talk languages*) to listen to the first podcast in our series, which will be available from 26<sup>th</sup> September.

So join in the fun, and celebrate languages and cultural diversity!



**Celebrating linguistic diversity,  
plurilingualism, lifelong language learning  
European Day of Languages 2006**

### ***Languages at the OU***

The practical aims of the European Day for Languages are a good match to ours at The Open University. The Department of Languages, within FELS (Faculty of Education and Languages) offers courses in French, German and Spanish by supported distance learning from absolute beginners' level to advanced study, a possible 4 years of study in each language. Beginners' Italian will be available from November 2007. For sample Open University course materials visit <http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/tasters/>

Courses can be counted towards a Certificate or the more advanced Diploma in a particular language, or added to courses about the nature of language towards a degree in Modern Languages. Every student on every course has a personal tutor, who gives individual feedback on assignments, and provides support and advice throughout the course.

### **Region 1: The Open University in London**

Come and join us for a free taster session on the **European Day of Languages, Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 2006** at the Regional Centre, 1-11 Hawley Crescent, Camden Town, London NW1 8NP.

Language taster sessions requiring no prior knowledge will run from 4pm in Spanish, French and German. There is no need to book for this event.

From 3.30 to 8.00 there will be a display of Open University course materials and information and advice about studying languages with the Open University.

There will be a demonstration of 'Lyceum', our on-line language classroom, an option for students on OU Language courses.

Everyone is welcome to drop in. For further information, phone 020 7556 6193 We look forward to meeting you.

### **Region 4: The Open University in the West Midlands (Birmingham)**

The Open University in the West Midlands will celebrate the European Day of Languages offering fun activities to year 9 pupils in 3 local schools:

- Fair Oak Business and Enterprise College in Rugeley
- Holly Lodge High School in Smethwick, Birmingham
- Joseph Leckie Community Technology College in Walsall

There will be a brief presentation about the European Day of Languages and language courses at the Open University followed by a three-round quiz and prizes:

- general knowledge quiz on international cultures in English
- observe words/expressions/pictures and guess language/country
- songs extracts - guess the language

A similar event will run at the Regional Centre in Harborne where all regional staff and all ALs have been invited to take part in the quiz, and have a free lunch with a European flavour. There will also be a seminar on language courses with a Lyceum presentation.

For more details contact [West-Midlands@open.ac.uk](mailto:West-Midlands@open.ac.uk) or phone 0121 426 1661

### **Region 13: The Open University in the South East (East Grinstead)**

As part of the EDL celebrations, we are launching the **Aimhigher Kent & Medway Language Project 2006-2008**. The project aims to raise awareness among secondary school children and their parents of the potential of language learning and to raise aspirations and understanding of progression and careers in MFL. It also aims to support children and schools by expanding on the achievements of the project in its previous phase.

This EDL event will create an opportunity for representatives of schools involved with Aimhigher K&M to exchange ideas and to discuss ways of collaboration and support with local HEIs. There will be presentations by academics from the University of Kent and the Subject Centre at the University of Southampton. Alan Tait, the Dean of FELS will also be giving a prize to the winner of the OU R13 Language competition "*What has studying a language meant to you*".

As part of the celebrations, there will also be a "Fun Languages Day" competition and free tasters offered to staff in the Regional Office on that day.

If you would like to attend, please email [R13-Outreach@open.ac.uk](mailto:R13-Outreach@open.ac.uk) or phone 01342 341049